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Brief Insights

'PM is Compromised': Suspended MPs Protest Outside Parliament

The Lok Sabha was adjourned on Wednesday following heavy sloganeering by Opposition members over the suspension of eight opposition MPs during the ongoing Budget Session. The House will resume proceedings at 12 pm. The suspended MPs were seen protesting outside Parliament, holding posters reading "PM is compromised." Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had made similar allegations while speaking to the media on the India-US trade agreement. The MPs suspended for the remainder of the Budget Session include Congress members Hibi

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War of Words: Rahul Calls Bittu 'Traitor', Minister Retorts 'Desh Ke Dushman'

Hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hurled a "traitor" barb at Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, the BJP on Wednesday kicked up a firestorm over the remark, calling it a "slur on every Sikh", and demanded the Lok Sabha speaker take action against the Leader of Opposition. Reacting to the remark made when Bittu crossed Gandhi's path at the entrance of the new Parliament building, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Congress leader had crossed all limits of civility. The BJP fielded its Sikh leaders, including Puri and Delhi minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, to accuse the Congress of harbouring the same "anti-Sikh mentality" that was on display at the height of the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. Sirsa said the "real traitor" was the Gandhi family that desecrated the Golden Temple in Amritsar with tanks and guns and burnt Sikhs alive by putting tyres around their necks.

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Caste Count in Second Phase of Census 2027: Centre

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union government on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that caste enumeration will be carried out in the second phase of Census 2027 and that questions, including those on caste, will be finalised and notified before the commencement of the Population Enumeration (PE) phase. In a written reply, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Centre's intention to conduct Census 2027 has been formally notified. "Caste enumeration will



also be done in the second phase of the census exercise called Population Enumeration (PE), in which the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person will be collected," the minister said. He added that the questions for the second phase, including those relating to caste, would be finalised and notified in accordance with the established

procedure before the start of the phase. Rai said several representations seeking caste enumeration had been received from organisations in different states, including Tamil Nadu. The minister informed the House that the Census is conducted in two phases. In the first phase, the House Listing Operation (HLO), information on housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household is collected. The second phase, Population Enumeration, records demographic, socio-economic and cultural details of every individual.

TEHRAN
Wakeup telangana

Women in Iran can now formally obtain a licence to ride a motorcycle, local media reported Wednesday, ending years of legal ambiguity surrounding two-wheelers. The law previously did not explicitly prohibit women from riding motorbikes and scooters, but in practice, authorities refused to issue licences. Due to the legal grey area, women have been held legally responsible for accidents even when victims.

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref signed a resolution on Tuesday aimed at clarifying the traffic code, which was approved by Iran's cabinet in late January, the country's Ilna news agency reported. The resolution obliges traffic police to "provide practical training to female applicants, organise an exam under the direct supervision of the police, and issue motorcycle driver's licences to women", Ilna said. The change follows a wave of protests across

Iran that were initially sparked by economic grievances but which grew last month into nationwide anti-government demonstrations. Tehran has acknowledged that more than 3,000 deaths occurred during the unrest, insisting that most were members of the security forces and bystanders. Since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, women have faced several societal restrictions, with dress codes posing a challenge for those riding motorcycles.



Congress kidnapping BRS candidates out of fear, says Harish Rao: P3

Opposition Stir Puts Off Modi's LS Speech: P4

KTR Alleges ₹6,000 Cr Scam by CM Revanth Reddy-Linked Firm: P2



Rahul Shows Naravane 'Memoir', Targets PM Over Ladakh Standoff

Gandhi said he highlighted Naravane's unpublished memoir to let Indian youth know it exists, despite government denials.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday escalated the Congress's attack on the Narendra Modi government over the 2020 India-China border situation, alleging that the Centre was preventing parliamentary debate on national security. Speaking to reporters in the Parliament complex, Gandhi displayed what he said was an unpublished book by former Army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane and accused the government of denying its existence to avoid scrutiny. "The Speaker has said this book does not exist, the government has said it does not exist, and defence minister Rajnath Singh ji has said this book



does not exist," Gandhi said. "I want every youngster in India to see that this book exists." Gandhi alleged that the government was unwilling to allow discussion in Parliament as the memoir could raise questions about the response of the political leadership when Chinese troops were positioned along the Line of Actual Control. He did not cite specific passages but claimed the contents

related to transparency and decision-making during the crisis. Quoting Naravane, Gandhi said the former Army chief had written that he "felt really alone" and was "abandoned by the entire establishment". Referring to the account, he said the Prime Minister's reported message to the Army chief — "Do whatever you deem appropriate" — indicated that responsibility had been

left to the military leadership during a critical moment. Responding to a question, Gandhi said he did not expect Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come to the Lok Sabha, but added that if he did, he would hand over the book to him. He said the Prime Minister should read it so that the country could know "the truth" about the Ladakh standoff.

Backing the allegations, Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi said the government was deliberately preventing Rahul Gandhi from speaking in Parliament. She alleged that the ruling establishment feared what the memoir might reveal about the leadership's response when China was "at our

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BJP National President Nitin Nabin Arrives in Telangana on First Official Visit



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin arrived in Telangana on Wednesday, marking his first visit to the State after assuming office. He was received and welcomed at the Hyderabad airport by senior BJP leaders. Nabin is scheduled to address a public

rally in Mahabubnagar later in the day and interact with party karyakartas as part of his State visit. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao, Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman, BJP State General Secretary (Organisation) C.H. Shekhar and other senior party leaders were present on the occasion.

SIR Row: Didi Urges SC to Save Democracy; Alleges WB Targeted

A Supreme Court bench led by CJI Surya Kant sought responses from the Election Commission and West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer by February 9 on her petition.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday vehemently urged the Supreme Court to intervene in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to "save democracy", alleging the state is being targeted and its people are being bulldozed. The top court took note of Banerjee's petition and rare arguments ever advanced by a serving chief minister before it, and said "genuine persons must remain on the electoral roll". A bench comprising



Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi issued notices and sought replies by February 9 from the Election Commission and the chief electoral officer of West Bengal on her petition. "West Bengal is being targeted," Banerjee alleged, asking why the same

yardstick was not applied in Assam. "They are targeting West Bengal to bulldoze its people," said the chief minister, who was permitted by the bench to supplement submissions of her lawyer and senior advocate Shyam Divan. "We are not getting justice anywhere. I have written six letters to the Election Commission," she said, seeking justice from the bench. At the fag end of the hearing, Banerjee conveyed her regards to the bench for the opportunity to argue and urged it to "save democracy".

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Yumnam Khemchand Singh Takes Oath as Manipur CM

GUWAHATI
Wakeup telangana

After a year of President's rule, senior BJP leader Yumnam Khemchand Singh was sworn-in as the chief minister of Manipur at the Lok Bhavan in Imphal, hours after the President's rule in Manipur was revoked. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla administered the oath of office and secrecy to him. Two deputy chief ministers, one from the Kuki-Zo community and another from the Naga community, also took the oath. Naga People's Front MLA Losii Dikho was sworn in as the deputy chief minister. Kangpokpi MLA Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki



leader, took the oath as deputy chief minister virtually from New Delhi. She has represented Kangpokpi as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) since 2012. During the first N Biren Singh government (2017-2020), she served as Minister for Social Welfare and Cooperation. In the second Biren Singh government, she served as the Cabinet Minister overseeing Commerce & Industry, Textiles, and

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ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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KT Rama Rao Alleges ₹6,000 Cr Scam by CM Revanth Reddy-Linked Firm

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday alleged a massive scam involving contracts worth around Rs 6,000 crore awarded to KLSR Infotech, a company allegedly linked to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and currently under insolvency proceedings. He demanded the immediate cancellation of these contracts, blacklisting of the company, and a thorough investigation by central agencies. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said the party had consistently exposed irregularities under the



Congress government, including controversies surrounding the Musi River project, Lagacherla lands, AMRUT scheme tenders, Singareni coal allocations, and HILTP land deals. He claimed these revelations triggered retaliatory summons against BRS leaders in the alleged phone-tapping case. A deeper investigation by

the party, he said, uncovered a large-scale benami operation. Rama Rao linked the issue to a January 23 Supreme Court notice to the Telangana and Union governments regarding KLSR’s insolvency case. The court reportedly sought explanations on how government contracts were awarded while insolvency

proceedings were ongoing since 2023, without authorization from the interim resolution professional (IRP). He alleged that between 2023 and 2025, KLSR received multiple high-value contracts, including the Kodangal-Narayanpur Lift Irrigation Project, Young India Schools, AMRUT and Jal Jeevan Mission works, road contracts in Medak and Suryapet, Mission Bhagiratha supplies, and a veterinary college construction in Kodangal. Rama Rao said, “The Supreme Court has questioned why a bankrupt company was entrusted with Rs 6,000 crore of public funds. If proven, this is not just governance

failure but abuse of power.” He urged halting ongoing works, cancelling all contracts, and blacklisting KLSR until the court-ordered probe concludes. He also called for CBI, ED, and SFIO investigations, directly challenging Union minister G Kishan Reddy. Rama Rao cited government records, IT raids, and company disclosures to allege fund diversions and attempts to influence the legal process. He also released photos showing Revanth Reddy using a luxury vehicle registered to the company before his tenure as Chief Minister, urging him and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud to respond to the charges.

BJP Fails Telangana, AAP Slams Centre Ahead of National President’s Visit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused the BJP of neglecting Telangana and failing to release funds owed to the state. Leaders welcoming the BJP National President, the party says, are trying to hide the Centre’s betrayal of Telangana people. State Working President Burra Ramu Goud and leader Pekshan Raj criticized the Centre for withholding funds collected from Telangana, calling it a “clear anti-Telangana stance.” AAP highlighted multiple pending projects and unfulfilled promises: Bayyaram steel plant, Kacheguda railway coach factory, Hyderabad



Metro Phase II funding, backward region allocations, regional ring roads, and railway projects. Institutions like IIM and central schools remain absent, while the Palamuru lift irrigation scheme and the Samakka-Saralakka Jathara were denied national recognition. The Adilabad airport and cement factory funding are also stalled. “Pre-election promises, post-election silence—

this is BJP governance,” said AAP. Leaders must answer for these injustices before celebrating the National President, or the gestures will be seen as political theatrics masking betrayal. AAP reaffirmed its commitment to fight for Telangana’s rights and ensure justice for its people, stressing that questioning the Centre is their duty and resisting discrimination is their responsibility.

