



Would you like to subscribe to
WAKE UP TELANGANA
ENGLISH DAILY

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

WEATHER

MAX: 29.7°C
MIN: 19.6°C
RH: 50%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY
MAX/MIN temp: 30/20°C

Brief Insights

Goyal: New Trade Deal with US Will Open Huge Opportunities for Poor, Farmers, and Youth

Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India had got a very good trade deal with the US, better than its competitors, without compromising on the interests of the agriculture and dairy sectors, while Union home minister Amit Shah described the trade deal as "historic" and said that it would elevate the strategic partnership between the two nations and pave the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth.

Without giving details, Goyal said the trade deal was in the final stages, and an Indo-US joint statement will be issued shortly detailing the contours of the agreement.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Yumnam Khemchand Singh Set to Be Manipur CM

After a long deliberation with central party leaders, the Manipur BJP Legislature Party on Tuesday elected Y. Khemchand Singh as its leader, and thus the Chief Minister. Sources said the swearing-in ceremony of the new government will take place in Imphal on Wednesday. The central leadership has decided to appoint two Deputy Chief Ministers, one likely from the Kuki community, sources said.

Saying the Union home ministry had given the go-ahead for the formation of the government by revoking President's Rule, sources in the party said Khemchand Singh's name was proposed after the consultation of central

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

WAKE UP TELANGANA



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

VOL. 2 Issue. 713 | WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 4, 2026 | HYDERABAD | PAGES 8 | Rs 2.00



Bandi Sanjay Calls BRS 'Bhu Rakshasula Samithi: P2

Congress Rebels Defy Party, Face Suspension Ahead of Civic Polls: P2

Plan carefully, boost voter turnout, Says KTR: P3



Revanth Asks Ministers Indo-US Deal Decision Big, To Win Municipal Polls Will Benefit All: PM Modi

Congress rules out ties with AIMIM in civic polls

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Emphasising on winning maximum seats in the municipal polls, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday instructed in-charge ministers to pacify the disgruntled leaders and ensure that votes are not divided. Revanth Reddy, who reviewed the poll strategies of the municipal elections at the Camp Office in Jubilee Hills, directed the ministers to keep a close watch till the polls are over. He deliberated on strengthening the party in municipalities where the party is weak.

The Chief Minister also

instructed the in-charge ministers to ensure he receives daily reports from their constituencies. Speaking to reporters later, TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud ruled out an alliance with the AIMIM. However, he said the Congress was having an understanding with the CPI, CPM and the Jana Samithi at few

places. He downplayed the issue of rebel trouble and said in most places they have withdrawn from the contest. Over the absence of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and minister Adluri Laxman, the PCC chief said they could not attend as they had to address some issues in their constituencies

Stock Markets Cheer

India-US Trade

Deal: Sensex, Nifty

Surge 2.5 Pc



Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended 2.5 per cent higher on Tuesday after India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent. After starting the trade on a buoyant note, the 30-share BSE Sensex further jumped 4,205.27 points or 5.14 per cent to hit the day's high of 85,871.73. It later ended at 83,739.13, up 2,072.67 points or 2.54 per cent.

The 50-share NSE Nifty zoomed 639.15 points or 2.55 per cent to settle at 25,727.55. During the day, it surged 1,252.8 points or 4.99 per cent to 26,341.20. India and the US have agreed to a trade

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

"Self-confidence is that power with the help of which everything is possible," Says Modi

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the India-US trade deal as a "big decision" that would benefit everyone in the country. Addressing MPs at the parliamentary party meeting of the ruling alliance, Modi asserted that the NDA government worked in favour of India, be it a trade deal or the Budget. NDA members congratulated Modi for the trade deals with the EU and the US, saying they will bring growth and strengthen Indian manufacturers, exporters and entrepreneurs.

They also welcomed and congratulated the newly elected BJP president Nitin Nabi.

India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent. Briefing the media after the meeting, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said there was excitement about the deal in the entire country. "There is excitement among the MPs that nine trade deals have been concluded under the leadership of the PM. The trade deals have been signed with a total of 39 countries. This is historic. All these 39 countries are developed countries...

This is historic. There has been a very good atmosphere in the country," said the minister.

At the meeting, Modi also told the NDA leaders that the coalition has been winning various elections due to its people-friendly policies and hard work. He urged the NDA MPs not to be complacent with the alliance's performance, including in local bodies, and to continue with the good work. He also gave broad guidelines for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha members to carry forward their parliamentary and welfare works.

"The Prime Minister said the NDA is winning one election after another due to its good work. He said elections can't be won without being on the ground. We have to be on the ground and do good work for the welfare of the people," Rijiju said.

Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora said, "The PM explained to all the MPs that

the government works in favour of India, be it a trade deal or Budget...

The credit for the trade deal between India and America and India and India-Europe goes to Mr Modi. This has happened because of his determination. The trade deal will give benefits to small-scale businessmen." "During the meeting, the NDA leaders welcomed the major breakthrough following the productive conversation between Mr Modi and US President Donald Trump, which led to the announcement of reduced tariffs

on Made in India products," Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, said. JD(S) leader and Union minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the NDA meeting reflected the collective commitment to strengthening India's economic partnerships and advancing the vision of "Viksit Bharat". MPs belonging to the BJP, TDP, JD(U), LJP (R), Shiv Sena, JD(S) and other constituents of the NDA attended the meeting. Referring to the meeting, LJP(RV) leader.

SHAB-E-BARAT
Mubarak

May your heart be filled with Imaan and your life with Allah's countless blessings. Shab-e-Barat Mubarak!

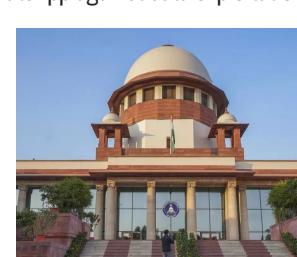
Fathe Affan
Congress Youth Leader

SC Rips Apart WhatsApp, Meta Over Data Sharing

Supreme Court warns Meta, WhatsApp against data exploitation, monopoly practices, affirms citizens' constitutional right to privacy

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised Meta Platforms Inc and WhatsApp saying that they cannot "play with the right to privacy of citizens in the name of data sharing" and they were creating a monopoly in the market and stealing private information of customers. Censuring WhatsApp's privacy policy, a three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi referred to "silent customers" who are



ing a penalty of ₹213.14 crore over the privacy policy. The CJI underscored the constitutional right to privacy and cautioned the companies against treating Indian users' data as a transferable commercial asset. "What is the choice? You have a complete monopoly in the market, and you are saying I am giving a choice. It is either you walk out of WhatsApp policy or we will share the data," the court said.

The observations came while the apex court was hearing appeals of the tech giants against a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order that had barred WhatsApp

from sharing data with Meta Platforms for advertising purposes for five years, but retained a ₹213-crore penalty. The tribunal clarified that its order in the WhatsApp matter on privacy and consent safeguards also applied to user data collection and sharing for non-WhatsApp purposes, including non-advertising and advertising.

The top court said that it would pass an interim order on February 9 and ordered that the ministry of electronics and information technology be made a party to the appeals of tech giants.

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Congress Rebels Defy Party, Face Suspension Ahead of Civic Polls

Rebels Stage Protests in Wanaparthy, Mancherial, Sangareddy, and Jangaon Over Denied Congress Tickets

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



The Congress braced a wave of rebellion on Tuesday, the final day for withdrawal of nominations for the urban civic body elections in the state. Senior leaders of the ruling party worked overtime to persuade rebel candidates to withdraw in favour of official nominees. However, several aspirants refused to comply, prompting the party leadership to issue stern warnings. Party working president T. Jagga Reddy and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud cautioned rebels who failed to withdraw that they would face suspension. "In most places, the

rebels have withdrawn. PCC president Goud has issued clear instructions that those who continue in the fray will be suspended," said a leader involved in poll management. Aspirants denied party tickets expressed open resentment against local leadership. While some staged sit-in protests, others threatened to resign from

the party. Reports of unrest emerged from Wanaparthy, Mancherial, Sangareddy, and Jangaon districts.

At Jangaon, Congress aspirants protested against the allocation of a ticket to a CPI leader, vowing to work for his defeat. They held a demonstration outside the residence of Assembly constituency in-charge K. Pratap Reddy over the disputed 11th

In Mancherial district's Bellam-palli Municipality, former municipal chairman Suri Babu threatened to quit the party after being denied a nomination. He alleged that party in-charges had "sold" tickets to undeserving candidates.

At Sangareddy district's Jinna-

ram Municipality, local leader Neelam Latha staged a sit-in protest outside the residence of mandal Congress president Vadde Krishna, protesting the denial of her ticket.

A peculiar situation unfolded in Wanaparthy municipality, where delays in issuing B-Forms caused confusion. Two aspirants from Ward 7 and Ward 25 reportedly received their B-Forms just minutes before the 3 pm deadline but failed to reach the returning officer in time, resulting in their inability to file nominations. The developments underline growing discontent within the Congress ranks ahead of the municipal elections, despite leadership efforts to project unity and discipline.

Ticket Tussle Triggers Congress Turmoil in Jagtial

JAGTIAL

Wakeup telangana



The Congress party in Jagtial has been hit by a major internal crisis ahead of the municipality elections, with senior leader and Former MLC T. Jeevan Reddy accusing the party leadership of betrayal and humiliation over ticket distribution.

