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WEATHER

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

Brief Insights

Sleepless on trains: The growing noise problem

Despite railways trying to strictly enforce 'quiet hours' policy from 10 pm to 6 am on trains, passengers continue to violate the rules. The move to ensure undisturbed sleep for passengers at nights is definitely a step in the right direction. While passengers can report noise violations directly to train staff or call 139 helpline, TTEs and RPF can take action against those who play loud music, videos/reefs on speaker and shout and talk loudly. Though use of ear-phones/headphones for

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Chhattisgarh: 989 Weapons Recovered From Maoists in Bastar in Last 6 Years

As many as 989 weapons, including sophisticated firearms like AK 47, INSAS, LMGs and SLR rifles, were recovered in Chhattisgarh following encounters with the maoists, and from the arrested and surrendered Naxals in the last six years. Chhattisgarh deputy chief minister Vijay Sharma, who holds home portfolio, revealed this in the state Assembly here on Thursday. He further said that 48 weapons were looted by the Maoists from the security personnel between January one, 2019 and January 31 this year. The looted weapons included two LMGs, 29 AK 47 rifles, two SLR rifles, seven INSAS rifles and three nine mm pistols.

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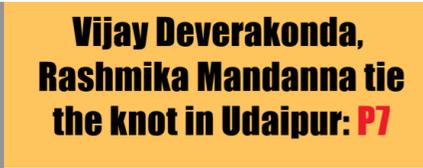
Narendra Modi First World Leader to Hit 100M Instagram Followers

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.

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KTR Vows to Rebuild Demolished Homes: P3



Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna tie the knot in Udaipur: P7

Officers Must Reflect T'gana's Spirit, Says CM Revanth: P2



AI, Defence, Agri, Trade Top India, Israel Deals

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Thursday, during which the two sides took what they described as a "historic decision" to elevate their time-tested partnership to a "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity." Both sides announced 27 outcomes, including 17 agreements and 10 official announcements, and agreed to deepen cooperation across sectors such as defence and security, trade and investment, energy exploration, digital and cross-border payments, critical minerals, innovation, agriculture, fisheries, mobility, people-to-people exchanges, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, biotechnology, advanced pharmaceuticals, and culture. At a special media briefing, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said tensions between the US and Iran



in West Asia were discussed, with India offering any support required for a peaceful resolution. He also said New Delhi expressed readiness to participate in the reconstruction of Gaza, citing India's "specific capabilities and capacities." In his remarks after the talks, Modi announced the establishment of a Critical and Emerging Technologies Partnership, to be led by the National Security Advisers of both countries, to accelerate cooperation in areas such as AI, quantum technologies, and critical minerals. An agreement was signed on cooperation in mineral exploration using advanced geophysical and

AI technologies. The two sides also agreed to expand the 2023 Manpower Mobility Agreement. The framework, which currently provides employment opportunities for Indian workers in Israel's construction and caregiving sectors, will now extend to commerce and services, with a quota of up to 50,000 Indian workers over the next five years. Three implementation protocols were signed covering labour mobility in the restaurant, manufacturing, and commerce and services sectors. "Indian workers have earned trust through their hard work, commitment and skills," Modi said, adding that people-to-

people ties remain a key pillar of bilateral relations. On regional connectivity, Modi said both sides would advance cooperation under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the India-Israel-UAE-USA (I2U2) framework. On defence, Modi referred to the bilateral defence MoU signed last year to facilitate joint development, joint production and technology transfer of defence platforms. A Joint Statement said both leaders outlined a roadmap for future defence cooperation, including collaboration in civil nuclear energy and space. India is also exploring Israeli expertise to strengthen its air defence architecture. On trade, Modi noted that a Bilateral Investment Agreement signed last year would promote mutual investments and announced that the two countries would soon finalise a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement. He also said an agreement had been

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Harvard, T'gana to Offer Executive Education: CM

Under this, Harvard University would offer executive education programmes to the officials and staff of the state government to enhance their professional skills and administrative capabilities.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that world-renowned Harvard University in the United States and the Dr MCR Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana here would soon sign a pact. Under this, Harvard University would offer executive education programmes to the officials and staff of the state government to enhance their professional skills and administrative capabilities. The Chief Minister said, "The Harvard University management has given an in-principle approval for the collaboration when I proposed the idea during my week-long academic session at Harvard University in January." He expressed confidence that the pact in the form of an MoU would be a reality soon and that Harvard's executive programmes would begin in Hyderabad within the next six months. Revanth Reddy stated this while addressing the valedictory ceremony of the combined



foundation course for newly recruited Group-1 and Group-2 officers of Telangana at MCRHRDI on Thursday. Congratulating the officers who successfully completed their training, the CM said they had transitioned from students to job aspirants and were now entering public service as responsible officers who would serve the nearly four crore people of Telangana. Highlighting the spirit of public service, Reddy said the people of Telangana might endure hardships but would never accept domination. He recalled the struggles of tribal leaders such as Ramji Gond and Komaram Bheem, who fought against oppression. He also referred to the rebellion of Sammakka and Saralamma during the

Kakatiya period, noting that "they are revered as forest deities for their sacrifice in the pursuit of social justice, equality, freedom and equal opportunities." The Chief Minister exhorted the newly inducted officers to be mindful of the aspirations of the people and the sacrifices of martyrs while discharging their duties. Government officials, he said, serve as the "eyes and ears" of the administration. They played a crucial role in ensuring that welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries effectively, he said. Highlighting recruitment reforms, Revanth Reddy said the government had fulfilled the long-pending aspirations of youths by conducting the Group-1 examinations after a gap of 15 years. He noted that out of nearly six lakh aspirants, 582 candidates secured Group-1 posts and 775 candidates were selected for Group-2 services. The government, he said, had revamped the Telangana Public Service Com-

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SC Bans NCERT Book Over Chapter on Judiciary Corruption

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a blanket ban on a Class 8 NCERT social science textbook containing a chapter titled "Corruption in the Judiciary" and directed seizure of all physical and digital copies. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pant, initiated suo motu proceedings and issued show cause notices to the NCERT director and the secretary, Department of School Education. The

court asked them to explain why contempt proceedings should not be initiated and posted the matter for March 11. Ordering immediate removal of the book from circulation, the court directed NCERT, in coordination with Central and state education departments, to ensure that all hard and soft copies are withdrawn from public access. "As an abundant precaution, a complete blanket ban is imposed on any further publication, re-printing or digital dissemination of the book," the Bench said, adding that any attempt to distribute it

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Smart Cards for Mahalakshmi Scheme

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government is set to introduce chip-based smart cards for beneficiaries of the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme for women, with pilot projects scheduled to begin from mid-March. Managing director of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) Y. Nagireddy told Deccan Chronicle that tenders have been called for the smart cards and that one mandal in each district

will be selected for the pilot rollout. The Mahalakshmi zero-ticket scheme was launched on December 9, 2023, allowing women to travel free of cost in RTC buses upon showing their Aadhaar card. On average, around 30 lakh women avail the facility daily. According to the transport minister, women are saving approximately Rs 6,000 per month under the scheme. By July 2025, the total number of passenger journeys under the scheme crossed 200

crore. Transport sector experts said the transition to smart cards would need careful implementation. At present, zero tickets are issued on production of Aadhaar. They pointed out that once the smart card system is introduced, issues relating to enrolment and access would need to be addressed to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not excluded from the scheme. Officials said the pilot phase would assess operational challenges before statewide implementation.

Shah: BJP Will Win Bengal, Act Against Infiltrators

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the BJP would win the forthcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal and take action against illegal infiltration after forming the government. Addressing a public meeting in Araria district of Bihar during his visit to the Seemanchal region, Shah said, "With elections approaching in West Bengal, I am confident that the BJP will secure victory. Once the new government is formed, we will take decisive action to identify



and remove every infiltrator." He stated that, as part of a national campaign against illegal infiltration, encroachments within 10 km of the international border would be removed. Shah said the process of identifying and removing infiltrators would begin in Bihar, particularly in the

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Afghanistan Launches Retaliatory Strikes on Pakistan

KABUL
Wakeup telangana

Afghanistan's military said Thursday it had captured several Pakistani army posts in strikes against its neighbor to retaliate for Pakistani airstrikes on Afghan border areas earlier in the week — the latest escalation of violence between the volatile neighbors. A statement issued by the media office of Afghanistan's military corps in the east said "heavy clashes" had begun Thursday night "in

response to the recent airstrikes carried out by Pakistani forces" in eastern Afghanistan. There was no immediate information on casualties and no immediate response from Pakistan's military to the announcement. "In response to the repeated rebellions and insurrections of the Pakistani military, large-scale offensive operations were launched against Pakistani military bases and military installations along the Durand Line," Afghan government spokesman

"In response to the repeated rebellions and insurrections of the Pakistani military, large-scale offensive operations were launched against Pakistani military bases and military installations along the Durand Line," Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a post on X Thursday night.