E. Raghu Suspended for Negligence: Koya Harsha

PEDDAPALLI
Wakeup telangana

District Collector Koya Harsha has issued orders suspending Chainman E. Raghu for negligence in performing his official duties. E. Raghu, who is currently on deputation at the Manthani Revenue Divisional Officer’s Office, was repeatedly found to be negligent despite receiving multiple memos highlighting the need to



improve his conduct. According to reports from the Manthani RDO, he remained absent from duty without prior intimation

starting January 13, 2026, which further highlighted his disregard for official responsibilities. After a careful review of available records and evidence, the District Collector decided to suspend E. Raghu, who is originally posted as a Chainman at the Kamanpur Tahsildar Office, citing dereliction of duty. The suspension order clearly states that he is not allowed to leave the head-

quarters during this period without prior permission. The Collector emphasized that this action reflects the administration’s commitment to maintaining accountability and discipline among government staff. Officials were reminded that any negligence in official duties would be addressed strictly to ensure the integrity and efficiency of public service.

Senior Journalist Subash Krishna Birthday Celebrated

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior journalist and Mana Telangana Abids Zone Incharge D.S. Subash Krishna celebrated his birthday in Hyderabad amidst a distinguished gathering of leaders from politics, social organizations, and the media fraternity. Former SETWIN Director S. Danraj and senior BRS leader Meesala



Kranthi attended the event and praised Subash Krishna’s commitment to grassroots journalism and his role in highlighting public issues in the Abids

zone. Adding to the occasion, Manne Sridhar Rao, National President of the National Ambedkar Sena, along with State Pres-

ident Taluka Rajesh, extended warm greetings and lauded his consistent service to society through media. Several journalists and close associates, including Alwal Shiva Kumar, Suman, Naveen, Kamal Kumar, Ramesh, and Karthik, were present, sharing personal moments and professional experiences with the veteran journalist.

VISWAM.AI and SFLC.in Launch Draft License to Protect Open Source AI

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

VISWAM.AI, a joint initiative of Swecha and IIIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with SFLC.in, has released a draft license for public consultation aimed at addressing critical gaps in existing open source licenses for AI, particularly around data usage, attribution, and the definition of openness. The release was announced at the stakeholder roundtable “Understanding Trust and Safety in AI: From Code to Creativity” held at IIIT Hyderabad, organized alongside FOSS United and The Linux Foundation. Community-driven dataset initiatives, such as VISWAM.AI’s Telugu datasets, have gained momentum, yet the lack of appropriate licensing frameworks creates the risk of large corporations



exploiting these datasets without proper attribution or reciprocal contribution. Existing open source licenses, while effective for software code, do not protect training data—the essential fuel for modern AI—from appropriation. The draft license introduces key principles including community ownership and reciprocity, ensuring that the value derived from community-generated contributions flows back to the community, drawing inspiration from copyleft licenses like the GNU GPL. It also emphasizes

verifiability, requiring that AI data provenance be transparent to detect bias and ensure safety, since openness of source code alone is insufficient if the underlying data is biased or opaque. VISWAM.AI and SFLC.in will conduct a series of online and in-person consultations to gather feedback, with the draft license available for discussion here . Kiran Chandra Yarlagadda, Chief Technologist at VISWAM.AI, noted that existing licenses were created for a pre-AI world and never addressed

whether cultural or community data could be used to train neural networks, and this draft license ensures proprietary models cannot appropriate community work without attribution. Prasanth Sugathan, Legal Director at SFLC.in, emphasized that creators’ rights must be protected so that big tech cannot exploit community contributions without acknowledgment. VISWAM.AI focuses on AI for social good, with projects including AI Chandamama Kathalu, Swecha OS, and Gon-thuka, a Telugu automatic speech recognition system with 1.5 million voice samples, while SFLC.in works at the intersection of technology law, digital freedom, and public policy, advocating for privacy, civil liberties, and responsible adoption of technology.

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 finalise 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.

Workshop on “AI for Engineers” Empowers CBIT Students

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Department of ECE, CBIT, in collaboration with IETE-ISF, successfully conducted a three-day workshop on “AI for Engineers – Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency using AI” from February 2–4, 2026, under the AICTE–MIC IIC 8.0 initiative. The workshop began with an inaugural session highlighting AI’s role in advancing engineering research and innovation. Sessions were led by Ms. Uma Desu, Chief AI Officer, who shared insights on AI’s impact on electronics engineering, research workflows, and industrial practices. Day 1 focused on AI-enabled automation and RPA tools such as UiPath and n8n, demonstrating



industrial applications in electronics and VLSI domains. Around 65 problem statements were provided, and students formed teams to develop AI-based solutions under expert guidance. Day 2 covered AI-driven system development, no-code platforms, prompt engineering, and applied machine learning, equipping participants to transform ideas into functional digital systems while exploring AI certifications and career pathways.

The final day featured project evaluations, with the top three teams recognized for innovation and implementation. Certificates were awarded to the top ten teams. The valedictory session acknowledged the support of CBIT leadership, faculty, and coordinators. The workshop enhanced students’ understanding of emerging AI technologies and prepared them for future research and industry challenges.

TPYC Slams ‘Zero Budget’ for Telangana, Stages Massive Protest

SIRCILLA
Wakeup telangana

A massive protest erupted near the Telangana State Secretariat in Hyderabad following the presentation of the Union Budget 2026-27, with the Telangana Pradesh Youth Congress (TPYC) denouncing it as a “Zero Budget” for the state. Protesters accused the Modi government of completely neglecting Telangana, with no specific alloca-



tions or new central schemes for infrastructure, welfare, or industrial development. The demonstration was led by TPYC President

Shri Shiva Charan Reddy and Youth Congress In-charge for Telangana Smt. Roshni Jaiswal. Senior party leaders including Muneer Jabar (Hyderabad

District In-charge), Rahul (Hyderabad District President), Syed Azeez Uddin (Assembly Vice President), and the Social Media Coordinator actively joined, alongside a large contingent of Congress workers and supporters. The protest was loud, organized, and designed to highlight the state’s development needs being ignored in the central budget. Participants demanded that the govern-

ment immediately announce substantial, targeted allocations to propel Telangana’s progress. The event successfully garnered extensive media coverage and public attention, sparking debates over central fund distribution. The Congress termed the demonstration a “resounding success” in mobilizing public opinion and applying political pressure on the ruling party at the center.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana state office of the Right to Information (RTI) Act Implementation Committee was inaugurated in Meerpet by Information Commissioner Desala Bhopal, along with the committee’s founding national president, Dr. Chanti Mudiraj. The initiative aims to strengthen transparency and accountability in government. Speaking at the event, Commissioner Bhopal emphasized that the RTI Act, introduced in 2005,



ensures citizens’ access to information and mandates that every government office display a citizen charter. He highlighted the importance of using the Act responsibly and urged officials to provide information promptly

without fear. Bhopal noted that pending RTI cases are being addressed through district-level visits and that India ranks 8th globally in RTI implementation, with efforts underway to achieve the top position. Telangana state president Surasravanti, national general secretary Mallam Venkatesham, vice-presidents Gopinathan Kattakola, state secretary Kadamanchi Ajay, and several district leaders including Muchcharla Mallesh and P. Raju Goud participated in the launch.

Social Equality is the Foundation for Development: District Collector Pamela Satpathy



District Collector Pamela Satpathy stated that true development of the nation is possible only through social equality, ensuring progress for all sections of society. She was speaking at the Telangana Social Justice Day celebrations held at the Government BC Girls College Hostel in Bhagat Nagar. Addressing the gathering, the District Collector said that the main objective of Social Justice Day is to provide equal opportunities to every section of society. She emphasized that persons with disabilities and the underprivileged must be given equal opportunities, and that officials have a responsibility to ensure justice and essential services for senior citizens. She called upon everyone to remain united, support one another, and collectively work towards building a strong and inclusive society. Highlighting the importance of education, Pamela Satpathy encouraged students to move forward with strong aspirations. She especially urged girl students to pursue higher education, secure employment opportunities, and achieve economic empowerment.

Congress kidnapping BRS candidates out of fear, says Harish Rao

MEDAK Wakeup telangana

Former Minister T Harish Rao on Wednesday said the Congress party was kidnapping BRS candidates in the municipal elections, alleging that the ruling party had resorted to such tactics out of fear of defeat as public anger against the government continued to grow. Addressing an election campaign meeting in Medak on Wednesday evening, Rao said voters across Telangana had turned anti-incumbent as the Congress government

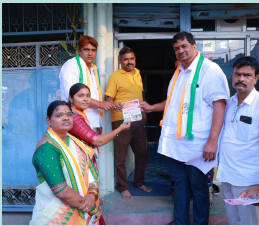


failed to fulfil the promises it made during the elections. He asserted that the BRS would return to power within two years and that K Chandrashekhar Rao would once again assume office as Chief Minister. Rao warned that those who were harassing BRS cadres and leaders after the Congress came to power

would be taught a lesson in due course. Recalling the sacrifices made by K Chandrashekhar Rao for the cause of Telangana, he said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was never a match for him, pointing out that while Chandrashekhar Rao resigned from his post multiple times for the Telangana movement, Revanth Reddy had refused to resign even once. Highlighting the development achieved during the BRS regime, the former minister recalled that Medak received a railway station, a collectorate, an SP office and

several other facilities under the party's rule, which he said reflected the government's commitment for regional development. Referring to the recent Union Budget presented in Parliament, Rao alleged that BJP leaders failed to secure anything substantial for Telangana despite the party having eight MPs and an equal number of MLAs in the State. While Telangana received a raw deal in the Budget, he said, the Centre sanctioned multiple projects to the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

War of Words Intensifies in Karimnagar's 42nd Division Ahead of Municipal Polls



Karimnagar city is witnessing an intense political atmosphere as the municipal election campaign gains momentum. The 42nd Division has emerged as a major political battleground, with sharp verbal exchanges between the Congress and BRS parties. Congress Party Karimnagar Assembly Constituency In-charge Velichala Rajender Rao launched a scathing attack on former Mayor Sunil Rao, accusing him of large-scale corruption during his tenure. Addressing voters in the division, Velichala described Sunil Rao as a "big fraud and corruption whale" and urged the public to defeat him decisively in the elections. Velichala alleged that Sunil Rao amassed hundreds of crores of rupees illegally while serving as Mayor and constructed a highly luxurious bungalow equipped with 22 air conditioners. He questioned how a person who once travelled on a modest scooter could allegedly become the owner of massive wealth within a short span of time. On Wednesday evening, Velichala Rajender Rao inaugurated Congress party offices in several divisions of Karimnagar city, including Ganesh Nagar.