The controversy has triggered protests, public re-

criminations, and raised concerns about the party's electoral prospects in the key town. The dispute revolves around the allocation of tickets for the 50 wards of the Jagtial Municipality.

According to party

sources, tickets were un-

evenly divided between

the two dominant factions,

with MLA Sanjay

Kumar's group reportedly receiving 30 seats, while Jeevan Reddy's faction was limited to 20. This alleged imbalance has deepened long-simmering factional tensions within the party.

With elections approaching, the growing rift has left Congress cadres confused and demoralized. Political observers warn that unless the state leadership steps in quickly to resolve the dispute, the in-fighting could seriously dent the party's performance in Jagtial.

GHMC Trains Staff for Urban Health Watch

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



GHMC's Metropolitan Surveillance Unit (MSU) on Tuesday commenced a three-day Joint Induction Training Programme for staff from Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Thane at the Dr MCR Human Resource Development Institute in Jubilee Hills. Commissioner R. V. Karunan, who participated in the programme, spoke

sponse to outbreak-prone diseases.

Explaining the progress of MSU Hyderabad, Karunan said the unit, functioning under GHMC and established under the Prime Minister Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), was emerging as the central hub for urban disease surveillance. Of the 17 sanctioned posts, 14 personnel have already been re-

cruited, while the remaining vacancies are expected to be filled shortly. The newly appointed staff are undergoing departmental orientation.

He added that laboratory services were operational at the Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) in Narayanaguda, with additional strengthening through procurement of Biosafety Level-II equipment.

CBIT Launches NEOZION 2026 Poster & Brochure

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) unveiled the poster and brochure for NEOZION 2026, the flagship biotechnology event of SUDHEE 2026, scheduled for 17-18 February. Organized by the Department of Biotechnology and BBCC, the event's theme, "Samvardhana" – Sustainable Ad-

vancement Through Multidisciplinary Vision, emphasizes innovation, sustainability, and indigenous technological growth.

The launch was led by

Vice Principals Prof. Krishnaveni and Prof. P. V. R. Ravindra Reddy. Under the guidance of Chief Advisor Prof. C. V. Narsimhulu, the event will feature Paper &

Poster Presentations, Bio-Ideation, Bio-Quiz, Bio-Debate, and competitions across AI, Food, Nano, Plant, Marine, Bioprocess, Animal, Biomedical, Environmental, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, and Bioinformatics. Faculty, BBCC, and student coordinators are collaboratively preparing for a showcase of research, innovation, and sustainable biotech solutions.

Bandi Sanjay Calls BRS 'Bhu Rakshasula Samithi,' Warns Voters of Land and Property Loss

Sanjay warned voters that electing the BRS would lead to the loss of their personal properties: Reports

KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, launched a sharp attack on the opposition BRS party, dubbing it "Bhu Rakshasula Samithi" and accusing it of systematic land encroachment during its decade-long rule. Speaking at a street-corner rally at Kothirampur Crossroads in Karimnagar as part of the BJP's municipal election campaign, Sanjay warned voters that electing the BRS could endanger their personal properties.

"In their 10 years in power, BRS leaders swallowed every open space. I personally ensured that 46 such leaders, who harassed the poor through land-grabbing, were jailed," he claimed. He cautioned that if the BRS regained control of the

municipal corporation, it would not hesitate to encroach on homes or seize gold. Sanjay also criticized the Congress government's financial management, questioning how it could develop Karimnagar amid fiscal instability. "The Congress doesn't have a single paisa for development. They struggle even to pay retired employees' benefits. If they win, where will the funds come from? Do they plan to print fake currency?" he asked. He urged the

public to hold Congress accountable for its unfulfilled 'Six Guarantees.'

Highlighting BJP's achievements, the minister presented a "Performance Booklet" and invited rivals to a debate on development. He cited central initiatives funded through Smart City grants, including transforming Alkapuri Colony into a 'Mini Banjara Hills,' modernizing Ambedkar Stadium at Ganesh Nagar Road, upgrading CC roads, drainage systems, and installing LED light-

ing in multiple divisions. He blamed both BRS and Congress for delaying the relocation of the local dumping yard, despite the Centre sanctioning ₹50 crore for bio-mining.

Sanjay appealed to voters to support BJP candidates, emphasizing that a BJP-led municipal corporation would have direct access to the Prime Minister's Office. "PM Modi has assured unlimited funds if Karimnagar elects a BJP mayor," he said, adding that he would personally take elected

BJP corporators to Delhi to secure funds that the state government cannot provide.

Through his campaign,

Sanjay sought to position the BJP as a party capable

of development and financial efficiency, contrasting it sharply with the record of both BRS and Congress over the past decade.

12,993 Candidates in Fray for Feb 11 Civic Polls After 6,701 Withdraw

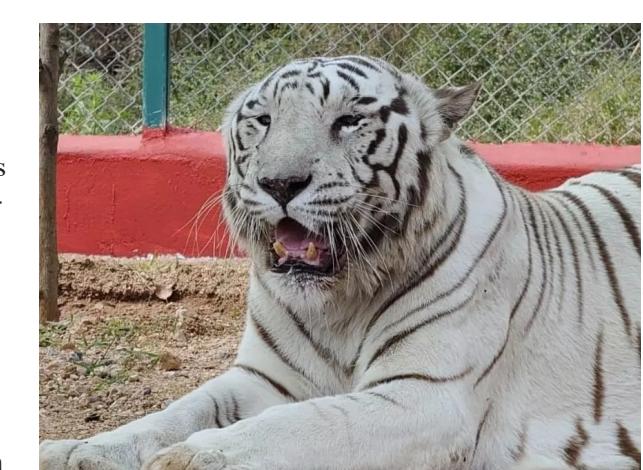
At least 12,993 candidates contested 2,996 wards across municipalities and corporations for the February 11 elections. On Tuesday, the final day for withdrawal of nominations, 6,701 aspirants pulled out. However, some candidates were unable to obtain their B-Forms from their respective parties and chose to continue in the fray as independents. The process highlighted both the intense competition and organizational challenges ahead of the civic polls. After the scrutiny of nomination papers, the State Election Commission will finalize symbols for independent candidates, allowing them to officially enter the electoral race. The exercise underscores the scale of participation and the procedural steps necessary before the elections can move forward smoothly.

White Tiger Sharan Dies at Kakatiya Zoological Park

White Tiger Sharan Dies At Kakatiya Zoo, Activists Cry Foul Over Hasty Funeral

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana



Kakatiya Zoological Park in Hanamkonda has lost one of its star attractions, the white male tiger Sharan, during the early hours of Tuesday. Zoo officials stated that the tiger died of natural causes, noting that Sharan had outlived the species' average lifespan of 14 years. However, wildlife activists have raised concerns over alleged negligence and a reportedly hasty funeral.

According to District Forest Officer Lavanya and Forest Range Officer Mayuri, Sharan had been under continuous veterinary supervision for the past two months, receiving treatment for age-related hypertension, cardiac issues, and renal failure. Despite these efforts, the tiger suffered a fatal heart attack in the early morning.

Following protocol, a post-mortem examination was conducted on-site by a medical team including Dr. Karunakar Reddy (Veterinary Assistant Surgeon), Dr. Naganmani (Assistant Director), and Dr. Chandravathi (Associate Professor, PVNRTVU). The

examination aimed to confirm the physiological causes of death before a formal report was submitted to the Forest Department headquarters. The incident has sparked controversy, with members of the Orugallu Wildlife Society (OWLS), led by I. Nageshwar Rao, questioning the zoo's transparency. Rao alleged that the funeral was conducted hastily without notifying media or NGOs. He further noted that the tiger appeared healthy just three days prior and suggested that sudden vomiting and organ damage could indicate possible food poisoning or consumption of contaminated meat, calling for a more thorough investigation into Sharan's sudden decline. Sharan's demise marks the end of an era for Kakatiya Zoo, highlighting both the challenges of managing aging wildlife in captivity and the need for transparency in handling high-profile animals.

CMR Delivery Must Be Completed Within Deadline: Garima Agrawal

SIRCILLA

Wakeup telangana



In-charge Collector Garima Agrawal has issued a stern directive to rice millers, emphasizing that the delivery of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) must be completed strictly within the stipulated deadlines.

In a high-level review meeting held at the District Integrated Offices Complex auditorium on

Rabi 2024-25 seasons. The Collector set clear cutoff dates to ensure the district meets its targets. Strict Monitoring and Accountability. Collector Agrawal instructed civil supplies officials to maintain a continuous, mill-by-mill monitoring system. She warned that the administration would not tolerate delays or negligence. "Millers must treat the completion of the district's CMR target as a

personal responsibility. Efficient planning is required now to ensure a smooth transition into future seasons," she stated. The Collector made it clear that millers failing to meet these timelines would face disciplinary action. The session was attended by In-charge District Civil Supplies Officer Radhabai, Civil Supplies Manager Rajitha, and several prominent local rice mill owners.

More People Take Help From Mental Health Helpline

Students, youngsters, and mid-age persons are seeking assistance from 14414, the mental health support helpline Tele-MANAS, to take their day-to-day or life's big decisions, indicating a growing inability of people to take even small decisions. According to Tele-MANAS, a 24/7 mental health support helpline of the Central government, callers are worried about not completing syllabus, financial matters and marital disputes.

