



Would you like to subscribe to WAKE UP TELANGANA ENGLISH DAILY

Please give a missed call to +91 8885610056 We will get back to you

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

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

Bill Gates Apologises To Foundation Staff Over Epstein Ties: Report

American tech entrepreneur Bill Gates has apologised to the staff at the Gates Foundation over his ties with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein but maintained that he did "nothing illicit," according to a media report. The Microsoft co-founder also admitted that he had two affairs with Russian women and that he made mistakes that had cast a cloud over the philanthropic group while insisting he didn't participate in Epstein's crimes. The Wall Street Journal said in an exclusive report on Tuesday.

Gates was among the scores of celebrities, politicians, leaders and tech entrepreneurs shown having connections with the sex offender as was evident in the

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Narendra Modi First World Leader to Hit 100M Instagram Followers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday crossed 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first world leader and politician to achieve the milestone on the platform. He joined Instagram in 2014. PM Modi has more than twice as many followers as US President Donald Trump, who has 43.2 million followers. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto follows with 15 million, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with 14.4 million, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with 11.6 million, and Argentine President Javier Milei with 6.4 million.

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

Iran FM Urges PM Modi to Raise Palestinian Issue During Israel Visit: P4

Telangana Under RSS Influence, Not Congress Rule, Says Abdullah Sohail: P3

Modi 'More Than a Friend,' Says Netanyahu: P4

INDIA STANDS WITH ISRAEL, BACKS GAZA PEACE PUSH

Modi backs Israel, urges peace, strengthens strategic bilateral partnership

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India "stands fully with Israel" while reiterating firm support for a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian issue during a historic address to the Knesset in Jerusalem on Wednesday evening. Condemning the October 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas as "barbaric," Modi asserted that no cause can justify terrorism or the killing of innocent civilians, stressing that violence only deepens divisions and undermines global peace. Becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Israeli Parliament, Modi expressed solidarity with the people of Israel during what he described as a challenging period. He emphasised that India and Israel are democracies shaped by history, rooted in ancient civilisational values and bound by a shared commitment to resilience and progress. Affirming India's support for



the Gaza peace initiative endorsed by the UN Security Council, he called for a "just and durable peace," including meaningful efforts to address Palestinian aspirations through dialogue and diplomacy. The Knesset building was illuminated in the colours of the Indian flag in honour of his visit, symbolising the strength of bilateral ties. Speaker Amir Ohana conferred the prestigious "Speaker of the Knesset Medal" on Modi following his address, as members across party lines gave him a standing ovation. Highlighting the shared challenge of terrorism, Modi recalled the

underscored partnerships in defence, agriculture, water management, cybersecurity and emerging technologies, as well as connectivity initiatives such as the I2U2 framework involving India, Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates. Modi was escorted to the Knesset by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who referred to him as a "brother" and described India as a "gigantic power." Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, received Modi at Ben Gurion Airport with a ceremonial red-carpet welcome. During delegation-level talks, the two sides explored expanding cooperation in science, innovation, security and regional stability. Modi also met President Isaac Herzog and interacted with members of the Indian community and the Jewish Indian diaspora, reaffirming his commitment to strengthening the enduring and multifaceted strategic partnership between the two nations.

ED Attaches Anil Ambani's Mumbai House Worth Rs 3,716 cr

MMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday provisionally attached Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani's Mumbai residence 'Abode', valued at Rs 3,716.83 crore, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud case linked to Reliance Communications (RCOM). The action comes a day before Ambani, 66, is scheduled to appear before the agency in New Delhi for a second round of questioning in the case. According to the ED, the

66-metre-high, 17-storey property is located in the Pali Hill area of Mumbai. A portion of the property worth Rs 473.17 crore had earlier been attached in November 2025. The agency said RCOM and its group companies had availed loans from domestic and foreign lenders with a total outstanding of Rs 40,185 crore. The ED stated that investigations found the Pali Hill property was aggregated into RiseE Trust, described as a private family trust of Ambani's family members. "This was done to make it appear as though Anil Am-

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Mamata Alleges 1.20 Cr Names Face Deletion In West Bengal SIR

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Around 1.20 crore names would be dropped from West Bengal's voters' list if corrective steps were not taken, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged on Wednesday, amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Addressing a programme in her Assembly constituency of Bhowanipore, she claimed that large numbers of voters had been marked



under the "logical discrepancy" category and faced deletion. She said around 80 lakh such cases were currently under scrutiny and vowed to ensure that genuine voters were not removed. "SIR is underway. Many lost their voting rights. I'm sad. First,

around 58 lakh names were deleted. Later 80 lakhs, instead of 50 lakhs, were marked hideously in the name of logical discrepancies which never existed in the rules," Banerjee said. She added, "If around 20 lakh aren't considered, still 1.20 crore names would have been dropped. I personally fought it out in the Supreme Court. My petition is still pending. But many days have passed since the order. I don't know

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Revanth Pushes for Global Investments

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday underscored the importance of crafting constructive and forward-looking strategies to attract investments from leading global corporations and position Telangana as a premier manufacturing hub in India. He made these remarks during a meeting with Shantanu Narayen, Chief Executive Officer of Adobe Inc. and a member of the Advisory Council of Telangana Rising Vision 2047, at his residence.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister and Narayen deliberated on shifting global economic trends and emerging investment opportunities that Telangana could leverage to accelerate industrial growth. The discussions focused on aligning the state's industrial and economic policies with evolving global manufacturing patterns, ensuring Telangana remains competitive in attracting international investments.

Both leaders exchanged views on critical areas



such as global manufacturing prospects, green energy expansion, and the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on industries and employment. They also examined how rapid technological advancements are reshaping workforce requirements worldwide. Emphasising the need to stay ahead of the curve, Revanth Reddy highlighted the importance of skilling and reskilling the workforce to meet future industry demands and to prepare youth for next-generation jobs.

The Chief Minister stressed that Telangana must adopt innovative policies and an aggressive investment promotion strategy to draw large-scale global investments. He reiterated the state

government's commitment to creating a business-friendly ecosystem supported by robust infrastructure, policy stability, and technology-driven governance.

Revanth Reddy also sought Narayen's insights on the broader economic implications of the ongoing AI revolution and explored how artificial intelligence could be effectively utilised to improve governance, drive economic expansion, and generate employment opportunities. He requested continued guidance and cooperation from the Telangana Rising Vision 2047 Advisory Council to ensure sustained development and further strengthen the state's economic growth trajectory.

NCERT to Remove Controversial Portion on Judiciary From Textbook

MMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The controversial portions about judicial corruption in NCERT's class 8 textbook could be removed as the government has not taken kindly to the matter, sources said on Wednesday, while the council pulled the book from its website. A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi has taken suo motu cognisance of the "objectionable" statements about the judiciary in NCERT textbooks after senior advocate Kapil

Sibal, alongside Abhishek Singhvi, mentioned the matter for urgent consideration.

Separately, CJI Kant strongly objected to a chapter on judicial corruption in the NCERT's Class 8 curriculum, saying nobody on earth will be allowed to defame the judiciary and taint its integrity. The National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT's) new social science textbooks for Class 8 say corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Cabinet Okays Metro Rail Phase 1 Takeover from L&T

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cabinet sub-committee examining the takeover of Hyderabad Metro Rail phase-1 from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has estimated that the state government will incur an expenditure of about Rs 470 crore towards operations and maintenance (O&M) over the next five years, alongside a capital outlay of Rs 560 crore for rolling stock, signalling systems, track infrastructure, traction motors

and electrical works, official sources said. At its meeting on February 23, the state Cabinet had approved the takeover of Metro phase-1 from L&T by March 31, marking the end of the current financial year 2025-26. The Cabinet sub-committee reviewed a technical assessment report prepared by Delhi Metro International Limited (DMIL), which concluded that the Hyderabad Metro Rail phase-1 system, currently operated by L&T, is tech-

nically sound and compliant with modern metro rail standards. Hyderabad Metro Rail Corporation Limited (HMRCL) had appointed DMIL to conduct an independent evaluation of the technical aspects of the proposed acquisition. According to sources, a draft report containing detailed technical specifications and findings was submitted to the Sub-Committee and subsequently placed before the Cabinet during its February 23 meeting,



where approval was granted for the takeover. The report noted that several subsystems of the metro network are nearing the end of their service life and will require replacement or major overhauls within the next

five years to ensure continued safe and efficient operations. It also highlighted that the existing O&M contract with Keolis Hyderabad Mass Rapid Transit System Pvt. Ltd (KHMRTS) will expire on November 27 this year, necessitating immediate decisions on renewal or alternative arrangements. The government has decided to extend the Keolis contract for one year as an interim measure. KHMRTS, a subsidiary of the global Keolis

Group, is the official operator of Hyderabad Metro Rail, one of India's most advanced urban transit systems. Financial projections in the report estimate O&M expenditure at Rs 470.47 crore over five years, while capital investments for inspections, procurement of new systems and overhauling ageing infrastructure are expected to reach Rs 560.52 crore during the same period.