Minister Vivek Criticises BRS, Urges Congress Victory in Medak Elections



MEDAK Wakeup telangana

Minister for Employment and Labour and Medak Parliament election in-charge, Vivek Venkataswamy, criticised the BRS and the Kalvakuntla family, accusing them of looting Telangana and plunging the state into massive debt during their decade-long rule. Speaking to Congress candidates of Medak Municipality, he alleged that the family amassed enormous personal and party wealth, with BRS deposits reportedly at ₹800 crores and electoral bonds worth ₹400 crores received from Megha Krishna Reddy. Vivek claimed that the BRS neglected the poor, failing to provide promised double-bedroom houses while the Kalvakuntla family constructed luxurious farmhouses on vast land. He also highlighted that the previous government left the state with a debt of ₹8 lakh crores, far exceeding its income of ₹1 lakh crore, and praised the

current Congress administration for beginning to correct the financial imbalance. The minister emphasised Congress initiatives, including the free bus scheme for women, ration card distribution, pension provision, and supply of fine rice, with an overall expenditure of ₹13,000–23,000 crores for social welfare and women's self-help groups. He also announced a forthcoming scheme providing women ₹2,500 per month. Highlighting the municipal elections, Vivek expressed confidence that Congress will win 90% of Medak's councillor seats and 80% statewide. He urged voters to support Congress for continued development, asserting that attention will now shift to Medak after previous neglect. The programme saw the participation of Medak MLA Mynampally Rohit Rao, former MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao, and DCC President Anjaneyulu Goud.

Uproar at MLA Gangula's Residence over B-Form Discrepancies

KARIMNAGAR Wakeup telangana Santosh kumar

The ongoing Municipal Election campaign in Karimnagar took a volatile turn on Tuesday as disgruntled Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers staged a massive protest in front of the residence of former Minister and Karimnagar MLA, Gangula Kamalakara. The agitation erupted following allegations of "irregularities" and the "sale" of party B-Forms to eleventh-hour entrants. Protest and Allegations The political atmosphere turned



tense when several aspirants, who had already filed their nominations, realized they were being denied the official B-Forms. Angry supporters of these candidates gathered outside the MLA's house, accusing the leadership of prioritizing monetary gains over party loyalty. In a symbolic act of defiance, protesters set fire to BRS

party scarves and campaign literature, raising slogans against the MLA. The "Tenth-Day" Controversy The primary grievance centers around the 2nd Division, where Kolagani Sagar, a long-time party loyalist, was reportedly denied a ticket. Protesters alleged that Sagar had been given a firm assurance of the B-Form, only to be sidelined at the last minute in favor of a candidate who joined the party just ten days ago. "We have worked for the party for years, building it from the ground up. Giving a B-Form to a newcomer

while ignoring loyal cadres is a betrayal of the highest order," a local leader stated during the dharna. High Stakes in Karimnagar With the Municipal Elections drawing near, this internal rift poses a significant challenge for the BRS leadership in one of its key strongholds. As of Tuesday evening, the protest continued, with aspirants demanding a transparent review of the ticket distribution process. The MLA's office has yet to release an official statement regarding the "cash-for-ticket" allegations.

₹40.70 Crore Development Projects Launched in Ramachandrapuram



KARIMNAGAR Wakeup telangana

Foundation-laying and inauguration ceremonies were held on Wednesday for development projects worth ₹40.70 crore in the Ramachandrapuram Division. The events were presided over by City Mayor Gadwal Vijay-

alakshmi, Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, and Graduate MLC Anji Reddy. Corporators Pushpa Nagesh, Sindhu Adarsh Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Hemant, and other officials also participated. The projects include construction of a community hall in Srinivas

Nagar, laying of CC roads, and installation of underground drainage systems in Ramachandrapuram. Additional initiatives involve the development of a Hindu crematorium and Gandhi Balavihar Park in Srinivas Nagar, renovation of the Old Ramachandrapuram meat market, beautification of Rayasamudram Lake, cleaning and water restoration in local ponds, construction of CC roads and open drains in several colonies, new community halls, a women's federation building, and a theme park.

DC Directs Officials to Resolve Public Grievances

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A Prajavani (Public Grievance) programme was conducted today, Monday, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ms. D. Shashi Rekha, with the participation of officials from various departments including Revenue (AMC Mani Karan), ACP Ms. Rani, DE (SWM) Vasidhar, AMOH Dr. Srikanth Reddy, SS Srinivas, Engineering Officer Ms. Sridevi, Entomology Officer R. Chinnna, Veterinary Officer Dr. T. Sanjay Reddy, UBD Officer Amruthamma, UCD Officer



A. Vijayalakshmi, and Electrical Officer Shiva Shankar Reddy. During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to immediately address and resolve the grievances received from the public. A total of 13 complaints were registered, comprising nine related to Town Planning, one each from Engineering and Entomology, and two related to Sanitation.

Grand BJP Welcome at Shamshabad Airport Led by Rakesh Jaiswal

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a powerful display of unity and dedication, Rakesh Jaiswal, Corporator of Jambagh Division, led a grand and enthusiastic welcome at Shamshabad Airport for Nitin Nabin. Starting from the BJP State Office, Nampally, the event was organized under the dynamic leadership of Rakesh Jaiswal, along with Division President A. Raj Kumar, and witnessed the spirited participation of committed BJP karyakartas. The vibrant reception reflected the strength, discipline, and organizational power of the BJP, showcasing the unwavering commitment of party workers toward the nation and people-centric development. Slogans, energy, and collective enthusiasm filled the atmosphere, turning the welcome into a memorable and inspiring moment. Such



events reaffirm the growing momentum of the party at the grassroots level and highlight the active, people-connected leadership of Rakesh Jaiswal, who continues to energize and mobilize party cadres with vision and dedication. Proud moments like these inspire us to work harder for the nation and accelerate the journey of development and good governance.

24th Brahmotsavam Concludes at Bowenpally Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The 24th annual Brahmotsavam celebrations at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, New City Colony, Bowenpally, concluded on Wednesday with traditional rituals and a felicitation ceremony, marking the end of a spiritually vibrant five-day festival. The final day featured key Vedic ceremonies, beginning with Maha Purnahuti, signifying the completion of the Yagna. This was followed by Shataghata Abhishekam, during which the deities



were ceremonially bathed using 100 sacred kalashas. Hundreds of devotees gathered for Chakra Snanam, witnessing the holy immersion of the Sudarshana Chakra, and Pushpa Yagam, where the deities were worshipped with a profusion of flowers. A felicitation ceremony

was organized by the Temple Committee to honor individuals who contributed to the smooth conduct of the Brahmotsavam and the Rath Yatra. Dignitaries felicitated included Sumanth Reddy and his spouse, former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap,

Begumpet ACP Gopal Krishna Murthy, CI Tirupati Raju, SI Shiva Shankar, Nanditha, and Taadband Hanuman Temple EO Narendra. The celebrations were held under the spiritual guidance of Chief Priest Tirumala Pawan Kumar Swamy, Temple Committee President R. Narayana, Vice-President Rammohan Rao, Secretary Yadhiah, and other executive members oversaw the arrangements. The committee expressed gratitude to New City Colony residents for their enthusiastic participation and support.

RC Reddy IAS Study Circle Celebrates APPSC Group-1 Success

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

RC Reddy IAS Study Circle hosted a grand Success Meet to celebrate the remarkable performance of its students in the APPSC Group-1 (2023) results, where nearly 50% of the selected candidates were trained at the institute, reaffirming its leadership in civil services coaching in South India. With a legacy spanning over 43 years, RC Reddy IAS Study Circle has produced 1,000+ Civil Services rankers and tens of thousands of State Services selections across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The institute also secured the highest number of top ranks in APPSC Group-2, further



strengthening its academic credentials. Addressing the gathering, Director R.C. Reddy attributed the success to disciplined academic systems and quality-driven training. "Our greatest achievement is seeing our students serve society in responsible administrative roles," he said. Assistant Director Ms. Sanghamitra highlighted

the institute's exam-oriented approach, stating that structured test series, rigorous evaluation by senior faculty, and continuous guidance across prelims, mains, and interviews were key contributors. "Consistently, students who perform well in our internal exams emerge as final achievers," she noted. Several selected candidates shared their prepara-

tion journeys. Bharathala Udhay Shankar, selected as Assistant Commissioner of State Tax, credited his Civil Services background and focused training at the institute. Deputy Collector B. Nikhila Sree praised the mains-oriented classes and interview guidance, while DSP Adapala Omkar Venkata Nageswara Rao noted that mock interviews closely matched the actual Commission process. The event was attended by newly selected officers including Deputy Collectors, DSPs, Assistant Commissioners of State Tax, RTOs, and other Group-1 officers, marking another milestone in the institute's enduring legacy of excellence.

'PM is Compromised': Suspended MPs Protest Outside Parliament

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Lok Sabha was adjourned on Wednesday following heavy sloganeering by Opposition members over the suspension of eight opposition MPs during the ongoing Budget Session. The House will resume proceedings at 12 pm. The suspended MPs were seen protesting outside Parliament, holding posters reading "PM is compromised." Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had made similar allegations while speaking to the media on the India-US trade agreement. The MPs suspended for the remainder of the



Budget Session include Congress members Hibi Eden, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Chamala Kiran

Kumar Reddy and Dean Kuriakose, along with CPI(M) MP S Venkatesan. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to reply to the motion of thanks to the

President's Address later in the day. Samajwadi Party MP Anand Bhadauria came out in defence of Rahul Gandhi, saying that the Leader of Opposition represents the voice of people who voted against the BJP. He accused the ruling party of attempting to silence the Opposition whenever issues related to national security are raised in Parliament. A day earlier, Rahul Gandhi had stated that he would not quote from any magazine article based on former Army Chief General MM Naravane's unpublished memoir, but would speak briefly about Chinese actions during the Kailash Range standoff. The government main-

tained that he could not refer to an unpublished memoir or related article. The Chair directed Rahul Gandhi to resume his speech on the motion of thanks to the President's Address and adhere to the ruling already given. When the House resumed, BJP member Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named eight opposition members. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju then moved a motion to suspend the eight MPs for the remainder of the Budget Session for violating rules and throwing papers on the Chair. The motion was adopted by the House amid protests from Opposition members.

Gas Tanker Accident Chokes Mumbai-Pune Expressway

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

It was a literally nightmare experience to thousands of commuters, who were stuck for more than 24 hours at the Mumbai-Pune Expressway after a CNG tanker overturned in the middle of the road, triggering a massive traffic jam that stretched to almost 25 kilometres. The majority of commuters were left stranded on the Expressway since Tuesday evening, forcing them to spend the whole night in their cars without food and water. Help came only in the afternoon when Police distributed water and food to them. According to officials, the incident occurred near the Adoshi tunnel in Raigad district at around 5 pm on Tuesday when the tanker, allegedly travelling at high speed, lost control due to the slope near the Adoshi Tunnel on the Mumbai-bound route and overturned. Soon after the accident, gas was found leaking from the tanker, causing panic among motorists. The tanker was carrying propylene gas, which is highly flammable. Due to the high risk of a

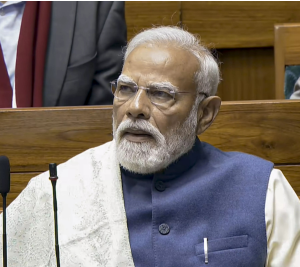


gas leak and potential explosion, authorities immediately suspended all vehicular movement on the Mumbai-bound lane, resulting in a gridlock that stretched for over 25 kilometers. "A potentially dangerous situation developed because the tanker was transporting propylene, which is extremely flammable. As soon as the leakage was confirmed, we implemented full emergency protocols," a senior highway police officer said. The chaos left hundreds of vehicles stranded and caused massive congestion on both carriageways. The vehicular movement in both directions came to a complete halt, with passengers - including women and children - deprived of food, water and toilet facilities.