One of these callers in his late 30s, who was struggling to clear the loan, sought guidance to come out of the issue. According to psychologists, the problem might sound small, but for some people it makes their life difficult as their brain works like a search engine with no result in sight. "Life is a series of decisions. But for some, making even small decisions feels harder than climbing Mount Everest. This behaviour is called decision paralysis," said Dr Jawaharlal Nehru P., a behaviour analyst and senior psychologist.

He said "even to buy a simple shirt, some people visit 10 shops or browse a hundred websites, check ratings. No matter what they choose, they have doubts that maybe something else is better that doesn't make them satisfied. Over time, such people completely lose their self-confidence and see themselves as an incompetent person."

Plan carefully, boost voter turnout: KTR

KTR calls on BRS cadre to ensure victory in municipal elections

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Stressing the growing public dissatisfaction with the Congress government just two years into its tenure, BRS working president KT Rama Rao urged party leaders to work decisively to secure victory in the upcoming municipal elections across the State. Rama Rao held a teleconference on Tuesday with constituency in-charges, municipal coordinators, and district presidents. He highlighted that the public was closely monitoring the Congress government's unfulfilled promises and perceived deception.

"The political climate is in favour of the BRS, and the people will surely hold the Congress accountable in the municipal elections," he said.

He urged party leaders to actively expose the failures of the Congress government, emphasizing that disciplined and



coordinated efforts over the coming week could help BRS achieve a "thumping majority." Rama Rao stressed that unity and collaboration among leaders and party workers were essential for success. Addressing the issue of rebel candidates, he said those who withdrew their nominations following the party's appeal should be welcomed back into the fold. He instructed that BRS candidates personally visit the homes of leaders who made sacrifices for the party's cause and in-

volve them in election campaigning. "It is the responsibility of coordinators to ensure these leaders are respected and to present a united front," he noted. With the withdrawal of nominations concluding on Tuesday, coordinators were directed to submit detailed ground reports to the party's head office. Rama Rao emphasized that every moment in the final stage of campaigning was critical. He asked district presidents and former Ministers to assess the winning prospects in their re-

spective municipalities and formulate strategies to guarantee the success of BRS candidates.

In addition, the working president highlighted the importance of maximizing voter turnout on polling day. He instructed all municipal coordinators to remain in their assigned areas until the completion of elections, ensuring close supervision of campaign activities and voter engagement. Rama Rao's guidance underlines the BRS leadership's strategy to consolidate support at the grassroots level, strengthen coordination among party units, and leverage public dissatisfaction with the Congress government. By combining meticulous planning with active involvement of party leaders and workers, BRS aims to secure decisive wins across the State in the municipal polls.

AIIMS Bibinagar Building to be Ready by 2026-End

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday said the restructured buildings of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bibinagar in Yadadri-Bhongir district would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the end of 2026. Inspecting the construction works on the campus, Kishan Reddy said the state government had handed over old buildings for AIIMS which were not suitable for a national institution. The Centre therefore took up remodelling and reconstruction of hospital blocks, medical college, hostels and dining facilities with modern designs to meet national standards.

The works are being executed on 206 acres at a cost of ₹1,110 crore. Kishan Reddy said 80 per cent of the construction was complete and once finished, AIIMS Bibinagar would house a 750-bed hospital. He pointed out that people from Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar and Hyderabad would benefit from better road connectivity to Bibinagar AIIMS, located between the Outer Ring Road and Regional Ring Road. He also assured that he would request railway officials to stop more trains at Bibinagar station and said MMTS Phase-II would be extended up to Yadagirigutta. AIIMS director Amit Agarwal and other officials accompanied the minister during the inspection.

CBIT's Yuva Aarav Club Hosts UPSC Guidance Session for Students



HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The Yuva Aarav Club of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) recently organized an enlightening session on "How to Balance UPSC Preparation During Graduation" at the CBIT campus, aimed at guiding students aspiring for IAS and IPS careers.

The programme featured Ms. Varshitha IPS, CBIT alumna (Mechanical Engineering), who shared her remarkable journey from graduation to becoming an IPS officer. She offered practical strategies to manage academics alongside UPSC preparation, emphasizing discipline, consistency, and strategic planning.

Adding to the insights, Mr. Shiva Teja, CBIT alumnus (Civil Engineering) and founder of Ace With Ease IAS Academy, addressed the students on effective preparation techniques. He highlighted methods for time management, focused study routines, and goal-oriented

planning, encouraging students to build a balanced approach that does not compromise their graduation performance.

The session was attended by Prof. P. V. R. Ravindra Reddy, Vice-Principal (Administration), Prof. B. Linga Reddy, Director – Student Affairs, along with faculty members and staff, who motivated students to strive for excellence in civil services while maintaining academic commitments.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across disciplines. It concluded with an interactive discussion where students posed questions about study strategies, motivation, and maintaining consistency, leaving them inspired and confident to pursue civil services with clarity and determination. The session reinforced the importance of planning, perseverance, and balancing academics with competitive exam preparation, serving as a guiding light for aspiring civil servants at CBIT.

Student Innovations Must Serve Society: Collector Pamela Satpathy



KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana

District Collector Pamela Satpathy on Tuesday stressed that student innovations must move beyond science exhibitions and evolve into practical products that serve society. Speaking at the Atal Tinkering Lab

(ATL) Exhibition at Government High School, Kumarwadi, she said young innovators should focus on real-world applications rather than limiting projects to displays. The exhibition, organized by the Education Department, showcased projects from students of 17 schools in Karimnagar

Civil Servant Blackmailed Into Whitewashing Illegal Land Deals

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

In a major breakthrough in the phone-tapping investigation, SIT sources said information regarding a land deal involving a former collector of Rangareddy district emerged during the questioning of BRS former MP Jogiappally Santosh Kumar, a nephew of former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. The sources said information collected during illegal surveillance was used to facilitate multi-crore land scams through the Dharani portal and secure high-value land settlements in the Rangareddy district. The sources said prime ac-

cused and former SIB chief T. Prabhakar Rao was directed to gather intelligence on persons involved in land disputes to force them into settlements. They also said that BRS leader K. Kavitha had previously cautioned a former minister from Nalgonda about the digital footprints being left behind by these operations. The sources said the SIT had secured specific survey numbers in Rangareddy district where land titles were allegedly altered overnight on the Dharani portal, and the Enforcement Directorate had collected the data for its own probe under the PMLA.

CP Gaush Alam Reviews Arrangements for Chief Minister's Visit

KARIMNAGAR

Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the visit of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to Karimnagar district on February 5, Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, along with Chopadandi MLA Medipally Satyam, inspected the Gumlapur public meeting venue on Monday to review security and logistical arrangements. The inspection covered the public meeting ground, helipad, and designated parking areas, with emphasis on crowd management, traffic regulation, and overall security preparedness. The Police Commissioner re-



viewed the proposed barricading arrangements in accordance with the venue layout and instructed officials to ensure smooth public movement without inconvenience, stressing the need for a robust barricading system. Drone cameras were used to monitor the meeting venue and surrounding areas as part of the security assessment. During the exercise, Commissioner Gaush Alam explained the security strategy and geographical aspects of the area to the MLA. Officials were also directed to implement advance traffic management plans and ensure elaborate police bandobast, with strict instructions that there should be no lapses at any level.

HYDRAA Launches Fire Safety Drive Across City

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

HYDRAA has launched large-scale fire safety awareness programmes across the city to prevent accidents and improve public safety. Officials explained the importance of installing and maintaining fire extinguishers, automatic water sprinklers and smoke detectors. Demonstrations were given on how to use extinguishers and act quickly during emergencies to reduce loss of life and property. Workers and business owners were also trained in safe evacuation methods, while fire mock drills were conducted at



select locations to showcase real-time response. Awareness programmes were held in Panjagutta, Dilsukhnagar, Alwal, Attapur, Banjara Hills, ECIL, Kompally, Nampally and Shamshabad. Following the recent Nampally fire accident that claimed five lives, including two children,

HYDRAA inspected and seized nine business premises across the city for lacking fire NOCs and violating safety norms. Officials later announced a temporary pause on closures, focusing instead on awareness. After a one-month pause, however, inspections will intensify and closure orders will be imposed on non-compliant businesses. Authorities advised shop owners to clearly mark fire exit routes and keep them unobstructed. Citizens were urged to call the Fire Department on 101, HYDRAA control room on 1070, or 9000113667 in case of emergencies.

Devotional Fervor Enlivens Cantonment: Chariot Procession Marks 24th Brahmotsavam at New Bowenapally



HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The streets of New City Colony were transformed into a vibrant tapestry of devotion today as the 24th Brahmotsavam celebrations at the renowned Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple reached their grand climax. The centerpiece of the festivities, the traditional chariot procession (Rathotsavam), unfolded with unparalleled splendor, spiritual fervor, and cultural grandeur.

The deity, resplendent in fine silks and traditional ornaments, was seated on the majestic chariot amid the rhythmic chants of "Govinda, Govinda." The air resonated with the soulful strains of Nadaswaram

music and the fragrant aroma of incense, while bursts of firecrackers announced the ceremonial commencement of the procession. A highlight of the event was the iconic Garuda Seva, symbolizing the Lord's celestial mount, which drew thousands of devotees eager to witness the divine spectacle. Along the route, residents offered Harathi and floral tributes, infusing the Cantonment

Kumar Swamy, with Temple Committee leaders R. Narayana (President), Ramamohan Rao (Vice President), and Secretary Yadiyah overseeing the event.