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

Kanchikacherla Kotesu: a warning, as a call to concise

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

February 26, 1968 remains a painful date in the history of caste violence in India. On that day, a teenage Dalit boy named Arikatla Kotesu succumbed to burn injuries inflicted two days earlier in Kanchikacherla, Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. What happened to him was not merely an act of brutality—it was a chilling reflection of entrenched caste hierarchies. A Young Life, Marked by Caste Kotesu, born to Punayya and Seshamma in Paritala village near

Kanchikacherla, belonged to the Madiga community, a Scheduled Caste. Like many children from marginalized backgrounds, he worked as a daily wage labourer.

On February 24, 1968, he was accused of stealing a brass vessel and allegedly pawning it at a hotel for food. However, many locals believed the real reason behind the attack was that he had spoken to a girl from a dominant caste—an act considered unacceptable in the rigid social climate of the time.

A group of men reportedly tied him up, beat him publicly, poured kerosene over his body, and set him on fire near

tobacco barns. With severe burns, Kotesu ran through the streets crying for help. A private hospital allegedly refused him treatment. He gave a dying declaration to the police before being shifted to government hospitals in Nandigama and later Vijayawada. He died on February 26, 1968.

He was still in his teens. National and International Attention The incident sparked outrage. Local activists and teachers organized protests and brought attention to the atrocity. The issue soon reached Parliament.

Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited Kan-

chikacherla, acknowledging the gravity of caste oppression. Senior national leader Jagjivan Ram personally met the bereaved family and monitored the legal process.

In the Rajya Sabha, questions were raised to the Union Home Minister Y. B. Chavan, compelling a detailed statement in the House. The case had become a matter of national concern.

International media also reportedly took note, placing the incident within the broader context of racial and caste-based violence. The Long Road to Justice

The Sessions Court convicted several accused. The High Court upheld life imprisonment for three individuals while acquitting others due to lack of evidence. Appeals reached the Supreme Court, which in 1974 examined eyewitness testimonies in detail and confirmed the principal accused's role.

Yet justice remained partial. Several eyewitnesses turned hostile. In his dying declaration, Kotesu could not name all attackers. Not all accused were punished. For many, the case symbolized both the possibility and the limitations of legal redress in caste atrocity cases.

A Pattern of Violence Kotesu's death was not an isolated tragedy. Independent India witnessed repeated caste massacres: Kilvenmani (1968) – 44 Dalit agricultural labourers were burnt alive. Belchi (1977) – 11 Dalits were massacred.

Karamchedu (1985) – Brutal attacks on Dalits. Chundur (1991) – A mass killing that shocked the state. These recurring atrocities led to the enactment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 1989, with detailed rules framed in 1995–96. While the law marked a milestone, challenges in implementation continue.

Beyond Tragedy: A Spark of Resistance Kotesu's killing deeply stirred Dalit consciousness in Andhra Pradesh and beyond.

Writers, poets, and activists invoked his name as a symbol of resistance. His death contributed to a growing political and cultural assertion among marginalized communities demanding dignity, equality, and justice. Remembering Kotesu Today Nearly six decades later, Arikatla Kotesu's story remains relevant. It reminds us that caste discrimination is not merely a relic of the past but a continuing social reality.

Remembering him is not just about mourning a life lost—it is about reaffirming a commitment to:

- Equal access to justice
- Protection of vulnerable communities
- Education and empowerment
- Social accountability
- Kotesu's life was brief, but the questions his death raised still confront India:
- Can a democracy truly thrive while caste determines dignity?
- His memory endures—as a warning, and as a call to conscience—Anjaiah Thalka Journalist.GHMC elections.

Marriage Portal Exposes Sensitive Personal Information

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

A serious data privacy issue has emerged on the Telangana government's registration website used for special marriage applications. The portal, which is meant to display limited applicant details for public notice, is allowing unrestricted access to highly sensitive personal information. The special marriage registration service is part of the state's wider registration portal, which also han-

dles property registration, firm and society registration, and market value searches. Under the Special Marriage Act, authorities must publish marriage notices for 30 days to invite objections. To meet this requirement, the online dashboard lists names, photographs, partial mobile numbers and addresses of applicants.

However, the dashboard also reveals application numbers and notice dates. By entering these details, anyone can download complete ap-

plications containing phone numbers, email addresses, Aadhaar numbers, full residential addresses and guardian information. Cybersecurity experts warn that such exposure could lead to identity theft, harassment and misuse of personal data. "Most of the data displayed on the marriage dashboard is concealed, but the data within the application is very sensitive and can be used for malicious purposes without the applicant ever knowing," said Harisha K., a cyberse-

curity specialist. She added that Aadhaar numbers, phone numbers and addresses could be exploited to create fake accounts or aid criminal activity.

Experts argue that while limited public display is legally required, sensitive data should be masked or protected through verification systems such as OTP or password access. Harisha noted: "The application has no need to be out in the open for anyone to see.

Telangana CID arrests ex-Falcon COO in Rs 792 crore fraud case

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested Vikas Kumar Sakhare, former Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Falcon Group, in connection with a massive investment fraud that allegedly cheated thousands of depositors.

According to the CID, the company collected Rs 4,215 crore from 7,056 depositors through its Falcon Invoice Discounting App. Of them,

4,065 investors were allegedly defrauded of Rs 792 crore after being promised high returns through short-term investment plans.

Sakhare, 40, was apprehended from his residence at Lakshmi Nagar Colony in Hydershakot, Hyderabad. He was produced before a magistrate for judicial remand. Officials said one mobile phone allegedly used in the commission of the offence was seized from him.

Investigators said Capital Protection Force Pri-

ivate Ltd, operating under the Falcon Group, developed the Falcon Invoice Discounting App and promoted it aggressively through social media platforms such as Google, YouTube and Instagram. Telecallers allegedly lured investors by fabricating business deals in the name of multinational companies and collected large sums as deposits, issuing invoice receipts and agreements before defaulting.

The CID alleged that Sakhare, along with Yogendra Singh, conspired

with the main accused, Amar Deep Kumar, Managing Director of the Falcon Group of Companies, and others to attract investors and execute the fraud.

The scam surfaced following complaints from victims.

Three cases were initially registered at the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Cyberabad Police under sections 316(2), 318(4) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 5 of the Telangana Protection.

Grand Launch of Vasavi Vastralaya at Gandhi Chowk, Sircilla

Inaugurated by Suma Kanakala and Bulliraju, Store Promises Premium Wedding & Festive Collections at Wholesale Prices

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Vasavi Vastralaya, a new garment showroom offering premium quality clothing at wholesale prices, was inaugurated on Wednesday at Gandhi Chowk in Rajanna Sircilla. The store aims to cater to wedding and festive shopping needs with a wide range of bridal and traditional collections.

The showroom was ceremonially opened by popular television anchor Suma Kanakala and actor Bulliraju in the presence of the managing partners Mateti Durham Prakash, Mateti Sunitha, Mateti Sai Kumar, and Mateti Uma Maheshwari. The inauguration witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and well-wishers.



Among the prominent guests who attended the event were Smt. & Sri Jindam Kala Chakrapani, Municipal Chairperson of Sircilla, and Sri Darla Sandeep, Municipal Vice Chairman. Their presence added significance to the grand opening ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the management expressed happiness over launching the store in Sircilla. They stated that Vasavi Vastralaya aims to provide high-quality garments at

competitive wholesale prices to customers across the district. Special emphasis will be placed on wedding collections, including exclusive bridal pattu sarees, along with the latest fashion trends and attractive festive offers. With a focus on quality, affordability, and updated collections, Vasavi Vastralaya is poised to become a one-stop destination for shoppers in Rajanna Sircilla looking for premium clothing and value-for-money deals.

Gandhi Hospital Delivers IVF Success

Doctors at Gandhi Hospital helped a 30-year-old woman from Alwal deliver a healthy baby after repeated failed IVF attempts at private centres. The patient, Shruthi, underwent ovum pickup in May 2025 and a frozen embryo transfer in June, before delivering a 2 kg female infant via emergency caesarean section on February 7, 2026. The newborn, initially monitored in NICU for prematurity, was later shifted to the mother under paediatric care.

Government-run infertility centres at Gandhi Hospital and MGMH Petlaburj have together recorded 190 positive IUI and IVF cases since inception, reflecting growing trust in public-sector fertility services. The two centres, launched in late 2024, have handled over 27,000 outpatient visits and conducted thousands of diagnostic and assisted reproductive procedures.

AIMIM Leaders Join Grand Dawath-e-Iftar at Salar Bridge

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

During the holy month of Ramzan, AIMIM Floor Leader and Chandrayangutta MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi along with Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin attended a Dawath-e-Iftar at Salar Bridge, Hakeempet, Toli-chowki in Karwan constituency. The gathering saw a large number of local residents, elders, and party workers who assembled to break their fast together. The MLAs



conveyed Ramzan greetings and stressed the values of unity, harmony, and charity during the sacred month. They appreciated the organizers for arranging the Iftar and

called for strengthening communal bonds. Special prayers were offered for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of the state and its people.