Opposition Stir Puts Off Modi's LS Speech

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha did not take place on Wednesday despite indications from official sources, with the House adjourned for the day amid sustained Opposition disruptions. The Prime Minister was not present in the House when proceedings resumed, and BJP member P.P. Chaudhary was speaking when Opposition members entered the Well of the House and moved towards the Treasury benches. Women MPs from Opposition parties, led by Congress member Varsha Gaikwad, protested and marched towards the Prime Minister's chair. Sandhya Rai, who was



in the Chair, adjourned the House for the day within minutes of re-assembly at 5 pm. The Lok Sabha had earlier been adjourned till 5 pm following uproar over remarks by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey targeting the Gandhi family. The ruling party later claimed that Opposition members ignored repeated appeals by senior ministers to return to their seats. The Prime Minister is now expected to reply to the Motion of Thanks in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday at 5 pm, during which he is likely to touch upon recently concluded trade agreements with the Euro-

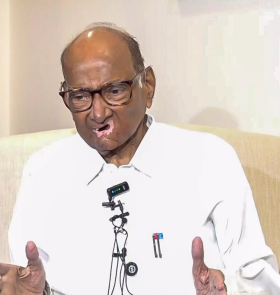
pean Union and the United States. Commenting on the Prime Minister's absence, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi said he was "scared" and alleged that Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Dubey "ran away like a bullet train". Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister did not want to face the truth and reiterated the charge in a post on X. Earlier in the day, the House witnessed repeated adjournments over Dubey's remarks and references to books critical of the Gandhi family. Presiding officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti cautioned Dubey that such references were not permitted, citing Rule 349, which bars members from reading from books or documents not connected with the

business of the House. As protests intensified and Dubey continued, the House was adjourned till 5 pm. Congress MPs later met Speaker Om Birla, objecting to the Chair allowing Dubey to speak while denying a similar opportunity to the Leader of the Opposition. Sources said the Congress conveyed that it would not allow the Prime Minister to speak unless Dubey was suspended. The Lok Sabha saw multiple adjournments during the day, at 11 am, noon and 2 pm, amid Opposition protests over references to a former Army chief's unpublished book and the India-US trade deal. Government sources had earlier indicated that the Prime Minister would reply to the debate at 5 pm, but the House could not function due to continued disruptions.

Fadnavis Has No Right To Comment on NCP Merger Talks: Sharad Pawar

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar on Wednesday reiterated that the late Ajit Pawar had been keen on a merger of the two NCP factions, asserting that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had "no right" to comment on the issue. Mr. Pawar said Ajit Pawar had held discussions with senior leader Jayant Patil, countering Mr. Fadnavis's claim that the former Deputy Chief Minister would have taken him into confidence had any such move been imminent. After Ajit Pawar's death, leaders of the Sharad Pawar-led faction had claimed that merger talks were at an advanced stage and that



February 12 had been finalised to announce the reunification. Dismissing the claims, Mr. Fadnavis had said Ajit Pawar never informed him of any such plan. "If the discussions had reached any final stage, Ajit Dada would have told us (BJP). Had any date been fixed, he would have informed us. He was part of our government; could he take such a decision without sharing these matters with us? I have no idea what talk he had with Sharad Pawar. As far as

we are concerned, we have no information regarding any such date," the Chief Minister had said earlier. Responding to the remarks, Mr. Pawar said, "I don't think the Chief Minister has any right to mention me. He was nowhere in the merger discussions. My colleagues, Jayant Patil and Ajit Pawar, were discussing it. There is nothing more to it than that." The former Union minister said this was not the time to engage in political discussions. "Right now is the time to support family members. We are not discussing political issues with anyone," he said. Earlier in the day, Mr. Pawar held a closed-door meeting with Ajit Pawar's sons, Parth and Jay, at Vidya Pratish-

than, an educational institution in Baramati. The meeting lasted about one and a half hours. Reports suggested that the discussion revolved around a proposal to build Ajit Pawar's memorial on the Vidya Pratishthan premises. However, Mr. Pawar dismissed the speculation. "I am not aware of any memorial for Ajit Pawar being built in Baramati. I am the chairman of the institution whose land is being discussed; at the very least, I should have been informed. No such discussion has taken place. We will sit together and decide what needs to be done, but it is not appropriate to comment on something that does not exist," he said.

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

displacement. Throughout the past several months, villagers, growers, and civil society groups held demonstrations demanding that the government rethink the proposed routes. Many insisted on transparent consultations, fair compensation, and alternative alignments that would not jeopardise Kashmir's horticultural economy. Their message was consistent—development must not come at the cost of fertile land and generational livelihoods. Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the Centre's decision, calling it a much-needed relief for Kashmir's agrarian sector. In a post on 'X', she said, "The decision to put the Pahalgam and Shopian railway lines on hold brings much needed relief to Kashmir's agrarian economy. These projects threatened to destroy scarce fertile land and push over a million rural families into uncertainty. Development that uproots farmers is not progress.

Rahul Shows.....

She alleged that the ruling establishment feared what the memoir might reveal about the leadership's response when China was "at our borders". "It is not as if there has never been debate in Parliament on China, foreign affairs or Pakistan," she said, rejecting the argument that such discussions would harm national interest. The Congress reiterated its demand for a comprehensive parliamentary discussion on the India-China situation, citing continued tensions along the LAC and lack of clarity on disengagement and de-escalation, and accused the government of avoiding accountability by curtailng Opposition voices.

Yumnam Khem.....

In the second Biren Singh government, she served as the Cabinet Minister overseeing Commerce & Industry, Textiles, and Cooperation. She is married to ST Thangboi Kipgen, who is the chairman of the Kuki National Front. Two others — Govindas Konthoujam of BJP and Kh Loken of National People's Party — were also sworn in as ministers. The ceremony was attended by sev-

eral BJP legislators, senior party functionaries, and top leaders of the NDA in the state. Earlier in the day, Mr Khemchand met Mr Bhalla, the Governor of Manipur, at Lok Bhavan in Imphal, and submitted a claim to form a BJP-led NDA government in the state. Soon after his swearing in, the chief minister Mr Khemchand said, "I am confident that with the formation of the new Council of Ministers, peace and development will serve as the guiding principles of the new government," He said that 36 tribal communities constitute Manipur and restoring and maintaining harmony among all the communities would be the priority of his government. "The appointment of deputy chief ministers would certainly help us in achieving our objectives of restoring peace and harmony," said Mr Khemchand during the interaction with reporters at Lok Bhavan. Mr Singh has a long-time association with RSS. He served the state in several key constitutional and ministerial positions in the state. Apart from politics, he has had a long association with Taekwondo. A black belt holder, he is a former vice-president of the Taekwondo Federation of India and has been involved in

the promotion of the sport in the Northeast.

SIR Row: Didi.....

He said the poll panel has to upload the reasons for citing names in the "logical discrepancy" list. Divan said that as of now, 1.36 crore persons have been issued notices after they were found to be in violation of logical discrepancies. Logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list include instances of a mismatch in the parent's name and the age difference between a voter and their parent being less than 15 years or more than 50 years. Divan said in many cases, names of persons issued notices for logical discrepancy were misspelt and it could be rectified easily. The CJI referred to a Bengali dialect and said at times, names are misspelt because of it. The bench said electoral roll revision, at times, deals with migration also, but genuine persons must remain in the voter list. "Every problem has a solution and we must ensure that no innocent person is left out," the CJI said. Banerjee alleged that the poll panel is not allowing Aadhaar and seeking other documents from the voters for electoral roll revision. She

claimed that many alive persons have been declared dead by the EC during the ongoing process. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, countered the charges and alleged that the state government has provided the services of only 80 grade-two officers like SDMs for overseeing the SIR process.

War of Words.....

The BJP fielded its Sikh leaders, including Puri and Delhi minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, to accuse the Congress of harbouring the same "anti-Sikh mentality" that was on display at the height of the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. Sirsa said the "real traitor" was the Gandhi family that desecrated the Golden Temple in Amritsar with tanks and guns and burnt Sikhs alive by putting tyres around their necks. Bittu, a three-time MP from Ludhiana and Anandpur Sahib, is serving as the Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries. He switched to the BJP from the Congress ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. While Bittu was entering Parliament on Wednesday morning, Gandhi called him "a traitor" as the minister retorted with "desh ke dushman" (enemy of the nation) jibe.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

GNIT certificate row in HC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice N. Tukaramji of the Telangana High Court ordered notice to Guru Nanak Institutions of Technology (GNIT) in a writ petition filed by 35 engineering students questioning withholding of original certificates to compel recovery of fees. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Narayanadas Sai Vivek and 34 others. The petitioners pointed out that GNIT unlawfully retained vital academic documents, including SSC and Intermediate certificates, semester-wise marks memos, degree certificates, transfer certificates and bonafide

certificates. It was argued that such retention gravely impaired their ability to pursue higher education, seek employment and appear for competitive examinations. It was further contended that the action of the institution was in clear violation of the UGC Regulations, 2018, as well as relevant circulars issued by AICTE and JNTU Hyderabad. Emphasising that the students have been made to suffer for a prolonged period, counsel for the petitioners Narayanasai Vivek sought immediate release of the original certificates. The judge, after hearing preliminary submissions, ordered notice and posted the matter for further.

HC rejects custody habeas petition

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar dismissed a habeas corpus plea filed by a father seeking production and custody of his minor son. The panel was dealing with a plea filed by Abdul Raheem Uddin, who alleged that the mother was illegally detaining his eight-year-old son, Sheikh Tamim Uddin Thani, denying access and communication, and disobeying a visitation order passed in his favour by

the Family Court. He contended that such continued withholding of custody amounted to unlawful detention warranting habeas corpus relief. On the contrary, the state argued that the petitioner was, in effect, seeking implementation of a Family Court order through a writ of habeas corpus, which was impermissible. He further contended that the petitioner had not even approached the concerned police authorities with a complaint, and that disputed custody issues could not be agitated in a habeas corpus petition before a constitutional court.