The seamless execution of the festival was credited to the dedicated executive committee, including Joint Secretary Atmananda Reddy, Treasurer Lakshman, and members Mohan Rao, Jagannadham, Narasimha Rao, Sambasiva Rao, Penta Reddy, and Dharmaveer. The 24th Brahmotsavam continues to reinforce the temple's standing as a spiritual beacon, drawing devotees from across New City Colony in a celebration of faith, tradition, and community.

8 MPs Sent Out for Remainder of Budget Session

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Taking a tough stand against the Opposition's vociferous protests, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday suspended Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and seven other members, accusing them of 'unruly behaviour' after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair. They have been suspended from the House for the remaining part of the Budget Session that concludes on April 2. The other suspended members were Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, Amarinder Singh Raja Warrin, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole, Dean Kuriakose (all Congress) and S. Venkatesan (CPI-M). The Opposition vowed to



intensify the face-off with the government over various issues, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being denied an opportunity to cite an article based on excerpts from an unpublished 'memoir' of former Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane (retd) on India-China conflict of 2020. The Opposition also raised concerns about US President Donald Trump announcing the India-US trade deal and the alleged demolition drive at the Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi.

The session remained disrupted since the morning. At 3 pm, when it reconvened, Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named the eight members. Subsequently, parliamentary

affairs minister Kiren Rijiju read out a resolution seeking suspension of the members for the remaining period of the Budget Session. Rijiju said the members had acted in utter disregard to the House and the authority of the Chair. He alleged the suspended tore papers, threw them on the Chair and also tried to climb on to the table of the Secretary General. The House passed the resolution by a voice vote, following which the proceedings were adjourned for the

day amid uproar. In the House, Rahul Gandhi tried to raise the Galwan incident mentioned in Gen. (retd) Naravane's memoir in different ways but was not allowed. He even authenticated the content as was told by Speaker Om Birla. The chair told him to focus his address only on the motion of thanks to the President's address. With Gandhi insisting on speaking on the memoir, the chair called other members to speak. None of the Opposition members spoke after which the chair called the NDA members. It was then when the Opposition members entered the Well in protest, shouted slogans and tore papers. They again tore papers when

there suspension was announced. Later, Congress members, led by Rahul Gandhi, staged a protest outside Parliament building against the suspension of party members. Opposition members said the suspended members will continue to protest outside the House. Gandhi has written a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla protesting that he was not allowed to speak even after authenticating the papers. "Preventing me from speaking in the Lok Sabha today not only violates this convention (to refer to an authenticated article), but also gives rise to a serious concern that there is a deliberate attempt to prevent me, in my capacity as the Leader of the Opposition.

Technical Snag Grounds Pankaja Munde's Helicopter

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Still fresh in public memory after NCP leader Ajit Pawar's fatal plane crash in Baramati last month, concerns over aviation safety resurfaced on Tuesday after Maharashtra minister Pankaja Munde's helicopter developed a technical snag hours before take-off from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Ms. Munde, who had arrived in the city on Monday, was to depart from Chikkalthana Airport by helicopter for election rallies in Latur, Dharashiv and Solapur districts. Officials said the snag was detected late on Monday night during a routine inspection, hours before the BJP leader was scheduled to fly to Latur. The aviation company immediately informed the airport authorities after identifying technical issues in the



chopper. Ms. Munde had reached Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on a chartered aircraft on Monday and later used the helicopter for campaigning. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, she said she was scheduled to take off at 10.30 a.m. but was informed about the technical problem. "I do not have detailed information about the issue. Another helicopter is being arranged," she said. This comes days after Ajit Pawar's airplane crashed at Baramati on January 28. Pawar and four others

were killed on the spot.

Referring to the fatal plane crash involving Ajit Pawar, Ms. Munde said air travel had caused widespread unease among political leaders and the public. "People have been deeply shaken since Ajit Pawar's tragic accident. Even party workers keep suggesting that I avoid helicopters and aircraft,

but there is no alternative if I have to cover many places," she said, adding that her family remains anxious about her travel. Ms. Munde said the campaign would not be cancelled, though two rallies had to be dropped due to the delay and distance involved. Meanwhile, Maharashtra minister and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Shirsat questioned the maintenance practices of helicopter service providers, alleging that excessive usage had led to a rise in accidents. He said helicopters should be cleared for operations only after thorough checks. "It is not appropriate to play with anyone's life," Mr. Shirsat said. Ms. Munde has been campaigning extensively for the February 7 Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections across the Marathwada region.

J&K Parties and Farmers Welcome Centre's Move To Halt Proposed Railway Lines

JAMMU
Wakeup telangana

Political parties, farmer groups, and orchard-dependent communities across Jammu and Kashmir have warmly welcomed the Centre's decision to pause three proposed railway projects in the Valley. The move follows sustained objections from local residents, apple growers, and elected representatives, who warned that large-scale land acquisition would devastate orchards and threaten the livelihoods of thousands of families. Apple orchardist Abdul Razzak Wani, speaking over the phone from Shopian—one of the areas where vast stretches of farmland had been earmarked for acquisition—said the announcement brought immense relief. "All I can say is that we are finally breathing easier. For weeks we lived in anxiety, unsure about our future and that of our children. This decision has lifted a heavy burden from our minds," he said.

Union Railway Minister

Ashwini Vaishnaw explained earlier in the day that although there had been a demand for additional railway lines beyond the existing Srinagar-Baramulla route, concerns raised by the J&K government and Members of Parliament prompted a reconsideration. They argued that the proposed alignments would cut through vast stretches of apple orchards—an economic backbone for south Kashmir. Acknowledging these objections, the Centre decided to place the projects on hold. The announcement comes after months of protests in Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag, where residents feared the loss of agricultural land, destruction of orchards, and potential

2026 Assembly.....

The top court is also seized of a cross-appeal by the CCI, which assailed the NCLAT ruling to the extent it allowed WhatsApp and Meta to continue sharing users' data for advertising purposes. It asserted that it would not permit the exploitation of personal data of users here under the guise of consent or market choice.

While agreeing to admit the appeals, the top court expressed grave concerns over WhatsApp's data-sharing framework. The Chief Justice of India said: "We may hear the appeal on merits. In the meantime, we will not allow you to share even a single piece of information. If you can give an affidavit of your management with an undertaking, we will hear, or else we will dismiss. You were bought by Facebook, tomorrow Facebook will be bought by someone else, and you will transfer the data. You cannot play with the right of privacy of this country, let a clear message go on your WhatsApp. You are making a mockery of the constitutionalism of this country." At one point, the CJI even began dictating an interim order restraining the platforms from sharing users' data.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Meta Platforms, and Akhil Sibal, who represented WhatsApp, intervened and said that the NCLAT had ruled in their favour on the issue of data sharing. When Sibal argued that data sharing was based on consumer consent and that an opt-out mechanism existed, the CJI said, "What do you mean by opt-out? You opt out of the country, withdraw your facilities from here. Because you are creating a monopoly in the market, there is no choice for the consumer." The bench questioned the intelligibility and effectiveness of WhatsApp's privacy policy, particularly for economically and socially vulnerable users. "A poor woman selling fruits on the streets, will she understand the terms of your policy? The language is very cleverly drafted. Even some of us will not be able to understand it.

JUP Allies With.....

Addressing a press conference here, the commerce minister also lashed out at the Congress and its allies for trying to "mislead" the nation on the deal. In particular, he hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that he had a negative mindset and was opposed to the progress of

President Murmu Offers Prayers at Maa Biraja Temple

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

President Droupadi Murmu, currently on a six-day visit to Odisha, on Tuesday visited Jajpur and offered prayers at the revered Maa Biraja Temple on the second day of her tour. The President paid obeisance at the shrine of Maa Biraja, the presiding deity of the district, and spent over one-and-a-half hours at the temple complex. She also performed Pinda Daan at Nabhi Gaya, a sacred site located near the Biraja Temple, a ritual that lasted around 45 minutes.

After completing the ceremony, the President visited shrines of other deities within the temple complex. The visit generated considerable enthusiasm across the district, with residents lining both sides of the road to welcome the President. Cultural and spiritual programmes were organised along her route. Officials said this was the first visit by a sit-



ting President to Jajpur. On the occasion, District Collector Amber Kumar Kar presented the President with a Buddhist statue and a handloom saree as mementoes. Members of the Brahma Kumaris organisation also met her during the visit. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Minister for Cooperation, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Pradeep Bala Samanta, Jajpur MP Rabindra Narayan Behera, and local MLAs, along with senior police and civil administration officials, were present to receive the President.

Closure of Srinagar's Jama Masjid on Shab-e-Barat Draws Strong Criticism

JAMMU
Wakeup telangana

Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid was once again locked on Tuesday evening, preventing congregational prayers on Shab-e-Barat, a night of deep spiritual significance for Muslims. The decision, taken by government authorities, left worshippers dismayed and the mosque's custodians frustrated, especially as the festival marks the 15th night of Sha'ban in the Islamic lunar calendar and is traditionally observed with night-long prayers.



According to the Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid, officials accompanied by police personnel arrived earlier in the day to convey that congregational Isha prayers and the special night vigil would not be permitted. The managing body was instructed to

lock the mosque's gates immediately. Soon after, armed police contingents were deployed around the Grand Mosque to prevent people from gathering. In a statement, the Auqaf explained that the directive came shortly after Asr (late afternoon) prayers, with police insisting that the mosque remain closed throughout the night despite preparations already underway for the sacred observance. The organisation expressed deep regret that yet another major religious occasion had been disrupted, noting that its head, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq, had been placed under house arrest. The statement argued that repeated restrictions since 2019 amount to clear interference in the religious rights of the community.