Zabihullah Mujahid said in a post on X Thursday night. The two countries' 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) long border is known as the Durand Line, which

Afghanistan has not formally recognized. Mujahid said at least five Pakistani army posts had been captured, while a short while later the information directorate of Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province said Afghan forces had captured a total of 17 Pakistani military posts. Pakistani local authorities and two senior security officials said Pakistani forces deployed along the Afghan border in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

were responding to "unprovoked fire" by targeting the Afghan positions from which the artillery fire originated. According to Pakistani local administration officials, the exchange of fire began in the Khyber district along the border and later spread to at least four other districts. Tension has been high between the two neighbors for months, with deadly border clashes in October killing dozens of soldiers, civilians and suspected militants. The vio-

lence followed explosions in Kabul that Afghan officials blamed on Pakistan. Islamabad, at the time, conducted strikes deep inside Afghanistan to target militant hideouts. A Qatari-mediated ceasefire between the two countries has largely held, but the two sides have still occasionally traded fire across the border. Several rounds of peace talks in November failed to produce a formal agreement. On Sunday, Pakistan's military carried out strikes along the border.

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

Officers Must Reflect T'gana's Spirit: CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy delivered a powerful and emotional address at the valedictory ceremony of the Group 1 and Group 2 newly recruited officers, urging them to uphold the spirit of Telangana's martyrs and serve the people with integrity and compassion.

Congratulating the officers who successfully completed their training, the Chief Minister reminded them of their transformation. "You were students yesterday, unemployed yesterday, and today you are officers," he said, adding that they now carry the responsibility of serving four crore people of Telangana through public administration.



Highlighting the self-respect of Telangana society, he declared that the people may tolerate hunger but will never tolerate domination. Recalling the sacrifices of tribal icons like Komaram Bheem, Ranji Gond, and Sammakka-Saralamma, he said they did not fight

for kingdoms but against oppression and injustice. Their martyrdom, he noted, stands for social justice, equality, and freedom.

Out of nearly six lakh candidates, 582 secured Group 1 posts and 1,775 were selected for Group 2. He emphasized that

Group 1 posts were not filled for 15 years and credited the present government for conducting the exams transparently. The Telangana Public Service Commission was cleaned up, competent leadership was appointed, and strict steps were taken to prevent question

paper leaks. Referring to legal challenges, he said the government fought up to the Supreme Court to protect meritorious candidates. Calling the officers the "eyes and ears of the government,"

he urged them to deliver welfare schemes effectively and remain humane. He advised them to remember IAS officer S. R. Sankaran before entering office and to always respect their parents.

He also announced that the government is considering a law to deduct salaries of employees who neglect their parents.

He further revealed that Harvard University will soon collaborate with the Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana to provide advanced training to officers.

Muktyala Lift Scheme to be Completed by September: Uttam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday announced that the Mahatma Gandhi Muktyala Branch Canal Lift Irrigation Scheme will be completed by September, ensuring irrigation facilities to 45,000 acres in the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency of Suryapet district. After inspecting the ongoing works, the minister said that land acquisition for the project had been completed, covering 108 acres at a cost of ₹53 crore.

The ambitious irrigation project, being executed at an estimated cost of ₹1,642 crore, is designed to provide irrigation to a total of 53,000 acres and supply drinking water to 23 villages across three mandals in the constituency. He stated that the scheme would significantly strengthen both agricultural and drinking



water infrastructure in the region. In addition to irrigation benefits, the project will address drinking water requirements in nine villages of Mattampally mandal, five villages in Chinthalapalem mandal, and nine villages in Mellacheruvu mandal. Explaining the technical aspects, Uttam Kumar Reddy said four 16 MW pump sets would be installed to lift water from a depth of 160 metres, ensuring adequate supply to the command areas. To support uninterrupted operations, a 33/11 KV substation will be established exclusively to provide reliable power supply to the pumps.

The minister emphasized

that the irrigation benefits would be extended to farmers from the upcoming rabi season. Around 19,295 farmers in the Huzurnagar constituency are expected to directly benefit from the project, which is anticipated to enhance agricultural productivity and improve rural livelihoods. Earlier in the day, the minister also inspected development works at the model housing colony located at Ramaswamygutta in Huzurnagar town. He reviewed the progress of infrastructure facilities being developed in the colony, including drinking water supply, electricity connections, CC roads, and drainage systems. He informed that the works are progressing at a fast pace and that the colony is nearing completion.

The minister added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to inaugurate the model housing colony in the second week of March.

Jagga Reddy Bats for VHR, Kusuma Kumar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

PCC working president T. Jagga Reddy has proposed the names of former MP V. Hanumantha Rao and AICC secretary Jetti Kusuma Kumar for Rajya Sabha, where two seats from Telangana are getting vacant. The former MLA called on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi on Thursday. Speaking to the media later, Jagga Reddy said several senior Congress leaders in Telangana supported the



candidature of the two. He said Kusuma Kumar, a loyal party worker who remained with Congress after starting as a student leader, belongs to the Kamma community

which is less represented. "Kusuma Kumar belongs to a freedom fighter's family that remained loyal to the Congress. Hanumantha Rao is a veteran leader. He

not only worked as PCC president during the unified AP era but also has experience as Rajya Sabha MP for three terms," he said. Jagga Reddy said Kharge has promised him that he would discuss his proposal within the AICC and bring this to the notice of Rahul Gandhi. Prior to his Delhi visit, the former MLA also discussed the matter with chief minister Revanth Reddy, PCC president Mahesh Goud and AICC state incharge Meenakshi Natarajan.

Etala Criticises Revanth Govt Over Demolitions of Poor Families Homes

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP MP Etala Rajender on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Telangana government, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of demolishing houses of poor families in the name of development and warning Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that such actions could cost the party its future in the state. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, Rajender alleged that the government was carrying out



"war-like" demolition drives, particularly in Khammam on Bhoodan lands, where poor migrant families had built huts. He claimed that nearly 10,000 police personnel were deployed during the operations, with homes razed without prior notice. Women and children

were left in tears, he said, adding that the incidents had brought shame to Telangana society. "Development shouldn't ride on people's tears," Rajender remarked, questioning Rahul Gandhi's repeated statements on justice and protection of the poor while remaining silent on actions taken by a Congress-ruled state.

He warned that unless Gandhi intervenes and curbs these "atrocities," the people of Telangana would eventually oust the Congress from power. Rajender further cautioned the govern-

ment against targeting Madhu Park Ridge Apartments at Langar Houz under the proposed Gandhi Sarovar Project as part of the Musi river rejuvenation initiative. He alleged selective action by authorities, claiming that influential encroachers were being spared while poor residents were being singled out.

The BJP leader vowed to raise Telangana's issues at the national level and expose what he termed as anti-poor policies in public forums and before the Centre.

Sridhar Babu Sets 2047 Logistics Goal

Sridhar Babu said the logistics sector would play a key role in the state's long-term development vision under the Telangana Rising 2047 framework, which targets increasing Telangana's contribution to India's GDP from about 5 per cent at present to 10 per cent by 2047 while supporting the goal of building a 3-trillion dollar state economy.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana is working with a structured roadmap to emerge as one of India's leading logistics hubs and position itself as a global logistics destination by 2047, IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Thursday. Speaking at the Transport Logistic India 2026 conference organised by Messe München India at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, the minister outlined the state government's strategy to build a future-ready logistics ecosystem through infrastructure expansion, digital integration, policy support, sustainability initiatives and skill development.

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work, which targets increasing Telangana's contribution to India's GDP from about 5 per cent at present to 10 per cent by 2047 while supporting the goal of building a 3-trillion dollar state economy. Referring to global shifts in the sector, he highlighted supply-chain realignment, AI-enabled logistics and sustainability as major trends shaping the industry, adding that Telangana was leveraging its geographic location to strengthen its logistics competitiveness.

The minister said infrastructure projects such as the Regional Ring Road, Metro Rail Phase-II, pro-

posed airports, development of a dry port, implementation of Telangana Logistics Policy 2.0 and creation of dedicated logistics parks would strengthen the state's logistics ecosystem.

He said the government was working with Young India Skills University and industry partners to build a skilled workforce aligned with emerging logistics requirements. Inviting industry participation, Sridhar Babu called for investment in multi-modal logistics, rail-linked infrastructure, air cargo, cold chain, Grade-A warehousing, automation, digital logistics platforms and green mobility.

The state government would support investors through faster approvals, transparent policies and an industry-friendly regulatory framework, he added.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Calls on Doctors to Serve Poor

Roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday urged medical students and doctors to uphold a spirit of service while extending healthcare to the poor. He was addressing the anniversary programme "Advithi-2026" at Government Medical College, Nalgonda, where he participated as chief guest. The minister said the medical profession provides an opportunity to serve underprivileged sections and commands respect in society. He announced sanction of two air-conditioned buses for transporting students between the medical college and the Government General Hospital. He also referred to his contributions towards development of government educational institutions and financial assistance extended to poor students pursuing higher education. College principal Dr Satyanarayana and faculty members attended the programme.