DCA Cracks Down On Medical Device

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, has busted the unlicensed manufacture and sale of medical devices at Bluesemi Research and Development, Raidurg, Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy district. Stocks worth about ₹4 lakh were seized during a raid conducted on February 3, 2026. Acting on credible information, DCA officials, along with officers from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), carried out a surprise in-

spection and detected the illegal manufacture and distribution of a medical device named Patient Monitor (EYVA – Electronic Medical Device), claimed to be used for monitoring human vital parameters. Officials found large quantities of the monitors manufactured and stocked for sale without a valid licence. User manuals and sale invoices were also seized. According to the DCA, medical devices falling under Risk Class A (sterile and measuring) and Risk Class B categories mandatorily require a manufacturing licence in



Form MD-5, issued by the Drugs Control Administration. The seized product is classified as a medical device under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. Authorities stressed that such devices must be manufactured only under a valid licence and in strict compliance with Quality Management System requirements prescribed

under the Fifth Schedule of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. Products must also meet prescribed standards under the rules. The DCA warned that medical devices manufactured without a licence may not meet quality standards and could pose serious risks to public health. Manufacturing without the required licence is a punishable offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, carrying imprisonment of up to five years. Officials said further investigation is underway and strict legal action will be taken against all those involved in the illegal activity.

Maheshwara Medical College moves for enhancement of PG seats

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka of the Telangana High Court admitted a writ petition filed by Maheshwara Medical College and Hospital, Patancheru challenging the rejection of its request for full enhancement of postgraduate (MD/MS) seats for the academic year 2025-26. The judge was dealing with a writ plea challenging the action of the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) rejecting its second appeal under the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, thereby upholding the decision of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). It was contended that while MARB denied full enhancement of seats on the

ground of alleged “inflated clinical data,” it simultaneously granted a partial increase. The college contended that the same clinical and faculty data relied upon to grant partial approval was rejected to deny full statutory entitlement, rendering the impugned order internally inconsistent and in violation of constitutional guarantees. The institution further contended that it has no deficiencies in infrastructure or faculty and operates a hospital with over 905 beds, maintains faculty attendance exceeding 95 per cent, duly verified through the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS). It further argued that under prevailing PG regulations, seat entitlement is primarily determined by faculty strength.

Plea claims GHMC inaction

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice Lakshmi Narayan Alishetty of the Telangana High Court took on file a plea alleging inaction on the part of GHMC in preventing alleged illegal and unauthorised constructions by Meridian School at Madhapur, Serilingampally mandal. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Umesh Lunker and another. According to the petition, the petitioners were owners of land in Survey No. 14/1, Madhapur, where Meridian School was allegedly carrying out construction

activities without obtaining a sanctioned building plan from the competent authorities. It was contended that the petitioners submitted a detailed representation requesting the authorities to restrain the school management from proceeding with further construction. Despite the lapse of several years, no action was taken. The petitioner contended that the unauthorised constructions had continued unchecked due to administrative apathy. Counsel appearing for the respondents contended that the school had not deviated from the permissions granted.

Telugu Varsity Staff Regularisation Under Review

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

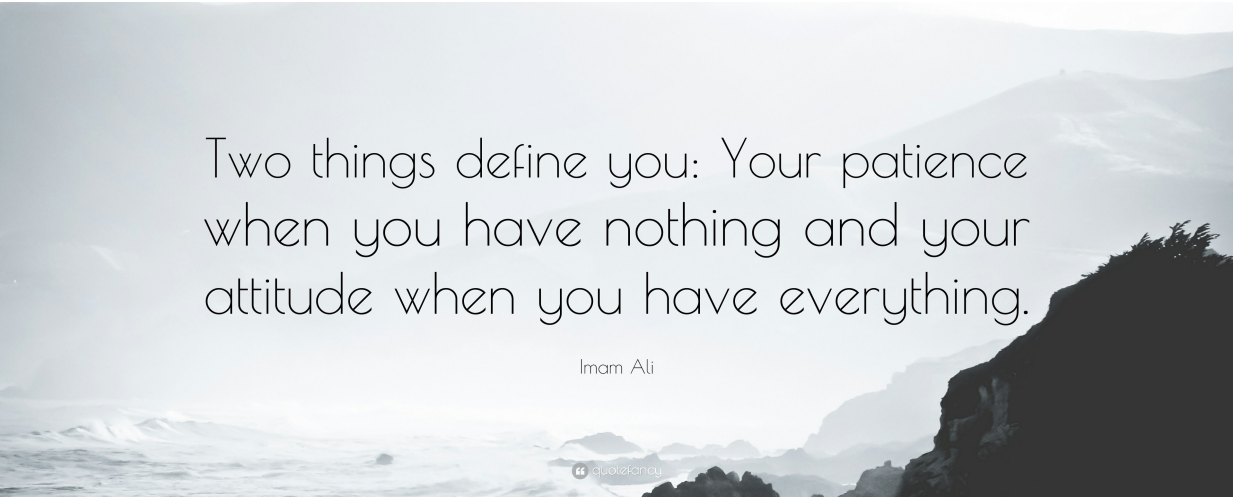
Senior IAS Officer Yogitha Rana on Wednesday personally assured the High Court that regularisation of staff of the Telugu University is under active consideration. The senior IAS officer was present in court in a contempt case alleging that the authorities had wilfully failed to regularise the services of a class of employees despite directions to do so by the High Court. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was dealing with a contempt case initiated by office subordinates of Potti Sreeramulu Telugu



University alleging wilful disobedience of its order passed in 2020. The petitioners alleged that five years have elapsed since the order was passed directing them to regularise the services of the petitioners on a one-time basis from the date each of them completed 10 years of service on daily wages, without entitlement to monetary arrears. However, that order was not complied with. The petitioners further contended that the very

same order had been implemented in respect of similarly placed employees in connected matters. However, the petitioners continued to be denied the benefit of regularisation. When the matter was taken up today, Yogitha Rana, IAS, principal secretary of higher education, appeared in person before the Court. It was pointed out that the concerned officer had processed the file and that the file was presently pending before the competent au-

thority. Counsel further informed the Court that the finance department had gathered requisite information from various departments and placed the contents on record. Taking note of the submissions, the panel observed that the writ order passed earlier had attained finality, particularly after the dismissal of the special leave petition before the Supreme Court, and that continued delay in implementation could not be justified indefinitely. The Court, as last indulgence, granted three weeks’ time to the respondents to file a counter and to demonstrate compliance. The panel adjourned the matter for further hearing.



EDITORIAL

WILL 15% INCREASE IN DEFENCE BUDGET GIVE INDIA MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK?

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Never before since the end of the Second World War has the world been so badly fractured as now, especially since Donald Trump's return to the White House in January 2025. That he, holding the most powerful office in the world, who should have been seriously working to uphold the global rules-based order, is doing just the opposite, has left most nations, including most long-term US allies, seriously worried. It is needless to say that some of his policies also impact India, in more ways than one, including in strategic matters. Overall, as the strategic and security environment worsens the world over, including in South Asia, India needs to factor in its security calculus the manifold existing challenges and the newer ones emerging. Our own Operation Sindoor involvement

highlighted the nuances of a fragile and hostile geopolitical environment in our neighbourhood and the critical imperative of being operationally ready and better militarily prepared against our own adversaries at all times. Unquestionably, adequate resources thus have to be allocated for ensuring security preparedness -- but are we doing it? India's finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, in her record ninth consecutive Budget presentation, and the Narendra Modi government's 13th Budget in the Lok Sabha on February 1, has allocated Rs 7.85 lakh crores for the defence budget in FY 2026-2027 -- a satisfying 15 per cent jump from last year's defence budget and which is two per cent of India's GDP. Last year's allocation was Rs 6.58 lakh crores for the defence ministry, which was around just 1.9 per cent of GDP. It may be noted that India's defence spending

currently accounts to around 14.5 per cent of the total Union Budget in 2026-27. Is the budget for this financial year adequate to ensure India's overall security build-up to cater for the formidable two-front threat that India faces from its main adversaries -- China and Pakistan -- both individually and collectively? That deserves serious analysis. India's parliamentary subcommittees have unanimously and consistently recommended that the nation's defence budget be raised to three per cent of GDP is quite well known but has never been implemented by any government of any political hue. In analysing the adequacy or otherwise of the allocations for the forthcoming financial year, it will be worthwhile to take a sharp look at the immediate requirements of our armed forces.



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Amazon, IIT Roorkee Partner to Develop Packaging from Agricultural Waste

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Amazon India today announced a collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee to develop innovative packaging materials from agricultural waste. This project aims to create non-wood paper technology that diverts agricultural waste from burning while reducing pressure on virgin wood pulp. These lightweight yet strong packaging materials offer recyclable and home-compostable alternatives to traditional wood pulp paper or plastic bags. The research will focus on converting crop residues such as wheat straw



and bagasse into high-quality pulp for paper mailers with performance comparable to conventional paper packaging. This helps reduce stubble burning in India by turning agricultural waste into valuable packaging material. It also reduces dependency on imported virgin wood pulp and could create additional income for farmers by providing a market for agricultural residues. The collaboration with



IIT Roorkee's Department of Paper and Packaging Technology will begin with lab-scale development and testing over a 15-month period. Subject to successful performance tests, Amazon will provide support to progress to industrial trials, process validation, and commercial production by mid to late next year. Abhinav Singh, Vice President of Operations at Amazon India said "At Amazon, we are building and man-

aging India's fastest, safest, and most reliable operations network, and we're committed to making it more sustainable. As part of this effort, we're partnering with IIT Roorkee to develop innovative packaging from crop residue. India generates nearly 500 million tons of this waste annually, and by repurposing it into packaging, we can support a more circular economy while reducing reliance on conventional materials."

Prof. Kamal Kishore Pant, Director IIT Roorkee said, "Sustainability is no longer a choice, it is an urgent national priority. This collaboration between IIT Roorkee and Amazon is a step towards

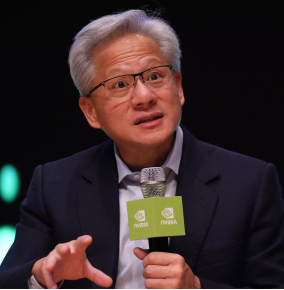
realizing India's vision of a circular economy, aligned with government missions such as Swachh Bharat, Startup India, and the National Resource Efficiency Policy. By transforming agricultural residues into biodegradable packaging materials, we are addressing the twin challenges of stubble burning and a reliance on virgin materials in India, while creating scalable solutions that can benefit industries, farmers, and society at large. This initiative showcases how academic research and industry partnerships can accelerate India's journey towards a more sustainable, and self-reliant future."

Nvidia's Huang Dismisses Fears AI Will Replace Software Tools As Stock Selloff Deepens

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang dismissed fears that artificial intelligence will replace software and related tools, calling the idea "illogical", after a significant selloff in global software stocks on Tuesday. The selloff, partly sparked by AI developer Anthropic's updated chatbot release last week that heightened fears of AI-driven disruption in the data and professional services industry, broadened on Wednesday, hitting software stocks in India, Japan and China.