Mirwaiz Umar, Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric, echoed this sentiment in a post on 'X', lamenting that while mosques across Kashmir and beyond were illuminated for

Shab-e-Barat, the Valley's largest mosque remained shuttered under surveillance. He described the closure as part of a long pattern of curbs on religious gatherings and questioned the narrative of "normalcy" often promoted by officials. He said, "As mosques across the region light up in devotion on this sacred night, Jama Masjid Srinagar stays shut under watch. Yet another closure, and I remain detained at home." He added, "Shab-e-Barat joins a long list since 2019 when prayers at the Valley's largest mosque have been stopped by force. No reason offered, just locked gates and silence. For those who beat the drums of 'normalcy' and 'Naya Kashmir,' this contrast needs an explanation."

FROM FRONT PAGE

Yumnam

Saying the Union home ministry had given the go-ahead for the formation of the government by revoking President's Rule, sources in the party said Khemchand Singh's name was proposed after the consultation of central party leaders with Kuki MLAs too. Former chief minister N. Biren Singh proposed the Khemchand Singh's name for the leadership, sources said.

Khemchand Singh is a former Speaker of the Assembly and Cabinet minister in Biren Singh's Cabinet. He has been elected to the Manipur Assembly in 2017 and 2022 from Singamei. He recently took a lead in visiting Kuki villages while appealing for restoring harmony among the communities. He is from the Meitei community.

Sources said a meeting of legislators of all constituents of the National Democratic Alliance will be held later Tuesday night, where Khemchand Singh's name is expected to be endorsed as the NDA legislature party leader. BJP party sources said Manipur BJP MLAs elected Khemchand Singh at a meeting that was also attended by central observer Tarun Chugh.

Stock Markets Cheer India-US Trade Deal: Sensex, Nifty Surge 2.5 Pc

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended 2.5 per cent higher on Tuesday after India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent. After starting the trade on a buoyant note, the 30-share BSE Sensex further jumped 4,205.27 points or 5.14 per cent to hit the day's high of 85,871.73. It later ended at 83,739.13, up 2,072.67 points or 2.54 per cent. The 50-share NSE Nifty zoomed 639.15 points or 2.55 per cent to settle at 25,727.55. During the day, it surged 1,252.8



points or 4.99 per cent to 26,341.20. India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent, US President Donald Trump said on Monday after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports surged 9.12 per cent. The other prominent winners were

which boosted expectations of renewed FII inflows.

"The reduction of US tariffs on Indian goods from 50 per cent to 18 per cent enhances India's competitive position among emerging markets and bolsters the outlook for export-oriented sectors with high US exposure, such as textiles, aquaculture, gems and pharmaceuticals, which were supported in the 2026 Union Budget," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi rebounded sharply and jumped nearly 7 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong

Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher.

European markets were trading in positive territory. US markets ended higher on Monday. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,832.46 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 2,446.33 crore, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 0.65 per cent to USD 65.87 per barrel. On Monday, the Sensex jumped 943.52 points or 1.17 per cent to settle at 81,666.46. The Nifty climbed 262.95 points or 1.06 per cent to end at 25,088.40.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.40

Rupee Rallies 125 Paise to 90.27 Per Dollar on India-US Trade Deal

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee on Tuesday posted its best single day rally since December 2018, registering a gain of 122 paise to settle at 90.27 against the US dollar, after India and the US agreed to a trade deal that slashed US tariffs on Indian goods. The punitive 50 per cent US tariffs on Indian goods had resulted in a 5 per cent slump in the Indian rupee since late August. The rollback materially improves India's trade outlook and capital flow dynamics, said traders. Custodian banks were the main dollar sellers while the RBI was buying dollars to protect the rupee from steep appreciation to help exporters.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.40



against the US dollar, then gained some ground to touch an intraday high of 90.04 and a low of 90.51 against the greenback. At the end of the trading session on Tuesday, the rupee was quoted at 90.26 against the greenback, registering a gain of 125 paise from its previous close. The rupee had gained 47 paise to close at 91.51 against the US dollar on Monday, a day after the Union Budget 2026-27 was presented. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 97.57.

Anindya Banerjee, head

currency and commodity research at Kotak Securities said, "The recent trade agreement and tariff reduction to 18 per cent opens the door for modest appreciation, but the pace and extent will depend on RBI intervention thresholds, given the priority of maintaining export competitiveness."

"Foreign inflows may improve at the margin, though a sharp shift is unlikely as global investors remain focused on AI, quantum, memory, and data-center themes," added Banerjee. India and the United States have agreed to a trade agreement under which reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods will be slashed to 18 per cent from 50 per cent with a commitment from India to increase US imports by \$500 billion, and a reduction in dependence on Russian oil.

Nomura Ups FY27 Growth Forecast to 7.1 Pc on US Trade Deal

CHENNAI

Wakeup telangana

Nomura has revised India's FY27 growth forecast to 7.1 per cent, higher than the earlier consensus rate of 6.6 per cent with India finalising a trade deal with the US. However, the current account deficit for FY27 at 0.8 per cent of GDP in FY27, similar to FY26. "We project GDP growth for FY27 at 7.1 per cent, above consensus of 6.6 per cent, with the additional tailwinds from the lagged impact of past policy easing, low inflation, continued reforms and supportive fiscal policy. Sentiment shifts due to the US deal are further tailwinds," Nomura said in a report.

However, the potential downside to GDP growth in FY26 was limited as exporters managed to diversify. The upcoming revisions to the GDP series



also add some uncertainty. It sees more medium-term benefits for India, as it integrates into both US and EU-centric supply chains. The US is India's largest goods export destination, accounting for \$86.5 billion or 19.8 per cent of total exports, and 2.2 per cent of GDP in FY25, India's key exports to the US include electronics, textiles, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, industrial machinery and other household items like leather, plastic, footwear, paper and glass articles. For several sectors, exports to the US account for 30-40 per cent of India's global exports.

With the reduction in US tariffs to 18 per cent, we estimate the announced effective tariff rate on the

total exports should fall to around 14.6 per cent from 33.6 per cent earlier. So far, around a third of US imports from India like electronics, pharmaceuticals and mineral oils were out of the scope of tariffs. Over 9 per cent of the goods remain under Section 232 tariffs with 25 per cent for autos and auto parts and 50 per cent for metals and the remaining close to 60 per cent were under the 50 per cent tariff coverage, which now will enjoy lower tariffs. The reduction in tariffs to 18 per cent is a significant change that will reduce margin pressure on labour-intensive export segments. With this deal, Indian exporters are now at par with competitors in Southeast Asia, and the trade in products such as toys and furniture that was previously being diverted to countries like Vietnam should now flow back to India.

India safeguards sensitive sectors in US trade deal; exporters set to gain

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

India has built guardrails to protect sensitive agriculture and dairy sector in the concessions it has agreed with the US in exchange for Washington lowering tariffs on Indian goods – a move that is seen pushing up exports from labour-intensive sectors like apparel, footwear and jewellery.

Hours after US President Donald Trump announced cut in US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent in exchange for India lowering trade barriers as well as stopping its purchases of Russian oil and instead buying oil from the US and potentially Venezuela, Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal said the move augurs well for the economy in general and exporters in particular.



But with little details available about the actual agreement between the two sides, opposition parties attacked the government for selling out the interests of Indian farmers.

Goyal, in a news conference, said a joint statement will be issued by both countries "shortly", which will have details of the pact, but rest assured, the government has built enough safeguards that will ensure protection for sensitive sectors. There may be duty concessions on some imports from the US, but no duty-free imports will be allowed in crops and agri products that are important for the

country.

Sitharaman in an interview to PTI Videos said, "So, actually our exports will pick up now, that is my expectation... along with having found new markets where they will continue to operate."

The new 18 per cent levy undercuts tariffs on key regional competitors such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, both facing duties of 20 per cent, restoring India's price advantage in the US market. The move offers significant relief to a broad range of labour-intensive exports, including apparel, footwear and jewellery makers, which had been hit by punitive 50 per cent tariffs imposed in August, sharply denting competitiveness and order flows.

The punitive US tariffs caused India's bilateral trade surplus with the US to shrink by USD 2.5 billion each month on aver-

age during September-December 2025 (versus the monthly average in January-August 2025), according to HSBC Global Investment Research. There was also USD 14 billion of equity outflows by foreign investors since July 2025 amid weak sentiment.

Goyal said that the agreement will open huge opportunities for Indian labour-intensive sectors, such as textiles, plastics, apparel, home decor, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, rubber goods, machineries and aircraft.

Import duty on most of these sectors will come down soon to 18 per cent from the present 50 per cent in the US markets. The Minister said that India is a fast-growing and large economy and demand is continuously increasing for goods such over the next five years.

Tesla India Offers EMI, Exchange Incentive To Boost Sales

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

EV major Tesla India on Tuesday said it has launched various initiatives, including an EMI scheme, to lift weak sales in the country. To encourage customers switching from the petrol and diesel cars to electric, Tesla said it is offering Rs 3 lakh exchange incentive. Besides, customers can now purchase the Model Y at a monthly installment starting from Rs 49,000, with a down payment of just Rs 6 lakh significantly lowering the barrier to entry for premium electric vehicles, it added.