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.

BITS Pilani Study Warns of Rising Online Abuse

HYDERABAD
[Wakeup telangana](#)

Nearly five billion people now use social media worldwide, with children forming a large share of that base. A peer-reviewed study from BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus links this expansion to the rise of cyberbullying and its lasting impact on young users. Published in New Generation Computing, the paper is authored by Utsav Seth, Sandeep Ravikanti and Jay Dave of the Department of Computer Science and Information

Systems. It reviews global data on online networks and shows how platforms that enable connection also create space for harassment, impersonation, exclusion and doxing.

Dave said cyberbullying has grown alongside platform scale and design. "Online social networks are structured for rapid sharing and visibility. When abuse happens in such spaces, it spreads faster and reaches wider audiences," he noted, adding that the permanence of digital content makes harm more enduring than

offline bullying. The study outlines psychological effects including anxiety, depression, social withdrawal and, in extreme cases, suicidal ideation among adolescents. It highlights how anonymity and peer pressure make teenagers particularly vulnerable.

Seth said detection tools are advancing but remain imperfect. "Machine learning systems can identify abusive language patterns, but they struggle with context, sarcasm and coded expressions," he observed, stressing that

detection is necessary but not sufficient. Ravikanti pointed to research gaps. "There is a need for more longitudinal studies and more research from non-Western settings, including India, to understand long-term academic and mental health consequences," he said. The paper calls for integrated responses combining technology, school-level awareness, parental engagement and clearer policy enforcement to address the scale and complexity of online abuse.

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 Velugumta 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. Preventively 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.

No more rented buildings for Tahsildar, RDO offices in TG

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday, February 25, said the government has decided to construct permanent buildings for Tahsildar and Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) offices across Telangana to ensure efficient, transparent, and accessible administration for the public. The minister announced that in the first phase, permanent buildings with modern amenities will be constructed for 60 Tahsildar offices and five RDO offices currently functioning from rented premises. In the second phase, 170 Tahsildar and RDO offices currently operating from dilapidated buildings will be reconstructed. He said all new



buildings across the state will follow a uniform design to ensure accessibility, efficiency, and public convenience. He added that the designs will be finalised after consultations with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and the construction will be carried out in a cost-effective manner while ensuring high-quality public service delivery. The minister conducted a review meeting with senior officials of the Revenue Department at the Secretariat, during which details were gathered on the number of

Tahsildar and RDO offices operating from rented premises as well as those functioning from structurally weak or unsuitable buildings. He said the decision aligns with the Chief Minister's vision that government offices serving the public should function from dignified and permanent infrastructure rather than temporary or rented premises. The minister observed that both before and after the formation of Telangana, several revenue offices continued to function without adequate infrastructure and largely from rented buildings, causing inconvenience to the public. He also criticised the previous government for reorganising mandals without proper planning, which resulted in certain mandals falling under

multiple district jurisdictions. Due to inadequate infrastructure and staff shortages in several offices, citizens faced significant difficulties in accessing revenue services, he said. The minister said that after assuming office, the present government sanctioned the required posts for newly created mandals and strengthened administrative systems to improve service delivery. He also criticised the previous administration for constructing some collectorate buildings in remote locations and failing to ensure their effective functioning. Referring to the Stamps and Registration Department, the minister said construction of integrated office complexes with modern facilities has been initiated.

BJP Push Clears Little Begumpet Encroachments

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Acting on mounting public pressure and following intervention by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) along with the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Wednesday carried out a demolition drive against illegal roof sheds encroaching on the north-east road of Little Begumpet (Prakashnagar) Colony. The action comes after residents raised repeated complaints over months, alleging that unauthorized structures had blocked a crucial internal road, severely affecting traffic movement and restricting access for emergency vehicles. Despite several petitions, the issue reportedly remained pending. The matter gained momentum on February 5, 2026, when residents approached BJP leader Nemali Anand (Nandu), who escalated the issue to former NDMA Vice Chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy. Taking serious note of the encroachment and alleged administrative delay, Reddy engaged with civic authorities and warned of launching a public agitation if immediate action was not taken. Following the intervention, GHMC officials expedited the file under GO MS 191 and deployed heavy machinery in coordination with HYDRAA to dismantle the unauthorized sheds, restoring public access to the road. Local BJP representatives described the demolition as a victory for residents' rights, stating that decisive political intervention ensured administrative responsiveness. Meanwhile, residents have submitted a fresh representation seeking immediate clearance of debris and complete restoration of the road to ensure smooth traffic flow and public safety in the colony.



Following the intervention, GHMC officials expedited the file under GO MS 191 and deployed heavy machinery in coordination with HYDRAA to dismantle the unauthorized sheds, restoring public access to the road. Local BJP representatives described the demolition as a victory for residents' rights, stating that decisive political intervention ensured administrative responsiveness. Meanwhile, residents have submitted a fresh representation seeking immediate clearance of debris and complete restoration of the road to ensure smooth traffic flow and public safety in the colony.

Telangana Under RSS Influence, Not Congress Rule: Abdullah Sohail

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Alleging that Telangana is "functioning under RSS influence rather than Congress rule," BRS leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail on Wednesday demanded a judicial inquiry into mosque demolitions and recent communal disturbances across the state. Addressing the media, Sohail accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of enabling actions that, he claimed, targeted minority religious structures and disturbed communal harmony. He urged the government to clarify the legal basis for each demolition carried out since December 2023 and to fix accountability on officials involved. Referring to the latest incident, Sohail cited the demolition of Masjid-e-Maulana in Sangareddy during the holy month of Ramzan, alleging that revenue authorities removed the structure without considering



community sensitivities, leading to unrest among residents. He also raised concerns over the reported demolition and relocation of the 800-year-old Dargah Hazrat Tajuddin Khaja Bagh Sawar in Vemulawada, cleared as part of temple expansion works. The move, he said, caused anguish among devotees and was undertaken without proper consultation or due process. Recalling earlier incidents, Sohail mentioned the July 2024 demolition of Masjid-e-Jagirdar in Moinabad, believed to date back to the Qutb Shahi era, alleging that assurances of reconstruction were not fulfilled.

Sohail accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of enabling actions that, he claimed, targeted minority religious structures and disturbed communal harmony. He urged the government to clarify the legal basis for each demolition carried out since December 2023 and to fix accountability on officials involved. He further referred to vandalism at Jama Masjid in Jalalpur village of Yadadri-Bhongir district and the Jainoor riots in Asifabad district in September 2024, which saw large-scale damage to minority-owned properties. Sohail claimed that Telangana, which witnessed relative communal peace over the past decade, is now seeing repeated flare-ups under the Congress government. He alleged misuse of official machinery and demanded strict action against those responsible for vandalism and violence, irrespective of affiliation.

Ambedkar Sena Warns of Assembly Siege Over SC Roster

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The National Ambedkar Sena has issued a stern ultimatum to the Telangana government, warning of a massive Assembly siege if its demand to revise the Scheduled Caste roster system is not addressed in the upcoming session. The warning came during a heated dharna at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue on Tank Bund. National President Manne Sridhar alleged that the SC classification policy introduced under Chief Minister



A. Revanth Reddy is unconstitutional and discriminatory toward the Mala community. He demanded an immediate shift in the roster system

from 22 to 16 points and called for a dedicated legislative debate on the issue. The Sena argued that the state government's unilateral classification lacks parliamentary approval and has adversely impacted Mala representation in education and public sector employment. Sridhar claimed the policy has caused "irreparable damage" within just six months of implementation. Highlighting political tensions, he accused the Congress-led administration of favoring the Madiga community while sidelining Malas, despite their electoral support. He also referred to Dandora leader Manda Krishna Madiga, alleging that

those who campaigned for the opposition are now being politically rewarded. Several state leaders, including Taluka Rajesh, Kalyan, Praveen, Bhanuprakash, Prabhakar, and K. Kamalakar, participated in the protest, reinforcing the organization's stand. The National Ambedkar Sena declared that failure to revise the roster policy in the next Assembly session would escalate the agitation from peaceful protests to a large-scale march on the Assembly.

Telangana Police dogs Rana and Rado join Cyberabad's K9 squad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Two police dogs - Rana and Rado - from the Telangana Crime Investigation Department have been inducted into the Cyberabad Police, taking the strength of the K9 Unit to 18. City Security Wing (CSW) Headquarters Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Hanumantha Rao said Rana, a four-year-old Belgian Malinois, and Rado,

a 10-year-old Labrador, will play crucial roles in crime detection, tracking suspects, locating missing persons and assisting in search operations. "Rana and Rao have been inducted into the K9 squad. Of the 18 dogs currently in service, 12 are trained in explosive detection, two in narcotics detection and four as tracker dogs," the officer said. These canines undergo special training in detecting explosives during celebrity visits, public

meetings, anti-sabotage checks and response to threat calls. Tracker dogs help identify suspects and recover evidence, while narcotics detection dogs are used to trace drugs such as ganja, cocaine, methamphetamine, opium, MDMA and heroin. The squad largely comprises Labradors, along with Dobermans and Belgian Malinois, each trained for specialised tasks.