Pandit Deendayal Prashikshan Abhiyan-2026 Launched in Barkatpura

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Following the call of the Bharatiya Janata Party State leadership, the Pandit Deendayal Prashikshan Abhiyan-2026 was inaugurated at the BJP City Office, Barkatpura, under the leadership of Sri Niranjana Yadav, President, BJP Bhagyanagar District. The program was graced by National Leader Sri Muralaiah Rao, State Leader Dr. Prakash Reddy, and District In-charge Sri Rangareddy. Among the prominent participants were PANDARINATH AEDLA (General Secretary), Srinath (General Secretary), Bokka Madhusudhan (General Secretary), Ale Jitendra, Swetha Madhukar, Aruna Ravinder (Ex-Corporator), along with several district leaders, division pres-



idents, former corporators, senior leaders, and members of the training committee. The training session focused on strengthening party ideology, promoting the spirit of service, and spreading the vision and principles of Deendayal Upadhyaya among party workers. The event concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from party cadre.

Anjaneyulu Goud Named Telangana BC Secretary

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Satturi Anjaneyulu Goud has been appointed as the Telangana State Secretary of the National BC Welfare Association, with the appointment formalized at BC Bhavan in Hyderabad by Rajya Sabha MP and National Secretary R. Krishnaiah.

The ceremony was attended by Working President Dr Arun Kumar and Dr Ryaga Arun, along with several BC leaders, activists, and representatives of social organizations from across the state. Leaders at the event



expressed confidence that Anjaneyulu Goud's appointment would energize BC leadership and strengthen organizational activities in Telangana. Addressing the gathering, R. Krishnaiah called for unity among Backward Classes to collectively fight for their constitutional rights and welfare.

He urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to fulfill the promise of implementing 42 percent reservation for BCs in the state. Warning of growing dissatisfaction, he said failure to honor the commitment could trigger strong political repercussions in the upcoming elections. He reaffirmed

that the Association would continue its relentless struggle for BC rights.

Speaking after receiving the appointment letter, Anjaneyulu Goud thanked R. Krishnaiah for the trust reposed in him and expressed gratitude to Dr Arun Kumar for his support. He pledged to work dedicatedly toward advancing welfare measures, education, employment opportunities, and social justice for BC communities, announcing plans for a strong grassroots-to-state-wide action framework.

Kavitha Condemns Journalists' Arrests

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha strongly condemned the arrest of media representatives who were on their way to report on the demolition of huts belonging to poor families in Velugumatla village of Khammam district. She termed the police action at the Nakrekal toll gate, where journalists traveling from Hyderabad to Khammam were detained, as cruel and undemocratic. Kavitha asserted that journalism is regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy and plays a vital role in safeguarding public interest. 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.

KTR Vows to Rebuild Demolished Homes

KTR assures Khammam oustees of legal fight, reconstruction after BRS returns to power

KHAMMAM
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday stood by families whose houses were demolished in Velugumatla Nagar's Bhoodan lands in Khammam, stating that the Congress government was targeting the poor under the guise of Indiramma's Rajyam. Assuring the families that the party would continue to fight until justice was delivered, he vowed to reconstruct their homes at the same location once the BRS returned to power. "Do not get disheartened. It is my responsibility to build houses again for all of you in the same place and ensure your homecoming after we return to power," he assured the oustees, amid loud applause from locals.



Visiting the affected site, Rama Rao examined patas, Bhoodan Board documents and court papers produced by residents. He spent more than an hour interacting with the victims as he walked through the debris left behind following the demolition taken up by the officials over the last two days. He promised that the BRS would raise the issue in the Legislative Assembly and Council and,

if required, move the Supreme Court. "You need not spend a rupee. The party will provide full legal support and fight this battle on your behalf," he said. Speaking on the occasion, the BRS working president said nearly 150 houses were razed without due notice despite valid documentation. He called the demolitions inhumane and said transferring a Revenue Divisional Of-

ficer was not enough to fix accountability. He cautioned that senior Congress Ministers representing Khammam district were attempting to divide the nearly 900 affected families and urged residents to remain united. He challenged Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Tummala Nagaswara Rao to visit the site if the government had committed no wrongdoing. "If no mistake was made, why was the RDO transferred immediately?" he asked.

Rama Rao asserted that the Congress government had no right to demolish the houses of the poor living in Velugumatla Nagar. Around 62 acres of land was handed over by two families to Bhoodan Board in 1950s.

CERA Opens "CERA STYLE STUDIO" in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cera Sanitaryware Ltd. has strengthened its presence in Telangana with the launch of its company-owned display centre, "CERA STYLE STUDIO," at Mytri Heights, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The premium experience centre was inaugurated by Dr. Vikram Somany, Chairman & Managing Director, in the presence of senior company officials, leading architects, developers, and channel partners. Located in the upscale Jubilee Hills area of Hyderabad, the newly launched studio is designed as an immersive destination that showcases CERA's most refined collections under one roof. The centre brings together the luxurious elegance of Senator, the sophistication of Cera Luxe, and the brand's most popular sanitaryware and bathroom solutions, offering customers a comprehensive and elevated



buying experience. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vikram Somany said that CERA Style Studio was envisioned as a space where architects, designers, and homeowners can explore the brand's finest offerings and create transformative living spaces. He emphasized that the studio reflects the company's commitment to innovation, design excellence, and customer-centric experiences. The launch marks another strategic step in CERA's expansion and retail transformation journey, aimed at providing direct brand engagement and curated experiences to urban consumers. Established in 1980,

CERA operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Kadi, Gujarat, equipped with advanced technologies such as 3D printing, robotic glazing, and high-pressure casting to ensure precision and superior finish. Its adjoining faucet plant features advanced die casting, robotic grinding, automatic chrome plating, and PVD technology. Today, CERA has evolved beyond sanitaryware into a comprehensive lifestyle solutions brand, offering faucets, tiles, wellness products, construction chemicals, kitchen sinks, and vanity cabinets — delivering complete bathroom and home solutions.

Balanagar Engineer Powering India's Defense

How Veeranala Shiva Rama Kumar is Engineering India's Defense Future

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In Balanagar's industrial belt, Robotics Engineering is fast emerging as a key contributor to India's aerospace and defense manufacturing ecosystem. Founded in 2023 by Veeranala Shiva Rama Kumar, the company delivers high-precision engineering components while simultaneously nurturing skilled technical talent aligned with the Centre's 'Skill India' vision. Operating from Hyderabad, the firm provides specialized CNC machining, CAD/CAM design solutions, and critical engineering support for defense and aerospace applications. With a focus on precision, innovation, and reliability, Robotics Engineering aims to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities at a time when India is pushing for greater self-reliance in strategic sectors.

Kumar's leadership reflects a blend of global exposure and grassroots commitment. Originally from Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, he began his career as a CNC operator and programmer, building hands-on expertise on the shop floor. His professional journey later took him to Malaysia and Singapore, where he worked as a Production Engineer, gaining experience in international manufacturing standards and advanced industrial practices.

On returning to India, Kumar identified a significant skill gap in advanced



manufacturing technologies. He transitioned into skill development, training students in CAD (Computer-Aided Design), CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing), and CNC programming and operations. By 2023, he had mentored numerous aspiring engineers and startup enthusiasts, equipping them with industry-ready skills. With the launch of Robotics Engineering in Balanagar, Kumar combined manufacturing excellence with training initiatives, creating a center that supports both national security objectives and workforce empowerment. Today, the company stands as a growing example of how local enterprise, backed by global expertise, can contribute meaningfully to India's defense future while shaping the next generation of engineers.

Telangana Introduces Road Safety Cess from March 1

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has decided to introduce a Road Safety Cess on the purchase of new vehicles from March 1, aiming to create a dedicated fund for improving traffic management and strengthening accident prevention systems across the State. Orders formalising the decision were issued by the Transport Department under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The cess will be collected at the time of registration



of non-transport vehicles. According to officials, the additional levy has been structured based on vehicle categories, with rates ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹10,000. The government estimates that the new measure will generate nearly ₹270 crore annually. These funds will be ex-

clusively utilised for road safety initiatives, including improving road engineering standards, upgrading identified black spots or accident-prone stretches, enhancing emergency response services, and conducting public awareness campaigns on traffic safety. In addition to the cess, the government

has introduced a parallel taxation reform concerning three-wheeler goods vehicles. These vehicles will now be shifted from the existing quarterly tax payment system to a Life Tax model, simplifying the taxation process and reducing compliance burdens for owners. However, tractors and trailers used exclusively for agricultural purposes have been exempted from the Road Safety Cess, providing relief to farmers. Passenger autos with a seating capacity of four to

seven persons will be classified under the "Other Non-Transport Vehicles" category for the purpose of cess collection. Officials stated that the initiative is part of a broader strategy to curb rising road accidents and build a safer transport ecosystem. By earmarking dedicated funds, the government aims to ensure systematic investments in infrastructure, enforcement, and awareness to reduce fatalities and improve overall road safety standards in Telangana.

Tanugula Family Celebrates the Grand Wedding of Anirudh & Anusha in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad witnessed a spiritually vibrant celebration on February 25, 2026, as Anirudh Sai, son of Tanugula Venkata Sanjeev Kumar and Satya Priya, married Venkata Anusha, daughter of Dilip Kondiparti and Bharathi Kondiparti. The sacred wedding was solemnised at 10:20 a.m. following Vedic traditions at Dream Valley Resorts, Chilkur, amid devotional chants and rituals. Distinguished members of the



Tanugula family, including Dr. Venkata Rama Rao Tanugula, Dr. T. R. K. Rao, and senior journalist and union leader Dr. Tanugula Jitender Rao, attended. Relatives from the

Kondiparti, Vissa, and Tanugula families, along with Silicon Andhra representatives and well-wishers, blessed the couple on their new journey.