Speaking at an artificial intelligence conference in San Francisco hosted by Cisco Systems Huang said



worries that AI will make software companies less relevant are misguided and AI will continue to rely on existing software rather than rebuild basic tools from scratch. "There's this notion that the tool in the software industry is in decline, and will be replaced by AI ... It is the most illogical thing in the world, and time will prove itself," Huang said. "If you were a human or robot, artificial, general

robotics, would you use tools or reinvent tools? The answer, obviously, is to use tools ... That's why the latest breakthroughs in AI are about tool use, because the tools are designed to be explicit." Shares of Indian IT exporters slumped 6.3% on Wednesday, tracking losses in global software stocks. Tech services firm Infosys was among the biggest losers, plunging 7.3%. China's CSI Software Services Index also fell 3%, while in Hong Kong, shares of software company Kingdee International Software Group tumbled more than 13%. In Japan, staffing agency Recruit Holdings and Nomura Research tumbled 9% and 8%, respectively.

Anthropic's AI Plug-ins Shake India's IT Sector; Stocks Dive 6%

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Indian IT stocks came under sharp selling pressure on Friday after US-based AI firm Anthropic launched new artificial intelligence software, sparking concerns over its potential impact on service-led technology jobs. The sell-off reflected growing investor unease that rapid advances in generative AI could disrupt traditional outsourcing and IT services models that Indian companies rely on. Anthropic, best known for its Claude chatbot, announced the release of 11 open-source plugins for its Claude Cowork tool on January 30. The new offering is designed to automate and streamline a range of workplace tasks, intensifying fears that AI-driven platforms could replace or significantly reduce demand for



human-led IT and business process services. Following the announcement, the NSE IT index plunged more than 7 per cent during intraday trade and was down close to 6 per cent around 2 pm IST. All constituents of the index traded in the red, registering losses ranging between 3.84 per cent and 7.29 per cent. Heavy-weight IT stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off, with Tata Consultancy Services falling 6.95 per cent and Infosys declining 7.29 per cent. Wipro slipped 4.09 per cent, while HCL Technologies lost 4.86 per cent. Mid-tier players such as LTI Mindtree and

Coforge also witnessed sharp declines of 5.93 per cent and 6.55 per cent, respectively. The weakness in Indian IT stocks mirrored a broader downturn in global technology markets. The Nasdaq Composite index dropped 1.43 per cent in overnight trade as investors turned cautious ahead of key earnings announcements from major AI-focused companies. Leading US tech stocks also ended lower, with Nvidia falling 2.84 per cent, Adobe sliding 7.31 per cent, Meta Platforms declining 2.08 per cent, Microsoft shedding 2.87 per cent and Amazon losing 1.79 per cent. Market participants said the sharp reaction underscores rising sensitivity to AI-related developments, as investors reassess long-term growth prospects and business models across the global IT and technology services sector.

Suchirindia Foundation to Host Sir C.V. Raman Young Genius Awards 2026 at Ravindra Bharathi

Hyderabad
Wakeup telangana

The Suchirindia Foundation has announced the winners of its 33rd National and State-Level Science Talent Search Examination along with the prestigious Sir C.V. Raman Young Genius Awards 2026, marking yet another milestone in its three-decade legacy of nurturing young scientific talent. A flagship initiative of the Foundation, the awards aim to identify and encourage academically gifted students while fostering innovation, curiosity, and excellence in science and education. Over the past 33 years, the Foundation has consistently provided a unique platform for students to showcase their intellectual abilities through a comprehensive competitive examination spanning



multiple academic disciplines. To honour the achievers, the Sir C.V. Raman Young Genius Awards Ceremony will be held at the iconic Ravindra Auditorium, Hyderabad. The event will be graced by chief guests Ghanta Srinivas Rao, TDP MLA, Chintamaneni Prabhakar, TDP MLA, and popular Tollywood actors Srikanth and Shivaji Raja. This year's examination witnessed overwhelming participation, with over 50,000 students from

more than 500 schools across the state taking part. The awards will recognise excellence across various categories, including: 20 Gold Medallists, 20 National Rankers, 20 State Rankers, 450 District Rankers, 10 Chathralaya Puraskar awardees, 11 Guru Brahma Award recipients. The honours celebrate not only meritorious students but also dedicated teachers and institutions that play a crucial role in shaping young minds. The ceremony is expected to draw

an audience of nearly 2,000 participants, including dignitaries, educationists, parents, and students. A special highlight of the event will be a motivational session by renowned psychiatrist and speaker Mr. Sudheer Sandra. About Suchirindia Foundation: Suchirindia Foundation is the social responsibility arm of Suchirindia Infratech (P) Limited, a leading infrastructure organisation. Committed to building a progressive and inclusive society, the Foundation un-

dertakes a wide range of initiatives in education, rural development, healthcare, and community empowerment. Its notable programmes include Sankalp Divas celebrations, village development projects, educational infrastructure support, medical camps, and recognition of social reformers. Over the years, the Foundation has honoured eminent personalities such as Anna Hazare, Sunderlal Bahuguna, Prakash Amte, and Dr. Kiran Bedi for their contributions to society. Legacy of the Sir C.V. Raman Young Genius Awards: Launched in 1994, the Sir C.V. Raman Young Genius Awards have emerged as one of India's most respected platforms for recognising young academic talent. Aligned with the Foundation's motto "Utthishta Bharatha", the initiative encourages students

RBI's Gold Purchases Drops to 4 Tonnes in 2025 From 73 Tonnes in 2024

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

With gold prices rocketing in 2025, the Reserve Bank of India bought just 4 tonnes of gold in 2025, against 73 tonnes in 2024. Globally, the net purchases of central banks were reported to be 328 tonnes in 2025, a tad lower than the net purchases in 2025. RBI bought just 4 tonnes in 2025 and of this, 3.4 tonnes was purchased in the first quarter, 0.4 tonnes in the second quarter, 0.2 tonnes in the third quarter and zero tonnes in the fourth quarter, as per the data of World Gold Council. In 2024, RBI had purchased 73 tonnes and 16 tonnes were bought in 2023. In 2021, it had purchased 77 tonnes. Globally, central banks bought 19 tonnes of gold in December, taking the



net purchases for the full year of 2025 to 328 tonnes. This is lower than the 345 tonnes of net purchases recorded in 2024. The National Bank of Poland was the largest reported net buyer in 2025, adding 102 tonnes to its gold reserves. Kazakhstan 57 tonnes, State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ) 53 tonnes, Brazil 43 tonnes, China 27 tonnes and Turkey 27 tonnes were the other significant buyers during the year. The largest net sellers for 2025 were Singapore 26 tonnes, Ghana 12 tonnes and Russia 6 tonnes.

Desi, Wonder Hot Chillies Fetch Record Prices

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Chilli prices registered a sharp rise this week at the Enumamula Agricultural Market Yard in Warangal, bringing relief to farmers after years of low returns. The indigenous 'Desi' variety touched a three-year high of Rs 41,200 per quintal on Tuesday, while 'Yellow Chilli' fetched up to Rs 44,000 per quintal. Market officials said such rates had not been recorded in the last three to four years. The highest price for the Desi variety was secured by a farmer from Kurnool district, who brought around six quintals of premium-quality produce to the market. Traders engaged in competitive bidding, citing superior colour, pungency and overall quality. Officials attributed the price surge to strong export demand



and reduced cultivation in major chilli-growing states such as Madhya Pradesh. Other varieties also saw gains. The 'Wonder Hot' variety rose by about Rs 5,000 in a single day to reach Rs 37,100 per quintal on Wednesday. The record price was realised by farmer R. Vinod from Neelampalli village in Palimela mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, through the Keerthana Adithi commission agency. Market officials said prices had remained

subdued in previous seasons due to poor-quality arrivals. With the pickling season approaching and steady export orders, they said the upward trend was likely to continue. While 'Teja' and other hybrid varieties are trading between Rs 19,000 and Rs 20,000 per quintal, officials noted that the premium commanded by Desi and Wonder Hot varieties reflected strong demand for quality produce with specific spice characteristics.

Paytm Q3 FY26 PAT Rises to ₹225 Crore

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited) reported its third straight profitable quarter in Q3 FY26, posting a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹225 crore, marking a year-on-year improvement of ₹433 crore. Operating revenue for the December 2025 quarter rose 20% YoY to ₹2,194 crore, driven by strong monetisation across payments and financial services, higher GMV, and growth in merchant subscriptions. EBITDA improved to ₹156 crore with a margin of 7%, reflecting a ₹379 crore YoY improvement due to operating leverage and revenue growth. Contribution profit increased 30% YoY to ₹1,249 crore, with con-



tribution margin expanding to 57%. Paytm continued to gain UPI market share for the third consecutive quarter. Consumer UPI GMV grew 35% over the last nine months, more than double the industry growth of 16%. Overall payments GMV rose 24% YoY to ₹6.2 lakh crore, while net payment revenue increased 25% to ₹613 crore. Merchant subscriptions grew by 27 lakh YoY to reach 1.44 crore. Payments services revenue grew 21% YoY to ₹1,284 crore. Distribution of financial services

revenue rose 34% YoY to ₹672 crore, supported by growth in merchant loans and wealth products, despite lower volumes under the Default Loss Guarantee programme. Indirect expenses declined 8% YoY to ₹1,092 crore, aided by lower employee costs and reduced provisions for doubtful debts. Cash balance stood at ₹12,882 crore at the end of December 2025. During the quarter, Paytm transferred its offline merchant business to Payments Services Limited (PPSL), a wholly owned subsidiary. PPSL received RBI approval to operate as an online, offline, and cross-border payment aggregator, and resumed onboarding of online merchants.

Manoj Bajpayee’s ‘Ghooskhor Pandat’ Sparks Outrage Over Casteism Title

The first look of Manoj Bajpayee, starrer Netflix film ‘Ghooskhor Pandat’ was released on 3rd February 2025. Despite the release date still being unannounced, the film has already triggered public outrage over its title. Based on the first-look teaser, the film appears to be a crime thriller in which Manoj Bajpayee plays a corrupt cop who gets a chance at redemption through a specific case. Despite not even being released yet, the film and its title have received immense backlash and are being accused of normalizing hatred and even caste discrimination.

The title has become the center of the controversy. On social media, the film announcement received severe criticism. On X, Shashank Shekhar Jha, a Supreme Court lawyer and political commentator, said, “Hello @NetflixIndia, normalisation of hatred against Pandits & Brahmins won’t

be tolerated. I’ll see you in Court.” Reportedly, a case has been filed against the film. Famous political commentator Mr. Sinha also commented on X, saying, “Ghuskhor Pandat? What kind of title is this? Would it be acceptable if a movie or series were made with a similar ‘Ghuskhor Mohamedan’ title? This is not freedom of speech. This is bigotry driven by an agenda. Such content should not be allowed to release.” These reactions reflect the mass outrage and backlash the film has received.