RTC Special Buses For Inter Exams

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

With Intermediate examinations beginning on Wednesday, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) deployed an additional 90 buses, making commuting easy for students. Along with the 1,140 services, 90 more buses were brought out to suit the travel timing of the students to reach their examination halls on time. RTC regional manager Sudha Parimala said that along with the additional bus service for the Inter-

mediate exams, help-desk counters have been arranged at important bus points for the facility of the students. "Students have to reach the centre before 9 am to attend the exam and from 12 noon onwards these services are back for the return journey," she added. On Tuesday, transport minister Ponnampalabandhu instructed the RTC management to make necessary arrangements for the special buses during the Intermediate examinations.

mBAJA SAEINDIA 2026 Flags Off at BVRIT

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The prestigious mBAJA SAEINDIA 2026 competition commenced today at B. V. Raju Institute of Technology (BVRIT), Narasapur, bringing together over 1,600 students from 51 engineering colleges across India. Organized by BAJA SAEINDIA and powered by Bharat Petroleum's Speed high-performance petrol, the three-day national event challenges students to design, build, and race all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The competition evaluates teams through static, dynamic, and endurance



rounds, culminating in a rigorous four-hour durability race that tests engineering precision and team resilience. Speaking at a press meet in Hyderabad, Organizing Committee Chairman Balraj Subramaniam highlighted BAJA's evolution into a major experiential learning platform fostering industry-academia collaboration. Host representative

Aditya Vissam reaffirmed BVRIT's commitment to innovation-driven technical education, noting this is the third consecutive year the institute is hosting a BAJA event. Industry leaders including BPCL, JK Tyre, and other partners emphasized sustainability, performance, and career opportunities through initiatives like the HR Meet. Launched in India in 2007 with 27 teams, BAJA SAEINDIA now spans multiple categories—mBAJA, eBAJA, hBAJA, and aBAJA—reflecting India's growing focus on sustainable and intelligent mobility solutions.

Talasanani Srinivas Yadav Attends Vasavi Temple Consecration

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasanani Srinivas Yadav participated in the idol consecration ceremony of Goddess Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari held at Avula Manda in Rango Gopalpet Division on Wednesday. The temple, dedicated to the Arya Vysya community's revered deity, was recently reconstructed, and special rituals were performed to mark its reopening. The consecration ceremony featured traditional pujas and homams conducted under the supervision of the temple committee. MLA Talasanani Srinivas Yadav took part in the sacred rituals and offered prayers on the occasion. Following the ceremony, temple committee



members felicitated the MLA in recognition of his presence and support. The event witnessed participation from Temple Committee Chairman Soma Anand Kumar, President Chanda Balender, Treasurer Tammi Venkatesh, along with members Shatrughan Kumar, V. Srinivas,

T. Venugopal, and G. Surya Prakash. Former corporators Attili Mallikharjun Goud and Kiranmayi, along with local leaders Kishore, Bacchu Mahesh, Pabba Prakash, Anjaneyulu, Satish, Chandra Prakash, Anand Patil, Kondapuram Mahesh Yadav, and Janardhan, were also present. A large number of devotees attended the ceremony, making the temple reopening and idol installation a spiritually significant event for the local Arya Vysya community.

Modi 'More Than a Friend,' Says Netanyahu

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received effusive praise from his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, who described him as "more than a friend" and "a brother" during a landmark address to the Knesset on Wednesday. Netanyahu lauded Modi for standing firmly with Israel after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks, which killed nearly 1,200 Israelis and led to the kidnapping of about 250. "Prime ministers come to the Knesset regularly, but my dear friend Narendra, your visit moves me deeply," Netanyahu said, highlighting the personal bond between the two leaders. He recalled their 2017 visit to



Israel, where they waded barefoot into the ocean—a moment widely covered in Israel and celebrated as a symbol of their camaraderie. Netanyahu emphasized the depth of Indo-Israeli relations, pointing to doubled bilateral trade and shared historical experiences. "Two places where civilizations flourished—the Indus Valley and the Jordan Valley—both endured odysseys of time, emerged

from colonial rule, and maintain democracies under circumstances few can understand," he said. The Israeli leader praised Modi's transformative reforms, noting India's rise as a space superpower and an Asian economic tiger. A highlight of Netanyahu's speech was his recognition of Modi's swift and unequivocal support after the October 7 attacks. "You stood by Israel and stood by the

Jews. Thank you," he said, noting that many Western nations quickly criticized Israel following its Gaza offensive. Netanyahu described Israel as a bastion of democracy and a frontline defender against Islamic terrorism, honoring the sacrifices of soldiers and the contributions of Jews of Indian origin. He also recounted historical ties, including Indian soldiers' role in liberating Haifa during World War I, shared cultural connections through Tagore and Ramanujam, and his own family's admiration for Indian scholarship. Netanyahu pledged to elevate bilateral ties further, promising to strengthen cooperation in defense, economy, trade, cyber, AI, and space, while ensuring the

success of the ambitious IMEC project. Injecting humor, he quipped that a Bollywood blockbuster could one day depict their friendship. Following the Knesset address, Modi and Netanyahu traveled together to an innovation exhibition, highlighting technological achievements. Modi shared the moment on social media, writing, "After my Knesset address, PM Netanyahu and I are on the way to an exhibition showcasing strides made in the world of technology." The visit underscores the enduring personal chemistry between the two leaders, reflected in long embraces, standing ovations, and a shared vision for deepening strategic and cultural ties between India.

Narendra Modi First World Leader to Hit 100M Instagram Followers

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday crossed 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first world leader and politician to achieve the milestone on the platform. He joined Instagram in 2014. PM Modi has more than twice as many followers as US President Donald Trump, who has 43.2 million followers. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto follows with 15 million, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva with 14.4 million, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with 11.6 million, and Argentine President Javier Milei with 6.4 million. Within India, PM Modi is far ahead of other political leaders on Instagram. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath holds the second



spot with around 16.1 million followers, followed by Rahul Gandhi with approximately 12.6 million. PM Modi is currently on a two-day official visit to Israel. On Wednesday, the Israeli Parliament conferred the "Speaker of the Knesset Medal"—the highest honour of the Knesset—on him in recognition of his exceptional contribution through personal leadership in strengthening strategic ties between India and Israel. The medal was presented after his address to the Israeli Parliament.

Following the speech, PM Modi interacted with members of the Knesset, who took selfies and photographs with him. He received a standing ovation and sustained applause during his address. In his speech, PM Modi said there is great admiration in India for Israel's resolve, courage and achievements. He noted that ties between the two nations date back more than 2,000 years, referencing mentions of India in the Book of Esther and ancient trade links recorded in the Talmud.

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.

Iran FM Urges PM Modi to Raise Palestinian Issue During Israel Visit

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. BJP 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 pre-

State To Get.....

"This was done to make it appear as though Anil Ambani is not involved. The intended effect of this corporate restructuring was to ensure wealth preservation and resource generation by aggregation of the property in the RiseE Trust and shield it from the personal liabilities of Anil Ambani in the form of Personal Guarantees extended by him to lender banks against the loans sanctioned to RCOM," the agency claimed. It added that the property was intended to be "beneficially" used and owned by the family and not for the banks whose loans became non-performing assets (NPAs). With the latest order, the total value of assets attached in the case stands at about Rs 15,700 crore. The ED recently constituted a special investigation team to probe multiple cases of alleged bank fraud and financial irregularities involving the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) following directions of the Supreme Court.

Mamata Alleges...

SIR is underway. Many lost their voting rights. I'm sad. First, around 58 lakh names were deleted. Later 80 lakhs, instead of 50 lakhs, were marked hideously in the name of logical discrepancies which never existed in the rules," Banerjee said. She added, "If around 20 lakh aren't considered, still 1.20 crore names would have been dropped. I personally fought it out in the Supreme Court. My petition is still pending. But many days have passed

Vande Bharat to.....

since the order. I don't know what will happen after the final list is out on February 28." The Chief Minister alleged that work had not begun despite the Supreme Court's direction to depute judicial officers to examine the discrepancy cases. She questioned the fate of the final voters' list scheduled for publication on February 28. "Even after February 14 as per SC rules, these Chhupa Rustam dropped 1.20 crore names hideously. The logins are with them. I want humanity for humans. I don't need to judge anyone by their religion or political affiliation," she said. Banerjee said she opposed removal of any genuine voter's name and expressed concern over those who might find their names missing in the final list.

Mamata Alleges...