Eye Camp Held Under Arrive Alive Drive

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Under the directions of Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy, Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, DCP Rahul Reddy, and Additional DCP Laxmi, an eye screening camp was conducted as part of the "Arrive Alive" road safety initiative. The camp was held at Thumkunta Bits

Junction to examine the vision of heavy vehicle drivers and promote road safety awareness. Vision Technician Ms. Shravanthi from L. V. Prasad Eye Institute provided technical support. The programme was supervised by ACP Shankar Raju, CI Shankarayya, Detective Inspector Raju, and attended by SIs Naveen Reddy and Somireddy.

Bahujans Call for Political Power Unity

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A key meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Bahujan Sena was held at Maharana Pratap Mini Hall in Amberpet under the leadership of Amberpet Srinivas Yadav, drawing participation from leaders and activists across 33 districts and Hyderabad city. The gathering focused on uniting SC, ST, BC, and Minority communities to achieve political power and social justice. Telangana BC Ikya Vedika State President Bheri Ramchander Yadav addressed the meeting and stressed that political authority is essential to eliminate poverty and inequality. He stated that despite 78 years of Inde-



pendence, Bahujan communities continue to struggle while serving as vote banks for dominant sections. "Power cannot be achieved by begging; it must be secured through organized struggle," he declared, calling for collective efforts to ensure representation in the 2028-29 Assembly and Parliamentary elections. In his opening remarks, Srinivas

Yadav emphasized ideological clarity and strengthening grassroots organization. He urged leaders to prepare a structured agenda, conduct workshops, and formally declare a political party within the next two to three years. The leaders invoked the ideals of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Periyar Ramaswamy, and Shivaji Maharaj as inspiration for the movement.

Several leaders, including RK Sayanna Mudiraj, Kumar Yadav, Chandrashekar, and Pelli Srinivas, along with women and youth representatives, attended. The meeting concluded with the unveiling of the Bahujan flag and a resolution to hold a larger workshop soon.

CSI AI 100K AI Readiness Program Held at CBIT Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Computer Society of India (CSI) Student Branch of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) organized the CSI AI 100K Record Initiative Program for AI Readiness at the CBIT Assembly Hall on Thursday, attracting nearly 350 students and faculty members. The initiative, launched by the Computer Society of India Hyderabad Chapter, aims to equip one lakh students across the country with essential Artificial Intelligence skills.



Conducted in two sessions, the program emphasized AI awareness, hands-on readiness, and responsible adoption in today's fast-evolving technological landscape. Chief Guest Mr. Ch. Kiran Kumar delivered a comprehensive session on AI fundamentals, industry

expectations, career prospects, and ethical AI practices. He highlighted the increasing demand for AI professionals and encouraged students to build practical skills aligned with real-world applications. CSI Advisor and Coordinator Prof. Ramakrishna

Kolikipogu stressed that AI is transforming sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, finance, and smart cities. He urged students to innovate responsibly and develop inclusive AI solutions for societal progress. The event was attended by Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, Dr. S. China Ramu, Dr. V. Barla, Mr. Santosh Kumar, and other faculty leaders. Coordinated by the CSI Student Chapter led by Hrishik Reddy Konda, the program strengthened AI readiness and reaffirmed CBIT's commitment to future-focused education.

Geneva Talks Focus on \$800 Billion Ukraine Reconstruction Amid Peace Deadlock

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Ukrainian negotiators met senior U.S. officials in Geneva on Thursday to press ahead with an ambitious post-war reconstruction framework, even as peace negotiations with Russia remain gridlocked over territory and political guarantees. The Ukrainian delegation held discussions with U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, senior adviser and son-in-law to U.S. President Donald Trump. The meeting focused on shaping a proposed "prosperity package" designed to mobilize large-scale international funding and private investment to rebuild Ukraine's shattered economy. Ukrainian officials indicated there would be no press briefing after the session, un-



derscoring the sensitivity of the discussions. Reconstruction planning has become a central pillar of broader diplomatic efforts to end the war, which this week entered its fifth year. Russian aerial bombardments and prolonged frontline combat have devastated critical infrastructure, energy grids, housing, and industrial facilities across large parts of Ukraine. Kyiv estimates it will require nearly \$800 billion in public and private funds over the next decade to fully restore economic stability and modernize key sectors. However, a fresh assessment released by the World Bank places the projected cost at \$588 billion, covering damage incurred between February 24, 2022, and December 31, 2025. The revised estimate reflects extensive destruction to transport networks, urban centers, and manufacturing hubs, particularly in eastern and southern regions. Diplomatic activ-

ity in Geneva extended beyond Ukraine. Witkoff and Kushner were also scheduled to engage in a third round of indirect negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear program. The talks involve Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and are being mediated by Oman, highlighting Geneva's role as a key venue for high-stakes international diplomacy. On Wednesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke by phone with President Trump and agreed that the next round of trilateral discussions with Russia, expected in March, should lead to a direct meeting between national leaders. Zelenskyy emphasized that only a summit-level engagement could address the most complex and politically sensitive issues blocking progress. De-

spite multiple U.S.-brokered meetings this year, Ukrainian and Russian negotiators remain far apart. The core sticking point is territorial control. Moscow insists that Ukraine surrender the remaining 20% of the industrialized and heavily fortified Donetsk region still under Kyiv's authority. Ukraine has categorically rejected any concession of territory, arguing that thousands have sacrificed their lives defending those areas. While diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire continue without breakthrough, Kyiv's focus on reconstruction signals a parallel strategy: preparing for long-term recovery even as negotiations over ending Europe's largest conflict since World War II remain unresolved.

Sleepless on trains: The growing noise problem

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Despite railways trying to strictly enforce 'quiet hours' policy from 10 pm to 6 am on trains, passengers continue to violate the rules. The move to ensure undisturbed sleep for passengers at night is definitely a step in the right direction. While passengers can report noise violations directly to train staff or call 139 helpline, TTEs and RPF can take action against those who play loud music, videos/reels on speaker and shout and talk loudly. Though use of earphones/headphones for audio/video is mandatory, not all passengers do it and continue to disturb fellow passengers. Densely populated coaches make it difficult to rein in this menace. Besides, a general lack of awareness and different cultural habits regarding noise contribute to high noise levels. Also, trains



having diverse passenger groups with different boarding schedules make silence difficult to maintain at night. Several countries, especially in Europe and Asia, have strict rules and etiquette for maintaining silence on trains at night to ensure passenger comfort. Night trains in Japan have strict rules against loud noise. In some countries, train staff are quite proactive and make non-confrontational interventions to maintain silence. Others rely on passengers observing the rules themselves.

In our country, overburdened infrastructure and erratic schedules also drive train passengers to manage their own noisy space to cope with long journeys. Enforcing these rules on thousands of moving trains is both difficult and challenging, often resulting in passengers ignoring them. Only significant behavioral changes and stricter onboard supervision can ensure a good night's sleep on trains. And a recent sleepless rail journey stirred this columnist's train of thoughts.

989 Weapons Recovered From Maoists in Bastar in Last 6 Years

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

As many as 989 weapons, including sophisticated firearms like AK 47, INSAS, LMGs and SLR rifles, were recovered in Chhattisgarh following encounters with the reds, and from the arrested and surrendered Naxals in the last six years. Chhattisgarh deputy chief minister Vijay Sharma, who holds home portfolio, revealed this in the state Assembly here on Thursday. He

further said that 48 weapons were looted by the Maoists from the security personnel between January one, 2019 and January 31 this year. The looted weapons included two LMGs, 29 AK 47 rifles, two SLR files, seven INSAS rifles and three nine mm pistols. Giving a breakup of the weapons recovered from the Naxals, he said that 671 weapons were recovered by the security forces following the encounters during the period. While

80 firearms were seized from the arrested Naxals, 238 weapons were returned to the police by the surrendered Maoists during the period. The recovered weapons comprised 70 AK-47s, 82 Self Loading Rifles (SLRs), and 75 INSAS rifles. Meanwhile, security forces have recovered a huge Maoist arms dump in a village near Kumradi Hills falling under Abujhmad area of Narayanpur district in south Bastar in Chhattisgarh. The recovery

yielded 100 meters of prima cord, 20 meters each of safety fuse and orange fuse, around 35 kgs of 'sutli bombs' (made of jute twine), 38 kgs of brown fertilizer powder, and 18 kgs of improvised explosives. This apart, one improvised rocket launcher, 13 rocket launcher cells, 19 heavy mortar cells, one large improvised barrel grenade launcher (BGL), one small improvised BGL, along with BGL cartridges in medium.