Following the controversy, several social media users criticized Netflix’s decision to use ‘Pandat’ in the title. ‘Ghooskhor Pandat’ literally means ‘Corrupt Priest.’ Many users interpreted this as an attack on Brahmins and their identity. Others pointed out how, historically, Indian cinema has often stereotyped Brahmins and priestly characters as cunning and selfish. A social media page called ‘Gems of Bollywood’ claimed it has formally filed a complaint against the film, alleging that the title is extremely offensive and casteist. The page also stated that the film attempts to vilify an entire social group in India. Another user added, “Funny how corruption has now become a religious caricature when it’s convenient. ‘Ghooskhor Pandat’ isn’t accidental. If corruption was the point, the title could have been Officer, Babu, or Netaji. But Bollywood’s old habit remains—demonise Brahmins and dress it up as ‘art’. Netflix India, you know exactly what you are doing, and this won’t be tolerated anymore.” Overall, this backlash highlights how deeply divided and segregated our society remains, where even a movie title announcement and the portrayal of fictional characters can become the center of intense controversy.



‘Peddi’ Delayed, Revamp in Progress


MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Ram Charan’s eagerly-awaited film Peddi is undergoing a major revamp and won’t be able to make the planned release date – March 27, the actor’s birthday. “Peddi is not ready. Ram Charan feels more work is needed on the action scenes and on special effects,” an informed source told this writer, adding, “after the success of Dhurandhar and the failure of The Raja Saab, Ram Charan doesn’t want to take any chances.”

There are also reports that a lavish song and dance sequence will be added to Peddi. Star actor and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has wrapped up the shoot of Ustaad Bhagat Singh last year, with the film currently in the final stages of post-production.

The makers are planning a summer release and have now zeroed in on March 26 as the release date — as soon as it was learnt that Ram Charan’s film Peddi is being delayed. An official announcement from the makers is expected soon.

“Pawan Kalyan has taken the place of his nephew in March to keep Mega fans happy, as Peddi is now set to hit the screens in May,” says a distributor.



Do All Films Need 2 Parts?

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

It makes business sense,” says filmmaker Hansal Mehta. “Who are we to decide? The audience decides. Money and the system follow suit.” But what happens when the audience doesn’t follow? The split-film strategy recently backfired with Anurag Kashyap’s Nishanchi. When Part 1 failed at the box office, Part 2 was quietly pushed to OTT. In hindsight, Kashyap admits the split was a mistake. “The audience wanted the entire story at one go.”

This raises a crucial concern: unlike epics such as the Ramayana, where chapters are clearly defined, films like Nishanchi or Dhurandhar or the Telugu film Akhanda 2... ask audiences to return to the same characters, doing the same things, after a long break.

Marketing gimmick
Writer-director Manish Gupta is blunt. “Multi-part cinema today is a marketing gimmick to multiply ticket sales. It has little to do with storytelling. That said, films like Ramayana genuinely demand multiple parts because of their sheer scale.”

Echoing this caution, writer-director Kishore Belekar, whose silent stand-alone film Gandhi Talks recently released, says: “Splitting a film only works if the story truly requires that expansion. Otherwise, commerce dictates form — and when that happens, cinema loses its soul.”

When the story demands scale
Baahubali producer Shobu Yarlagadda supports the format —but with conditions. “If the story demands it, as it did with Baahubali, it makes perfect sense. But if a film is deliberately stretched to create multiple parts, audiences sense the manipulation, and it sabotages the experience.”

Director Suparn Verma says: “Sequels and world-building began gaining ground about a decade ago in India, though the West has done this for decades — from The Godfather to Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter.”

He attributes audience acceptance to streaming culture. “Viewers today are comfortable with long-form storytelling. With Dhurandhar, the script itself was massive. During shooting, it became clear the story couldn’t be compressed without loss.”

As for Animal, Verma believes Vanga is deliberately building a cinematic universe. “He finished one arc, teased another, and plans to continue. It’s a new, expansive way of storytelling, creating richer characters and worlds.”

Up to the audience
Trade analyst Taran Adarsh says, “From both creative and commercial perspectives, splitting a film allows deeper storytelling without rushing emotions or plot. Big-scale narratives today are layered, and audiences are willing to invest time if the content is strong.” He adds: “When storytelling justifies it, more parts simply mean more of a good thing.”




Rhea Chakraborty Makes a Comeback

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Rhea Chakraborty, who survived a five-year-long witch hunt in connection with the death of her boyfriend, actor Sushant Singh Rajput, is making a comeback into the entertainment business. She will be seen in an important role in a Netflix series, Anil Kapoor and Vijay Verma headline the project, playing scions of a business family.

Vikram Malhotra, whose production house Abundantia Entertainment produces Family Business, says he is absolutely delighted to have Rhea on board. “She is very talented and I am sure Family Business will be a new beginning for her,” says Malhotra. It may be recalled that Rhea was seen by Sushant Singh Rajput’s fans as being responsible for his death, ostracised, and even arrested on related charges!



U19 World Cup: Shinozada, Niazi Tons Power Afghanistan To

HARARE
Wakeup telangana

Afghanistan rode on commanding centuries from Faisal Shinozada and Uzairullah Niazi to post an imposing 310 for four against fancied India in the semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup here on Wednesday, putting the Indian bowlers under sustained pressure throughout the innings.

Opting to bat first, Afghanistan laid a solid foundation before accelerating impressively in the latter half of the innings. Faisal anchored the effort with a superb 110 off 93 balls, while Niazi played a sparkling unbeaten knock of 101 from 86 deliveries, ensuring the momentum never dipped as India struggled to take wickets at regular intervals.

The Afghan innings began steadily, with openers Osman Sadat and Khalid Ahmadzai adding 53 runs for the first wicket. India drew first blood in the 13th over when pacer Deepesh Devendran broke through. Bowling a good-length delivery, Devendran induced a drive from Ahmadzai, who got a faint inside edge and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Abhigyan Kundu. Ahmadzai departed after scoring 31 off 39 balls.

Faisal then took control, forging a 64-run second-wicket partnership with Sadat to keep Afghanistan on course for a strong total. However, spin-bowling all-rounder Kanishk Chouhan provided India with a crucial breakthrough at the start of the 25th over, as Sadat attempted an aggressive shot and was caught at long-off. Sadat scored 39, though his innings came off 70 deliveries, slowing the run rate slightly in the middle overs.

From there on, Afghanistan seized complete command. Faisal found an ideal partner in Niazi, and the duo stitched together a massive third-wicket partnership that tilted the contest firmly in Afghanistan’s favour. Faisal was particularly dominant against the spinners, striking 15 boundaries during his innings, while Niazi complemented him with clean strokeplay, hitting 12 fours and two sixes. Even after Faisal’s dismissal, Niazi carried on confidently till the end, ensuring Afghanistan crossed the 300-run mark — a daunting total in a high-pressure knockout match.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 310/4 in 50 overs (Faisal Shinozada 110, Uzairullah Niazi 101*).



It's Difficult, I Am Not Good With Stats: Dhoni On Why He Avoids Commentary Box

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Enigmatic former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has all but ruled out grabbing a microphone inside the commentary box, describing the popular post-retirement job as a “difficult” balancing act driven by stats, which he finds tough to memorise.

The 44-year-old, under whom India won three ICC trophies, has rarely aired his views on issues related to the game since retiring in 2020. His cricketing connection is now limited to IPL appearances for the Chennai Super Kings.

“Commentary is very difficult. I feel there is a very fine line between describing the game and in that process getting into a zone where you start criticising individuals who are playing the game. It’s a very thin line,” Dhoni told sports broadcaster Jatin Sapru during a Youtube interaction.

“Often, you don’t even feel that what you are doing is may be borderline wrong. You would always like to be on the other side where you are describing the game. If stats, I’ll be like hmmm and there are certain people who know stats about not just Indian cricket team or the Indian players but everyone throughout the era,” he said.

Known to have Zen-like control on mind when faced with difficult decisions during his playing days, Dhoni was also asked whether he has ever needed advice on cricket and life.

The wicketkeeper-batter said he has rarely had to ask for it because of his habit of listening intently. “I’m a very good listener. Yes I do speak with people who I’m comfortable with. But I’m more of a listener than a speaker. And if I don’t know about the topic I don’t speak much because I will be absorbing more if I’m listening,” he said.

“I never feel that urge to contribute if I don’t know...being a good listener you don’t always have to look for advice...They keep floating around just with certain people who you are having a conversation with. “You need to have that intelligence to figure out what works the best for you,” he added.



you feel something is wrong you say it out.

"But how to put it, that is also an art, how to politely put it forward where nobody feels targetted...If the team is losing there are reasons behind it, and you need to have the skill of describing those reasons without anybody feeling bad. That is the art of commentary," he said.

Aside from the delicate nature of the job, Dhoni feels not being able to memorise stats, even his own, puts him at a disadvantage.

"I'm not good with stats...but there are a lot of people who are very good with stats. They know stats...If you ask me about my

Hyderabad man sentenced to life for sexually assaulting 12-yr-old daughter

A court in Hyderabad on Tuesday, February 3, sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting his 12-year-old daughter. On Tuesday, the courts in the city convicted four other men in separate cases of sexual offenses against minor girls following investigations by the Women Safety Wing of the Hyderabad police. The convictions were delivered by Sessions Courts and Fast Track Special Courts in cases registered at Begumpet, Banjara Hills, Bhavani Nagar and SR Nagar police stations. In another case, a neighbour who assaulted a nine-year-old girl was awarded 25 years of rigorous imprisonment. Another accused received a 20-year sentence for luring and sexually assaulting an eight-year-old child. Two other cases involving sexual assault and an attempt to rape minor girls aged four and eight resulted in five years of rigorous imprisonment each. The courts also imposed fines and ordered victim compensation ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh under victim compensation schemes.

TGHRC seeks report after Telangana govt school students made to sweep floors

The Telangana Human Rights Commission here has directed the Principal Secretary, School Education Department and the District Educational Officer (DEO), Hyderabad, to submit reports on the disciplinary action against responsible officials who allegedly have been making students in various government schools to sweep, dispose garbage and perform other menial tasks. The reports were sought by TGHRC member Sivadi Praveena, who took Suo Motu cognizance based on a news report published in the Telugu daily Namasthe Telangana, which stated that school officials have been allegedly making children do the physical and labour intensive work in violation of rules and due to non-availability of sweepers. According to a statement from the TGHRC, the Principal Secretary and DEO have been asked to submit “detailed, factual and action-taken reports on the availability of sweepers, preventive measures, disciplinary action against responsible officials, and steps to ensure strict compliance with child protection laws, and has posted the matter for reports.” The matter will be next heard on February 24. According to the TGHRC, the students have also allegedly met with “instances of threats and physical punishment for refusal”, which it said amounts to serious violations of child rights and statutory protections under the Right to Education Act, 2009, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Hyderabad IT professional files complaint over 16-hour workdays

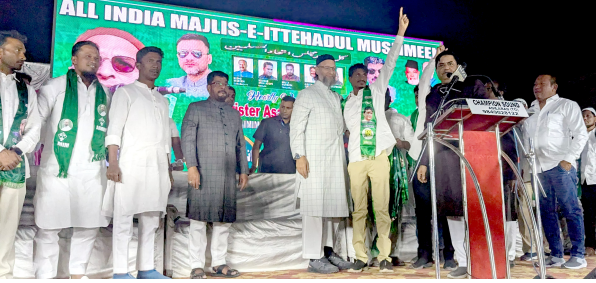
An IT professional has approached the Telangana labour department alleging that a major multinational company forced him to work extended hours for years without paying overtime. The complaint comes at a time when the debate on ideal working hours in India has intensified following calls by industry leaders for longer work weeks. According to a report published in TOI, the complainant, Sridhar Merugu, said he was made to work intermittently for more than 16 hours a day during his 14-year tenure with the firm. He has demanded compensation for the additional hours he worked. He stated that it is unreasonable to expect employees to put in such long shifts without adequate pay. Sridhar also moved the National Human Rights Commission, claiming that the company ignored labour laws and refused to release overtime wages. According to him, the situation became worse when he fell ill but was still asked to continue working. He further alleged that the company denied late-night and early-morning shift allowances and continued to push him due to staff shortages. Sridhar said he raised the issue after being forced to work continuously for over 16 hours a day for three to four months. When his grievances were not addressed, he was allegedly terminated in September 2025, which he believes was linked to his refusal to continue under what he described as unlawful working conditions. The 45-year-old professional has urged the government department to direct the US-based company to clear his pending overtime dues along with statutory interest and penalties. The report also mentioned other IT professionals from Hyderabad claiming that they are working beyond the standard 40-hour work week. Many employees reportedly avoid claiming overtime despite it being their legal right. Santosh Kumar, an IT professional with nearly three decades.

AIMIM Will Change Municipal Poll Game: Owaisi

Owaisi said AIMIM would try to lead the Adilabad municipality and block the BJP

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday said his party would significantly alter the political landscape of municipal and corporation elections in Telangana. Addressing a public meeting as part of the campaign for the municipal polls, Owaisi said, “Poora Game Badal Denge,” asserting that the AIMIM would replicate its recent electoral performance in other States. He referred to the party’s success in winning five seats in the Bihar Assembly elections and securing a substantial number of corporator posts in Maharashtra, and



said Telangana would be next. He said AIMIM candidates, if elected, would aim to lead the Adilabad municipality and prevent what he described as communal forces and the BJP from securing the chairperson’s post. He also cited the party’s performance in municipal elections in Maharashtra, including in Nagpur, Nanded and Aurangabad. Owaisi criticised the foreign policy of the BJP-led

Union government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning its approach to nationalism and its stance on international issues, including relations with the United States, Russia and Israel. He also referred to Prime Minister Modi’s visits abroad and raised concerns over global conflicts. On domestic issues, the AIMIM leader alleged that the BJP government at the Centre had failed to provide employment op-

portunities to youth over the past 11 years. He also criticised the removal of roadside vendors in Adilabad and said that if AIMIM returned to power in the municipality, the displaced vendors would be allowed to resume their livelihood. Owaisi further referred to regulations framed by the University Grants Commission, alleging discrimination against marginalised students, and noted that the Supreme Court had stayed the regulations. The AIMIM leader is scheduled to visit several colonies in Adilabad where the party’s candidates are contesting in the municipal elections as part of his campaign.

HYDRAA Chief Inspects Lakes, Orders Development Works

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Acting on complaints received through Prajavani, HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Wednesday conducted inspections and interacted with local residents at Kamuni Cheruvu and Turka Cheruvu. Residents of Kamuni Cheruvu, located along the Bharatnagar-Khaitalapur-Hitec City road, complained about the spread of water hya-



cinth and the resulting mosquito menace. After inspecting the lake, the commissioner directed officials to immediately begin development works. He also examined a graveyard land dispute between the Water Board and local Muslims, in-

structing HYDRAA officials to identify the extent of government land and install fencing. At Shilpa Brundavan Colony in Kukatpally, Shamsiguda, the commissioner inspected a complaint alleging that an HMDA-approved layout had been altered and adjacent government land encroached upon to form a new layout. Ranganath informed residents that Turka Cheruvu, adjacent to Bandari Layout in Nizampet, would be devel-

oped comprehensively. The 43.50-acre lake will undergo sewage diversion, silt removal and beautification works. He also assured support for the development of Elamma Kunta, located on Usha Mullapudi Road connecting Kukatpally and Jeedimetta. Additionally, he inspected the relocation of fish and meat shops near Pragathi Nagar Cheruvu and said development works there would commence soon.

Firefighters Rescue Chained Dog from Blaze

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Firefighters risked their lives to rescue a pet dog trapped in a fire that broke out at Kattalguda in Azampura on Wednesday afternoon. The fire erupted in an open plot stacked with firewood at around 12.45 pm. “We received a fire call and immediately rushed to the spot. During the operation, we rescued a pet dog that was chained inside

the premises,” said P. A. Shanmukha Rao, assistant divisional fire officer (ADFO), Salarjung Museum. Fire tenders from Malakpet and Gowliguda fire stations were pressed into service and the blaze was brought under control by 2 pm, preventing it from spreading to nearby residential houses, he said. “Initially, while extinguishing the fire, we were unaware that a pet dog was trapped inside. Later,

firefighter Mohammed Shoukat and I entered the premises, unchained the dog, gave it water, and safely handed it over to its owner,” Shanmukha Rao added. According to sources, the entire stock of wooden logs was gutted in the fire. The pet owner, M. Sitaram, reportedly had placed a container of water on firewood to heat it and forgot about it. After passersby alerted him, Sitaram dialled 100.

Telangana Announces DEECET – 2026 Schedule

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has announced that the Telangana Diploma in Elementary Education Common Entrance Test 2026 (TG DEECET) will be conducted on May 21 and 22 for admissions to D.El.Ed. and Diploma in Pre-School Education (DPSE) courses for the 2026–28 academic batch. The entrance examination is the mandatory gateway for candidates seeking ad-



mission into government District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as private unaided teacher education institutions across the state. Admissions through TG DEECET 2026 will include both minority and non-minority colleges offering teacher education programmes in Telangana. Successful candidates will be eligible for

seat allotment based on merit, reservation norms, and availability of seats in respective institutions. According to officials, the detailed notification for TG DEECET 2026 is expected to be released in the last week of February. The notification will provide comprehensive information regarding eligibility criteria, online application process, registration and examination fees, exam pattern, and the complete admission schedule.

Eagle Force Nets 75 NDPS Fugitives

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Eagle force, Telangana, has launched a special statewide drive to tackle the pendency of absconding accused in cases registered under the NDPS Act. Across the state, 3,228 absconding/wanted/NBW accused have been identified in NDPS cases, of whom 1,278 belong to Telangana, underscoring the scale of the challenge, said Sandeep Shandilya, director, Eagle force. “Our special drive commenced on January 29, 2026. Within just four days, Eagle force teams successfully apprehended 75 absconding accused, who were handed over to concerned police stations. Detailed interrogation reports were prepared, and urine tests were conducted transparently in the presence of family members,” Shandilya said.

He added that 38 of the 75 persons tested were found negative, reflecting the positive impact of timely intervention and highlighting the importance of sustained monitoring, counselling and rehabilitation. The drive will continue throughout February. “This initiative reflects the firm resolve of Telangana police to strictly enforce the NDPS Act and dismantle drug networks. At the same time, emphasis is being placed on reintegration and rehabilitation, with a vision to comprehensively resolve the issue within the next two to three years through sustained efforts,” Shandilya said. Recognising that tackling the drug menace requires a multi-pronged strategy, Telangana police is giving equal importance to demand reduction alongside supply-side enforcement.

Lawyers Demand Action Over Alleged Police Lapses in Rangareddy Advocate Murder

Police later register case after hours-long dharna at Moinabad station

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Lawyers on Wednesday, February 4, staged a protest at the Moinabad Police Station in Rangareddy district, alleging police apathy and initial refusal to register a complaint following the murder of a woman advocate. The protest disrupted traffic in the area for several hours as members of the legal fraternity demanded accountability and immediate action against those responsible. The victim, 34-year-old Swapna, a practising advocate at the Chevella court, was allegedly murdered by her brother Raju in a brutal attack linked to a long-standing family property dispute. The incident occurred in Kethiredypally village, which falls under the jurisdiction



of the Moinabad police station. According to police officials, Swapna had visited her family’s agricultural land on Wednesday morning to attend a panchayat convened to resolve the dispute. While she was returning from the site, her brother, along with others, allegedly attacked her with an axe. Local residents who noticed her lying injured rushed her to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Swapna’s mother, Venkamma, alleged that her

son had been plotting to kill Swapna for the past three years and had made at least two previous attempts on her life. She further claimed that following a land survey earlier in the day, three individuals attacked Swapna using sticks and knives, contradicting the initial version that only an axe was used. Angered by the killing and the alleged police inaction, lawyers gathered at the Moinabad Police Station, accusing the police of refusing to accept their complaint and of

threatening them to vacate the premises. The protesters staged a dharna for several hours, demanding the suspension of Moinabad Sub-Inspector Narsimha Rao for alleged mishandling of the case. The sit-in protest led to severe traffic congestion in and around the police station as lawyers raised slogans demanding justice for their slain colleague. Following intervention by senior police officials, the protesters were pacified and a case was eventually registered. Police said that special teams have been formed to trace and arrest the accused, who fled the scene after the attack. Sub-Inspector Narsimha Rao did not respond to requests for comment regarding the allegations made by the protesting lawyers.

AIMIM General Secretary Pasha Quadri Laid to Rest



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Thousands of people gathered in Hyderabad on Wednesday, February 4, to pay their last respects to All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) general secretary and former MLA Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri, who passed away at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness. The Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Masjid-e-Wazeer Ali in Chandulal Baradari after Zuhr prayers and was attended by AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi. Visuals from the funeral showed the mosque filled to capacity, with devotees standing outside and a large crowd accompanying the funeral procession, reflecting Quadri’s strong

public following. Pasha Quadri was later laid to rest at Masjid-e-Hazrat Syed Mohiuddin Pasha in Noorkhan Bazaar. He breathed his last on February 3. Quadri had been admitted to Owaisi Hospital in Kanchanbagh on November 30 last year after complaining of uneasiness and had been undergoing treatment for renal-related ailments for the past two years. A seasoned politician, Quadri served as a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) corporator from 1986 to 1991. He was elected as an MLA for four consecutive terms, winning the Charminar constituency three times since 2004 and later representing Yakutpura in 2018.

GHMC official from Kukatpally caught taking Rs 15 lakh bribe

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday, February 4, conducted a raid at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation’s (GHMC) Kukatpally zonal office and nabbed Superintendent Engineer Chinnna Reddy for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 15 lakh.



According to reports, the officer had demanded the money from a contractor to pass a Rs 1.40 crore bill. A computer operator, B Praveen Kumar, was also caught for serving as a conduit.

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