Separately, CJI Kant strongly objected to a chapter on judicial corruption in the NCERT's Class 8 curriculum, saying nobody on earth will be allowed to defame the judiciary and taint its integrity. The National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT's) new social science textbooks for Class 8 say corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges are among the challenges faced by the judicial system. Meanwhile, the NCERT is said to have called an internal meeting to review the recommendations of the subject experts involved in the chapter and the officials who

FROM FRONT PAGE

State To Get.....

approved it. NCERT Chairman Dinesh Prasad Saklani did not respond to calls and messages on the issue. Another top official at the council refused to comment, saying the matter is sub judice now. NCERT to..... The government sources said that while NCERT is an autonomous body, officials responsible for adding chapters should have applied their minds. If the issue of corruption was to be included in the textbook, it should have been related to all three organs -- the executive, judiciary and the legislature, they said. The book pegs the approximate number of pending cases in the Supreme Court at 81,000, in high courts at 62.40 lakh, and district and subordinate courts at 4.70 crore. It highlights the judiciary's internal accountability mechanisms and refers to the established procedure for receiving complaints through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). According to the book, over 1,600 complaints were received through this mechanism between 2017 and 2021. The textbook also quotes former Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, who in July 2025 said that instances of corruption and misconduct within the judiciary had a negative impact on public confidence. "However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues... Transparency and accountability are democratic

Vande Bharat to.....

virtues," he is quoted as saying in the book. The government sources said that data on corruption in the judiciary is available in parliamentary records and the national judicial data grid, but the Union Law Ministry was not consulted for cross verification of the fact. The sources also said former CJI Gavai's quote on corruption in the judiciary was taken out of context, and he is learnt to be unhappy over it. NCERT to..... "I apologise to other people who are drawn into this because of the mistake that I made," The Wall Street Journal quoted Gates as saying. The philanthropist said he had met Epstein in 2011, three years after the sex offender had pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution. Gates said he didn't "properly check" Epstein's background even when he was aware of some "18-month thing" that had limited Epstein's travel and added that he continued meeting with Epstein even after his then-wife Melinda French Gates expressed concerns in 2013. Speaking of his ex-wife, he added: "To give her credit, she was always kind of skeptical about the Epstein thing." The Wall Street Journal further said that Gates told staff on Tuesday that he continued meeting with Epstein through 2014, flew on a private jet with Epstein and spent time with him in Germany, France, New York and Washington.

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 toward 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.

4 Workers Injured In Blast At Jangaon Dairy Unit

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Four workers sustained severe injuries in an explosion at Shakti Dairy's almond milk processing unit in Jangaon district on Wednesday. Police said the blast occurred when an industrial oven used for heating milk bottles exploded under pressure inside the facility. According to preliminary investigation, workers attempted to open the oven before it had cooled down. The sudden release of internal pressure led to the explosion. The impact shattered glass almond milk bottles

in the vicinity, and the resulting shards caused multiple injuries to the workers. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital, and three of them were later referred to the District Government Hospital as their condition was stated to be critical. Following the incident, family members and local residents alleged lapses in safety protocols at the unit. Jangaon police registered a case and initiated a forensic examination to ascertain whether the explosion was caused by mechanical failure or operational negligence.

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 Muthyam 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.

HC Imposes Rs 1 Lakh Cost on HYDRAA for Fencing Land Despite Court Order

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on HYDRAA for fencing private land despite a binding civil court decree declaring ownership in favour of the petitioners, and directed immediate removal of the fencing. Justice N.V. Shrivani Kumar held that if the fencing is not removed forthwith, HY-

DRAA shall pay an additional Rs 1 lakh per day to the landowners until compliance. The matter has been posted to March 18, 2026, for reporting compliance and filing of counters.

The court observed that any fencing or installation of boards on lands involved in pending litigation must be undertaken only pursuant to directions issued by a jurisdictional court or the High

Court. It criticised what it termed HYDRAA's "high-handed" practice of fencing properties and erecting boards without court authorisation in civil disputes. The order came on a petition filed by Jonnalagadda Padmini and another, challenging HYDRAA's action in fencing Plot Nos. 184 and 185, each measuring 500 square yards in Survey No. 100 at Babanagar Co-operative Housing Society

Limited, Mallapur Village, Uppal Mandal, Rangareddy district. The petitioners contended that they were dispossessed despite a decree passed by the Additional District Judge, Medchal-Malkajgiri district at Kushaiguda, declaring them absolute owners and granting permanent injunction restraining GHMC and its officials from interfering with their possession.

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.



Govt mandates 20 percent ethanol-blended petrol nationwide from April 1

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The government has mandated the sale of petrol with up to 20 per cent ethanol and a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 across all states and Union Territories from April 1, 2026.

The oil ministry in a February 17 notification, said, "the central government hereby directs that oil companies shall sell ethanol-blended motor spirit (petrol) with percentage of ethanol up to 20 per cent as per the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications and having minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95, in states and the Union Territories". The cen-



tral government can allow exceptions in special situations, for specific regions and for a limited time.

Ethanol is made from sugarcane, maize, or grain. It is renewable, domestically produced and has cleaner burning than pure petrol.

The government has mandated ethanol blending in petrol to help cut oil imports as also reduce emissions. Such a mandate also supports farmers as it boosts demand for sugarcane, maize and agricultural surplus.

Most vehicles man-

ufactured in India from 2023-2025 onward are designed to run on E20 and no major issues are expected, industry officials said.

Older vehicles may however see a slight drop in mileage (3-7 per cent). Also rubber/plastic component may wear. The insistence on minimum RON 95 is to prevent engine damage.

RON, or Research Octane Number, is a measure of a fuel's resistance to engine knocking (pre-ignition). Knocking happens when fuel burns unevenly inside the engine, causing pinging sound, loss of power and possible engine damage over time.

The higher the RON, the more resistant the

fuel is to knocking.

In simple terms, octane is like a fuel's 'self-control under pressure' – higher RON means fuel stays stable under high compression.

Ethanol naturally has high octane value (around 108 RON). Blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol, increases knock resistance.

Encouraged by India achieving 10 per cent ethanol doping in petrol in June 2022 – five months ahead of the target date – the government advanced 20 per cent blending to 2025-26 from 2030. Most pumps in the country now sell E20 or petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol.

Coal India arm SECL identifies 7 mine dumps for rare earth exploration

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, has identified seven mine dumps for potential extraction of rare earth elements, a top company official said.

SECL's initiative aligns with the government's push to unlock value from coal mine waste. Trace rare earth elements (REEs) have been detected in overburden dumps across major coalfields, potentially reducing import dependence.

SECL Chairman and Managing Director Harish Duhan said the tendering process for exploration has already begun, with plans to scientifically assess the dumps within the next year to pinpoint viable sites.

"Under the guidance



from the ministry of coal, we have identified seven mine dumps for rare earth elements extraction. We have started the tendering process and within a year or so we will identify which area, which mine dumps, overburden carry rare earth elements," Duhan said.

He added the company will conduct detailed scientific studies to determine the presence and economic viability of REEs in these locations, focusing on overburden materials typically discarded during coal mining. Rare earth elements, critical for high-

tech industries like electronics, renewable energy and defence, have emerged as a strategic priority for India amid global supply chain concerns dominated by China.

The identification process targets dumps in SECL's operational areas in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, with exploration expected to employ advanced geophysical and geochemical techniques.

Duhan expressed confidence that within a year, SECL would finalise the most promising sites, paving the way for pilot extraction projects and possible commercial operations.

India is aggressively advancing its rare earth elements strategy to achieve self-reliance in critical minerals essential for EVs, renewables, defense, and electronics, driven by global supply risks.

Apparel And Jewellery Retailers To Clock Double-Digit Growth In FY27

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Apparel retailers and jewellery retailers are poised for a double-digit revenue growth in FY27. While apparel retail growth will improve from an estimated 9 per cent in FY26 to 10.5 per cent FY27 due to the demand from Tier-2+ cities, jewellery retailers will see gold price-led growth cooling off from 23 per cent in FY26 to high-teen levels in FY27. From 8 per cent growth in FY25, apparel retailers are set to see higher growth of 9 per

cent in FY26 and 10.5 per cent in FY27, according to India Ratings.

Growth, however, will remain divergent across formats, with value retailers outperforming due to resilient Tier-2 and beyond demand and the ongoing shift from unorganised to organised trade. Premium, branded and ethnic players are expected to see steadier, high single-digit growth trends as consumer confidence rebuilds with a better spread-out wedding calendar than in FY26 and early signs of normalisation seen in 9MFY26. The

government's consumption push through lower income tax and GST rates and mild inflation resulted in higher disposable income and improved affordability. "We expect a steady uplift for the organised apparel retail sector in FY27, supported by a consumption revival led by improving consumer sentiment, superior real wage growth, and recent policy measures boosting household disposable income. Strong aspiration-driven momentum in value and luxury segments and productivity-driven ex-



pansion are expected to deliver higher revenue growth with expansion in profit margins during FY27," says Adarsh Gutha, Associate Director, Corporate Ratings, Ind-Ra.