I&B Minister Asks Digital Platforms To Share Revenue Fairly

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday called upon digital platforms to ensure fair revenue sharing with content creators and news organisations, stating that innovation would suffer if creators were denied due compensation. Addressing the Digital News Publishers Association Conclave in New Delhi, the minister said platforms must take responsibility for the content they host



and for the online safety of users. "Platforms must take responsibility for the content that is hosted by them. The online safety of children and all citizens is the responsibility of the platforms," he said, adding that digital intermediaries had evolved into

powerful media outlets. He urged platforms to respect intellectual property and adopt fair negotiation policies. "I request all platforms to rethink their negotiation policies. If voluntary action is not taken, many countries have already shown that legal pathways exist," he said. Vaishnaw also underlined the need to regulate AI-generated content, stating that such material should not be created without the consent of the person whose face, voice or personality is used. "How

can a video of a famous news anchor be generated without consent... This is not acceptable. Consent must be mandatory," he said. He said society was grappling with issues including online safety, authenticity of news content, protection of children, obscenity and synthetically generated fake content. "All these issues require decisive steps today because they are challenging and even destroying the fundamental tenets of our society: trust in institutions built over centuries," he said.

Fadnavis questions glorification of Tipu, alleges history distortion

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday strongly condemned attempts to compare Tipu Sultan with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, asserting that "invaders" would never be accepted as national icons in Maharashtra. Addressing the debate on the Governor's address in the state Assembly, Fadnavis said equating the 18th-century Mysore ruler with the founder of the Maratha Empire was historically and morally incorrect. Speaking in the Vidhan Sabha, Fadnavis alleged that history had been "manipulated" for years to portray Tipu Sultan solely as a great king while ignoring what he described as the massacre of 75,000 Hindus and 33,000 Nairs during his rule. He argued that students were not taught about these incidents and were instead presented with a selective narrative. According to the Chief Minister, Tipu Sultan's battles against the British were motivated by the need to protect his own kingdom rather than any larger struggle for national liberation. "For years, we have been taught that Tipu Sultan was a great king. But we have



never been told about the killing of thousands of Hindus and Nairs. We have also not been told that his fight against the British was to save his own throne, not for India's freedom," Fadnavis said. He added that if history had been presented "properly," no one would glorify rulers like Aurangzeb. While stressing that he respected patriotic Muslims in the country, Fadnavis said the government would not tolerate those who hail "invaders" or opponents of the nation as heroes. The Chief Minister's remarks came amid a political controversy after Harshvardhan Sapkal allegedly drew parallels between Shivaji Maharaj and Tipu Sultan. Fadnavis clarified that the issue was not about judging whether Tipu Sultan was a good or bad ruler, but about

the attempt to place him on the same pedestal as Shivaji Maharaj. He emphasized that Shivaji Maharaj fought for Swarajya, or self-rule, and laid the foundation of a people-centric kingdom rooted in indigenous pride and resistance. In contrast, he claimed, Tipu Sultan's legacy remains overshadowed by accounts of violence against Hindus. Fadnavis also criticized past school curricula, stating that older NCERT textbooks devoted 17 pages to the Mughals but only one page to Shivaji Maharaj. He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, revisions have ensured greater emphasis on Shivaji Maharaj and Maratha history, with around 20 pages now dedicated to them in textbooks.

AI, Defence,.....

He also said an agreement had been concluded to enable the use of India's UPI digital payment system in Israel. The two sides decided to institute a financial dialogue and establish a Joint Cyber Centre of Excellence in India to promote cybersecurity best practices and AI-driven education initiatives. Acknowledging the success of the India-Israel Joint Research Calls (IJRC), both leaders agreed to increase annual funding contributions from US\$1 million to US\$1.5 million each to promote joint research between universities. Agriculture was a key focus area, particularly the use of Israeli technology to benefit Indian farmers. Modi announced that the number of Centres of Excellence established in India with Israeli cooperation would be expanded from 43 to 100. He also said both nations are working to develop "Villages of Excellence" to extend Israeli agricultural technology to rural India, and that an India-Israel Innovation Centre for Agriculture would be established in India. Both leaders strongly condemned terrorism. Modi said, "Terrorism has no place in the world. In any form or manifestation, it cannot be accepted." The Joint Statement condemned the October 7, 2023 terror attack on Israel, the April 22, 2025 attack on Indian tourists in Pahalgam, and the November 10, 2025 terror incident near Red Fort in New Delhi. On Gaza, Modi said peace and stability in West Asia are directly linked to India's security

interests and reiterated India's support for dialogue and peaceful resolution. The Joint Statement welcomed US President Donald Trump's "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict" and underlined the need for a just and durable peace. Netanyahu proposed holding a Government-to-Government (G2G) meeting in India soon to further strengthen bilateral ties. Earlier in the day, Modi visited Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, where he paid tribute to Holocaust victims. He also met Israeli President Isaac Herzog before concluding his visit on Thursday evening.

Harvard, TG to.....

The government, he said, had revamped the Telangana Public Service Commission by appointing experienced members familiar with competitive examinations and by introducing safeguards to prevent question paper leaks and malpractice. The Chief Minister said the government had defended the recruitment process up to the Supreme Court when legal challenges were raised despite candidates being selected purely on merit. He cautioned the officers against forgetting their responsibilities after attaining positions of authority and urged them to remain grounded as "individuals committed to public welfare." Revanth Reddy also advised officers to remember noted civil servant SR Sankaran before entering their offices and to uphold compassion while serving the poor. Stressing family values, he

FROM FRONT PAGE

said employees must respect and care for their parents and announced that the government would bring a legislation to deduct 10 to 15 per cent of the salary of employees who neglect their parents. He said a Bill to this effect would be introduced during the upcoming budget session of the assembly. The CM said his interaction with the officers was not mechanical but driven by his emotional attachment and a shared commitment to building a people-centric governance system in Telangana.

SC Bans NCERT.....

Ordering immediate removal of the book from circulation, the court directed NCERT, in coordination with Central and state education departments, to ensure that all hard and soft copies are withdrawn from public access. "As an abundant precaution, a complete blanket ban is imposed on any further publication, reprinting or digital dissemination of the book," the Bench said, adding that any attempt to distribute it would amount to wilful defiance of its order. Observing that there appeared to be a "well orchestrated conspiracy" to defame the judiciary, the CJI said, "They have fired the gunshot. The judiciary is bleeding." He added, "It is my duty as the head of the institution to find out who is responsible; heads must roll... We would like to have a deeper probe." The court noted that the contents of the chapter, which referred to corruption, backlog of cases and shortage of judges, could fall within the

ambit of criminal contempt if they had the effect of eroding public faith in the judiciary. It clarified that the proceedings were not intended to stifle legitimate criticism. The NCERT stated that it had already taken down the textbook from its website, apologised for "inappropriate content" and said the book would be rewritten in consultation with appropriate authorities. The Council termed the error unintentional and said it held the judiciary in the highest esteem.

Shah: BJP Will.....

He stated that, as part of a national campaign against illegal infiltration, encroachments within 10 km of the international border would be removed. Shah said the process of identifying and removing infiltrators would begin in Bihar, particularly in the Seemanchal region comprising Kishanganj, Araria, Purnia and Katihar districts. Describing infiltration as a national security concern, he said states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam were vulnerable to demographic changes arising from cross-border movement. He asserted that the Union government was committed to maintaining demographic balance. Shah's three-day tour includes meetings with district magistrates and police officials from border districts to review issues relating to infiltration routes and cross-border activities. The region lies close to the Siliguri Corridor, which connects mainland India to the Northeast.

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.



Sovereign green bonds continue to anchor India market: Report

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Asia-Pacific's sustainable bond market is heading into a crucial phase in 2026, with about \$180 billion of bonds issued during the 2020–2021 boom set to mature, according to the S&P Global Sustainable Bonds Outlook Report. The report projects overall regional issuance to remain stable or slightly rebound to \$170 billion–\$200 billion next year, supported by large upcoming maturities, resilient local-currency debt markets, and ongoing regulatory initiatives. In India, however, sustainable bond issuance is expected to remain modest. After already being relatively small, total issuance declined to \$2



billion in 2025. Green bonds continued to dominate the domestic market, accounting for 62 per cent of volumes, while the remaining share came from social bonds. Sovereign issuances played a decisive role in sustaining the market. Government borrowings accounted for 94 per cent of India's green bond market and 58 per cent of the overall sustainable bond market in 2025. Additional

tranches of rupee-denominated sovereign green bonds helped reinforce a domestic green yield curve and attracted steady demand from institutional investors. The report noted that green-labelled instruments could benefit from India's long-term climate ambitions. Under the Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy, the country requires annual investments of \$250 billion until 2047 to meet

its climate goals. India has already achieved 50 per cent of its installed renewable energy capacity target in 2025 — five years ahead of schedule — demonstrating momentum in the green transition.

In contrast, social bonds linked to themes such as financial inclusion and women's empowerment are likely to remain niche. Investors perceive these instruments as more complex compared to green bonds, limiting broader participation.

Despite supportive policy signals, challenges remain. The Reserve Bank of India faced difficulties during a green bond auction in June, which was cancelled due to high yield demands from investors. This highlights pricing pres-

ures and investor sensitivity in a still-evolving market. Across Asia-Pacific, economic uncertainty and shifting trade policies, influenced by geopolitical tensions, could weigh on issuance growth.

Nevertheless, refinancing needs arising from the 2026–2027 maturity wave are expected to provide a structural boost to the sustainable bond market, particularly in jurisdictions with strong regulatory backing and deep domestic capital markets. Overall, while regional issuance may stabilize, India's sustainable bond market is likely to remain anchored by sovereign green issuances, with limited corporate participation in the near term.

Malabar Opens 18th Hyderabad Showroom

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has strengthened its presence in Hyderabad with the inauguration of its new showroom in Kokapet, taking its total count to 18 outlets in the city and 26 across Telangana. The expansion underscores the brand's continued growth in one of its strongest markets. The 8,900 sq. ft. showroom, located in Kokapet opposite Rockwell International School, has been designed to provide a spacious, well-organised retail environment. The layout ensures comfortable browsing, enhanced product visibility, and personalised customer assistance in line with the company's established retail and service standards. The showroom was inaugurated by Bomma Ma-



hesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of the Telangana Legislative Council, along with Tolkanti Prakash Goud, MLA of Rajendranagar Constituency. Senior leadership from the company, including Mr. Siraj P.K., Retail Head – Rest of India, and Mr. Shareej K., Zonal Head – Hyderabad Zone, were present, along with invited guests and local community members. The Kokapet outlet features an extensive range

of gold, diamond, platinum, and gemstone jewellery, including the brand's signature collections. The curated assortment caters to bridal, festive, gifting, everyday, and contemporary jewellery needs. M. P. Ahmad, Chairman of Malabar Group, said Hyderabad remains a key market driven by strong customer trust, and the new showroom reflects the company's commitment to serving emerging residential corridors with transparency, quality, and assured buying practices.

Stock markets trade higher in early deals on buying in IT shares, fresh foreign fund inflows

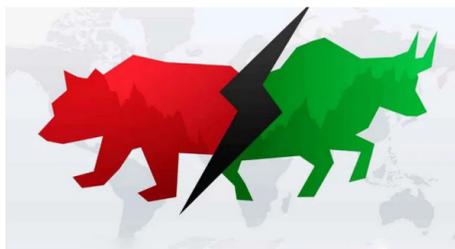
CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Equity benchmark indices opened on a firm note on Thursday, extending gains from the previous session amid strong buying in IT stocks, sustained foreign fund inflows and supportive global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 303 points in early trade to 82,579.16, while the broader 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 85.1 points to 25,567.60. The rally was largely led

by technology counters, which witnessed renewed investor interest. Among the top gainers from the Sensex pack were Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Tech, Eternal, Tata Consultancy Services and Maruti. The buying momentum in IT shares came amid optimism over global demand recovery and a positive closing on Wall Street overnight. However, gains were partly offset by weakness in select banking and aviation stocks, with InterGlobe

Aviation, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank trading lower in early deals.

Institutional participation remained a key driver of market confidence. According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹2,991.64 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) infused ₹5,118.57 crore into the market. The combined buying by both foreign and domestic players has



provided strong support to benchmark indices, helping them sustain at elevated levels despite intermittent profit-booking.

Market experts said consistent institutional inflows indicate underly-

ing strength in domestic fundamentals. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, noted that robust participation from both FPIs and DIIs in the previous session is expected to offer additional comfort to investors. He ob-

served that domestic economic indicators remain stable and ongoing sectoral rotation is enabling the market to absorb periodic corrections without triggering sharp declines.

Global cues also contributed to the upbeat sentiment. Asian markets displayed a mixed but largely positive trend, with South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 trading in the green, reflecting gains in US equities. Meanwhile, China's SSE Composite

index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were quoting lower, indicating caution among investors in some parts of the region. The US markets had ended higher on Wednesday, providing a positive lead to global equities.

In the commodities market, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, edged up 0.25 per cent to USD 71.03 per barrel. Oil price movements remain closely tracked by investors due to their impact on inflation, trade

balance and corporate profitability.

On Wednesday, the Sensex had settled 50.15 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 82,276.07, while the Nifty gained 57.85 points or 0.23 per cent to close at 25,482.50. Thursday's early gains indicate continued investor optimism, supported by stable domestic fundamentals, sectoral rotation and sustained institutional buying, positioning the markets on a steady growth trajectory.

Primebook Expands Offline Retail Across South India

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Primebook India has expanded its offline retail footprint by partnering with Sangeetha Mobiles and Pai International Electronics, strengthening its presence across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru. Under the new partnerships, Primebook laptops will now be available at Sangeetha Mobiles stores across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and at Pai International outlets

in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The move marks a significant step in the company's omnichannel strategy, combining its digital-first model with expanded physical retail access.

Industry estimates suggest that nearly 66% of India's consumer electronics sales continue to come from offline retail, particularly in high-consideration categories such as personal computing. Recognising that customers prefer hands-on evaluation before purchasing laptops —



assessing display quality, performance, keyboard comfort, and build — Primebook's expansion aligns with evolving hybrid buying behaviour where online discovery is

followed by offline validation.

As part of the rollout, Primebook will retail Primebook 2 Pro at ₹17,990 and Primebook 2 Max at ₹19,990. The devices will also be offered with Zero Down Payment EMI options to improve affordability and accessibility. Primebook Co-founder and CEO Chitranshu Mahant said the offline expansion enhances accessibility not just in pricing but also in presence, enabling more consumers to experience the An-

droid-based laptops firsthand.

Retail partners echoed similar confidence, noting growing demand for affordable, performance-driven computing solutions in technology-forward markets like Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

With competitive pricing, financing support, and expanded store access, Primebook aims to accelerate adoption of Android-powered laptops across key southern markets.

Parachute Advansed Amla Hair Oil Launched in AP, Telangana

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In a significant expansion of its haircare portfolio, Marico Limited has launched Parachute Advansed Amla Hair Oil in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, strengthening its presence in two of its key stronghold markets. The new offering blends the age-old goodness of amla with the trusted nourishment of coconut oil, promising strong and naturally black hair for consumers. The product has been introduced as part of the iconic Parachute Advansed range, a brand that has long enjoyed strong equity and consumer trust in the region. With this launch, the company aims to address evolving haircare needs while staying rooted in traditional Indian ingredients known for their effectiveness.

Amla, widely celebrated in Indian households for generations, is known to fortify hair, support overall hair health, and help maintain natural black colour. By combining it with coconut oil and modern haircare ingredients, the brand seeks to offer a holistic nourishment solution. The new Parachute Advansed Amla Hair Oil is available in two variants enriched with high-performance ingredients such as Vitamin E and Rosemary. These ingredients are designed to enhance the overall consumer experience by promoting stronger hair with regular use. The blend reflects a balance between time-tested natural remedies and contemporary formulation science, catering to consumers who seek both tradition and innovation in their personal care pro-

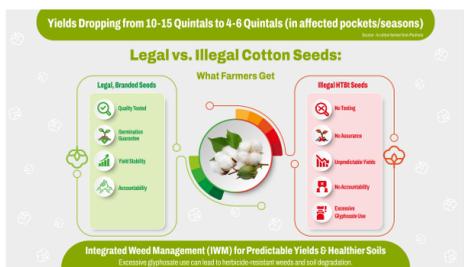


ducts. The product is being rolled out across general and modern trade outlets in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and is available in multiple SKUs starting at ₹20 for a 70 ml pack, making it accessible to a wide range of consumers. Commenting on the launch, Ashish Goupal, CEO – India Core Business, Marico Limited, said that amla has always symbolised strength and vitality in Indian haircare. He noted that the company has reimagined this timeless ingredient by combining it with coconut and select modern ingredients to set new benchmarks in hair nourishment. The launch, he added, underscores Marico's commitment to purposeful innovation and delivering aspirational yet everyday haircare solutions to consumers in the region.

Avoid Illegal HTBt Seeds, Protect Yields

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Agriculture experts and seed industry leaders have issued a strong advisory to cotton farmers, urging them to avoid illegal Herbicide Tolerant Bt (HTBt) cotton seeds sold through unregulated channels. They warn that such seeds are contributing to falling yields, inferior fibre quality and long-term soil degradation, putting farmers' incomes at serious risk. Field reports from multiple cotton-



growing regions show that growers who opted for unapproved seeds have witnessed steep yield declines — in some cases dropping from 10–15 quintals per acre to just 4–6 quintals.

Experts attribute these losses to weather variability, rising pest pressure and the absence of proper scientific validation and germination assurance in illegal seeds, resulting in uneven crop stands and

unpredictable performance. Agronomists also caution that the use of illegal HTBt seeds encourages excessive dependence on glyphosate. Repeated herbicide spraying increases cultivation costs and raises the threat of herbicide-resistant "monster weeds."

Over time, this weakens soil structure, reduces biodiversity and undermines long-term farm productivity. Dr. M. Ramasami, Chairman of Rasi Seeds, warned that the unchecked spread of illegal

seeds is destabilising a seed supply chain built over decades and could discourage future investments in innovation. Representatives from Godrej Agrovet echoed similar concerns, stressing that Integrated Weed Management offers more sustainable and predictable outcomes. Experts strongly advise farmers to purchase only branded, legally approved seeds from licensed dealers to safeguard yields, soil health and the future of cotton cultivation.

Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna tie the knot in Udaipur

Actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna on Thursday tied the knot in a private ceremony attended by close family and friends at a luxury hotel on the outskirts of Udaipur, and shared pictures of their big day on social media.

Mandanna donned a red sari with traditional gold jewellery, while Deverakonda complemented her look with an off-white dhoti and red shawl in the photos shared by the couple on their respective Instagram handles. "Missed her in a way that made me feel like my day would've been better if she were around... So, I made my best friend... my wife," Deverakonda captioned the wedding photographs.



Mandanna titled her post "Introducing to you now 'My Husband!'" and addressed her "Dear Comrade" co-star in an emotional message, expressing gratitude for his support and love. She wrote that her life,

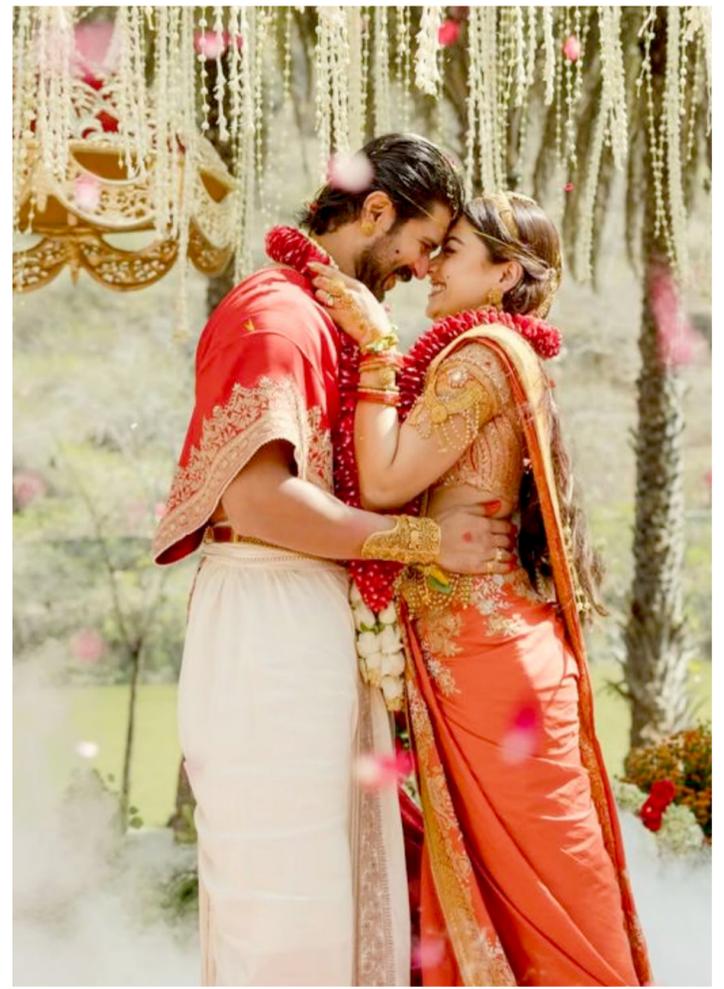


achievements, and struggles now felt more meaningful with him by her side. The wedding ceremony followed traditions from both families. The couple also sent sweets to mediapersons sta-

tioned outside the venue. It marked the culmination of a three-day pre-wedding celebration.

Deverakonda, 36, and Mandanna, 29, arrived in Udaipur on Monday along with close family members and guests. Elaborate security arrangements were put in place, with private bouncers and police personnel deployed throughout the festivities.

The duo first worked together in Telugu films Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade. Deverakonda is best known for his breakout role in Arjun Reddy, while Mandanna has gained widespread recognition for her performances in the Pushpa: The Rise franchise and Animal.



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

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.

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

India Humble Zimbabwe, Stay in Race for Semis

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Asia-Pacific's sustainable bond market is heading into a crucial phase in 2026, with about \$180 billion of bonds issued during the 2020–2021 boom set to mature, according to the S&P Global Sustainable Bonds Outlook Report. The report projects overall regional issuance to remain stable or slightly rebound to \$170 billion–\$200 billion next year, supported by large upcoming maturities, resilient local-currency debt markets, and ongoing regulatory initiatives.

In India, however, sustainable bond issuance is expected to remain modest. After already being relatively small, total issuance declined to \$2 billion in 2025. Green bonds continued to dominate the domestic market, accounting for 62 per cent of volumes, while the remaining share came from social bonds.



Sovereign issuances played a decisive role in sustaining the market. Government borrowings accounted for 94 per cent of India's green bond market and 58 per cent of the overall sustainable bond market in 2025. Additional tranches of rupee-denominated sovereign green bonds helped reinforce a domestic green yield curve and attracted steady demand from institutional investors.

The report noted that green-labelled instruments could benefit from India's long-term climate ambitions. Under the Framework of India's Climate Finance Tax-

onomy, the country requires annual investments of \$250 billion until 2047 to meet its climate goals. India has already achieved 50 per cent of its installed renewable energy capacity target in 2025 — five years ahead of schedule — demonstrating momentum in the green transition.

In contrast, social bonds linked to themes such as financial inclusion and women's empowerment are likely to remain niche. Investors perceive these instruments as more complex compared to green bonds, limiting broader participation. Despite supportive pol-

icy signals, challenges remain. The Reserve Bank of India faced difficulties during a green bond auction in June, which was cancelled due to high yield demands from investors. This highlights pricing pressures and investor sensitivity in a still-evolving market.

Across Asia-Pacific, economic uncertainty and shifting trade policies, influenced by geopolitical tensions, could weigh on issuance growth. Nevertheless, refinancing needs arising from the 2026–2027 maturity wave are expected to provide a structural boost to the sustainable bond market, particularly in jurisdictions with strong regulatory backing and deep domestic capital markets. Overall, while regional issuance may stabilize, India's sustainable bond market is likely to remain anchored by sovereign green issuances, with limited corporate participation in the near term.

Traffic curbs imposed at Jubilee Hills check post for flyover works

In view of the ongoing construction of steel flyover and underpass works at Jubilee Hills check post, KBR Park entrance and Mugdha junction, the Hyderabad Traffic Police have placed certain diversions in the surroundings from February 27.

Traffic congestion is expected on stretches between Mugdha junction, KBR Park entrance (Gate-1) and Jubilee Hills check post. Officials said the diversion will be done only on need basis.

Traffic diversions:

*Traffic from NFCL towards Srinagar Colony T Junction, Sagar Society, KBR Park Entrance and Jubilee Hills check post and Durgam Cheruvu will be diverted towards Srinagar Colony, Indiranagar Labour Adda, Venkatagiri X Roads and Jubilee Hills check post.

*Traffic from Road No.36 & 45 Jubilee Hills towards NFCL will be diverted towards Indira Nagar Labour Adda, Srinagar Colony, Value Zone, Punjagutta main road.

* Vehicles from KCP and Road No. 1, Banjara Hills towards KBR Park, Jubilee Hills check post, Road No.36 will be diverted towards Cancer Hospital via Agrasen Island, Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills.

* Vehicles from Masab Tank towards KBR Park, Jubilee Hills check post may take turn from Virinchi Hospital towards Agrasen Island and proceed towards Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills.

Police Advisory:

• Avoid peak hours (8.30 am – 11 am and 5 pm – 9 pm)

• Follow on-ground traffic police instructions and signage

• Use navigation apps for real-time traffic updates

• Prefer public transport and carpooling to reduce congestion

• Heavy vehicles are advised to avoid the stretch during peak hours

In case of any emergency in travel, call traffic helpline 9010203626 for travel assistance.

Hyderabad police arrest three juveniles for Hanuman Temple desecration

The Hyderabad Police on Thursday caught three juveniles who were allegedly involved in the desecration of a Hanuman temple at Barkas in the Old City.

On February 24, local residents found the lock of the Sri Dwimukha Anjaneya Swamy Temple broken and a copper vessel missing. The idol at the temple was also found damaged, triggering tension in the neighbourhood.

Based on a complaint, the Chandrayangutta police booked a case and special teams were formed to track down the offenders.

During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage from surrounding areas and noticed three minor boys moving suspiciously with a polythene bag shortly after the time of the offence. The juveniles, residents of Balapur, were traced and nabbed.

During questioning, they confessed to breaking open the temple lock with a stone, entering the premises and stealing the copper vessel to sell it and make money.

Seven-member drug peddling gang nabbed, 23 kg marijuana seized

The Task Force (Charminar) team, along with local police, nabbed a seven-member interstate drug peddling gang and seized 23 kgs of marijuana worth Rs 16 lakh near MGBS in Afzalgunj on Thursday.

Police said the suspects included transporters and a local peddler who had allegedly been sourcing marijuana from Odisha and supplying it in bulk to city-based peddlers for the past two years.

The contraband was reportedly procured at a lower price in Odisha and transported by private bus to Hyderabad for distribution at higher rates.

Police said the gang had arrived in the city with the consignment packed in multiple packets and were waiting to hand it over to a local contact when they were caught.

Revanth Orders 100 T'gana Public Schools With Modern Amenities

Model schools, AI lessons, and breakfast scheme planned statewide

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has ordered the setting up of 100 Telangana Public Schools across all assembly constituencies (outside Hyderabad city) from the academic year 2026-27. As per the government's plan, one model school would be developed in each constituency on a pilot basis. The schools will be designed on the lines of the Arutla Telangana Public School in Manchal mandal of Rangareddy district. These would be equipped with modern classrooms, playgrounds, teaching staff and transportation facilities.

Reviewing the education department's performance on Thursday at the Integrated Command Control Centre, the chief minister said government schools must emerge as centres of quality education. Revant Reddy said the government would allocate adequate funds for this purpose. He instructed engineers to construct government schools in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) areas, on par with corporate institutions and using modern technology.

Officials must complete the work on 12 integrated new schools within a year. These institutions, he said, should offer facilities comparable to reputed schools such as Bharatiya Vidya



Bhavan and Jubilee Hills Public School in Hyderabad. He also stressed that there should be no compromise in upgrading 17 schools and providing additional infrastructure in 164 schools in CURE region, under the programme.

As part of the government's proposed 99-day initiative, one week would be dedicated exclusively to educational activities, during which public representatives and officials would visit schools and colleges to assess infrastructure gaps and take corrective action. Highlighting the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Chief Minister directed the officials to introduce AI education from the school level and organise short-term training programmes for teachers and lecturers to help them adapt to emerging technologies.

He emphasised that students must be prepared to seize global opportunities arising from technological advancements. Revant Reddy also ordered implementation of

a breakfast scheme for students from primary to Class XII in all government schools from the 2026-27 academic year. Along with breakfast, milk would be supplied to every student. This, he said, should be procured from Vijaya Dairy. Technology will be used to monitor nutritional and calorie intake. Students would also receive comprehensive school kits including bags, stationery, geometry boxes, dictionaries, shoes and socks, with necessary budgetary provisions to be made, the Chief Minister said. Revant Reddy called for the immediate introduction of AI-based courses in polytechnics and Advanced Training Centres (ATCs). Outdated courses would be phased out to improve the employment prospects for graduates. The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening universities. He recalled that Rs 1,000 crore had been allocated to Osmania University. The Telangana Council of

Higher Education has been asked to submit a report detailing the financial requirements of other universities.

On regulation of private school fees, the Chief Minister instructed district-level committees led by collectors and DEOs to examine the fee structure in all schools and submit recommendations to the government. A state-level final committee headed by a retired judge or retired chief secretary would take decisions on the fee structure.

After consultations with experts, a draft framework would be placed in the public domain for feedback from parents, intellectuals and civil society. Earlier, members of the state-level education commission, led by its chairman Akunuri Murali, submitted the Telangana Education Policy document to the Chief Minister. The report, prepared after studying best practices in the United States, Vietnam and Malaysia and several Indian states, was reviewed in detail. The Chief Minister entrusted a committee headed by government adviser K. Keshava Rao with examining the provisions requiring legal backing and identifying recommendations that could be implemented from the next academic year. Senior officials, education experts and members of the commission attended the review meeting.

Second Friday of Holy Ramadan



The holy month of Ramadan continues to inspire deep spiritual reflection and community unity as Muslims in India and around the world observe the second Friday (Jumu'ah) of the sacred month. This year, the second Friday falls on 27 February 2026, marking an important point in the ongoing period of fasting, prayer, and charity.

By this day, worshippers have completed nine days of fasting from dawn to sunset. The first week of Ramadan often involves adjusting daily routines — rising before dawn for Suhoor, abstaining from food and drink throughout the day, and engaging in extended night prayers known as Taraweeh. As the second Friday arrives, many believers feel more spiritually attuned and settled into the rhythm of the holy month.

Special Significance of Friday in Ramadan Friday holds special importance in Islam as the weekly congregational day of prayer. The midday Jumu'ah prayer replaces the regular Dhuhr prayer and includes a sermon (khutbah) offering spiritual guidance and reflection. When Friday falls during Ramadan, its significance is heightened, combining the blessings of the holy month with the virtues of congregational prayer. Religious scholars often emphasize patience, gratitude, charity, and self-discipline during the second Friday sermon. With more than a week of fasting completed, worshippers are encouraged to reflect on their spiritual progress and renew their intentions for the remaining days of Ramadan.

Scenes Across the City

Mosques across Hyderabad witness large gatherings on this day. Worshippers arrive early, many carrying prayer mats, while volunteers help manage arrangements to accommodate increased attendance. The atmosphere is marked by devotion, humility, and a strong sense of unity. Approximate prayer timings for the day are:

Fajr: 5:24 AM

Dhuhr (Jumu'ah): 12:29 PM

Asr: 4:44 PM

Maghrib (Ifar): 6:22 PM

Isha: 7:34 PM

At sunset, families and communities gather to break their fast together. Dates and water traditionally mark the opening of the fast, followed by evening prayers and later Taraweeh.

A Time for Charity and Compassion Ramadan is also a month of generosity. Many individuals use this period to distribute food, provide financial assistance, and support charitable initiatives. The second Friday often sees increased acts of kindness, as people seek to multiply their good deeds and assist those in need. As the holy month progresses, the second Friday serves as a meaningful milestone in the spiritual journey — encouraging worshippers to strengthen their faith, maintain discipline, and uphold the values of compassion and unity that Ramadan represents.

With several days of fasting already completed, the community looks ahead with hope and devotion, praying for continued strength and acceptance of their worship during this blessed month.

STF seizes 141 bottles of non-duty-paid liquor at Pahadishareef

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The State Task Force (STF) of the Prohibition and Excise Department seized 141 bottles of non-duty paid liquor during a vehicle inspection drive at Pahadishareef on Thursday.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs that liquor was being illegally transported from other States — particularly Goa, Haryana and Delhi — into Hyderabad, the STF intensified surveillance near the exit routes of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Officials said the team conducted thorough checks of vehicles coming out of the airport premises. During the inspection, sleuths identified

multiple cars carrying non-duty paid liquor bottles concealed in luggage and storage compartments. In total, 141 bottles were seized during the operation.

An official from the department stated that smuggling of non-duty paid liquor results in significant revenue loss to the State exchequer, as taxes applicable in Telangana are not paid on such consignments. The department has been conducting regular enforcement drives to curb illegal transportation and sale of liquor brought from other States without proper authorization. Further investigation is underway to identify those involved in the smuggling network.

Telangana Speeds Up 3rd Power Discom Plans

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The state government has expedited administrative measures to launch a third power distribution company (discom) by appointing Musharraf Ali Faruqi, chairman and managing director of TGPDCCL, as CMD of the new entity, which is set to commence operations from April 1. The A. Revanth Reddy administration's decision establishes a dedicated Discom to manage free and subsidised power schemes, aiming to reform the power



sector, enhance financial viability, and guarantee 24x7 supply to critical areas.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka explained that it would exclusively handle retailing for subsidised categories, easing the load on TGPDCCL and TGNPDCL. The new discom will handle 24x7 free agricultural power, 200

units free under Gruha Jyothi Scheme for households, and power supply for government schools, colleges, tribal regions, lift irrigation, Mission Bhagiratha, and HMWS&SB needs.

With annual subsidies exceeding Rs 13,992 crore, the subsidies are straining existing discoms. The new one will isolate these, boosting their credit ratings. The Chief Minister has also ordered restructuring of high-interest loans up to 10 per cent. Official sources state the new Discom inherits Rs 4,929 crore in assets, in-

cluding 5,22,479 agricultural distribution transformers, alongside Rs 35,982 crore liabilities like arrears and debts. Around 2,000 staff, including 660 engineers, will transfer over to the new discom.

Faruqi, credited with TGPDCCL reforms like pole-mounted transformers for safety and aesthetics, consumer outreach via Currentolla Praja Baata, Quick Response Teams for monsoons, Anti-Bribery Cells and smart meter digitisation, is tasked with leading the new discom.

Jana Sena Party Intensifies Membership Drive in Charminar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Jana Sena Party, led by Pawan Kalyan, has formally announced its decision to contest the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, marking a renewed effort to strengthen its organisational presence in Telangana's capital. As part of its poll strategy, the party has launched the Udhayam Membership Drive in the Charminar constituency of Greater Hyderabad.

The Telangana unit commenced the campaign with religious ceremonies symbolising communal harmony and inclusive outreach. Party leaders offered

prayers at the Bhagyalakshmi Temple and later visited the Charminar Dargah to seek blessings, highlighting their commitment to engaging with all communities across the city.

The Charminar membership drive is being coordinated by M. Dhamudhar Reddy, a Greater Hyderabad Committee Member. Mirza Muzaffar Ali Baig is serving as the State Minority In-Charge, while N. Suresh Reddy has been appointed In-Charge for Musheerabad. Several local leaders and representatives, including Bittala Ramesh, Vinod (Rajendra Nagar), Sitaram Nayak (Yakutpura), Naresh, Anil, Prabhakar, Mohsin Ali, Faiyaz, Arshad, Omer and

Ashwaq, are actively mobilising support at the grassroots level.

Speaking to the media, Muzaffar Ali stated that the party is witnessing an encouraging response from Hyderabad's youth. He said many young people are enrolling as members and are eager to contribute to the party's growth in the city. He reaffirmed that Jana Sena will contest the GHMC elections with full strength.

Party leaders emphasised that registered members receive official recognition, priority participation in programmes, eligibility for committee roles, leadership training opportunities, and accidental insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh for family security.



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