Tesla India commenced deliveries of Model Y in September last year. As per the EV sales data shared by FADA, Tesla India has managed to sell 225 units last year. Overall electric passenger ve-



hicle retail sales rose to 1,76,817 units last year, up 77 per cent as compared with 99,875 units in 2024 calendar year. By switching to Tesla Model Y the customers can achieve savings of up to Rs 20,000 per month through reduced fuel and maintenance costs, underscoring the long-term cost benefits and lower total cost of ownership of EVs, it said in a statement. It also gives mid-segment SUV and sedan owners the opportunity to upgrade to Tesla with an effective ownership cost starting at Rs 29,000 per month, the company said.

COMEDK UGET/Uni-GAUGE 2026 Exam Scheduled for May 9

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The COMEDK UGET/Uni-GAUGE 2026 entrance examination will be conducted on Saturday, May 9, 2026, for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes across Karnataka and other parts of India. Over 1.40 lakh students are expected to appear for the national-level computer-based test.

The unified examination provides a single-window admission opportunity to B.E./B.Tech courses offered by more than 150 engineering colleges in Karnataka affiliated with the Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA), along with over 30 private, self-funded and deemed universities under the Uni-GAUGE platform. The test will be held in over 400 centres across 200+ cities nationwide, enabling candidates from across the country to par-



icipate. The application process will be conducted entirely online. Interested candidates can apply between February 3 and March 16, 2026, through the official websites www.comedk.org and www.unigauge.com. Detailed information regarding eligibility, application procedures and examination guidelines is available on the portals. Apart from entrance examinations, COMEDK has also launched the COMEDK KARES Innovation Hubs to enhance industry-oriented skills among engineering students. Established in 2022, nine hubs are cur-

Union Budget 2026-27: Stability, Discipline and Long-Term Growth

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

The Union Budget 2026-27 lays a strong foundation for sustained economic growth while maintaining fiscal discipline, according to CareEdge Ratings. At a time when India is moving from post-pandemic recovery to a phase of consolidation, the Budget reflects policy continuity, predictability and a focus on medium-term capacity building.

CareEdge notes that the government has prioritised capital expenditure while continuing its path of fiscal consolidation, reinforcing macroeconomic stability and strengthening India's credit profile. Capital expenditure has been budgeted at ₹12.2 lakh crore for FY27, an 11.5% year-on-year increase, with total public capex rising nearly 20% when grants and CPSE invest-

ments are included. This sustained focus on asset creation is expected to boost productivity, improve logistics efficiency and crowd in private investment.

Despite pressures from weaker tax collections and subdued disinvestment receipts in FY26, the Centre achieved its fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP, supported by expenditure control and higher RBI dividend transfers. The fiscal deficit is budgeted at 4.3% in FY27, while the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to decline steadily, reinforcing confidence in India's fiscal trajectory.

The Budget also supports sectoral growth across infrastructure, manufac-

uring, services and MSMEs. Infrastructure-linked sectors such as roads, railways, logistics, cement and capital goods are expected to benefit from continued investment momentum. Manufacturing initiatives focus on strengthening domestic ecosystems in areas like semiconductors, electronics, biopharma and rare earths, improving long-term competitiveness. MSMEs receive a boost through a proposed ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund and reforms in TReDS, aimed at improving equity access, liquidity and cash-flow visibility. Measures supporting IT services, healthcare, tourism and education strengthen

CareEdge
RATINGS

I may fail, but I won't give up: Payal Rajput opens up

Well-known actress Payal Rajput, who has made a name for herself with her impressive performances in films like 'RX100', 'RDX Love' and 'Mangalavaram', has now revealed that there were people who wanted her to quit, but that she was not going to give up.

Taking to her X timeline to pen a post, Payal Rajput said, "They want me to quit, and I find myself questioning whether I should. But then I think about the hard work I've put in over the last 12 years. So I tell myself no. I may fail, but I won't give up. #justthinking."

It may be recalled that last year, the actress had penned a post expressing concerns about favoritism and nepotism overshadowing talent in the film industry.

Taking to her timeline on the social media platform X, Payal Rajput had then said, "Being an actor is one of the toughest careers out there. Each day starts with the



weight of uncertainty, as I step into a world where nepotism and favoritism often overshadow talent."

The actress went on to admit that there were times when she wondered if her hard work and dedication would even get noticed in a world that was dominated by those with privilege. She wrote, "There are moments of doubt when I question whether my hard work and dedication can truly shine through in a landscape dominated by privilege. I watch as opportunities slip away to those with famous last names or a powerful agent,

wondering if my talent is enough to break through."

The actress had also added the hashtag #Struggleisreal to make it clear that the problem indeed existed in the film industry. Currently, Payal is working on a number of films, including the Telugu film titled 'VenkataLachimi', which is being directed by Muni and which the makers intend to release in three languages – Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. Payal also plays the lead opposite Legend Saravanan in his second Tamil film that is being directed by well-known director R S Durai Senthilkumar.

While Payal Rajput stars opposite Legend Saravanan, the Tamil film will also feature actors Shaam and Andrea in pivotal roles.

The yet-to-be-titled film is a grand-budget venture directed by R S Durai Senthilkumar, known for his blockbusters like 'Kakki Satrai', 'Kodi', and the recent success 'Garudan.'

The first phase of shooting was completed in Chennai, while the second phase was in and around Panikka Nadar Kudiyiruppu in Thoothukudi, which happens to be Legend Saravanan's hometown. Sources say the new film promises to deliver a thrilling, action-packed experience based on real events, set against the backdrop of Thoothukudi. Music for the film will be composed by Gibran, with cinematography by S Venkatesh and editing by Pradeep. The art direction is managed by Durairaj, while Ambikapathi is the executive producer.



Arijit Singh teams up with Salim-Suleman for new single after retirement announcement

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

Arijit Singh has collaborated with the composer duo Salim-Suleman for a brand new single titled "Into You". The track comes shortly after the acclaimed singer and composer announced his retirement from playback singing.

The peppy romantic number, which has been jointly crooned by Arijit and Ananya Sharma, has reached the audience ahead of Valentine's Day. Penned by Shraddha Pandit and Shivansh Jindal, "Into You" delves into the emotion of being instantly drawn to someone

without expressing it. The music video features Dharmik Samani and Ananya Sharma taking over the screen with some edgy choreography, flaunting their smooth moves.

Meanwhile, Arijit recently left his fans and members of the music and film industry shocked as

he announced through an Instagram post that he has decided not to take up any new assignments as a playback singer. His post read, "Hello, Happy new year to all. I want to thank you all for giving me so much of love all these years as listeners. I am happy to announce that I am not gonna be taking any new assignments as a playback vocalist from now on. I am calling it off. It was a wonderful journey."

The singer also expressed gratitude to his admirers for giving him unconditional love and support for so many years.

'Dhurandhar' sequel titled 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', makers drop new poster

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The makers of Dhurandhar have announced the title of the film's sequel as Dhurandhar: The Revenge. Along with the title reveal, a striking new poster offers a glimpse into the next chapter of the high-octane blockbuster franchise.

Ranveer Singh shared the poster on Instagram, drenched in deep, ominous red tones, instantly setting a dark and intense mood. At the centre stands the star, soaked in rain, staring straight ahead with a fierce, unflinching expression.

Behind him, carved into a blood-red wall, looms the title THE REVENGE, dominating the background like a warning.

The date 19.03.26 is prominently displayed at the top, signalling the film's release.

The poster hints at a darker, more ferocious chapter ahead.

Captioning the poster, Ranveer wrote: "Ab Bigadne Ka Waqt Aa Gaya Hai. Dhurandhar: The Revenge teaser out today at 12:12 PM. Releasing in cinemas worldwide on 19th March 2026 in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam."

Dhurandhar also stars R. Madhavan, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, and Arjun Rampal. Serving as the first instalment of a two-part series, it centres on a high-stakes covert counter-terrorism operation.

The film follows an undercover Indian



intelligence agent who infiltrates Karachi's criminal syndicates and political power structures in Pakistan to dismantle a terror network targeting India.

The storyline draws loose inspiration from multiple real-life events in South Asia, including the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and developments linked to Pakistan's Operation Lyari.

Director Aditya Dhar and Ranveer teased on Monday that the Dhurandhar 2 teaser would drop on February 3, sharing a post that simply read: "Tomorrow 12:12."

Mahesh Babu-starrer 'Varanasi' to release worldwide on April 7 next year

MUMBAI

Wakeup telangana

It's official! Ace director SS Rajamouli has now confirmed that this much awaited pan Indian magnum opus, 'Varanasi', featuring actor Mahesh Babu in the lead, will hit screens worldwide on April 7 next year.

Although rumours began doing the rounds that the film would release on April 7 next year on Thursday, the official confirmation about the film's release came on Friday.

Rajamouli took to his X timeline to share the release date poster and wrote, "April 7th, 2027... #VARANASI." Mahesh



Babu too tweeted the same phrase on his timeline.

The title of the film, which was initially being referred to as 'Globe Trotter', was revealed at a

grand event organised at the Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad in the presence of several thousand of excited fans last year. The title launch event itself was hailed as

a once-in-a-generation spectacle, as fans in the thousands turned up for the event, making it one of the largest live fan congregations ever seen in the Indian entertainment space.

The event featured one of the biggest stages ever erected for a film event, with a 100 ft height and a 130 ft wide screen to supplement it.

The makers have already revealed the character and looks of Mahesh Babu, Prithviraj and Priyanka Chopra in the film. While Prithviraj plays the antagonist Kumbha, Priyanka Chopra plays Mandakini in the film. Mahesh Babu plays a character called Rudhra in the film.

India secures hosting rights for Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

India will host next year's Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship in Delhi where eight quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will be up for grabs, marking a historic first for the country's shooting calendar which already features an Olympic qualifier in the World Cup.

The eight slots in the Asian competition will be in addition to the 12 quota places that will be on offer in the World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) from April 21 to 30 next year, also to be held in Delhi. The allotment of the Asian event was confirmed by the Asian Shooting Confederation in a letter to National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kafikesh Singh Deo. The NRAI stated that the dates for the Asian qualifier will be finalised in due course.

"We congratulate National Rifle Association of India for winning the hosting rights of Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027 where eight quota places will be distributed for the LA 2028 Olym-



pics.

"We are confident that, under your leadership, the championship will be organised to the highest standards and will be a great success," the letter, which is in PTI's possession, stated.

Speaking to PTI, NRAI secretary general Pawankumar Singh said it is a proud moment for the country.

"This is the first time India will be hosting two Olympic quota competitions and we are very proud of that. We will host the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun (April 21-30) in New Delhi and the Asian Championships in Rifle and Pistol here at the Karni Singh Ranges," said Singh.

"The dates for the Asian Championships will be announced later but we are very happy that the In-

ternational Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has shown faith in our abilities to organise major competitions.

"This shows the growing clout of Indian shooting sport and the confidence the international body has in us," he added. Singh said he was hopeful India would make full use of the two competitions to secure as many quota places as possible. The ISSF had decided against giving Olympic qualification slots in the World Cups during the Paris Olympic Games cycle, but these events have regained that status for the Los Angeles cycle.

"Indian shooters will hopefully capitalise on this opportunity and aim for the maximum quota allocation of 24 places for a country, surpassing the 22 quotas they secured ahead of the Paris Games," Singh said.

Delhi will host this year's Asian Championships (Rifle/Pistol) from Wednesday at the Karni Singh Ranges. Over 300 shooters from 20 countries will compete across junior and senior categories.

NEW DELHI

Wakeup telangana

Pakistan's decision to boycott its group-stage match against India in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup has triggered urgent back-channel discussions between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), amid fears of massive financial losses to the sport. The high-profile India-Pakistan clash was scheduled to be played on February 15 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. On Sunday, the Pakistan government announced that its national team would not participate in the match against India, citing undisclosed concerns. The move is expected to have se-



rious commercial consequences, with global cricket potentially losing more than USD 250 million in broadcast, sponsorship and advertising revenue, according to reports. In response, the ICC issued a strong statement urging the PCB to reconsider its position and seek a mutually acceptable resolution. The governing body warned that selective participation threatens the core principles of international sport and could have long-term repercussions for Pakistan cricket itself. "While

the ICC awaits official communication from the Pakistan Cricket Board, this position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event, where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms according to the event schedule," the ICC said. The ICC further cautioned that Pakistan's decision could negatively affect the global cricket ecosystem, of which the PCB remains an active member and beneficiary. It remains unclear

whether formal sanctions will be imposed if the boycott is carried out. According to a report in Dawn, several other cricket boards have expressed support for the ICC's efforts to persuade the PCB to reverse its decision, highlighting widespread concern within the international cricket community.

Pakistan has been placed in Group A of the tournament alongside India, Namibia, the Netherlands and the United States of America. All of Pakistan's group-stage matches are scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka, which is co-hosting the tournament with India. The situation continues to evolve as negotiations behind the scenes intensify ahead of the tournament.

GHMC launches month-long sanitation drive in Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday, February 3, launched a 26-day-long sanitation drive in the city, focusing on removing municipal waste, green waste and waste generated due to engineering and biodiversity work across 300 wards in Hyderabad.

The sanitation drive will conclude on February 28. According to the civic body, cleaning will be taken up in phases at public places, such as flyovers, foot over bridges, roadsides and medians, footpaths, parks, lakes and rivulets and areas around electric poles and transformers. Special teams will be deployed to clean legacy waste sites and construction and demolition waste sites using vehicles to eliminate garbage vulnerable points (GVPs), the GHMC said in a press release. The civic body will conduct awareness programmes on e-waste collection and reuse through Recycle Reuse Reduce Centres, targeting citizens, schools and resident welfare associations, alongside sanitation works. Spot penalties for littering and open urination will also be enforced.

Hyderabad to emerge as 'railway hub': Union Minister Kishan Reddy

Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday, February 3, said Hyderabad would emerge as a railway hub in the country with the establishment of a centre of 'Kavach' automatic train protection system and the high speed rail corridors announced in the 2026-27 Union Budget.

Speaking to reporters in Hyderabad, he said railway development works worth over Rs 47,000 crore are underway in Telangana. Renovation works of over 30 railway stations would be completed during 2026.

Of the 1,242 km of railway network in the state, 627 km has been covered by 'Kavach', he said. A research centre of 'Kavach' has been set up in Hyderabad.

The city is already a hub of pharma, vaccines, defence and IT sectors, Reddy said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to perform the 'bhumi puja' soon for the third phase of Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) connecting Hyderabad with the temple town of Yadagirigutta, he said. Telangana has been allocated five Vande Bharat and two Amrit Bharat trains so far. Kishan Reddy also said the Union Budget for 2026-27 would benefit all sections of society and it marks a step forward in the realizing the goal of Vikas Bharat (developed India) by 2047.

The Budget has increased the allocation for rural employment scheme VB G RAM G from Rs 88,000 crores to Rs 96,000 crores, he said. Congress has spread misinformation that the scheme is being weakened, he alleged. Observing that many countries in the world are gripped by economic crises, Reddy said India's economy is making rapid progress under the leadership of PM Modi. The Union Budget lays foundation for the country's long term development, infrastructure growth against short term interests, he added.

Funds Delay Hits Lal Darwaza Mahankali Temple Expansion

Nearly a year after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced a ₹20 crore allocation for the expansion and renovation of the Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali temple, the state government has not sanctioned or released any funds, leaving the project stalled. The 120-year-old temple, built by locals on just 140 square yards, struggles to accommodate the massive influx of devotees during the annual Bonalu festival. Heavy crowds routinely spill onto surrounding roads, causing severe traffic congestion. Last year alone, around 15 lakh devotees visited the temple, underscoring the urgent need for expansion.

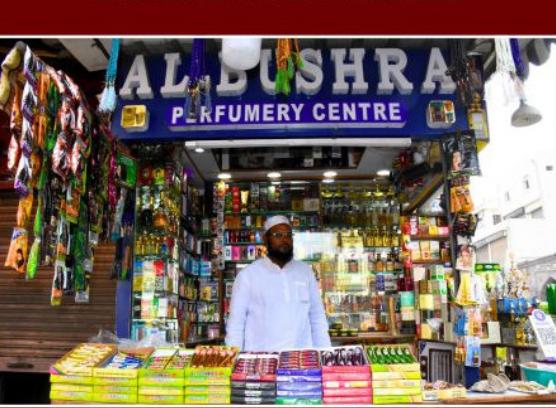
Initial plans proposed expanding the temple complex to about 2,000 square yards. Eleven neighbouring properties were identified for acquisition, and owners gave their consent. Of the announced ₹20 crore, ₹9.71 crore was earmarked specifically for land acquisition. However, with no funds released so far, the acquisition process has not moved forward. Affected property owners say the prolonged delay has left them in limbo. "Half of our property was marked for acquisition nearly 10 years ago. We have been living in a rented house all this time. How long are we expected to wait?" asked Ch. Mallesh, one of the owners.

Temple chairman Maruthi Yadav recalled that the previous BRS government had announced ₹10 crore for the temple in 2015, but that amount was also never sanctioned. "After the latest announcement, notices were issued and owners gave consent, but there has been no progress," he said, adding that assurances from Hyderabad in-charge minister Ponnambalam Prabhakar have not translated into action.

Temple advisor Raj Kumar Seera said construction

9966806010 9966228274
whole sale & retail

AL BUSHRA
PERFUME CENTER
ONLY CENTRE FOR FAMOUS AND PURE
SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD



PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI

MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD



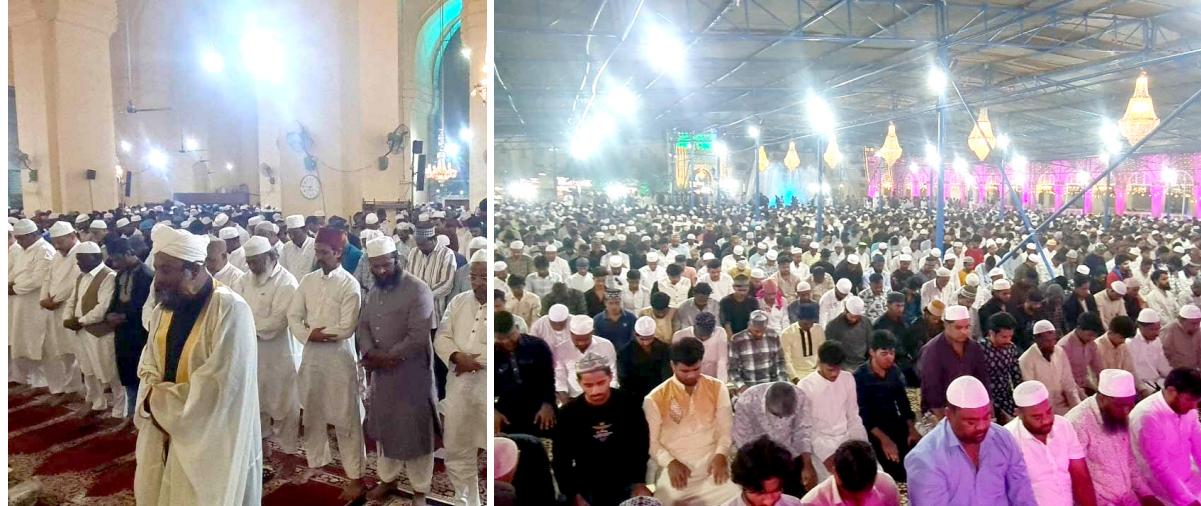
ment's failure to notify minimum base fares, saying that it allows platforms to slash driver earnings while increasing commissions. It said that the burden of rising fuel prices, vehicle maintenance costs, insurance and operational risks is being entirely shifted onto drivers, making dignified livelihoods impossible.

The union has called for immediate notification of minimum base fares and the prohibition on the use of private (non-commercial) vehicles for commercial app-based rides. Gig and platform workers went on strike on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Eve (December 31) last year, two of the busiest days of the year for delivery workers, to protest against worsening work conditions.

Commuters are also targeted by surge manipulation and a lack of effective regulatory oversight, it said. The workers' union has also flagged the central and state govern-

Hyderabad Observes Shab-e-Barat With Prayers

Hyderabad Observes Shab-e-Barat With Night-Long Prayers and Devotion



On the occasion of Shab-e-Barat, the Night of Forgiveness, devotees offer prayers at the historic Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Muslims in Hyderabad are observing Shab-e-Barat on Tuesday night, marking the 15th day of the Hijri month of Sha'ban. Known as the Night of Deliverance, the occasion holds deep religious significance and is observed with prayers, reflection, and remembrance. The night commemorates Prophet Mohammed's entry into the holy city of Mecca and is revered as a time for seeking forgiveness and spiritual renewal.

Devotees across the city are spending the night offering special prayers and

engaging in acts of atonement in preparation for the holy month of Ramadan. Mosques in several parts of Hyderabad are hosting sermons and religious discourses, with scholars guiding worshippers on faith, repentance, and disciplined living.

A large turnout of worshippers is expected at prominent mosques, including the historic Mecca Masjid, Jamia Masjid at Musheerabad, Vazir Ali Mosque at Fateh Darwaza, Jamia Masjid Jafaria at Sanathnagar, Azizia Masjid at Mehdipatnam, and Jamia Masjid at Mahboob Chowk. Devotees are also gathering at

neighbourhood mosques to offer namaz and listen to sermons through the night. Religious congregations are being held at public venues such as Milad Grounds at Khilwat, Moghalpura Play-ground, and Quli Qutb Shah Stadium, where eminent scholars are addressing gatherings on the spiritual significance of Shab-e-Barat and its role in personal reform.

As part of tradition, many people are visiting graveyards to pray for departed family members. Ahead of the occasion, burial grounds across the city were cleaned, illuminated, and cleared of wild vegetation and garbage. Senior

officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation supervised the arrangements to ensure smooth movement of visitors. Meanwhile, community elders have appealed for restraint and responsibility during the observance. Parents have been urged not to allow underage children to ride motorcycles or drive vehicles. Youth have been advised to spend the night in prayer or recitation of the Quran and avoid unnecessary roaming or disturbing public peace. The appeal aims to ensure that Shab-e-Barat in Hyderabad is observed in a peaceful and prayerful manner.

AIMIM General Secretary Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri Passes Away at 72

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) general secretary and former MLA Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri passed away at Owaisi Hospital on Tuesday. He was 72.

Quadri had been undergoing treatment at Owaisi Hospital in Kanchanbagh since November 30 last year after complaining of uneasiness. He had been suffering from renal ailments for the past two years. A senior leader of AIMIM, Quadri had a long political career. He served as a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) corporator from 1986 to 1991 and was elected to the Telangana Assembly for four consecutive terms. He represented the Charminar



constituency three times since 2004 and later won from Yakutpura in 2018.

The funeral prayers will be held at 1:20 pm on Tuesday at Masjid-e-Wazeer Ali, Chandul Baradari. He will be laid to rest at Masjid-e-Hazrat Syed Mohiuddin Pasha in Noorkhan Bazaar.

Condolences poured in from across the political spectrum. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with Bharat Rashtri Samithi (BRS) leaders K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao, expressed grief over the demise of the senior AIMIM leader.

GHMC relocates tree obstructing traffic near Shaikpet Flyover

HYDERABAD Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday, February 3.

"The tree was located right in the middle of the road. It was causing traffic congestion and was prone to accidents. A gas pipe was also found under the tree, which caused some problem but the tree was successfully removed," an official from Tolichowki traffic police informed.

Traffic was disrupted in the area during the afternoon; however, the situation is now back to normal, the police said.

Hyderabad Zoo Hosts Early Morning Bird Walk

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad Zoo) on Tuesday organised an early morning bird walk programme on its premises for nature lovers. Around 50 bird enthusiasts from Hyderabad Birding Pals participated, which began at 6 am. Deputy Curator J Muralidhar briefed them on the variety of bird species found within the zoo campus. Several species, including kingfishers, owls, drongos, babblers, grey hornbills, moorhens, munias, koels, painted storks, ibises and egrets were spotted. The event was part of its education and wildlife awareness initiatives.



ED Chargesheets MTPL Directors in Ponzi Case

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Enforcement Directorate have filed prosecution complaint (chargesheet) before the Special Court at Rangareddy against Metalloids Technologies Private Limited (MTPL) and its managing directors Jayant Biswas and his wife Mousumi Biswas for violation of the Prevention of the

ing Act (PMLA). They had allegedly defrauded 4,000 investors of ₹14.95 crore, collecting over ₹114.52 crore from them and returning ₹99.57 crore. The duo and the company had been booked by the police for cheating investors after offering investment schemes claiming to offer high returns. The duo used the scam money to fund business

ventures such as SO Vacations and Samarin Coffee House, Arthkranti Beed Nidhi Ltd acquisition of two flats in Kolkata and fixed deposits in the name of mother of Mousumi Biswas. It was revealed that MTPL did not have the necessary RBI permission for running these schemes. MTPL was incorporated for carrying out trading of metallurgical products.

Ola, Uber, Rapido drivers to go on strike on February 7

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Transport workers from Uber, Rapido and Ola, among others, across the country will observe an "All-India Breakdown" on February 7 to protest government inaction and fare exploitation by app-based aggregator platforms, the Telangana App-Based Drivers Forum (TADF) said on Tuesday, February 3.

TADF has said that despite the notification of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, aggregator companies continue to arbitrarily determine fares, which pushes drivers into income insecurity, debt, and unsustainable working conditions.

Commuters are also targeted by surge manipulation and a lack of effective regulatory oversight, it said. The workers' union has also flagged the central and state govern-

ment's failure to notify minimum base fares, saying that it allows platforms to slash driver earnings while increasing commissions. It said that the burden of rising fuel prices, vehicle maintenance costs, insurance and operational risks is being entirely shifted onto drivers, making dignified livelihoods impossible.

The union has called for immediate notification of minimum base fares and the prohibition on the use of private (non-commercial) vehicles for commercial app-based rides. Gig and platform workers went on strike on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Eve (December 31) last year, two of the busiest days of the year for delivery workers, to protest against worsening work conditions.

Elections Should Be Conducted Effectively as per Law, Telangana DGP Instructs Police Officers

The DGP said using religious institutions and houses of worship for political purposes and for party campaigns would violate the Prevention of Misuse of Religious Institutions Act.

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Director-General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy on Tuesday directed police officials to ensure that the February 11 municipal elections were conducted effectively as per the law. He was speaking at a video conference featuring police commissioners, district superintendents of police and station house officers. The DGP made it clear that steps should be taken to avoid any kind of complaints or untoward incidents.

Hyderabad police legal adviser I. Ramulu explained the laws related to the conduct of elections. He said those who influence voters, force them to vote for one person will be severely punished. Those who threaten social or financial ostracism on the victims should be dealt with strictly according to the law. Distribution of alcohol or acting contrary to the provisions of the Excise Act could result in imprisonment for six months to two years, he said.

According to the Arms Act, there are provisions to deposit the licensed weapons in the police stations as per the rules,

restricted under the Motor Vehicles Act. Permission from the returning officer was mandatory for vehicles used for election campaign.

The DGP said using religious institutions and houses of worship for political purposes and for party campaigns would violate the Prevention of Misuse of Religious Institutions Act. Those who make hate speeches and acts to create discord between castes were liable to be jailed for up to five years. Apart from these, according to the Telangana Municipalities Act 2019, if they obstruct the election duties or commit illegalities like rigging, they are liable to be punished.

otherwise, rigorous imprisonment of one year to three years is to be imposed, DGP said. He said that under the Public Places Disfigurement Act, 1997, those pasting posters or advertisements on walls without permission would face criminal cases. It would be a legal offence to use loudspeakers in public places without the permission of police officers. The use of campaign vehicles was