Jewellery sector's resil-

ience and ability to absorb shocks from geopolitical tensions, trade wars, and demand pressures in FY26 have positioned it as an outperformer within the Indian retail sector. Ind-Ra has accordingly raised its FY26 revenue

growth targets by 600bp to 23 per cent, led by price effects, and expects it to settle at a high-teen rate for FY27 on a high base. "Jewellery volumes are set to drop sharply in FY26 – the steepest post-pandemic decline, due to high gold prices, but strong festive and wedding-season buying in 2HFY26 boosted sentiments, even at record-high prices, leading to an upward revision in our revenue growth expectations," says Preeti Kumaran, Senior Analyst, Corporate Ratings, Ind-Ra.

Reshaping consumer behaviour to accept record-high gold prices as the new normal, along with re-aligning the product mix by increasing the proportion of studded jewellery, lower-purity gold jewellery, light and ultra-light pieces for the mass segment to accelerate inventory turns, will aid jewellers in navigating industry challenges over the near to medium term," she said. Trust, transparency, and regulatory compliance will continue to benefit organised jewellers, resulting in CAGR growth of 17 per cent over FY26-

FY28, a faster pace than the 7 per cent forecasted for unorganised jewellers. With gold outperforming with exceptional returns among various asset classes, investment demand is expected to remain steady. In the ongoing volatile price scenario, most jewellers will continue hedging through daily/weekly replenishment models to average out prices, and overall revenue growth will remain intact, as price gains offset any volume decline and volume growth offsets any price corrections.

Rupee rises 6 paise to 90.89 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee appreciated by 6 paise to 90.89 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, supported by a weaker American currency and a strong rebound in domestic equity markets. However, gains were capped due to a sharp rise in global crude oil prices and continued outflows by foreign institutional investors

(FIIs), according to forex traders. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.94 against the US dollar before strengthening to 90.89, marking a gain of 6 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the local currency had settled 6 paise lower at 90.95 after trading within a narrow range throughout the session.

Market participants noted that dollar demand remained steady.



"Dollar buying continued on Tuesday as the rupee ended at 90.95 with hardly a 6 paise movement for the whole day. The range for the day could be around 90.75-91.25, with dips in the dollar likely to be bought," said Anil Kumar Bhan-

sali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director at Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the strength of the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent lower at 97.77, lending some support to emerging market currencies including the rupee. Global crude oil prices surged, with Brent crude rising 1.37 per cent to USD 71.74 per barrel in futures

trade, limiting further appreciation of the domestic unit. In the equity market, benchmark indices posted strong gains.

The Sensex jumped 558.79 points to 82,784.71, while the Nifty advanced 157.05 points to 25,581.70. However, exchange data showed that FIIs offloaded equities worth Rs 102.53 crore on Tuesday, adding pressure on the currency.

MoUs worth Rs 11,000 cr signed with Japanese firms on first day of Yogi's Japan visit

LUCKNOW
Wakeup telangana

Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth about Rs 11,000 crore were signed with several Japanese companies during the first day of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Japan on Wednesday.

The agreements were signed with firms, including Kubota Corporation, Minda Corporation, Japan Aviation Electronics Industry, Nagase & Co., Ltd., Seiko Advance, O&O Group, Fuji Japanese JV, and Fujisilver-tech Concrete Pvt Ltd, as per an official release.

The partnerships span sectors such as agricultural equipment manufacturing, industrial machinery, water and environmental infrastructure solutions, automobiles, electronics, industrial printing and graphics, hospitality and real estate. Officials said the agreements are expected to boost manufacturing capacity and deepen industrial collaboration between India and Japan. Founded in 1890 and



headquartered in Osaka, Kubota Corporation is a leading multinational known for agricultural and industrial machinery. Minda Corporation, part of the Spark Minda Group, is a major automotive components manufacturer providing mechatronics, wiring harnesses, plastic interiors, sensors and electric vehicle solutions.

Japan Aviation Electronics Industry, also known as JAE, specialises in advanced connectors and electronic interface solutions for automotive and aerospace sectors. Nagase & Co., Ltd. is a diversified Japanese trading and technology company engaged in chemicals, advanced materials, mobility solutions and electronics. Officials said collaboration among

these companies is expected to promote automotive electronics and advanced component manufacturing.

Seiko Advance, a Japan-based firm known for high-performance screen printing inks and coating solutions, supplies products used in automotive decals, industrial graphics, electronic panels, glass printing and consumer appliances, including through its manufacturing presence in India.

Meanwhile, O&O Group has signed an agreement to invest in the hospitality and real estate sector. Officials described the agreements signed on Wednesday are expected to give fresh momentum to bilateral industrial cooperation.

InvITs distribute ₹5,565 crore in Q3

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's listed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) have collectively distributed Rs. 5,565 crores to around 4 lakh unitholders during the third quarter of FY26, marking another quarter of steady growth for the sector. During this quarter, two new InvITs have started distributions, reflecting the continued growth of the sector. The InvIT market has witnessed steady expansion

in both asset base and investor participation. As of date, the total assets under management (AUM) across listed InvITs is Rs. 7 lakh crores, with a diversified portfolio of operational infrastructure assets across the country with sectors including roads, transmission, renewable energy, and other core infrastructure segments.

Since inception, InvITs have cumulatively distributed Rs. 83,770 crores to unitholders, reinforcing their role as a key instrument for monetizing in-

frastructure assets. This growth has been strongly supported by Government's continued focus on infrastructure development as a key driver of economic growth. Additionally, regulatory support, including streamlined guidelines and measures to deepen capital markets, has enhanced the attractiveness of InvITs as an investment vehicle.

Bharat InvITs Association sees growing interest from domestic and global institutional investors,

with InvITs emerging as an important avenue for long-term capital deployment into India's infrastructure sector. This is further reflected in the strong growth in distributions during the third quarter, backed by stable operational performance and predictable cash flows from underlying assets. "The steady growth in distributions during the third quarter reflects the resilience of underlying assets and the strength of the InvIT sector. Supported by continued gov-

ernment and regulatory support and growing investor confidence, InvITs are well-positioned to support India's infrastructure financing needs. The InvIT ecosystem is entering a new phase of expansion, with increasing participation from domestic and global investors and a strong pipeline of quality assets. As the sector evolves, InvITs will continue to unlock value, enable efficient capital recycling, and deepen India's infrastructure investment landscape..

PM Narendra Modi congratulates Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now congratulated popular actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, who are to tie the knot on Thursday, and offered his blessings to the star couple.

In a letter sent to the parents of Vijay Deverakonda and Mandanna families on this truly joyous and auspicious occasion.

The Prime Minister also said that the wedding marks the beginning of a new, beautiful chapter in the lives of Vijay and Rashmika and that the couple, with the spirit of "having taken seven steps together" become friends for life. "Neither Vijay, nor Rashmika is new to scripts in their



films. But this divinely scripted chapter of their real lives, filled with love and affection, will surely outshine the magic they have created on the silver screen," the Prime Minister said.

"May the days, months and years to come be filled with shared dreams and their fulfilment. With thoughtfulness and love, may they share responsibilities, embrace each

other's imperfections, learn from each other's strengths and journey through life as true partners," the Prime Minister said and offered his blessings and best wishes to the couple and the families on the momentous occasion.

For the unaware, the wedding ceremony of actors Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda will take place at Mementos by ITC

Hotels, Ekaaya Udaipur.

On Sunday, the couple officially announced their wedding. Taking to their respective Instagram handles, Rashmika and Vijay wrote, "Our Dearest loves, Before we made any plans, before we chose anything for ourselves, you were already there. With so much love, you gave us a name. You called us 'VIROSH'. So today, with full hearts, we name our coming together in your honour. We would like to name it, 'The Wedding of VIROSH'. Thank you for holding us with so much love. You are a part of us, always. Biggest hugs and full love".

The couple are expected to exchange the vows on February 26, 2026 in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The ceremony is described as intended to be private and intimate, with only close family and friends, followed by planned receptions.

Kerala High Court to hear pleas against 'The Kerala Story 2' movie at 3 pm

KOCHI
Wakeup telangana

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday said it will hear arguments on the pleas against 'The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond' in the post lunch session.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas said he will hear the matters in detail at 3pm.

The court had on Tuesday orally observed that the teaser and trailers of the movie depicts a state like Kerala where everyone lives in communal harmony in a wrong light.

The court had also observed that using the state's name and claiming the film is based on true facts can lead to communal tensions in the state. The three sep-

arate pleas have sought to quash the certificate for public viewing granted to 'The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond' which is scheduled to be released on February 27.

One of the three pleas has been moved by Sreedev Nambodiri of Kannur district, who has arrayed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), and producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah as respondents in his writ petition filed last week.

