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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

Security forces open fire at drone along LoC in J&K's Poonch sector

The movement of a drone was observed along the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch sector on Friday, leading to the security forces opening fire, officials said.

Officials said that the movement of a drone was observed over Gulpur village in the Poonch sector of the LoC. "The movement of the drone was noticed during routine surveillance

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Tamil Nadu polls: EC to consider single-phase voting proposal

Termining the recently concluded SIR of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu as a model for the country and a great success, CEC Gyanesh Kumar on Friday said parties in the state have suggested holding Assembly polls in a single phase and a decision on it would be taken after considering all factors.

The Election Commission of India's decision on phases for polls will be known once the election schedule is announced, he said, adding that the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu will set a record in bettering the polls in Bihar.

Addressing a press conference here, the Chief

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Congress govt acting like real estate company, Says KTR: P3

Owaisi critiques Modi's Israel visit, links Zionism to hatred: P8

Students' Future at Risk, Says Harish Rao: P3



Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and K Kavitha Cleared In Liquor Policy Case, Court Raps CBI

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A Delhi court on Friday discharged former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case linked to the alleged liquor policy scam. Special Judge Jitender Singh of the Rouse Avenue Court Complex also discharged senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the case.

In a significant development, the court discharged all 23 accused persons, including K. Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. The CBI has been probing alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the erstwhile-AAP government's now-scrapped excise policy. Special Judge Jitendra Singh rapped the federal agency for lapses in investigation, saying there was no cogent evidence against Kejriwal, while there was no prima facie case against Sisodia. He underlined "some misleading averments" and said that the voluminous chargesheet had several lacunas not



Arvind Kejriwal Breaks Down After Court Relief

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Arvind Kejriwal, the first sitting chief minister to be arrested, recounted that he was picked up from his Delhi home and thrown into jail. That did not break him. Nearly two years later, he broke down in tears when a court cleared him of all charges in the Delhi liquor policy case.

The case stemmed from allegations of corruption in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 introduced by the AAP government. The CBI had alleged that the policy was designed

to favour select private entities by reducing licence fees and fixing profit margins, leading to kickbacks and financial losses to the Delhi government.

The AAP leader today blamed the Centre for this "big political conspiracy" against him. "To destroy AAP, its five biggest leaders were put in jail. Even a sitting Chief Minister, something never before seen in Indian history, was dragged from his home and imprisoned for six months. Our deputy, Manish Sisodia, was kept him in jail for nearly two

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Truth Has Prevailed, Judiciary Upheld Faith: Kavitha



Telangana Jagruthi president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Friday said the judiciary had "cut through the entire web of lies" after a Delhi court acquitted her and all other accused in the Delhi liquor policy case, bringing a major legal and political development to a close.

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 2

corroborated by evidence or witnesses. "...The chargesheet suffers from internal contradictions, striking at the root of conspiracy theory," Judge Singh said. He said that in the absence of any evidence, the allegations against Kejriwal could not be sustained and that the former chief minister was implicated without any cogent evidence. This, the judge said, was inconsistent with the rule of law. Regarding Sisodia, the judge said there was no material on record showing his involvement, nor was any recovery made from him.

T'gana Plans 100-Day Welfare Push

The government is also releasing funds to local bodies, enabling simultaneous utilisation of central and state resources.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will hold a high-level review meeting with secretaries of all government departments on Saturday to finalise the State government's ambitious 100-day action plan, scheduled for implementation from March 2 to June 9. The Chief Minister will also convene a conference with district collectors on Sunday to discuss execution strategies and monitoring mechanisms for the programme, which aims to accelerate welfare delivery and fast-track development works across the State.

According to officials, the 100-day initiative will focus on visible governance outcomes through coordinated action by departments, elected representatives and district administrations. During this period, the Chief Minister, ministers and public representatives are



expected to launch welfare schemes and inaugurate government buildings and infrastructure projects in various districts. All departments have been directed to prepare detailed development agendas and ensure readiness of completed works for inauguration within the programme timeline. Officials said departments must also identify implementation challenges in advance and present practical solutions during the review meeting. The initiative comes in the wake of recently completed elections to gram panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations, after which the government has shifted its

focus towards strengthening grassroots administration and expediting development programmes. Sources indicated that gram panchayats have begun receiving grants under the 15th Finance Commission from the Union government after allocations were suspended for nearly two years due to the absence of elected local bodies. Municipalities and municipal corporations are also expected to receive financial assistance shortly. The State government has simultaneously started releasing funds to local bodies, enabling coordinated utilisation of both Central and State resources. With financial flows now reaching grassroots institutions, the government aims to accelerate development activities in villages, towns and cities during the 100-day implementation period. Officials said the upcoming review meetings assume signifi-

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Mancherial court dismisses BRS leader Balka Suman's custody petition

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The petition seeking police custody of BRS district president Balka Suman was rejected by the Principal PCourt Jnion-Civil Judge A Nirmala here on Friday.

The police custody was sought in the investigation of a case registered following an alleged attack on the convoy of Labor minister Dr G Vivek and Peddapalli MP G Vamshikrishna in Kyathanpalli recently. The court expressed its opinion against ordering police custody again as he was



sent to judicial remand after completion of inquiry. It cited that a police officer who registered a case against Suman was appointed as investigation officer. Suman's lawyer Lalitha and her colleagues pointed out that a standard operation procedure suggested by the Su-

preme Court was not followed while arresting Suman. Earlier, the police sought permission to take Suman into custody for interrogating his role in the attack. Suman and eight other BRS leaders were booked on the charges of attacking the convoy of the minister, unlawful assembly, rioting, injuring a constable and obstructing duties of a Sub-Inspector when they were on a bandobast duty in Kyathanpalli on February 17. Suman and six leaders were already arrested and were lodged in a jail in Adilabad town.

Kerala HC lifts stay on 'The Kerala Story 2' film

KOCHI
Wakeup telangana

The Kerala High Court on Friday stayed for two weeks its single judge's interim order putting on hold for 15 days the release of 'The Kerala Story 2-Goes Beyond' film.

A bench of justices Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and P V Balakrishnan passed the order on the appeal

ducer Vipul Amrutlal Shah late Thursday night, hours after the movie's release was stayed. The bench had reserved order in the appeal on Thursday night. The detailed order is awaited. Shah in his appeal had claimed that the film does not harm or denigrate the state of Kerala or any religious community. "The film only portrays a social evil," his lawyers had told the court.

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Kashmiri students allege hijab, ramzan restrictions at Kurnool nursing college

SRINAGAR
Wakeup telangana

The J&K Students Association (JKSA) said on Friday that it has sought Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's intervention in the alleged harassment of Kashmiri students at a Kurnool nursing college. "The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Friday wrote to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, seeking urgent intervention over reported incidents of harassment, verbal abuse, denial of Ramzan (Sehri & Iftar) ar-



rangements, hijab restrictions, and violation of the fundamental rights of Kashmiri students at the Government College of Nursing, Kurnool." JKSA national convener Nasir Kheuhami said. In its letter, the association stated that around two dozen Kashmiri students pursuing BSc Nursing at the Government College

of Medical Nursing, Kurnool, have raised serious complaints. Many are young women studying under the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) through AICTE counselling. The reported situation has created fear, humiliation, and mental distress, adversely affecting their academic performance and overall well-being, it said. Kheuhami said the students have alleged that they are being targeted on the basis of their Kashmiri identity and religion and subjected to systematic

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PM Urges India Inc To Invest, Take Advantage Of Budget

The Prime Minister said public capital expenditure had risen from Rs 2-lakh crores 11 years ago to over Rs 12-lakh crores in the Union Budget 2026-27, laying a strong foundation for expansion

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the Indian industry to step up investment and innovation. Addressing the first post-Budget webinar on 'Technology, Reforms and Finance for Viksit Bharat', Modi said the government had laid the groundwork through aggressive capital spending and by creating a conducive policy environment in successive

Budgets and that it was time for the private sector to drive the next phase of globally competitive growth. The Prime Minister said public capital expenditure had risen from Rs 2-lakh crores 11 years ago to over Rs 12-lakh crores in the Union Budget 2026-27, laying a strong foundation for expansion. The higher allocation, he said, signalled the private sector to invest with renewed vigour and leverage the Budget announcements.



"India Inc should come forward with fresh investment and innovation. Financial institutions and analysts should help design practical solutions and improve market confidence," Modi said, calling for closer collaboration between

government, industry and knowledge partners to ensure reforms translate into tangible outcomes. "We need greater participation in infrastructure and innovation in financial models... We must strengthen project sanction methodologies and improve the quality of appraisal," Modi said. Over the past decade, the government has anchored India's growth strategy around record capital expenditure, sharply scaling up spending on highways,

railways, ports, airports, digital infrastructure and energy networks to crowd in private investment and lift medium-term productivity. However, the private sector is yet to unleash the so-called animal spirit. The Prime Minister said India's resilience over the past decade was driven by conviction-led reforms and sustained efforts to improve ease of doing business. "India has undertaken technology-led governance, strengthened

institutions and even today the country is on the path of reforms..." he said. "To sustain the 'Reform Express' momentum, we not only need to focus on policy intent but also have to focus on delivery excellence. The evaluation of reforms should be on the basis of their impact on the ground. We should extensively use AI, blockchain and data analytics to improve transparency, speed and accountability," Modi said.

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ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

Truth Has Prevailed, Judiciary Upheld Faith: Kavitha After Clean Chit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Jagruthi president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Friday said the judiciary had "cut through the entire web of lies" after a Delhi court acquitted her and all other accused in the Delhi liquor policy case, bringing a major legal and political development to a close.

The Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi granted a clean chit to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Kavitha and 20 others, ruling that the allegations in the controversial excise policy case did not stand legal scrutiny. Speaking to the media shortly after the verdict, Kavitha said the judgement reaffirmed her faith in the judiciary and vindicated her long-standing claim that the case was politically motivated.



"The truth has prevailed. We have repeatedly said we had nothing to do with this case. It was filed as part of political vendetta against opposition parties," she stated. Expressing gratitude to the courts, she said the judiciary had examined the matter transparently and upheld justice. "They have seen right through the allegations and upheld our belief in the judicial system," she added. Kavitha, daughter of Bharat

Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao, recalled the personal hardship she endured during the investigation and trial. She was serving as a BRS MLC when she was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in March 2024 and spent over five months in jail before securing bail. She said the period of incarceration was extremely

difficult for her and her family. "Who will account for the time I lost with my family? I went through hell for five-and-a-half months," she remarked, thanking her parents, in-laws, husband and children for their support during the ordeal. Following the court order, Kavitha said she first sought the blessings of her mother. However, she avoided commenting on whether she would speak with her father KCR or

her brother and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao. The case had also coincided with internal political tensions within the BRS. Last year, Kavitha quit the party and resigned as MLC after being suspended for alleged anti-party activities amid differences with senior party leaders, including KTR and T. Harish Rao.

Currently heading Telangana Jagruthi and preparing to launch a new political party, Kavitha reiterated that even KCR had earlier described the case as political vendetta targeting the BRS leadership through her.

She also thanked Telangana Jagruthi leaders and supporters who travelled to Delhi at their own expense to express solidarity during her imprisonment, calling their support a source of strength during a challenging phase.

Illegal Constructions in Buffer Zone: Ansari Seeks Hydra Action

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader Shahed Ansari has demanded immediate intervention by Hydra authorities to halt alleged illegal constructions taking place in a designated buffer zone at Lake View Colony in Nekhnampur, raising serious concerns over permissions reportedly granted by GHMC officials.

Addressing the issue, Ansari alleged that villas and residential buildings with ground plus two floors are being constructed on a 375-square-yard plot at Plot No. 3, Survey Nos. 53, 53 Part, and 54/A, located in Gandipet Mandal under the Manikonda area. He stated that the land falls within a buffer zone meant for environmental protection, making any construction activity a violation of established regulations.

Expressing surprise over the approvals, Ansari questioned how the Greater Hyderabad Mu-



Front door courtyard view of the alleged illegal construction at Lake View Colony.

nicipal Corporation (GHMC) granted building permissions despite clear buffer zone restrictions. He alleged possible collusion between officials and the property owner, urging authorities to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter.

Referring to recent initiatives undertaken by Hydra to safeguard lakes, parks, and government lands across the city, Ansari appealed to Hydra Commissioner A.V. Ranganath to take immediate notice of the constructions and prevent further violations. He emphasized that unchecked construction activity near water bodies poses environmental risks and undermines

urban planning norms. Ansari also called upon the state government to treat the issue seriously and initiate action against officials responsible for granting permissions in restricted zones. He demanded cancellation of all building permits issued for constructions within the buffer zone and legal proceedings against the owner undertaking the alleged illegal development. He further announced that he would soon meet the Hydra Commissioner personally to submit a formal complaint along with supporting evidence regarding the ongoing constructions.

SC Classification Row Sparks Mala JAC Protest

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Malas Joint Action Committee (JAC) on Friday intensified its criticism of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the state government's proposed SC classification and roster point changes are discriminatory and harmful to the Mala community. Addressing a press conference at the Greater Warangal Press Club, JAC State Chairman Mandala Bhaskar ac-



cused the Chief Minister of pushing an "unscientific" policy that could weaken educational, employment, and political opportunities for Malas. Bhaskar further alleged political collusion, claiming the move indirectly benefits rival

parties and undermines the community's progress. Student leader Madasi Rahul Rao warned that continued implementation of the policy could trigger strong political backlash from youth across the state. Honorary

President Cheruku Ramachander described the issue as a multi-front threat to reservations secured through decades of struggle, asserting that changes in roster points were already affecting prospects for Mala students and job aspirants. The JAC announced plans to expand protests statewide, escalating pressure on the Congress government as debates over SC sub-categorization continue to dominate Telangana's socio-political discourse.

Complaint Filed Over Remarks Against Ambedkar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dalit leaders have lodged a police complaint against noted film writer and Member of Parliament Vijayendra Prasad, accusing him of making derogatory remarks about B. R. Ambedkar. The complaint was submitted at Saifabad Police Station by Telangana Mala Sankshema Sangam State President Bathula Ram Prasad, Greater Hyderabad President Adarsh



Maurya, Samata Sainik senior leader Venkataswamy and others. The leaders alleged that during a television interview, Vijayendra Prasad narrated a fictional story

about Ambedkar's life, claiming it was based on research. They said the remarks included unverified and insulting claims involving Ambedkar and his wife

Ramabai Ambedkar, which allegedly distorted historical facts and belittled Ambedkar's social justice movements. Condemning the statements as fabricated and offensive, the leaders demanded legal action, stating that no historical records support such claims. They added that the video had already garnered lakhs of views before being removed, prompting immediate police intervention.

Nissan GRAVITE 7-Seater Launched at ₹5.65L

Nissan Signals a Bold India Resurgence with the Launch of the All-New GRAVITE at Introductory Price of INR 5.65 Lakhs

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Nissan Motor India today launched the All-New GRAVITE, a bold 7-seater MPV, at an attractive introductory price of INR 5.65 Lakh. The GRAVITE is the first product under Nissan's renewed product offensive, marking a key step in the brand's resurgence in India. Locally manufactured in Chennai, it reflects Nissan's long-term commitment to the Indian market. Purpose-built for modern Indian families, the GRAVITE draws inspiration from India's 1.4 billion people and their evolving mobility needs. It offers flexible seating from 2 to 7 occupants and best-in-class luggage versatility, with boot space of 625 litres in the 5-seater configuration. Its bold stance, muscular lines, and signature C-shaped design language give it a commanding road presence. Safety is a core focus, with over 30 standard features including 6 airbags, Electronic Stability Control, Traction Control, Hill



Start Assist, Brake Assist, and ABS with EBD, ensuring protection across varied driving conditions. The cabin blends comfort and modularity, featuring premium suede and leatherette seats, generous headroom and knee room, tropicalized AC with 3-row vents, and extensive storage. Technology highlights include a 20.32 cm floating infotainment system with wireless Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay, a 17.78 cm digital instrument cluster, wireless charging, auto LED headlamps, walk-away lock, and front and rear parking sensors. Power comes from a 1.0L 3-cylinder petrol engine delivering 72PS and

96Nm, paired with 5-speed manual and AMT options, offering fuel efficiency of 19.3-19.6 km/l. A Limited Launch Edition enhances comfort and technology with JBL speakers, dual dash cams, air purifier, ambient lighting, and chrome detailing. Available in Forest Green, Onyx Black, Blade Silver, Storm White, and Metallic Grey, the GRAVITE is supported by an expanding dealer network in Tier I and II cities. With upcoming models like the Tekton C-SUV in mid-2026 and a 7-seater C-SUV in early 2027, Nissan is driving a multi-segment growth strategy in India. Booking opens today at www.nissan.in

Kavitha Condoles Chilkur Priest's Demise

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, President of Telangana Jagruthi, expressed profound grief over the demise of Soundara Rajan, the Chief Priest of the renowned Chilkur Balaji Temple. In a condolence statement issued on Saturday, Kavitha prayed for the departed soul to attain eternal peace and extended her heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family members. She described Soundara Rajan as a devoted spiritual leader who dedicated his life to preserving temple traditions and guiding devotees with humility and faith. Highlighting his service to thousands of devotees visiting the temple, she noted that his passing is an irreparable loss to the spiritual community and followers of Lord Balaji. Kavitha said his teachings and service would continue to inspire generations and remembered him as a symbol of devotion and simplicity.

GHMC Assures Domalguda Hall Renovation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Responding to concerns over the deteriorating condition of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Committee Hall in Domalguda, GHMC Deputy Commissioner (Circle-40) Smt. Pushpa Lata assured immediate administrative action, including a personal inspection, budget approval, and expedited processing of renovation works following a formal representation by local leaders.

The assurance came after a high-level delegation led by Mr. Mohammed Wajid Hussain, former GHMC Floor Leader (INC) and ex-corporator of Bholakpur, met the official to highlight the urgent need for restoration of the community facility. The representation was submitted on behalf of Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Mr. M. Anil Kumar Yadav, who sought immediate in-



tervention to revive the hall for public use.

Subsequently, a delegation comprising Domalguda Congress Minority Chairman Mohammed Ayub Pasha and local leaders Prabhakar, Mohammed Sayeed, Mohammed Nizam Uddin, and S.M. Muazzam Hussain conducted an on-site inspection. They observed that the hall was in a severely dilapidated condition, creating difficulties for residents who depend on the venue for social, cultural, and civic activities.

Housing, Sanitation Top Prajavani Grievance List

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

AISSC Hosts Grand Dawat-e-Iftaar in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hundreds of devotees gathered at Hussaini Alam in Hyderabad to break their fast during a Dawat-e-Iftaar organised by the All India Sufi Sajjadana-shin Council (AISSC), bringing together Islamic scholars, community leaders, and members of the public in a spirit of unity and devotion. The programme was held at the AISSC office under the leadership of National Convenor Maulana Syed Abdul Khader Quadri



(Waheed Pasha), who oversaw the arrangements and welcomed attendees. The event highlighted communal harmony, spiritual reflection, and the importance of charity and togetherness during the holy month of Ramadan. Prominent religious fig-

ures including Maulana Murtuza Pasha, Maulana Ali Qadri, Maulana Saa-

dat Peer Buqadai, and Moulana Shuja Iftaqari attended the gathering, offering prayers and interacting with devotees. Several eminent Islamic scholars and community representatives also participated, adding significance to the occasion. The Iftaar concluded with special prayers for peace, prosperity, and communal harmony, reinforcing the council's continued commitment to social and spiritual service.

Delhi Liquor Scam: Six From Telugu States Acquitted

The special CBI court in Delhi on Friday has given a clean chit to the six persons from the Telugu states — K. Kavitha, Abhishek Boinapalli, Mootha Goutham, Butchibabu Gorantla and Sarath Chandra Reddy — in Delhi liquor scam case. They were accused as being part of the so-called 'South Group' in the case. The prosecution had alleged that the 'South Group', headed by K. Kavitha, listed as Accused No. 17, comprised Sarath Reddy (A23), Abhishek Boinapalli (A4), Arun Ramchandra Pillai (A5), Mootha Gautam (A6) and Butchibabu (A11). It was alleged that this group was favoured by grant of L-1 licence to Indospirits, in which Sameer Mahendru (A7) was a stakeholder. Arvind Kumar Singh (A15) was alleged to be closely linked to the South Group. Amandeep Singh Dhali (A9) was projected as another beneficiary who agreed to facilitate recoupment of upfront payments to be utilised in the Goa elections for favours extended under the policy which was later withdrawn by the then AAP government in Delhi. All 23 persons in the case were cleared.

Congress govt acting like real estate company: KTR

BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Congress government of demolishing poor homes to raise funds for real estate interests, delayed completion of Warangal super specialty hospital, and prioritising luxury constructions over public welfare.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called out the Congress government, accusing it of demolishing houses of the poor to raise funds and serve real estate interests of its leaders. Amid increasing incidents of demolitions, Rama Rao stated that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy promised to send Rs 1,000 crore to the Gandhi family and was now trying to mobilise money by clearing slums and selling valuable urban land. "While bulldozing the homes of the poor, the Chief Minister is building his second palace in Hyderabad and spending Rs 9 crore just on com-



pound walls to fortify his existing palace," he charged. The BRS working president said Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka was constructing a third house in Khammam, while Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy was expanding his business interests to collect commissions. "The poor have been



thrown on the streets. This is not a government, it is a real estate company. These are not Ministers but real estate brokers," he said. He shared satellite images of Velugumatla in Khammam, showing homes during the BRS regime and debris left behind after their demolition under the Congress rule, calling it "Progressive Governance V Bull-

Students' Future at Risk: Harish Rao

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao criticized the Telangana government over the composition of the state Education Commission, alleging that the panel lacks genuine educationists and subject experts capable of shaping the future of students. He demanded answers from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing the government of risking students' futures by forming a committee without academic expertise. Reacting to the report submitted by the Telangana Education Commission on the proposed education policy, Harish Rao questioned whether a new education framework could be prepared without the involvement of qualified education professionals. He asked the Chief Minister to clarify who among the commis-



sion members has practical teaching experience at the school, college, or university level. According to him, apart from two members with journalism and mass communication backgrounds, the committee lacks individuals holding PhDs in education or those involved in curriculum development and preparation of school syllabus and core science subjects. He argued that educational reforms must be guided by academicians who understand classroom realities, pedagogy, and student psychology rather than administrative professionals unfamiliar with academic systems. Harish Rao also criticized

the appointment of a retired IAS officer as chairman of the commission, stating that administrative experience alone does not qualify a person to design education policy. He said managing offices and shaping academic systems are entirely different responsibilities that require expertise in teaching methods and child psychology. Allying that the education sector has been neglected for the past two years, he accused the government of wasting time by forming committees without relevant expertise instead of entrusting responsibility to experienced teachers, child psychologists, and subject experts. He maintained that educators working at the grassroots level are best equipped to determine syllabus structure and teaching methodologies as they directly engage with students.

Niddhi Agerwal Unveils Samsung Galaxy S26 Series

Niddhi Agerwal Unveils Samsung Galaxy S26 Series at Bajaj Electronics in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Actress Niddhi Agerwal officially unveiled the all-new Samsung Galaxy S26 series at Bajaj Electronics, Nexus Hyderabad Mall, Kukatpally, marking the regional launch of Samsung's latest flagship smartphones. The event witnessed strong participation from Samsung India leadership and senior representatives from Bajaj Electronics. Senior officials present included Balaji R, Sales Head – South India; Jayadeep, Marketing Head – South India; Sathish Babu, TS & AP Sell-Out Head; Raghuvir Singh Raizada, TS & AP Key Account Manager; and Premchand Devarakonda, Chief Financial Officer of Bajaj Electronics. The newly introduced Galaxy S26 lineup — comprising Galaxy S26 Ultra, Galaxy S26+, and Galaxy S26 — is now open for pre-orders across Bajaj Electronics stores. The series highlights Samsung's next-



generation "Agentic AI" mobile experience, aimed at simplifying daily smartphone usage through intelligent planning, search assistance, content creation, and advanced editing capabilities. Powered by Samsung's most advanced S-series hardware to date, the devices are optimized for enhanced AI processing, improved efficiency, and stronger security features. The Galaxy S26 Ultra stands out with several premium upgrades, including what Samsung calls the industry's first built-in Privacy Display for improved on-screen confidentiality. Additional highlights include Super-Fast Charging 3.0 technology capable of reaching up to 75 percent battery charge

within 30 minutes, a sleek 7.9mm design making it the slimmest Ultra model yet, wider camera apertures for superior low-light photography, enhanced Nightography video performance, and an upgraded Super Steady feature for smoother video recording. Customers pre-ordering the Galaxy S26 series can avail benefits worth up to ₹20,000. Buyers opting for the 256GB variants will also receive a complimentary storage upgrade to the 512GB model, making the offer attractive for early adopters. The launch reinforced Samsung's continued focus on AI-driven innovation and premium smartphone experiences for Indian consumers.

Mechanical Baja Se India 2026: Day 2 Dynamic Tests Thrill Students

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The second day of Mechanical Baja Se India 2026 at BVRIT, Narsapur, saw intense dynamic competitions, showcasing students' engineering skills, informed Convener Shri Ali Syed and Joint Convener Dr. Vemula Muralikrishna. Teams participated in key dynamic events including Accelerometer, Sled Pull, Maneuverability, Suspension, and Traction. Co-Convener Smt. Lalitha Patra noted that students



Students showcasing their mBaja buggy at the Day 2 of the 19th Edition of the prestigious mBAJA SAEINDIA 2026, hosted by BAJA SAEINDIA in association with B. V. Raju Institute of Technology, at BV Raju Institute of Technology, Narsapur, Hyderabad, today.

also completed static events like Technical Inspections, Cost, Validation, Sustainability, and Innovation on the same

day. During technical inspections, vehicles were checked for safety compliance, with 36

teams successfully qualifying. Teams passing safety checks advanced to the brake test, where vehicles were driven at 40 km/h over 100 feet with all wheels locked at the finish. By day's end, 17 teams had cleared the brake test and moved on to dynamic challenges. Faculty members were interviewed for the Dronacharya Faculty Advisors Award following group discussions. Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Jatin Garg, highlighted the introduction of the Honda

GX430 engine for all participating teams. He said the 425 cc engine delivers 12.87 HP at 3600 rpm and 27.7 Nm peak torque at 2500 rpm, offering excellent off-road performance and reliability at a subsidized cost. The event was graced by Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Principal of BVRIT, Dr. Lakshmi Prasad, Director, Shri Balaj Subramaniam, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, and Dr. K.C. Vora, Advisor of Baja Se India, celebrating practical application of classroom engineering knowledge.

Srinivas Goud Joins BC Budget Protest Hunger Strike

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Santosh chowdary

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud participated in a hunger strike held at Indira Park, protesting what organizers termed injustice to Backward Classes (BCs) in the State Budget. The protest drew participation from BC community leaders, intellectuals, and activists raising concerns over inadequate allocations and welfare measures. Victims of alleged attacks on BC communities in the state appealed to Srinivas



Goud, seeking justice and stronger government intervention. Addressing the gathering, leaders demanded fair representation and equitable budgetary support for BC welfare and development. The event was attended

by the BC Intellectuals Forum Chairman, a former IAS officer who also heads the BC Political Front, along with several social activists and community representatives expressing solidarity with the cause.

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.

Gummula Kamal Kumar: Pillar of Loyalty in Khairatabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

GUMMULA Kamal Kumar, a seasoned leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has emerged as a key force in the Khairatabad constituency, combining grassroots activism with strategic party work. A veteran of the Telangana statehood movement, Gummula's political journey is rooted in the struggle for the region's identity and self-respect. Inspired by KCR's vision, he played an active role in mobiliz-



ing support during the fight for Telangana, shaping his approach to people-centric leadership. Currently serving as the Treasurer of the Himayatnagar Division, he has strengthened the party's

network across the constituency, ensuring that welfare schemes reach citizens effectively. Known for his unwavering loyalty, Gummula has remained committed to the pink flag through all political cycles, bridging the gap between government initiatives and the community. Beyond administration, he continues to mentor young party workers and reinforce the BRS presence at the grassroots level, contributing to both organizational cohesion and electoral readiness. Looking ahead,

Gummula is focused on expanding the party's reach and ensuring a strong mandate in upcoming elections. "My work is for the people and the leadership that gave Telangana its identity," he says, underlining his dedication to both the constituency and the party. In Khairatabad, GUMMULA Kamal Kumar exemplifies how discipline, persistence, and a people-first mindset can turn a devoted activist into a cornerstone of political leadership.

Grand Souq e Deccan Expo Kicks Off at Gudimalkapur

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The three-day Souq e Deccan Expo, one of Hyderabad's largest lifestyle exhibitions, began in grandeur at Kings Classic Gardens and Kings Crown Convention, Gudimalkapur, attracting over 5,000 visitors on its first day. The expo featured fashion, beauty, and lifestyle brands, top real estate companies, and a dedicated children's entertainment zone. VIPs including Telangana Minority Commission



Chairman Tariq Ahmed Ansari, Congress spokesperson Khaleel Ur Rehman, politician Abdul Sami, and philanthropist Shahana Baig graced the event. Organised by actor and

real estate influencer Faheem Ul Haq and psychologist Shazia Saleem, the event emphasized seamless execution, robust security, and excellent hospitality. Major announcements

included the launch of Auræ Atelier, a premium event management company; the creation of the Souq e Deccan Trust, focused on community upliftment; and the second edition of the expo scheduled in Qatar from 12-15 March 2026, signaling international expansion. With its elegant ambiance and engaging experience, the expo received overwhelming positive feedback, cementing Souq e Deccan's reputation as a premier lifestyle exhibition.

US Advises Embassy Staff In Israel To Leave Now If They Want

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The U.S. Embassy in Israel on Friday authorized its staff to leave the country immediately, citing the growing risk of a potential American strike on Iran. Ambassador Mike Huckabee informed employees via email that discussions with Washington officials had led to a decision allowing departures for those who wished to leave.

The email, shared with The Associated Press by someone involved with the U.S. mission, urged staff considering departure to act quickly. Huckabee emphasized that employees should first secure any avail-



able flight out of Israel and then make their way to Washington. "Those wishing to take AD should do so TODAY," he wrote, referring to "authorized departure." While he cautioned that there was no need for panic, he stressed the importance of planning promptly, noting that

outbound flights may not be available in the coming days. The alert comes a day after Iran and the United States left nuclear negotiations without reaching an agreement. In response, several airlines, including Netherlands-based KLM, have announced plans to suspend flights

from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport. Other countries' embassies have also authorized departures from Israel and neighboring states. Australia has instructed all dependents of Australian officials in Israel to leave, citing the worsening security situation. Meanwhile, India and several European countries have advised their citizens to avoid travel to Iran. During a town hall meeting following the email, Huckabee reassured staff that he was encouraging airlines to maintain flight operations. The departure authorization reflects heightened contingency planning as the U.S. mobilizes a significant

fleet of aircraft and warships in the Middle East. Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who is mediating the negotiations, said that "significant progress" had been made on Thursday. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, however, offered no specifics but insisted that Iran's position had been clearly communicated. The U.S. embassy's move underscores the escalating tensions in the region and signals that American officials are preparing for potential military action against Iran, while trying to ensure the safety of diplomatic personnel in Israel.

Security forces open fire at drone along LoC in J&K's Poonch sector

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The movement of a drone was observed along the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch sector on Friday, leading to the security forces opening fire, officials said.



Officials said that the movement of a drone was observed over Gulpur village in the Poonch sector of the LoC.

"The movement of the drone was noticed during routine surveillance by the security forces. Fire was opened at the drone. The object was seen moving towards Sriyan village, entering the Pakistani side of the LoC," an official said.

Drones have been used in the past by terror outfits, with the assistance of the Pakistani Army, to drop payloads of arms, ammunition, cash and drugs for the terrorists along the LoC and the international border in J&K. These consignments are usually picked

up by the overground workers (OGWs) of the terrorist outfits.

The army guarding the 740-km-long LoC and the Border Security Force (BSF) guarding the 240-km-long international border have brought in special anti-drone equipment to tackle this menace.

In the Union Territory, the LoC is situated in the Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora districts of the Valley and in the Poonch, Rajouri and partly in the Jammu district of the Jammu division.

The international border is situated in Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts of the Jammu division. Army is deployed on the

LoC to check infiltration, cross-border smuggling and drone activity initiated from across the LoC.

On the international border, these duties are performed by the BSF.

In the hinterland, J&K Police and the security forces carry out aggressive operations against terrorists, their OGWs and sympathisers.

Drug smugglers, drug peddlers and those involved in hawala money rackets are also on the scanner of the security forces. It is believed that the funds generated by these unlawful activities are finally used to sustain terrorism in J&K.

CBI Moves Delhi HC Against Kejriwal, Sisodia Discharge

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Central Bureau of Investigation will approach the Delhi High Court, challenging the Rouse Avenue Court judgment discharging Aam Aadmi Party leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the Delhi Excise policy case, sources in the probe agency said on Friday. The move comes after the Rouse Avenue court observed that the alleged central conspiratorial role of the AAP leaders could not be substantiated. The court noted that the allegations

"failed judicial scrutiny" and found "no criminal intent" on the part of Manish Sisodia. It further stated that the conspiracy theory "cannot survive against one constitutional authority."

The CBI filed its first chargesheet in 2022, followed by multiple supplementary chargesheets. The agency has alleged that Rs 100 crore was paid by a "south lobby" to influence the now-scrapped excise policy in its favour. In total, 23 accused have been chargesheeted, including Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, K Kavitha, Kuldeep

Singh, Narender Singh, Vijay Nair, Abhishek Boinpally, Arun Ramchandra Pillai, Mootha Goutam, Sameer Mahendru, Amandeep Singh Dhall, Arjun Pandey, Butchibabu Gornatla, Rakesh Joshi, Damodar

Prasad Sharma, Prince Kumar, Chanpreet Singh Rayat, Arvind Kumar Singh, Durgesh Pathak, Amit Arora, Vinod Chauhan, Ashish Mathur, and P Sarath Chadra Reddy.

During arguments, the CBI maintained that the offence of criminal conspiracy must be viewed in its entirety and that the sufficiency of evidence

should be tested during trial. Represented by Additional Solicitor General D P Singh and advocate Manu Mishra, the agency argued that there is adequate material to frame charges against all the accused.

Following his discharge by Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi Excise Policy case, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday broke down outside the court as he emphasised that he was not corrupt, adding that the court had said that both he and Manish Sisodia were "honest".

Mumbai Court Gives Clean Chit To Ajit Pawar In Rs 25K Cr MSCB Scam

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A court here on Friday accepted the closure report submitted by the city police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in the case related to an alleged Rs 25,000 crore scam at the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB), giving a clean chit to late Ajit Pawar and other accused. The court's acceptance of the report came nearly a month after Pawar, then deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, died in a plane crash in Baramati. Mahesh Jadhav, special



judge for cases involving MPs and MLAs, accepted the 'C-Summary' report filed by the EOW stating that no criminal case was made out. The court also rejected protest petitions filed by activist Anna Hazare and others challenging the closure report. The alleged scam pertained to disbursement of loans to co-operative sugar factories,

spinning mills and other entities by district and co-operative banks without following norms. The MSCB is Maharashtra's apex cooperative bank.

The probe began in 2019 following directives from the Bombay High Court. Besides Pawar, who was then a director of one of the district banks, the First Information Report named government officials, the then directors and officials of the MSCB, and others. The state exchequer suffered losses of Rs 25,000 crore between January 2007 to December 2017 due to irregularities in disbursement of

loans, the EOW alleged.

The case saw multiple twists since 2020. During the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government (in which Ajit Pawar was the finance minister) the EOW filed a closure report stating that no criminal offence was made out. However, after the change of government in 2022, the probe agency sought to reopen the case. But in January 2024, months after Ajit Pawar split the Nationalist Congress Party and joined the ruling alliance, the agency once again filed a closure report.

Tamil Nadu polls: EC to consider single-phase voting proposal

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Termining the recently concluded SIR of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu as a model for the country and a great success, CEC Gyanesh Kumar on Friday said parties in the state have suggested holding Assembly polls in a single phase and a decision on it would be taken after considering all factors.

The Election Commission of India's decision on phases for polls will be known once the election schedule is announced, he said, adding that the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu will set a record in bettering the polls in Bihar.

Addressing a press conference here, the Chief Election Commissioner said: "The takeaway from Bihar is that it has been the most flawless elections held in recent decades and I have been assured by all the collectors, SPs and the entire electoral machinery, including enforcement agencies, that Tamil Nadu is going to set records and will be much better than Bihar."

On the recently concluded SIR of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, he lauded it as a model for the country and a great success, saying it ensured cleaner rolls. It dis-



played the professionalism of election commission officials in ensuring cleaner rolls, he said in reply to criticism by certain political parties that the exercise resulted in mass deletion of voters' names.

He said though 100 per cent voting is not mandatory as per law, Tamil Nadu's voting has been "highly encouraging and politically conscious." The top poll official assured amenities in 75,000 polling stations across the state.

On vote counting, he said mandatory VVPAT counting would take place and even after counting is over, any candidate, on payment of a fee, can match EVMs with VVPATs during the next seven days. Among the new initiatives, one major step was that postal ballots would be counted two rounds before the EVM rounds.

The CEC praised Tamil Nadu's "glorious past in democracy" and said the state's ancient Kudavolai

system of polls was proudly mentioned in a conference. He said pure electoral rolls were the bedrock of democracy and congratulated all officials, including BLOs, who helped make the SIR a great success in the state.

"The upcoming election will have a higher inclusive focus on youth. There will be 3,060 dedicated assistant electoral registration officers for campaigns in colleges. Tamil Nadu will witness over 12.5 lakh voters aged 18 to 19 years and there are one crore young voters in the 20 to 29 age bracket," he said. Arrangements will be made to provide polling stations on the ground floor for the benefit of senior citizens and the physically challenged.

Tamil Nadu will have 258 women-managed polling stations, 47 disabled-friendly polling stations and 265 model polling stations.

To ensure a good voting experience for the electorate, the EVMs will have colour photographs of candidates and larger fonts to help voters identify their choices. "Each polling station will accommodate 1,200 electors. Voter information slips will be like invitations asking people to come and vote, and on the right side the booth numbers."

Telangana Plans.....

Officials said the upcoming review meetings assume significance as they follow a major administrative reshuffle of IAS officers recently undertaken by the Chief Minister to improve governance efficiency and strengthen implementation of welfare schemes and development initiatives statewide. Special chief secretaries, principal secretaries and departmental secretaries have been instructed to attend Saturday's meeting with comprehensive action plans. Key departments including rural development, municipal administration, health, education, tourism, industries, women and child welfare, housing, revenue, electricity and labour have been asked to prepare proposals and highlight bottlenecks requiring policy intervention. The government expects the 100-day action plan to serve as a focused administrative drive aimed at delivering measurable progress and reinforcing development momentum across Telangana.

Arvind Kejriwal.....

The case was entirely fabricated," Kejriwal, 57, who spoke in Hindi, told reporters. "We were harassed. Debates were going on TV channels, news was shown that Kejriwal is corrupt," Kejriwal, who had put up a brave front so far, broke down in tears. Ringed in by reporters, Kejriwal's head dropped a bit and the emotions got the better of him. His hands reached up to his face

as he burst into tears. Manish Sisodia, who was standing nearby, reached out to Kejriwal. And the two leaders fell into a hug.

"Sambhaliye, sir, apne aap ko, sambhaliye. Himmat, sir (Be strong, sir. Be strong)," the people around him could be heard saying on the video. Someone also called for water. "Kejriwal is not corrupt," the AAP leader said, fighting back tears.

"I have only earned my living through honesty. They filed a false case, and today it has been proven. The court has said that Kejriwal is staunchly honest, Manish Sisodia is staunchly honest, and AAP is staunchly honest," Kejriwal, who won the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership in 2006, underlined.

The leaders are now free but the impact of the case was felt in the 2025 Delhi polls, where the BJP emerged the big winner. With 48 of the city's 70 seats in its pocket, the party claimed power in the national capital for the first time in nearly three decades.

Kerala HC lifts.....

"The film only portrays a social evil," his lawyers had told the court. Shah had also contended that if the film's release was put on hold, it would "financially finish" the producers as the movie is set to be screened in 1,500 theatres in India and over 300 abroad on February 27. The single judge had stayed the release of the film on the ground that prima facie there was a manifest non-application of mind to

the requirement of law by the censor board, CBFC.

The judge also said that "the possibility of communal disharmony or denigration of a community also being prima facie involved in the movie", its release without scrutiny by the higher authorities would be legally improper.

The court had further said that the content of the film's teaser has "a prima facie potential to distort public perception and disturb communal harmony".

Kashmiri students.....

The reported situation has created fear, humiliation, and mental distress, adversely affecting their academic performance and overall well-being, it said. Khuehami said the students have alleged that they are being targeted on the basis of their Kashmiri identity and religion and subjected to systematic discrimination and harassment.

Despite being regular boarders, they were reportedly questioned by the administration as to why they chose the college if they were "so much into Ramzan and religious practices", in remarks the association described as hurtful, discriminatory, and unbecoming of an educational institution.

The association stated that when the students sought basic arrangements for Sehri and Iftar during Ramzan, their request was denied and allegedly trivialised. When they attempted to arrange meals from outside, college authorities reportedly prevented them from bringing food onto the campus.

The JKSA said the students have

neither been provided appropriate arrangements nor granted reasonable flexibility to observe fasting, causing emotional and physical hardship during the holy month.

The representation further alleges that the administration told the students that if they were so inclined toward religious observance, they should not have joined the college.

PM Urges India.....

The Prime Minister proposed the creation of a "Reform Partnership Charter" to formalise collaboration among government, industry, financial institutions and academia as part of the goal of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said when government, industry and knowledge partners come together, "reforms translate into results", and "announcements on paper turn into achievements on the ground".

Listing out investor-friendly policies announced by the government, the Prime Minister said that the foreign investment framework has been simplified, and greater predictability has been brought in. "Besides, measures have been taken for the deepening of the bond market," he said, adding that new instruments with less risk should be developed to attract sustained foreign investment. Observing that the Budget is often evaluated on different parameters, Modi said, "The national Budget is not a short-term trading document. It is a policy roadmap. Therefore, the effectiveness of the Budget should also be assessed on solid and substantive parameters."

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Mushroom Cultivation Training Programme Concludes at EEI, Rajendranagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 10-day Mushroom Cultivation Training Programme at the Extension Education Institute (EEI), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad is set to conclude on 28th February. The visit of Dr. A. Janaiah, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, originally scheduled a day before the valedictory, has been rescheduled to coincide with the closing function. During the programme, Director Dr. Jagan Mohan Reddy appreciated the coordinators for providing participants with practical and scientific exposure. She highlighted the rising demand for mushrooms in domestic and urban markets and encouraged trainees to leverage their skills to establish sustainable mushroom enterprises. Participants were



advised to: Adopt scientific cultivation practices. Maintain strict hygiene and production safety measures. Use quality spawn for consistent yield. Understand market demand and pricing trends. Focus on proper grading, packaging, and branding. Explore direct marketing channels, including local markets, supermarkets, hotels, and online platforms. Field Visit to Spawn Production Unit. On 26th February, trainees visited the Mushroom Seed (Spawn) Production Unit at PJTSAU under the guidance of training coordinators Dr. P. Vijaya Laxmi and Dr. R. Vasantha.

UG students, including Niharika and her team, demonstrated the step-by-step spawn production process, which included: Preparation of mother culture. Development of mother spawn. Production of commercial spawn. Sterilization procedures. Maintenance of aseptic conditions. Trainees received hands-on training in scientific spawn production and quality control techniques, enhancing their practical knowledge. Live Demonstration by COON FRESH Mushroom Farm. As part of the programme, a live demonstration was conducted by Mr. T.J. Thanka-

chan, Director of COON VITA, representing the COON FRESH Mushroom Farm from Kerala. The session highlighted mushroom value-added products and provided a detailed walk-through of the cultivation process at their 18-year-old mushroom farm. His wife, Shije Thankachan, serves as the Managing Director of the farm. The demonstration showcased practical insights into farm management, production techniques, value addition, and marketing, with products being sold through the LULU platform. Trainees gained a clear understanding of commercial mushroom production and business strategies. The valedictory function on 28th February will celebrate the completion of the training and aims to promote self-employment and strengthen rural livelihoods through scientific mushroom cultivation practices.

EDITORIAL

SHOULD INDIA JOIN THE GAZA BOARD OF PEACE?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Of the two developments linked to Gaza, the first was the inaugural meeting of the proposed 'Board of Peace for Gaza', held on February 19. The second is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Israel on February 25. These events, taken together, make this an appropriate moment to reflect on whether India should associate itself with the newly proposed Gaza peace architecture. A brief backdrop is essential. The Gaza Strip is a narrow enclave roughly 41 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide. On its eastern flank lies a heavily fortified perimeter separating it from Israel. On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants breached this barrier, killing approximately 1,200 Israelis and taking around 250 hostages. What followed was a prolonged and devastating conflict. After nearly 15 months of war, a ceasefire was declared on January 19, 2025. However, it lasted barely two months, collapsing on March 18, 2025. During that brief window, only three Israeli hostages and 90 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged — a modest outcome relative to the scale of the conflict. **Ceasefire Framework** It was only on October 9, 2025, that the United States brokered a broader ceasefire framework, inviting 60 world leaders to endorse a 'Board of Peace for Gaza'. At a subsequent global economic summit, 26 countries signed the Gaza Peace Accord, pledging \$5 billion in financial assistance and committing troops to an international stabilisation force. India has so far not taken a position.

The Gaza peace plan is structured in two phases. Phase One focuses on stabilisation and security; Phase Two envisages an economic and political settlement. Yet, of the 20 provisions in the plan, only three have been partially implemented: a fragile ceasefire frequently violated, limited exchanges of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the opening of the Rafah crossing solely for medical evacuations. The deeper issues remain unresolved. The trust deficit between Israel and Hamas continues to impede progress. Israel insists that Hamas must surrender its weapons — a demand Hamas categorically rejects. Hamas, for its part, demands a role in governing Gaza, something Israel refuses to accept. Without movement on these core issues, the peace process risks remaining procedural rather than substantive. **India's Options** India must therefore carefully weigh its options before joining the Board of Peace. Signing the accord may offer the symbolic advantage of a "seat at the high table" in shaping post-conflict Gaza. But symbolism cannot substitute for strategic prudence. One of the most significant concerns is structural. The Board of Peace is chaired by Donald Trump in his personal capacity, rather than by the incumbent US President ex officio. This raises serious questions about institutional continuity. What happens when a new US administration assumes office in January 2029? Would the Board's decisions bind a future American government? Would India be aligning itself with an initiative whose longevity depends on the political

fortunes of an individual? India can aid humanitarian relief and reconstruction without formally joining a Board whose structure, mandate, and longevity are uncertain. India has consistently demonstrated strategic autonomy in recent years — whether in navigating the Russia-Ukraine conflict, balancing relations during tensions between Israel and Iran, or managing trade frictions with the United States. Associating with a body that could potentially take politically charged decisions may constrain India's diplomatic flexibility. There is also the broader concern that such extra-UN mechanisms could, over time, dilute or supplant the authority of established multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations. The implications of that shift could extend beyond Gaza to other international disputes, including those directly affecting India. Another dimension relates to the nature of the initiative itself. President Trump has frequently framed the Palestinian question through an economic lens — prioritising reconstruction funding, investment packages, and development corridors. While economic revival is vital, the conflict is fundamentally political, rooted in competing national aspirations and questions of sovereignty. If India becomes a member of this Board, it may find itself navigating delicate diplomatic terrain. India's ties with Israel are deep and multifaceted, encompassing defence cooperation, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and high-technology transfers. India imports significant defence equipment from Israel, including night-vision devices and unmanned aerial vehicles.

HC admits HUL writ, grants interim stay

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

PBEL Case: Court Orders Compensation For Boy's Parents

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

died on the spot. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera. Monish was the son of Diwakar, a software professional from Chennai, and was studying at a private school in Bandlaguda. The Narsingi police had then booked Incor, Golden Star, and the residents' welfare association. Then-inspector G.V. Ramana Goud had told Deccan Chronicle in 2019 that the boy's body had been taken to Chennai, his family's native place, and that the case, though registered in Telangana, had involved 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.

NHRC Intervenes in Nagarkurnool Caste-Based Assault; Demands Action Within 4 Weeks

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has intervened in a disturbing caste-based violence case in Nagarkurnool, Telangana. Acting on a complaint by Advocate Vinod Hindustani (Damera Vinodkumar), the Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Nagarkurnool, seeking a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) within four weeks. The case (No. 158/36/22/2026) stems from an alleged assault on the family of Chilukeshwaram Chandrakala during the Kummera Mallanna Swamy Jathara on February 18. The family was



reportedly denied entry into the temple due to caste, and the situation escalated when the accused allegedly attacked them. A two-month-old infant was reportedly trampled and later died from injuries. The complaint highlights police negligence, claiming that officers at Nagarkurnool Police Station refused to register an FIR, allegedly citing the accused's political affiliations. The NHRC observed that such inaction violates constitu-

tional safeguards and Supreme Court directives. In its February 25 order, the NHRC directed: Immediate Inquiry: District authorities must take appropriate action. Submission of ATR: A detailed report, translated into English, within four weeks. Accountability Measures: Arrest of the accused, disciplinary action against defaulting police officials, and protection/compensation for the family. Advocate Vinod Hindustani said, "This is a grave violation of human rights. The NHRC's intervention is crucial to ensure political influence does not obstruct justice for the SC/ST community." The NHRC will review the ATR upon submission, as the case remains under scrutiny.

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.



PL Capital Sees Nifty Rising to 27,958

Trade Breakthroughs and 16% Earnings CAGR Signal Nifty Upside to 27,958: PL Capital

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's equities are set for a renewed growth phase as trade breakthroughs, robust earnings, and infrastructure-led capital formation converge to strengthen the market outlook, according to PL Capital. The Nifty's 12-month target stands at 27,958, underpinned by a medium-term earnings CAGR of 16% over FY26-28.

Over the past nine months, the Nifty traded within a narrow 5-6% band amid global uncertainties, tariff disruptions, and EPS moderation of 9-9.5% for FY26-27. Despite this, corporate performance remained resilient, with sales, EBITDA, and profit after tax rising 9.9%, 16.4%, and 16.7%



YoY, respectively. FY26 EPS growth is projected at 3.8%, with valuations near 19.1x one-year forward earnings, aligned with the 15-year average. A bullish scenario could see Nifty reach 30,497, while a conservative bear case suggests 26,486.

A key catalyst is India's landmark trade diplomacy. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement

grants preferential access across 97% of tariff lines covering 99.5% of trade value. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, marine products, leather, gems, chemicals, machinery, and electrical equipment stand to gain. Textiles and apparel, previously facing 8-12% duties, now enjoy zero-tariff access. Services sectors, including IT, ITes, fi-

nancial, professional, education, telecom, and digital trade, benefit from regulatory alignment and improved market access. Collaboration in semiconductors, chip design, and industrial electronics further strengthens India's manufacturing ambitions.

Parallely, India's interim trade understanding with the US reduces tariffs on exports from 25% to 18%, easing uncertainties for textiles, gems, aircraft parts, auto components, and industrial goods. Non-tariff barriers are addressed, while technology and investment cooperation expands.

Domestic growth drivers remain strong. Budget 2026-27 emphasizes capex, with central outlay up 12% and overall up 22%, targeting defense manufacturing,

data centers, renewable energy, high-speed rail, semiconductors, aerospace, and specialty chemicals. Customs exemptions and PLI incentives signal India's intent to emerge as a global hub for manufacturing and digital infrastructure.

Sectorally, banks, diversified financials, capital goods, defense, consumer, healthcare, and automobiles are well-positioned. IT and commodities warrant a cautious stance. Over the next decade, technology-led industries, improved market access, and supply chain integration are expected to drive India's next growth phase. As trade corridors reopen, policy clarity deepens, and earnings momentum rebuilds, equities consolidation may mark the foundation for sustained expansion.

Apple Pay Gears Up for India Launch

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Apple Pay is finally set to enter India, more than a decade after its 2014 debut in the U.S. The tech giant is in advanced talks with HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and card networks Visa and Mastercard, aiming for a mid-2026 launch, according to Bloomberg. This move positions Apple to challenge entrenched digital payment players like Google Pay, Paytm, PhonePe, and Amazon Pay.

Regulatory hurdles delayed Apple Pay's India entry for years. In 2017, Apple's services chief Eddy Cue expressed the company's interest in India, but the country's requirement for SMS-based OTPs for trans-



action authentication conflicted with Apple Pay's Face ID and Touch ID model. Recent changes by the Reserve Bank of India now allow fingerprint and facial recognition for digital transactions, finally aligning with Apple's authentication methods. Apple Pay in India is expected to adopt a dual approach, supporting both UPI and card-based payments. This would make it a full-service digital wallet, rather than a card-only option, in a market where UPI has largely overtaken card usage.

While competition is stiff, Apple's focus is on services revenue. The company earns a fee on every Apple Pay transaction, making India's 750 million smartphone users a highly lucrative market.

Notably, Apple had not accepted credit or debit cards in India since 2022, and current negotiations with the country's major banks mark a significant strategic shift.

With the RBI's regulatory alignment and a dual UPI-card strategy, Apple Pay is poised to make a meaningful entry into

India's digital payments ecosystem, potentially reshaping the landscape dominated by local and global players.

Ai+ Launches AIoT Ecosystem, Announces Pulse 2 Smartphone Launch

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ai+ Smartphone has expanded its product portfolio with the launch of its AIoT ecosystem, introducing NovaPods and NovaWatch while announcing the upcoming launch of its next smartphone, Pulse 2, scheduled for March 2. The company also confirmed that the Nova 2 Series smartphones will follow shortly, marking the next phase of its expansion in India's connected technology market.

The newly unveiled AIoT lineup spans wireless audio devices, smart wearables, hybrid smartwatch-earbuds, fitness-focused devices, and kids' 4G smartwatches, with prices ranging from ₹699 to ₹7,999. NovaPods and NovaWatch went on sale via Flipkart starting February 27 at 12 PM, reflecting Ai+'s strategy to make connected technology accessible across price segments.

Positioned as a user-friendly and affordable smartphone, Pulse 2 is designed to deliver a



smoother and simpler experience. The device features a 50MP AI dual rear camera, an 8MP front camera for selfies and video calls, and a slim

6000mAh battery aimed at all-day performance. It will run Android 16 with NxtQuantum OS out of the box, emphasizing performance, privacy, and

seamless usability. On the audio front, the NovaPods lineup includes three variants — Go, Pro, and Clips — catering to different listening needs.

The earbuds offer features such as up to 30 hours of playback, multi-mic Environmental Noise Cancellation for clearer calls, low-latency connectivity, and IPX4 water resistance. The NovaPods Clips introduce an open-wear design, blending technology with fashion-oriented styling.

In the wearables category, NovaWatch Active comes with a 1.73-inch AMOLED display, Bluetooth calling, health monitoring features including heart rate and SpO2 tracking, sleep monitoring, and

IP68 protection. NovaWatch Kids 4G focuses on family safety through GPS tracking, geo-fencing, video calling, SOS alerts, and 4G connectivity. Meanwhile, the Ai+ Wearbuds combine a smartwatch with detachable earbuds, offering a hybrid device designed for convenience and portability.

Ai+ CEO Madhav Sheth said the ecosystem expansion builds on the trust of nearly one million users gained since the brand's debut in July 2025. He emphasized that the com-

pany aims to integrate devices across daily activities such as music, health, movement, and family connectivity while maintaining affordability and scale.

Developed by NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, Ai+ devices operate on NxtQuantum OS, positioned as India's first sovereign mobile operating system. With its privacy-first architecture and focus on accessible innovation, Ai+ continues to strengthen its presence in India's rapidly evolving smart device ecosystem.

India's Forex Reserves Fall \$2.12B to \$723.61B: RBI

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 2.119 billion to USD 723.608 billion for the week ended February 20, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported on Friday. This comes after a record rise of USD 8.663 billion in the previous week, which had taken the reserves to an all-time high of USD 725.727 billion. The decline in reserves was mainly driven by a fall in foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest



component of India's forex reserves, which slipped by USD 1.039 billion to USD 572.564 billion. FCA, calculated in U.S. dollars, also captures the impact of exchange rate movements of other major currencies like the euro, pound, and yen, held in India's reserves.

Gold reserves also decreased by USD 977 million during the week, bringing the total to USD 127.489 billion. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by USD 84 million to USD 18.84 billion. India's reserve position with the

IMF also saw a slight decline of USD 18 million, standing at USD 4.716 billion in the reporting week.

Economists and market analysts note that short-term fluctuations in forex reserves are common, driven by global currency movements, economic conditions abroad, and RBI interventions to manage liquidity and maintain currency stability. Last week's surge had been largely attributed to dollar inflows and favorable valuation effects on foreign currency assets.

Despite the current dip, India's forex reserves remain among the largest globally, providing a robust buffer against external economic shocks. The strong reserves position supports the stability of the Indian rupee in international markets and reinforces investor confidence. Analysts say the RBI continues to monitor the situation closely, ensuring that the reserves provide adequate cover for imports and external obligations while maintaining overall financial stability.

Stock market crash wipes out Rs 4.98 lakh cr from investors'

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian equity markets suffered a sharp setback on Friday, February 27, with investors' wealth shrinking by Rs 4.98 lakh crore as global uncertainties and foreign fund outflows hit sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 961.42 points, or 1.17 per cent, closing at 81,287.19, while intraday losses peaked at 1,089.46 points, taking the index down to 81,159.15. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms fell to Rs 4,63,50,671.27 crore (USD 5.10 trillion) in a single session.

Market experts cited a mix of global and domestic factors weighing on investors. "Indian markets continued to consolidate amid weak global cues and rising geopolitical risks, with investor sentiment turning increasingly cautious. The lack of progress in US-Iran nuclear talks has intensified concerns of further escalation of Middle East tensions, while persistent AI-related uncertainty is also supporting safe-haven flows. Domestically, a risk-off tone



prevails as the earnings season winds down and global macro factors take precedence," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited.

Sector-wise, realty was the worst performer, dropping 2.25 per cent, followed by telecommunication (1.83 per cent), auto (1.81 per cent), metals (1.57 per cent), FMCG (1.52 per cent), and financial services (1.50 per cent). IT-related indices were the only gainers, with BSE Focused IT seeing positive traction.

Among individual stocks, Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, InterGlobe Aviation, and Maruti were major laggards. On the upside, HCL Tech, Trent, Infosys, Eternal, and NTPC managed to gain ground. Broader market trends

mirrored the cautious mood. The BSE smallcap select index declined 0.84 per cent, while the midcap select index dipped 0.71 per cent. On the BSE, 2,528 stocks closed lower, 1,660 advanced, and 181 remained unchanged. Ajit Mishra, SVP of Research at Religare Broking Ltd, noted, "Markets traded under pressure on Friday and ended sharply lower, extending the corrective tone amid weak cues. Investor sentiment weakened due to a combination of factors including inconsistent foreign flows, weak global cues, and lingering geopolitical tensions." The decline underscores the ongoing volatility as global uncertainties, particularly geopolitical tensions and foreign fund movements, continue to influence Indian markets, even as domestic earnings announcements taper off.

Gold, Home Loans Push Secured Loans Up Q3

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

India's lending system showed strong momentum supported by a steady demand, growing preference for secured loans and improving repayment behaviour in the December quarter of 2025-2026. According to a report by Experian credit bureau-Insights released on Thursday, as of December 2025, total industry Assets Under Management (AUM) reached Rs 1.30 lakh crore, marking a 17 per

cent year-on-year (YoY) increase.

New loans issued during Q3 FY26 surged to Rs 20 lakh crore, up 36 per cent YoY, indicating sustained demand from both consumers and businesses. Interestingly, a key trend that is emerging is the rising share of secured loans, including gold loans, home loans, and vehicle loans, which now accounts for 34 per cent of new loan sourcing, up from 30 per cent a year ago. Overall secured loans grew 42 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y)



during October-December FY26 (Q3FY26) compared with 20 per cent growth in the year-ago period. Net delinquencies remained among the lowest across product categories. Gold loans continued to

be a major growth driver, benefiting from rising gold prices and their suitability for small ticket loans below Rs 3 lakh. Gold loans recorded 48 per cent YoY growth, with AUM reaching Rs 10.6 lakh crore. Home loans also grew steadily, with AUM at Rs 41 lakh crore, supported by public sector banks and stable repayment behaviour. Unsecured lending, including personal and consumer durable loans, continued to gain momentum. Personal loans AUM rose to Rs 1.4

lakh crore, up 11 per cent year on year, while consumer durable loans grew 18 per cent YoY on festive spending. Two-wheeler loans reached Rs 1.8 lakh crore. However, credit card issuance slowed slightly, though average credit limits increased, indicating cautious borrowing and lending in this segment, said the report. "Overall, the quality of new sourcing has improved, suggesting positive growth trends in the coming quarters," said the report.

Vijay Devarakonda And Rashmika Seen In Airport After Marriage, Wave To Fans

Actors Vijay Devarakonda and Rashmika Mandanna made their first public appearance as husband and wife on February 27, 2026, a day after their intimate wedding in Udaipur. The newlyweds were spotted at the airport walking hand-in-hand, warmly greeting the media and fans who had gathered to congratulate them. The couple, who tied the knot on February 26, 2026, looked radiant and full of joy during their airport walk. Rashmika wore a striking bright red outfit with elegant detailing, beautifully reflecting her bridal glow, while Vijay opted for a subtle grey-silver kurta-pyjama look.



Both waved to photographers with friendly smiles, offering namaste gestures and flying kisses to fans and media alike. This appearance marked the first time they were seen together in

public since becoming husband and wife. Fans and paparazzi showered them with cheers and best wishes as they made their way through the terminal. The couple's wedding had been

a close-knit affair attended by family and close friends, blending both traditional Telugu and Kodava customs. Social media quickly lit up with photos and videos of the couple's airport moment, with fans expressing their delight and admiration for the pair's first post-wedding public outing. Kalyani Priyadarshan, who attended the wedding, shared an emotional note, praising the couple's love and commitment. Meanwhile, Anand Devarakonda, also welcomed Rashmika into the family, calling her "vadina" (sister-in-law) and sharing a heartfelt post. The couple is expected to host a grand reception in Hyderabad on March 4, 2026.

Amitabh Bachchan To Do His Own Stunts in Kalki 2

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Eighty-three-year-old Amitabh Bachchan is set to perform his own stunts in the sequel to Kalki, promising audiences the same rugged outdoor action that marked the first film. The veteran actor, who famously suffered a near-fatal accident during a stunt for Manmohan Desai's Coolie, has already begun shooting for the sequel. The action sequences are described as highly risky, but insiders emphasize Bachchan's commitment to authenticity.

"They are quite risky. But you know how he is. He will do anything for authenticity. He has done most of his stunts himself throughout his



career," a source said. Despite his age, the actor remains undeterred, insisting that age is no barrier to performing what the scenes demand. He is determined to maintain the realism and intensity that fans expect from his action sequences.

However, his family reportedly harbors concerns about the poten-

tial dangers involved, reflecting the high stakes of the stunts. Bachchan's dedication highlights his enduring passion for cinema and his legacy as an actor who continuously pushes boundaries, even in his eighties, ensuring that the sequel lives up to the action-packed reputation of its predecessor.

Allu Arjun Expresses Desire to Collaborate with Mrunal Thakur: Deets Inside

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Allu Arjun has expressed his interest in collaborating with actress Mrunal Thakur in an upcoming project, following his recent Best Actor win at the 70th Filmfare Awards South for Pushpa 2. The announcement comes after Mrunal sent the star a congratulatory bouquet, accompanied by a heartfelt message praising his talent and dedication.

Addressing Allu Arjun, Mrunal wrote: "SIR, heartiest congratulations on winning Best Actor at Filmfare. This honor is so well deserved. The dedication, intensity, and sheer brilliance you bring to every performance are truly inspiring." Sharing the gesture with his fans on Instagram, Allu Arjun responded warmly, writing: "Thank you so much Mrunal Thakur. So sweet of you. Hope to work with you someday." The exchange has ex-



cited fans who are eager to see a potential collaboration between the two actors. Allu Arjun, known for his charismatic screen presence and intense performances, has built a massive fan following not only in Telugu cinema but across South India, making any new project he undertakes highly anticipated. Reflecting on his award win, Allu Arjun expressed gratitude toward Filmfare and his fans. "Thank you, Filmfare,

for this wonderful honor. It is my absolute pleasure to receive it in a land where I am loved in such a unique way. I am humbled by everyone's blessings, and I dedicate this award to all my fans for their infinite love," he said, highlighting the deep connection he shares with his audience. Meanwhile, Mrunal Thakur is busy with her upcoming release, Dacoit, which stars Adivi Sesh in the lead role. The film has been creating buzz

ahead of its release, with audiences eagerly awaiting her performance. Known for her versatility across Hindi and regional cinema, Mrunal's appreciation for Allu Arjun underscores the growing camaraderie and mutual respect among leading actors in Indian cinema. The interaction between Allu Arjun and Mrunal Thakur reflects the supportive environment in the film industry, where actors publicly celebrate each other's achieve-

ments. Fans are now speculating about the nature of the project that could bring these two talented actors together, adding to the excitement surrounding both their careers. With Allu Arjun continuing to dominate South Indian cinema and Mrunal Thakur steadily rising in popularity, a collaboration between them is likely to become one of the most anticipated projects in the coming years.

Skechers Powers India's PickleBall Movement



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Skechers, The Comfort Technology Company, has officially launched its Pickleball Jersey in India in collaboration with the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA), marking a major step in positioning Pickleball as a competitive sport rather than just a lifestyle trend. The move reinforces Skechers' growing focus on performance-oriented sportswear tailored to professional athletes.

The newly introduced Skechers Pickleball Jersey is engineered for high-intensity match play, crafted from lightweight and

breathable performance fabric. The design emphasizes mobility, superior moisture management, and all-day on-court comfort, combining technical functionality with modern aesthetics. The launch reflects Skechers' commitment to innovation, catering to the rigorous demands of India's evolving professional Pickleball scene.

To reinforce the jersey's credibility, the campaign features Skechers brand ambassadors Sonu Kumar Vishwakarma and Vrushali Thakare alongside professional pickleball athletes Anuja Maheshwari and Ritam Chawla. Their participation high-

lights the brand's athlete-first philosophy and its effort to support India's competitive Pickleball ecosystem.

Rahul Vira, CEO of Skechers South Asia Pvt. Ltd., said, "Pickleball in India is at an exciting inflection point, and at Skechers, we see its immense potential as a competitive, high-performance sport. Our association with AIPA and the launch of our dedicated jersey reflect our commitment to supporting athletes with products engineered for serious play. We are focused on contributing meaningfully to the sport's long-term growth

and helping elevate competitive standards across the country."

Beyond the jersey, Skechers also offers a specialized range of pickleball footwear designed for enhanced grip, responsive cushioning, and stability on court. Together, the apparel and footwear lineup strengthen Skechers' comprehensive performance offering, catering to both professional and emerging athletes in India. With this launch, Skechers continues to expand its performance portfolio while building an authentic, athlete-led presence within one of India's fastest-growing sporting communities. By investing in professional-grade gear and collaborating closely with AIPA, the brand aims to elevate the standards of competitive play and drive Pickleball's growth across the country. Skechers' initiative signals a broader trend of international sportswear brands supporting India's competitive sports ecosystem, positioning Pickleball as a serious sport driven by agility, pride, and passion.

VISHAKAPATNAM
Wakeup telangana

RR Kabel, one of India's leading electrical and wire and cable manufacturers, proudly announced the winners of its Kabel Star Scholarship Program 2025 in Visakhapatnam, marking the fourth year of this transformative initiative worth ₹4 Crore. This year, Visakhapatnam recorded a remarkable 59 honorees, who were felicitated at a special ceremony held at Matris Hotel, out of nearly 1,000 winners nationwide.

Launched in 2022, the Kabel Star Scholarship was designed to empower children of electricians, fondly called 'Kabel Dost,' by supporting their higher secondary education. Each selected student receives a scholarship of ₹10,000, enabling them to pursue their academic aspirations without financial barriers. Over the past four years, close to 4,000



students have benefited from the program, which has steadily grown in scale and significance. At the event, top students from Kabel Star Scholarship Program Season 2 were also recognized and awarded laptops to further enhance their education. The scholarship reflects RR Kabel's long-standing commitment to uplifting the electrician community and investing in the future of their children. Mrs. Kirti Kabra, Director of RR Global, said, "At RR Kabel, our Kabel Dost have always been more than business

partners – they are the foundation of our journey. With the Kabel Star Scholarship, we are opening doors to possibilities that can change lives for generations. Every child who dreams big deserves a chance to achieve it." The ceremony was an emotional and joyous occasion for both students and parents, symbolizing years of perseverance and dedication. For the students, it was a stepping stone toward achieving their ambitions and building successful careers in their chosen fields. The recognition

reinforced the importance of education and RR Kabel's role in enabling these young achievers to unlock their full potential. Through the Kabel Star Scholarship Program, RR Kabel continues to give back to the community and nurture a brighter, more educated future. By removing financial constraints and providing meaningful support, the program has created countless success stories, helping shape the next generation of leaders and innovators from the electrician community.

Four, including bank employees, held for operating mule accounts in Hyderabad

Four individuals were arrested by the Cyberabad Cybercrime police on Thursday, February 26, for facilitating cyber fraud transactions by opening and operating mule bank accounts on fake business establishments. Two individuals, Jawwad Qadri Rifai, 28, and Mohammed Naushad, 26, were held for providing mule accounts whereas Pamula Pranavaraj, 46, and Shankar Rathi, 51, employees at Jubilee Hills Mercantile Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, were held for facilitating the opening and handing over operational control of the account to the fraud syndicate.

According to the police, Jawwad and Naushad, looking to earn easy money, conspired with one Mohd Anas Khan and other associates to provide bank accounts for cyber fraud operations. They rented a place at Pahadi Sharif, created a fake rental agreement in the name of 'Star Agro Industries' and submitted forged business documents to open a current account.

Then, with the involvement of sales manager Pamula Pranavaraj and branch manager Shankar Rathi, opened a joint current account at Jubilee Hills Mercantile Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., which is affiliated to Yes Bank.

After opening the account, all banking credentials, including ATM card, cheque book, passbook, SIM card and internet banking access were handed over to fraudsters to use in cybercrime transactions. Police found that Rs 6,67,565 was credited into the said account in October 2025 in connection with online fraud activities, and account holders received commissions from the fraudulent proceeds. Subsequently, the accused went into hiding to evade arrest. They were arrested by Cyberabad police on February 26.

Pamula Pranavaraj and Shankar Rathi also reportedly admitted to opening more than 30 mule accounts in that branch. Further investigation is in progress to trace other associates and to identify additional victim transactions routed through the said account. Efforts are being made to trace and freeze further proceeds of crime.

Owaisi critiques Modi's Israel visit, links Zionism to hatred

Owaisi Slams Modi's Israel Visit, Calls Zionism and RSS Ideologies 'Rooted in Hatred'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Israel, saying both Zionism and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideology were "rooted in hatred." Addressing the Jalsa Youm-ul-Quran public meeting at Chowk Masjid in Hyderabad's Old City, he questioned the national interest behind India's support for Israel. Referring to Modi's speech in the Israeli Parliament, Owaisi said the Prime Minister should have acknowledged Palestinian suffering and historical injustices. He recalled the 1994 Hebron



mosque massacre, in which a Jewish terrorist killed 29 worshippers, and highlighted the human cost of ongoing conflict in Gaza, noting that over 70,000 people, including women and children, have died. "Can all those killed be described as terrorists?" he asked, while also referring to the displacement of Palestinians during the 1948 Nakba. Owaisi called Israel's policies "racist" and cited ongoing

international legal proceedings, including International Criminal Court arrest warrants against Israeli leaders. He also pointed to India's defence purchases from Israel, which cost billions of dollars between 2020 and 2024, arguing that weapons were not being given free. "The respect of India in the Global South should not diminish because you have supported a genocidal regime. Who does not sell weapons? The ideology of Zionism and RSS is based on hatred," he said. Turning to local matters, Owaisi criticised the Telangana government over the reported demolition of an 800-year-old dargah in Vemulawada, alleging violations of Waqf law. Citing Section 51 of the Waqf Act, which prohibits alienation of Waqf property by mutawallis, he demanded accountability from officials and elected representatives. Owaisi described the Palestine issue as both a matter of justice and a religious concern for Muslims, urging leaders to consider the humanitarian and legal dimensions of India's foreign policy.

Surrendered Maoist Leaders Devuji, Others Call on Revanth



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Surrendered Maoist leaders Thippiri Tirupati, alias Devuji, Malla Raji Reddy, and four others met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the State Secretariat here on Friday, official sources said. Those present at the meeting included government advisors K Keshava Rao and Vem Narender Reddy, Chief Secretary

Ramakrishna Rao, DGP Shivdhar Reddy, ADG (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar, and SIB IG Sumathi, an official release said. Pulluri Prasad Rao (@Chandranna), Pothula Kalpana (@Sujatha), Bade Chokka Rao (@Damodar), and Noone Narsimha Reddy (@Ganganna) are the other four leaders who called on the CM. Devuji and three others surrendered before Telangana police on February 24.

Kausar Mohiuddin Attends Grand Dawat-e-Iftar Event



AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin attended a grand Dawat-e-Iftar organized by MJB Ghouse at Masjid-e-Jahangir, Jamali Kunta, Nadeem Colony, drawing a large gathering of local residents and community members. The event reflected communal harmony and the spirit of Ramadan, with participants offering prayers and sharing the Iftar meal together. The MLA interacted with attendees, extended Ramadan greetings, and appreciated the organizers for promoting unity, charity, and social bonding during the holy month.

Akbaruddin Hits BJP, Congress on Demolitions

AIMIM's Akbaruddin Owaisi Slams BJP and Congress Over dargahs, mosques, and Muslim homes Demolitions

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi has launched a sharp attack on both the BJP and the Congress, alleging that the two parties share a common hostility toward Muslims and use demolition drives to target the community. Owaisi said, "There is no real difference between the BJP and the Congress. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unleashes bulldozers to



demolish dargahs, mosques, and Muslim homes. In Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy follows the same script with the same brutality. Their enmity is not with encroachments or lawlessness. Their enmity is with Muslims."

He alleged that these drives selectively target Muslim properties rather than addressing illegal encroachments generally. The remarks come despite AIMIM previously supporting the Congress government in Telangana during the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-elections, local body, and municipal polls. Meanwhile, Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao met residents of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments, who fear losing their homes due to the proposed Musi River Front project. Residents shared their emotional grievances, with some breaking down while describing uncertainty and distress. Rao assured them of BJP support, slammed the state government, and highlighted that several ex-servicemen live in the apartments, calling the situation "shameful." The incidents underline rising political tensions in Telangana over demolition drives and development projects impacting Muslim communities.

3 Killed in Road Accident on Bengaluru-Hyderabad National Highway



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Three persons died in a road accident that took place on the Bengaluru-Hyderabad national highway near Dhone in the Nandyal district on Friday. The accident occurred when a car in which they were travelling was collided with a crane. Pramod from Karnataka was on his way to Hyderabad with his

family when a crane coming from the opposite direction hit him near Jagadoothi village. The car was crushed to pieces. A woman and two children who were travelling in it died on the spot. Pramod, who was seriously injured, was taken to the government hospital where his condition is serious. The police booked a case and took up investigation.

Love marriage dispute turns violent in Hyderabad, man fights for life

A Hyderabad man was seriously injured in an alleged premeditated attack over a love marriage dispute on Friday, February 27. Following the attack, the victim who is identified as Ajay from Neredmet is undergoing treatment. The man who is undergoing treatment at a hospital is in a critical condition after being assaulted by his brother-in-law and associates. Ajay was allegedly lured to the outskirts of Ramalingampally village near Bommalararam, where the attackers carried out the assault. During the incident, the accused are suspected to have thrown chilli powder at him before attacking him with knives. Following the attack, police shifted the injured man to Gandhi Hospital for emergency treatment. Doctors said he sustained severe injuries and remains in a critical condition.

Sr priest MV Soundararajan of Chilkur Balaji Temple passes away at 90

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

MV Soundararajan, chief priest of the Chilkur Balaji Temple, passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 90 years old at the time of his demise. He had also served as a professor and Registrar at Osmania University. Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow over his demise. In a statement, he said Soundararajan had earned a distinguished reputation as a professor and Registrar at Osmania University and had played a significant role in spreading spiritual awareness. He noted that Soundararajan was instrumental in



bringing special recognition to the Chilkur Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family. Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu also expressed grief. In his condolence message, he stated that Soundararajan had worked throughout his life to protect temple traditions and autonomy. He described his spiritual services as memorable and extended sympathies to the family members.

Hyderabad Police Counsel Rowdy Sheeters, Promote Rehabilitation

"Hyderabad Police Distribute Ration Kits to Rowdy Sheeters' Families"

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step toward curbing crime and promoting social reintegration, the Hyderabad police on Friday conducted a counseling session for rowdy sheeters and their families under Kalapathar and Kamatipura police station jurisdictions. The program, led by Rajendranagar Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police S Sreenivas, aimed to encourage participants to abandon criminal activities and adopt a dis-



ciplined, lawful lifestyle. DCP Sreenivas engaged directly with the individuals and their families, stressing the importance of reform and assuring them of the police department's full support in rehabilitation. He urged

them to reintegrate into mainstream society and take advantage of opportunities for a fresh start. As part of the welfare drive, ration kits were distributed to 19 families, providing immediate assistance. The department

also pledged to facilitate admission of interested children from these families into residential schools, promoting a brighter future for the next generation. Participants were briefed on various government welfare schemes to improve financial stability and social well-being. The initiative reflects the Hyderabad police's holistic approach, combining law enforcement with social welfare to reduce recidivism, foster safer communities, and strengthen public trust.

H-CITI Project Ramps Up for Signal-Free KBR Park Roads

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 Udhyaani Membership Drive in the Charminar constituency of Greater Hydera-



bad. The Telangana unit commenced the campaign with religious ceremonies

symbolising communal harmony and inclusive outreach. Party leaders offered prayers at the Bha-

galakshmi 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 Bitala Ramesh, Vinod (Rajendra Nagar), Sitaram Nayak (Yakutpura), Nareesh, 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

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