Besides quashing of its certification, Nambodiri's petition also seeks certain modifications, including reconsideration of its title.

The petitioner has claimed that the film was certified for public view-

ing by the CBFC allegedly without due compliance with the statutory mandate under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

According to the petition, the grievance arises from the teaser and trailer of the film, which portray narratives involving women from multiple states, yet brand the content as 'The Kerala Story', thereby associating alleged incidents of terrorism, forced conversion and demographic conspiracy exclusively to the state of Kerala.

"Such a portrayal has the potential to stigmatise an entire regional population, disturb public order, and incite communal and regional disharmony", the petition has said.

Priyanka Mohan's 'Made in Korea' set for direct OTT release on March 12

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Director Ra Karthik's eagerly awaited slice-of-life comedy drama 'Made in Korea', featuring actress Priyanka Arul Mohan in the lead, will have a direct release on OTT on March 12 this year, its makers announced on Tuesday. The film is to premiere on March 12 on the OTT platform Netflix. The story of the film revolves around a young

woman called Shenbagam (played by Priyanka Arul Mohan) from Tamil Nadu. Shenbagam, who hails from a small town in Tamil Nadu, holds on to her simple, wholehearted dream of travelling to South Korea someday.

'Made in Korea' follows Shenbagam, or Shenba, whose childhood fascination with Korean culture inspires her to experience it for herself. When she un-



expectedly finds herself in Seoul, reality proves far more challenging than she imagined, setting her on a heartfelt path of resilience, self-discovery, and new connection. The film has been produced by Rise East Entertainment and written and directed by Ra Karthik. Sharing his inspiration behind the film, Ra Karthik said, "I am quite fascinated with the deep cultural connections and historical

similarities between Korean and Tamil heritage. This curiosity inspired me to tell a story that felt personal and full of hope. 'Made In Korea' is a slice-of-life film crafted with warmth, celebrating this unique cultural bond."

Netflix India Vice-President (Content) Monika Shergill said, "As we deepen our commitment to the South and continue building a distinctive

slate of films and series, we remain focused on stories that are deeply rooted in local culture yet resonate far beyond borders."

She further added, " 'Made in Korea' beautifully brings that vision to life. At its heart is a young girl from a small village in Tamil Nadu whose fascination with Korea shapes her dreams - a deeply human story of aspiration, identity and belonging. Created by

director and writer Ra Karthik and producer Sreenidhi Sagar, and led by Priyanka Mohan alongside acclaimed South Korean actor of 'Squid Game' fame, Park Hye-Jin, the film celebrates a heartfelt cultural bridge between India and Korea. It is intimate, endearing and globally resonant." Leading the film is Priyanka Mohan, who brings Shenba's emotional journey to life with sincerity.

Paras Dogra controversy overshadows J&K's strong showing against Karnataka

HUBBALI
Wakeup telangana

Skipper Paras Dogra made a gutsy 70, but his intentional head-butting of Karnataka substitute KV Aneesh overshadowed an otherwise solid batting performance from Jammu and Kashmir, who reached 527 for 6 at stumps on the second day of the Ranji Trophy final.

Dogra, along with keeper-batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70) and Sahil Lotra (57 not out), made significant contributions, making it a tough day for the Karnataka bowlers. Only Prasidh Krishna (3/90 in 29 overs) made a notable impact.

However, it was 21-season Ranji veteran Dogra's behaviour that surprised everyone. He was captured on camera head-butting the silly point fielder Aneesh after getting a streaky boundary off Prasidh, who had nearly beaten him with a well-directed delivery. It was unclear if Aneesh said anything to provoke



Dogra, who confronted him and struck Aneesh on the helmet. Senior teammate Mayank Agarwal immediately intervened to separate the two.

An animated Agarwal was seen exchanging words with Dogra as on-field umpires Rohan Pandit and Ulhas Gandhe stepped in. At one point, even Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal spoke to the umpires, complaining about Dogra's conduct. Since the altercation involved physical contact with an opponent, Dogra could face sanctions from BCCI match referee Narayan Kutty. The day started well for

Karnataka as overnight centurion Shubham Pundir (121 off 247 balls) was quickly dismissed. A flick from the left-hander off medium pacer Vidyadhar Patil (1/104) went straight into substitute Aneesh's hands, ending a fine 124-run stand. Pundir's innings included 12 fours and two sixes. Abdul Samad (61), who had also hit a half-century on the opening day, edged one from Prasidh that moved just enough to take the outside edge.

At 307 for 4, just when Karnataka looked to have an opening, veteran Dogra and J&K's find of the season Wadhawan added 110

runs in 32 overs. Prasidh, bowling with a semi-new ball, was hit for streaky boundaries behind square by the duo, who found his extra pace difficult to handle.

They showed good temperament, not giving away wickets to the Indian Test pacer. While they did not score at a fast pace, once leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal (1/130 in 33 overs) and left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty (1/112 in 32 overs) came into operation, the pair managed the strike well.

Dogra's 166-ball knock included eight fours, while Wadhawan's 109-ball innings featured nine boundaries. After Wadhawan was caught by KL Rahul in the slips off Shetty, Dogra added another 54 runs with Lotra, who also reached a half-century. With four overs left for the third new ball, Karnataka bowlers will hope to keep the total below 600 and rely on their batting lineup, filled with former and current Test players.

India face tough Zimbabwe test after South Africa loss in T20 World

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Bogged down by top-order brittleness and under pressure after a heavy loss, defending champions India will need every ounce of resilience when they take on a tricky Zimbabwe in their second Super 8 match of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Winning by a big margin is critical for India's survival in the ICC showpiece, given the blow to their net run rate (-3.80) after the 76-run defeat to South Africa on Sunday. But for that, India need to fix the issues surrounding the opening and No 3 slots.

Coming into this World Cup, the reigning champions relied on excellence from Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma at the top to overcome bilateral challenges against South Africa and New Zealand at home.

However, Abhishek's



batting form has dipped after a stomach infection. A combination of slow pitches and off-spinners, who took the ball away from his hitting arc, has reduced the left-hander's firepower.

He is certainly a better batter than his current numbers suggest - 15 runs from four matches at an average of 3.75 and a strike-rate of 75.

The real question is whether he can set aside the desire to play his natural game and grind out some runs. It may not look flashy, but sometimes one needs to play cautiously to win.

The changes made by England skipper Harry Brook, a batter in Ab-

hishek's mould, helped him score a match-winning hundred against Pakistan in Pallekele. Watching him may give Abhishek an example to follow.

Playing spin was never Brook's forte, yet he overcame Pakistan's spin attack by balancing defence and aggression.

Tilak Varma also needs a course correction, but of a different kind. Abhishek's lean patch has forced Tilak to play a more supportive role to Kishan, who continues to impress with a strike-rate of 193 amid the top-order struggles. Even so, a strike-rate of 118 is too low for a batter in the Power Play as per mod-

ern T20 standards. Tilak generally strikes at around 141 in T20Is.

Suryakumar Yadav has 180 runs, but at a strike-rate of 127, far below his T20I career rate of 161. This has left Kishan doing most of the scoring work.

Had it not been for the acceleration by Shivam Dube and Hardik Pandya, India would have struggled to reach competitive totals in a couple of matches.

Should Samson be back? Opposition teams have cleverly used off-spinners in the Power Play against India's three left-handed batters - Kishan, Abhishek and Tilak - to curb scoring opportunities.

Including Sanju Samson, a right-hander, in the top three could be a quick fix, but the Kerala batter himself is not in form. Adding another struggling batter in an already difficult situation is debatable.

TGCSB targets mule accounts under 'Operation Crackdown'

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) on Wednesday, February 25, launched 'Operation Crackdown,' to target and dismantle criminal networks and the cybercrime ecosystem in the state over the next few months.

The operation was launched in 16 districts, specifically targeting mule bank accounts. A total of 137 teams, comprising 512 officers, are involved in the operation. Data analysis says 4,775 mule accounts were operated in the state last year. As part of the first day of the operation, 1,888 suspected mule accounts opened in 137 bank branches are being checked.

These accounts are linked to 9,431 crime links across the country, including 782 in Telangana, TGCSB said in a release.

The special teams have visited and inspected 137 bank branches and collected Know Your Customer (KYC) details of suspicious mule account holders. Initial verification has shown that many of these branches have multiple mule accounts, in some cases running into hundreds, raising suspicion of collusion of bank staff as well as an organised network of agents, TGCSB said. The investigation further revealed some noteworthy cases, such as a single account operating from Sultan Bazar that was found to be linked with 496 crime complaints across multiple jurisdictions.

In Suryapet district, four banks had 298 mule accounts linked across multiple jurisdictions.

It was also observed that certain smaller banks that do not have the technical capacity to operate Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) are using the RTGS of national banks for the transfer of funds. Since there is no proper verification & validation of the persons opening accounts in these banks, this gap is being exploited by cybercriminals.

Cattle transporters, 2 gau rakshaks sent to judicial remand

The three cattle transporters beaten by cow vigilantes near Aramghar crossroads on Tuesday, February 24, have been arrested and sent for judicial remand, as have two of their attackers. The driver of the truck, Kaleem, 30, and his two helpers were charged under various sections of the Telangana Prohibition of Cow Slaughter and Animal Preservation Act, 1977, Attapur Sub-Inspector (SI) T Jaya Raj told Siasat.com.

Two members of an outfit called Gau Raksha Dal Tiger Force, who were among those who assaulted the transporters, were charged with creating nuisance, unlawful assembly and assault. Both were also sent for judicial remand on Wednesday, February 25. Six others from the group are still absconding. The SI said the truck was travelling from Nagpur in Maharashtra to deliver 13 cows and 47 bulls to a cattle market in Shadnagar when it collided with a car near Pillar no 311. The collision drew a crowd that suspected the cattle were being taken to a slaughterhouse.

Domestic help arrested for stealing Rs 3L gold from elderly couple

The police arrested a domestic help on Wednesday, February 25, for allegedly stealing gold ornaments and cash worth Rs 3.88 lakhs from an elderly couple. The accused, 43-year-old Allam Tejasvi, was held at the Habsiguda Bus Stop after the couple filed a complaint.

Tejasvi, who hails from Kondanagula village in Nagarkurnool district, previously ran a small general store which was shut down due to financial problems. She was later employed as a caretaker at an elderly couple's house in Green Hills Colony, Habsiguda, for a monthly salary of Rs 18,000. She had built a close relationship with the couple over the course of her employment, but was driven by mounting debt and financial pressure.

Matwale Doodh Ghar Serves Tradition in Every Glass



Price List at Matwale

Doodh Ghar:	
Lassi Special	₹160
Lassi Double	₹100
Lassi Single	₹70
Lassi Salted	₹70
Faluda Special	₹160
Faluda Double	₹100
Faluda Single	₹70
Ganga Jamuna (1 plate)	₹60
Khalakhand (100 gm)	₹50
Gulab Jamun (2 pieces)	₹60
Rabdi (100 gm)	₹50
Malai (100 gm)	₹60.

Matwale Doodh Ghar's Signature Lassi Draws Ramzan Crowds at Shalibanda Near Charminar

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

During the holy month of Ramzan, crowds of devotees in Hyderabad are flocking to the iconic Matwale Doodh Ghar near the historic Charminar to break their fast with its signature lassi, cementing the outlet's status as a seasonal favourite.

As evenings set in and the call for iftar approaches, the 59-year-old dairy shop witnesses a steady stream of customers eager to cool down after a day-long fast. Its Special Lassi, priced at ₹160, remains the top draw, followed by Double Lassi at ₹100 and Single Lassi at ₹70. Salted Lassi is available at ₹70, while the Special Faluda is also priced at ₹160. Despite rising costs elsewhere, the outlet has maintained an affordable range, attracting families and regular patrons alike.

Located in the bustling Old City, the decades-old establishment is widely known for preparing its lassi using pure dahi, generously topped with hand-made raspberry ice cream and fresh malai. The creamy beverage, served chilled, offers a refreshing and energising boost after iftar. "Our special lassi follows a recipe my father left behind. People travel from faraway places just to taste it," said Mohammed Matwale.

The shop operates daily from 10 am to midnight and is also available on food delivery platforms, ensuring easy access during Ramzan. Beyond its landmark lassi, the outlet records brisk sales of milk-based desserts during the fasting month. Malai gulab jamun, rabdi, khalakhand and Ganga Jamuna are among the most sought-after sweets.

Jamun (two pieces), Rabdi (100 gm) and Khalakhand (100 gm) are each priced at ₹50, while Malai (100 gm) costs ₹60. These traditional offerings have become a staple in many households' iftar spreads.

The growing popularity of lassi during Ramzan is not limited to the Old City. From Secunderabad to Tolichowki, several outlets are innovating with flavours. Nice Juice Shop, for instance, offers five varieties of lassi, including a mixed fruit version loaded with fruits and nuts. It also serves camel milkshakes, panjeri gold and zafrani chilkoza, catering to customers seeking experimental tastes.

Though traditionally associated with North India, lassi has firmly embedded itself into Hyderabad's Ramzan food culture. The enduring rush at Matwale Doodh Ghar highlights how tradition, quality and affordability continue to shape the city's evolving iftar preferences.

During the holy month of Ramzan, traditional milk-based desserts such as gulab jamun and rabdi witness high demand across Hyderabad, especially during iftar hours. At the well-known Matwale Doodh Ghar near the iconic Charminar, these sweets have become an essential part of the evening rush.

The gulab jamuns, prepared using pure khoya, are deep-fried to a golden brown and soaked in aromatic sugar syrup until they turn soft and spongy. Known for their melt-in-the-mouth texture and balanced sweetness, they are served fresh and warm, enhancing their flavour.

Priced at ₹60 for two pieces, the dessert remains affordable and popular among families looking to complete their iftar spread with a traditional touch.

Rabdi, another crowd favourite, is made by slow-cooking fresh milk for hours until it thickens and forms rich layers of malai. Lightly sweetened and creamy in texture, it offers a soothing and cooling effect after a long day of fasting. Available at ₹50 per 100 grams, the rabdi is often paired with gulab jamun or enjoyed on its own, making it a comforting Ramzan delicacy.



SCR rolls out Rail Parcel App to ease parcel transport

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The South Central Railway (SCR) on Wednesday, February 25, launched the 'Rail Parcel Application' at Rail Nilayam in Secunderabad, to help customers transport parcels through trains.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager of SCR, Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, said that it is a moment of great pride that SCR is the first zone to implement the revolutionary Rail Parcel app. "The parcel business is as

old as the Indian Railways, and now it is entering a new era of digital transformation. In this modern age, parcel booking should be as easy as booking a taxi, and the Rail parcel app makes this possible. It offers faster, more reliable parcel movement; increased transparency and enhanced customer convenience," he said. The app offers doorstep pickup to doorstep delivery facility and allows continuous tracking across pickup, rail transit, and delivery stages.

HYDRAA Chief Inspects Gangaram, Eerla Ponds; Orders Strict Protection of FTL Limits

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a firm directive to safeguard Hyderabad's water bodies, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath on Wednesday, February 25, inspected Gangaram and Eerla ponds and instructed officials not to compromise on their Full Tank Level (FTL) limits under any circumstances. Reviewing the ongoing development works, the



Commissioner stressed the need to strictly protect the buffer zones of both lakes and ensure that no sewage flows into the water bodies. He directed authorities to maintain clear demarcation of FTL boundaries to prevent en-

croachments and preserve the ecological balance. Gangaram pond, spread across 111 acres, and Eerla pond, covering 32 acres, are among the 14 water bodies identified for restoration in HYDRAA's second phase of lake pro-

tection initiatives. The agency has taken up comprehensive development measures aimed at reviving and securing these crucial urban water sources. AV Ranganath also suggested developing parks, children's play areas, and seating facilities suitable for visitors of all age groups around the lakes. He further recommended planting shade-providing trees to enhance greenery and improve the overall environment in the surrounding areas.

United Muslim Forum Raises Alarm Over Communal Incidents in Telangana

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The United Muslim Forum (UMF) on Tuesday voiced serious concern over what it termed a rise in communal activities in Telangana and urged the state government to take immediate and stringent action against elements allegedly disturbing religious harmony, particularly in Banswada and Vemulawada. Forum leaders called for

an independent investigation into the recent violence in Banswada town of Kamareddy district. They alleged that Muslim traders were deliberately targeted, with shops and hotels damaged during the unrest. The Forum further claimed that cases were registered against affected Muslims instead of those responsible for the violence. It demanded compensation for victims, release of innocent persons, and strict



action against the alleged instigators. The Forum also strongly objected to demolition activity carried out in the name of transferring a Dargah Sharif in Vemulawada of Rajanna Sir-

cilla district. Terming the development "highly reprehensible," it warned that failure to act decisively could set a dangerous precedent and erode community confidence. Citing other recent inci-

dents, the leaders referred to the reported vandalism of a mosque in Jalalpur of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district and alleged targeting of Muslims in parts of Mahabubnagar district. They also mentioned attempts to create unrest during Shivaji Jayanti processions in Amberpet and Banswada, alleging that divisive forces were trying to spread discord in the state. The Forum urged Chief Minister A. Revanth

Reddy, who also holds the Home portfolio, to introduce and pass a law against hate speech in the forthcoming budget session of the Assembly. Additionally, it appealed to the government to release pending honorariums for January and February to imams and muezzins, noting that Ramadan has begun and financial support would assist them in preparing for Eid while maintaining communal harmony.

9966806010 whole sale & retail 9966228274

AL BUSHRA

PERFUME CENTER

ONLY CENTRE FOR FAMOUS AND PURE SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD

PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI

📍 MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD