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A Global Convening to Shape AI for Human & Social Good

Inauguration by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

February 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Watch the event LIVE on



WEATHER


Max: 31.4° C
Min: 15.5° C
RH: 29%
Rainfall: 0mm

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky
Max/Min temp. 32/15 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Vishwawas: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Bahula Ashtami whole day
Star: Vishakha whole day
Varjyam: 11.18 am to 1.06 pm
Durmuham: 12.53 pm to 1.39 pm; 3.10 pm to 3.55 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HUIJI CALENDAR
20, Shabaan: 1447 H
PRAYERS
Fajar: 05.44 am
Zohar: 12.40 pm
Asar: 04.39 pm
Maghrib: 06.20 pm
Isha: 07.29 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 06.45 AM
SUNSET TODAY 06.15 PM
MOONRISE -
MOONSET 11.23 AM

COUNTER POINT



Sir, the doctor advised me to work from home... till March 8!

SHORT TAKES

PILOT, TRAINEE INJURED IN PLANE CRASH

Vijayapura, Feb. 8: Capt Kunal Malhotra, a flight instructor with Redbird Aviation, and Goutham Sankar P.R., a trainee pilot were injured when a two-seater flight training aircraft landed in an emergency and overturned in a field at Mangaluru of Vijayapura district in Karnataka between 2.30 pm and 2.40 pm on Sunday. The aircraft was on a training sortie.

■ Full report on Page 8

TG TO APPOINT SINGLE-POINT MOU OFFICERS

Hyderabad, Feb. 8: The state government will appoint 'single point of contact' officials in relevant departments to expedite the grounding of ₹8.81 lakh crore investments for which memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed over the last two years. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao issued the orders to appoint a 'single point of contact' officer in each department.

UP COURT ACQUITS 22 IN RIOTS CASE

Muzaffarnagar, Feb. 8: A court in Muzaffarnagar has acquitted 22 persons in a murder, loot and arson case linked to the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, citing lack of evidence. Additional District and Sessions Judge Kanishk Kumar on Saturday acquitted the accused, observing that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt, government counsel Narendra Sharma said.

Cong. committed to protect hereditary jobs Revanth: No move to scrap Bhupalpally dist

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
WARANGAL, FEB. 8

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday rejected allegations that the government would scrap the Bhupalpally district and clarified that there were no plans to create new districts or abolish existing ones. "There is a malicious campaign being run for temporary political gain claiming that Bhupalpally district will be scrapped. But it is not true, Bhupalpally will not vanish. This region, which gave the world a visionary like P.V. Narasimha Rao and a revolutionary like Prof. Jayashankar, holds a special place in the history of Telangana," the Chief Minister during an election campaign meeting. "If at all the government has to rationalise districts, it will be done after thorough consultation with all stakeholders and a detailed debate in the Assembly," he said. Revanth Reddy recalled that it was N.T. Rama Rao who first laid the foundation for coal mining by making Bhupalpally a



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy address a public meeting in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, Telangana on Sunday.

mandal headquarters. Hailing the coal miners of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) as role models for the nation, the Chief Minister promised to abolish the controversial Medical Unfit Board, which has been a long-standing grievance for coal miners. He assured that the Congress government was committed to protecting hereditary jobs and resolving the issues of 217 dismissed workers. "The government belongs to the Singareni workers. It will

not take a single step that harms their interests," he added. Earlier, the Chief Minister accompanied by ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Konda Surekha and MLA Gandra Satyanarayana reopened renovated historic Kotancha Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Ghanpur mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and offered prayers.

■ Pg 3: CM: ₹4,000 cr plan to develop Godavari basin

Campaign ends today for civic poll

MOULI MAREEDU | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

With the campaign for the high-stakes February 11 civic body elections to seven municipal corporations and 116 municipalities ending on Monday, candidates have intensified their voter outreach efforts by clandestinely supplying chicken and mutton biryani and liquor, along with model ballot papers bearing their names and party symbols. Women voters were offered free items, such as saris. Aides of some candidates, especially those aspiring for the posts of municipality chairpersons and mayors at municipal corporations, were reportedly seen distributing cash to voters. Counting of votes will be held on February 13; on February 16, the winners will elect the chiefs of civic bodies — chairpersons and vice chairpersons of municipalities and mayors.

■ Pg 3: Cops intensifies liquor checks

KTR's conspiracy theory over FSL blaze goes bust

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao seemed to have been caught on the wrong foot in his eagerness to politicise Saturday's fire accident at the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (TGFSL) by portraying it as a conspiracy to erase evidence in the cash-for-vote case involving Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, then a Telugu Desam legislator. The police clarified on Sunday that the FSL had examined all 16 case materials and returned it to the courts five years ago. While Rama Rao demanded a judicial inquiry by a retired judge, besides a thorough investigation by Central agencies, into the accident, the fact that material evidence pertaining to the case was returned to the court after analysis has punctured the conspiracy theory of the BRS leader.

Ironically, that some material evidence pertain-



K.T. Rama Rao

ing to the ongoing illegal phone-tapping case against the previous BRS regime was partially damaged in Saturday's accident may turn the tables against the principal Opposition party. "Going by Rama Rao's claims that the fire accident was orchestrated to protect the accused in a particular case, who, none other than his father K. Chandrashekar Rao, would benefit from the damage of evidence in the phone-tapping case," said Pradesh Congress Committee media and communications chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy.

■ Pg 4: FSL assures safety of phone-tapping evidence

India, Malaysia ink deal on semiconductors, digipays

2 nations sign agreement between security councils

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim held bilateral talks in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, after which India and Malaysia agreed on 16 outcomes, including 11 agreements and five announcements, aimed at deepening cooperation across strategic and economic sectors. Among the key pacts were agreements on cooperation in semiconductors, a social security arrangement for Indian citizens working in Malaysia, and cross-border payments. Both sides welcomed continued collaboration between the RBI and Bank Negara Malaysia to promote local currency settlement in bilateral trade using the Indian Rupee and Malaysian Ringgit.

The two leaders agreed to strengthen ties in defence and security, maritime cooperation, trade and investment, digital economy, science and technology, energy, agriculture, health, education, culture, tourism, youth exchanges and people-to-people contacts. India and Malaysia also announced the establishment of an Indian consulate in Kota Kinabalu, a

SWEET 16 DEALS OF MODI, IBRAHIM

11 agreements signed. 5 announcements made.

KEY FOCUS SECTORS:

- semiconductors, digital economy, AI, renewable energy, healthcare.
- Rupee-Ringgit settlement backed by RBI-Bank Negara Malaysia.
- UPI-PayNet link to expand digital payments and fintech cooperation
- Social Security Agreement to protect Indian workers in Malaysia.
- Malaysia joins International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA).
- OCI cards extended up to 6th generation Indian-origin Malaysians.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim look on as external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and Malaysia's foreign minister Mohamad Hasan exchange MoUs, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sunday. — PTI

Thiruvalluvar Centre at Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, and the institution of Thiruvalluvar Scholarships for Malaysian nationals. A Security Cooperation agreement between the National Security Council Secretariat of India and Malaysia's National Security Council was signed, along with a

Framework Agreement on the International Big Cats Alliance, which Malaysia joined after completing formalities. On trade, Prime Minister Modi called for an early review of the Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement to make it more relevant and trade-facilitative. According to a joint statement, he highlighted

India's position as a key investment destination for Malaysian companies, while Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim welcomed the role of Indian manufacturing and technology firms in generating high-skilled employment in Malaysia.

■ Pg 7: Anwar hails India's 'spectacular rise'

BJP deletes 'point blank' Biswa video

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

The video showing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma purportedly taking aim with a rifle and firing a shot at two people, one wearing a skull cap and the other with a beard, with "point-blank shot" as the caption was deleted from the X handle of the ruling party's Assam unit.

The Congress on Sunday accused the BJP of promoting hate and violence demanding strict judicial action over what it termed a "dangerous and targeted" message against minorities.

The Congress said the imagery amounted to an endorsement of violence and could not be brushed aside as social media trolling.

■ Pg 7: Cong. calls for judicial intervention

Naxalism will end by March 31: Shah

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
with bureau inputs
RAIPUR, NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Asserting that security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, and disruption of Maoist financial networks have yielded results in the fight against Left-wing extremism (LWE), Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated that the Naxal menace will be completely eradicated before March 31.

In his remarks after chairing a high-level security review meeting on LWE in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, Shah said the ongoing fight against Naxalites must not be scattered and the remaining Naxals must not be allowed to flee to other states. He stressed the need for smooth coordination between various states and Central agencies.

"Today in Raipur, I held a review meeting with the



Union home minister Amit Shah during a meeting on anti-Naxal operations in Raipur on Sunday. — PTI

Chhattisgarh government and officials on anti-Naxal operations. The security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, targeting of the Naxal financial network and the surrender policy have yielded positive results, and Naxalism will be completely eradicated before March 31," Shah posted on X. He also shared photographs of the meeting on X.

■ Pg 7: Shah reviews LWE progress intensively

RSS chief's post open for all: Bhagwat

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, FEB. 8

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the post of Sarsanghchalak is open to persons from all castes, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, provided they are the most suitable candidates, asserting that caste is neither a qualification nor a disqualification for the position.

Addressing an event at the NSCI Dome in Mumbai, Bhagwat said the only requirement for the post is that person must be a Hindu. "Being a Brahmin is neither a qualification nor is belonging to SC or ST a disqualification," he said.

■ Pg 7: Bhagwat: Ready to step down if Sangh asks



Mohan Bhagwat

WB pledges 8K babus for SIR hearing

New Delhi, Feb. 8: The West Bengal government has informed the Election Commission that it is ready to provide 8,505 Group B officers of the state or its instrumentalities for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, according to an agency report.

■ Full report on Page 7

VISA | WOES Income from social media ads is treated as employment under immigration rules

Content monetisation can put F-1 students at risk

PRATHYUSH NALLELLA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Many Indian students in the United States, especially those on F-1 visas, are increasingly turning to social media to express themselves, build an audience or share their experiences. However, immigration experts warn that monetising social media content while holding an F-1 student visa can lead to serious legal trouble, including loss of visa status. An F-1 visa is issued for education purposes.

Students are allowed to study full-time and can work only under specific conditions, such as on-campus jobs or authorised training programmes like Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). Any form of work outside during their education is considered as unauthorised employment.

While creating content on platforms like YouTube, Instagram or blogs is generally allowed as a hobby, earning money from these platforms is not permitted. Income from advertise-

I WAS doing Instagram videos prior to joining my course. A month ago, I made a sponsored reel about a hair dryer, and three days later I got a call from my university officials saying this cannot be allowed as I am earning money." — F-1 VISA HOLDING STUDENT

THE current situation in the United States is very turbulent. Authorities and agents are holding on to every and any offence or violation, and are taking drastic measures against it. It is very important to be cautious and wary of violations. — RAJESHWAR RAO Immigration analyst

ments, brand sponsorships, affiliate links, paid subscriptions, donations or even monetisation from the social media platform

is treated as employment under US immigration rules. Even if income is small or irregular, it can still be counted as a violation.

Immigration authorities focus on whether the income is linked to the student's effort. M. Dinesh, a consultant based in Hyderabad said "Since social media monetisation depends on active content creation, it is not considered passive income. As a result, students who monetise their accounts while physically present in the US will most likely be seen as working illegally, even if the platform or payment account is based outside the country."

An F-1 visa holding student from Hyderabad who

is pursuing MS in a Texas-based university, said: "I was doing Instagram videos prior to joining my course. A month ago, I made a sponsored reel about a hair dryer, and three days later I got a call from my university officials saying this cannot be allowed as I am earning money." "I immediately took the video down, and requested them not to take any action. They said they will let this slide for now."

■ Pg 2: CPT misuse jeopardises student visas

EVENTS TODAY

Orange To Pearl: Painting Exhibition
Time: 11 am
Venue: Telangana State Gallery Of Fine Art

Numaish: Folk songs by Priya Darshani
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Exhibition Grounds

Harikatha Mahotsavam by Kinera Arts Theatres
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Sri Sringeri Shankar Mutt

Bharath Rang Mahotsavam by National School of Drama
Time: 1.30 pm
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi

Sangeeta vibhavari by RK Entertainers
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha

Arjuna Sourya Kala Samithi programme
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha

Certificate course on personality development
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: Ramakrishna Math

GHMC PANEL TO TAKE UP 5 PROPOSALS

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

At its last meeting on Monday, the GHMC standing committee is expected to take up five proposals related to sports infrastructure. Council's tenure ends on February 10. The proposals include the construction of a boxing court at the PJR Sports Complex in Chandanagar, calling EoI for O&M of an indoor shuttle court at KPFB Phase 9 among others.

Hayathnagar stretch turns most accident-prone in Hyd

Despite being a six-lane highway, National Highway 65 saw 961 accidents in 2025

PRIYA RATHNAM | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

A 12-km stretch of National Highway-65 passing through Abdullahapurmet, Hayathnagar, LB Nagar and Vanasthalipuram police limits has become one of the most accident-prone corridors on the city outskirts.

It has recorded 961 road accidents in 2025 due to overspeeding, drunk driving and unsafe pedestrian crossings, leading to 134 deaths and 816 non-fatal injuries, police said. Despite being a six-lane national highway with service roads on both sides, the stretch — also known as the Vijayawada Highway — continues to witness frequent fatal and non-fatal road accidents. Police said dense residential colonies, commercial hubs, school and college zones, shopping malls and construction-related establishments along the corridor force pedestrians to negotiate high-speed traffic daily. With two foot over-bridges still under construction, pedestrians cross through fast-moving traffic.

DANGEROUS STRETCH				
Data show the 12-km stretch of National Highway-65 is one of the most accident-prone corridors on the city outskirts.				
PS limits	Accidents	Injuries	Deaths	Pedestrian victims
Abdullapurmet	235	200	49	32
Hayathnagar	304	260	38	72
LB Nagar	171	149	15	37
Vanasthalipuram	251	207	32	65

Accidents are increasing on the LB Nagar-Hayathnagar stretch due to careless crossings, improperly placed dividers, lack of traffic signals, and motorists driving dangerously and on wrong routes. — S. SURENDER REDDY

The situation worsens beyond Hayathnagar limits, where long stretches of continuous yellow medians fitted with metal bars leave pedestrians stranded between carriageways, police said. At LB Nagar crossroads, the highway narrows before widening into a full six-lane carriageway with service roads. However, there is no pedestrian-friendly infrastructure along the stretch, officials said. For K. Vanitha, an

intermediate second-year student of a private college along the highway, crossing the road is unavoidable. "Our college van drops off at a point, which is 700 metres away from my house across the road. I usually wait for another pedestrian to cross the road with me. We have no option other than crossing the road through traffic. Some drivers understand, but many yell at us," she said. Rajesh, who sells wooden cots on the roadside, said crossing the highway is part of his daily routine. "My house is on the other

side. I cross the road every day for lunch and sometimes help schoolchildren and college girls who wait for a long time, scared to cross," he said. A pedestrian questioned the absence of basic facilities. "This is NH-65. Vehicles move constantly. There is no foot over-bridge for kilometres. We know it is dangerous, but we still cross because we have to," he said, adding that even his children cross the road with extreme caution. Street vendors echo similar concerns. A coconut seller, Anjaiah who runs a

cart along the highway, said, "Motorists routinely block zebra crossings. They also honk aggressively at the pedestrians. When people rush out of fear, they meet with accidents. Nobody respects the zebra crossing," he said. As accident numbers continue to rise, residents and commuters are demanding urgent completion of foot over-bridges, clearly marked with pedestrian crossings and also strict enforcement on speed and drunk-driving checks to prevent the highway from claiming more lives.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

FOUR WHEELERS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

THREE & MORE

LEASE

INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

LEGAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

POULTRY

NOTICE

WANTED EXECUTIVE

WANTED SALES

REQUIRED CASUALTY

WALK-IN DOCUMENTS

INFINITY WORLD

PREMIUM OFFICE

TOOPRAN TOWN

FLATS

SINGLE BEDROOM

TWO SINGLE

THREE & MORE

3 BHK

FLAT FOR RENT

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

INDEPENDENT VILLA

REQUIRED

WANTED A 4 BHK

NEED A ready to Move in Building

ACADEMIC HEIGHTS Public School (CBSE)

WE ARE hiring!

WALK-IN

BUSINESS OFFER

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

CHANGE OF NAME

LEGAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

POULTRY

NOTICE

WANTED EXECUTIVE

WANTED SALES

REQUIRED CASUALTY

WALK-IN DOCUMENTS

INFINITY WORLD

PREMIUM OFFICE

TOOPRAN TOWN

FLATS

SINGLE BEDROOM

TWO SINGLE

THREE & MORE

3 BHK

FLAT FOR RENT

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

INDEPENDENT VILLA

REQUIRED

WANTED A 4 BHK

History festival debates on space and microbes

V. SHIVANI REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

The word history typically reminds one of kings, queens, conquests and bloodshed. However, the final day of the History Literature Festival debunked this misconception by discussing topics like space, microbes, among others.

As part of the discussion on 'Microbes to Space Probes: India's Story of Science', experts in public policy and authors Ameer Shahul and Dinesh Sharma spoke on evolution of Indian space programmes and the country turning global vaccination hub.

Commenting the talk, Sharma spoke about Indian space programme history and linked it with the establishment and development of public sector units, IITs and institutions like ISRO and BARC in the 1950s and 60s.

He also spoke about how initially ISRO which used its tight budget to a point where rocket parts and other equipment were carried on a bicycle. The Thumba launch centre in Kerala — being close to the magnetic equator — acted as a launch pad to the initial space satellites of ISRO, which other countries like the US do not possess. He went on to talk about the evolution of ISRO as a key player in the world of space exploration, satellite launches and space missions with a fraction of cost compared to the rest of the world.

Shahul spoke about the vaccination history in the Indian context and how the British imported the first vaccines to India to immunise their soldiers and bureaucrats. He also spoke about the evolution of various diseases till the Covid-19 pandemic.



Raghu Karnad, Mukund Padmanabhan and Indivar Kametkar take part in a panel discussion on Indians in Britain's World War II battles at the History Literature Festival at HPS, Begumpet. — R. PAVAN

WW II changed India in many ways: Experts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

World War II was central to understanding modern Indian history, not just as a military event but as a force that transformed Indian society and politics, said experts during a discussion on 'World War II: Indians in Britain's Battle' held here on Sunday. Indivar Kametkar, a visiting professor at Ashoka University, Mukund Padmanabhan, professor of philosophy and author, and writer Raghu Karnad recalled the consequences of World War II during the discussion organised as part of the History Literature Festival.

Raghu Karnad said the Japanese invasion caused a massive panic and migration across India. After Japan bombed places like Singapore, and especially after the fall in February 1942, people believed India would be next. False rumours of Japanese landings along the coast made the fear worse, he added. As a result, there was a

huge exodus from coastal areas and affecting towns, villages, and cities across the country, he said. India's history mostly looked at political leaders and movements, while the everyday experiences of ordinary people during the war were ignored, said Indivar Kametkar. He said World War II affected India more than World War I as Japan entered the war. The war also resulted in devastating consequences, most notably the Bengal famine, in which around 30 lakh people were estimated to have died. These deaths were not accidental but were closely linked to wartime policies and priorities, he said. According to Padmanabhan, the Japanese Navy operated close to India to spread terror. In 1942, the Japanese did not plan to invade India soon but they wanted to create panic and show their strength and they succeeded. He said the sequence of events helps us understand why fear spread so rapidly across India in WWII early years.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Devotees take part in the Shyam Nishan Rath Yatra on Sunday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Old City turns colourful on Shyam Nishan Yatra fete

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Devotees joined the Shyam Nishan Yatra on Sunday, from the Mahadev Temple near Charminar to the Shyam Baba Temple in Kacheguda carrying large colourful devotional flags, or Nishan, as they walked past Charminar, Madina, High Court, Begum Bazaar Chatri, Moazzamjahi Market, Abids

and Koti. Participants sang bhajans and chanted the name of Shyam Baba as volunteers distributed drinking water and refreshments. Sushil Kumar Agarwal, secretary of Shyam Mandir Seva Samithi, said: "We organise the Nishan Yatra during the auspicious Phalgun month, in devotion for Lord Shyam Baba. Devotees across the city participate in the procession."

₹2-cr hall at Sriramnagar

Hyderabad: The foundation stone was laid on Sunday for a multi-purpose community hall at Sriramnagar in Banjara Hills ward. The ₹2 crore facility will cater especially to economically weaker sections for marriages and other functions as well as for educational institutions. Separately, a ₹29-lakh floor of the Mahila Bhavan at Road No. 29, Banjara Hills, was inaugurated. Both projects are GHMC initiatives, with Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagendar present.

Pregnancy clinic at GH

Hyderabad, Feb. 8: Pre-eclampsia, a pregnancy complication, can raise long-term risks of heart and kidney disease, doctors warned as Gandhi General Hospital launched a multidisciplinary clinic at its Mother and Child Health building. The facility brings specialists for comprehensive care. Doctors listed symptoms like high BP, severe headache, swelling, foamy urine, blurred vision, stomach pain, sudden weight gain and shortness of breath.

Model rocket launch on Science Day

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC WARANGAL, FEB. 8

Warangal will witness the launch of a model rocket, Rudrama V.I, on February 28 as part of National Science Day celebrations. The model will reach an altitude of about one km after launch. Organisers have clarified that while the event features a high-performance launch, it is a model rocket demonstration rather than a full-scale orbital mission. A rocket is named in honour of Kakatiya queen Rani Rudrama Devi. The initiative is being organised by ATDRIL, a Warangal-

based space start-up, and ISRO space tutor Shashank Bhoopathi, with support from the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (Kuda) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal. As part of the run-up to National Science Day, star-gazing sessions will be organised at Bhadrakali Lake Tank Bund from February 15 to 27. Telescopes will be set up daily between 6 pm and 11 pm to allow visitors to observe celestial objects. The period also coincides with a planetary alignment expected on February 28, which experts will help explain to the public.

CPT misuse hits FI visas

FROM PAGE 1

"They strictly asked me not to take any money from any activities while doing my course as it will be flagged with the DOS", the student said. Apart from social media income, there are several other F-1 rules that students often overlook, which can also cause serious problems later. One common mistake is falling below the required full-time course load without approval from the Designated School Official (DSO). "Many students casually drop from certain classes, and opt for too many online courses. And because of such actions, the university and DOS can push for a loss of status," Dinesh said.

"Students are also required to update their US address within ten days of moving. Many either ignore this rule, or just don't know about it. I personally helped hundreds of students out of their problems because they did not update their addresses", Dinesh added. But one of the key mistakes F-1 students make is the misuse of Curricular Practical Training (CPT). CPT allows students to get off-campus work, which in most cases must be unpaid. It is directly tied to their major and is integrated into their curriculum like required internships, co-ops, requiring the approval of their institution with a new I-20. "Students often think having a CPT can let them

work for as long as possible. But it isn't. If one works for more than 12 months of full-time CPT, it most definitely will affect eligibility for their Optional Practical Training (OPT), and their profiles will raise red flags during visa renewals", Dinesh added. Immigration analyst Rajeshwar Rao warned students to comply with all rules and regulations to stay away from trouble. "The current situation in the United States is very turbulent. Authorities and agents are holding on to every and any offence or violation, and are taking drastic measures against it. It is very important to be cautious and wary of violations," he said.

SHORT TAKES

CONGRESS CRIES FOUL OVER BRS ELECTION TACTICS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

TPCC leaders on Sunday lodged complaints with the State Election Commission (SEC) seeking action against BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and a Wardhannapet BRS candidate for alleged violations of the model code of conduct during the municipal election campaign.

Pulipati Rajesh Kumar, chairman of the TPCC's Election Commission co-ordination committee, alleged that Rama Rao, at Tandur, urged voters to accept "huge money" from Congress candidates on polling day. "These remarks will come under violation of the model code of conduct," he said in his complaint.

In another complaint, TPCC leaders alleged that the Wardhannapet BRS candidate employed his minor children in the campaign, bowing before voters and touching their feet. They said this activity also violated the MCC and urged the SEC to probe the issue and take action.

SPL CHECKPOINTS FOR ILLEGAL LIQUOR CHECKS

FROM PAGE 1

The police across districts have set up special checkpoints at inter-district borders and inter-state borders to prevent illegal transportation of liquor. The State Election Commission has set up a call centre at the head office in Hyderabad for reporting such incidents at 9247597066. This facility is available till February 9 night.

The commissioner wrote to the commissioner of municipal administration and district collectors to take measures for conducting a special meeting with the officials for conducting indirect elections for the chairperson, vice-chairperson of municipalities and mayor and deputy mayor of municipal corporations.

SEETHAKKA FAULTS BRS-ERA LOANS FOR TG'S POOR FINANCES

DC CORRESPONDENT
NALGONDA, FEB. 5

Panchayat raj minister D. Anasuya Seethakka on Sunday attributed the financial constraints faced by the Congress government to loans raised by the previous BRS regime, which she said had affected the implementation of welfare schemes.

Addressing an election campaign meeting in Bhongir municipality of Yadadri-Bhongir, the minister said Telangana had been a surplus budget state at the time of its formation in 2014, but had since been pushed into debt due to borrowings by the BRS government. She alleged that funds raised in the name of irrigation projects were misused and personal wealth was accumulated by BRS leaders.

Without naming them directly, she referred to internal differences within the family of former chief minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, indirectly targeting BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and his sister Kavitha.

Despite financial hurdles, Seethakka said the Congress government was implementing welfare schemes with commitment and sincerity, and would fulfil all its poll promises during its tenure.

She said no government other than the Congress had the resolve to supply fine rice to ration cardholders and provide free electricity up to 200 units to households. She criticised the previous BRS government for failing to supply safe drinking water in towns and cities, and accused BRS leaders of making false promises and levelling baseless allegations against the Congress during the municipal elections.

She said electing Congress councillors would help ensure development of wards and resolution of civic issues, and assured that additional funds from her departments would be sanctioned for the development of Bhongir municipality.

Speaking at the meeting, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy appealed to voters to support Congress candidates, stating that they would remain accessible to the public. He accused the BJP of attempting to polarise voters along caste and religious lines and blamed the Centre's policies for the rise in prices of essential commodities.

Bhatti: Do not vote for BRS, it looted the state for 10 years

Says govt committed to extend Indiramma houses scheme to eligible poor

P. SRINIVAS | DC
NALGONDA, FEB. 8

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday called on urban voters to question BRS leaders on why they should be supported in Wednesday's municipal elections. "Why should people vote for the BRS that looted the state for 10 years? Should they vote for those who mortgaged all of us and drowned the state in debts worth ₹8 lakh crore," he asked.

Campaigning in Wyra in support of the Congress and Left alliance candidate, the Deputy Chief Minister addressed a public meeting near the bus stand, which witnessed a large turnout. He alleged that during the decade-long BRS rule, no houses or house sites were provided to the poor. He said earlier Congress governments had constructed lakhs of Indiramma houses, visible in villages across the state.

After coming to power, he said, the Congress had revived the Indiramma houses scheme and sanctioned 4.5 lakh houses to eligible families in the first phase at a cost of ₹22,500 crore. He said the government was committed to extending the scheme to all eligible families in a phased manner.

Referring to ration cards, he said poor families were forced to make repeated rounds for a decade during the previous regime. He said the Congress government cleared pending applications after assuming office. He stated that 1.02 crore families out of 1.15 crore in the state were being supplied fine rice free of cost through the PDS.

He said the present government was supplying fine rice worth ₹50 per kg at six kg per person.



Left: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addresses a public meeting as part of election campaign in Wyra municipality of Khammam district on Sunday. Right: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy speaks at a public meeting as part of election campaign in Nizamabad on Sunday.



Ponguleti: Eligible ones will get house

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday said that the Congress government is constantly striving to ensure the welfare and security of the poor and has taken on the responsibility of fulfilling the dream of owning a home for every eligible poor person in towns and villages.

Participating in a public meeting during municipal elections held in Chelpur of Hanamkonda, Srinivas Reddy said the government brought a number of welfare schemes such as Indiramma houses, fine rice, ration cards, and free electricity under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership, and he noticed the joy on the faces of the women who came to the meeting wearing Indiramma sarees.

The minister announced that the distribution of Indiramma houses in the second phase will begin from April. In three more phases, eligible po-

or people will be given their own homes. The Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has already made it clear that there will be no compromise on the Indiramma housing scheme.

Srinivas Reddy alleged that the previous BRS government neglected the construction of houses, which are a symbol of self-respect for the poor, during their 10-year rule. However, he said 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses were provided in the first phase within two years of the Congress government coming to power.

The minister said the Bhoobharathi Act has been introduced to resolve land disputes, which remained unresolved for decades, as people owning the land are facing difficulties due to the lack of proper documents.

Prior to attending the public meeting, Srinivas Reddy visited the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Regonda mandal and offered prayers.

Uttam predicts Cong. victory in Nizamabad

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, FEB. 8

Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday said the Congress was set to reclaim the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation. "Surveys clearly show the people want change. Congress will win 40 out of 60 divisions and secure the mayor's post," he said.

"This is the moment to go all out, reach every voter, and bring Nizamabad back into the Congress fold," Uttam Kumar Reddy, who is the Nizam-

abad parliamentary constituency incharge for the elections told party workers and contestants at a meeting. He said the election was significant for voters expecting to benefit from the state government's urban infrastructure push.

"Strengthen our hands, and I assure you that the city will be positioned at the next level in development," he said. Referring to recent electoral outcomes, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the BJP had

Uttam Kumar Reddy The minister called on party cadres to mobilise support among the BC, SC, ST and minority communities in favour of the Congress.

won the Nizamabad Urban Assembly seat in 2023 and the Lok Sabha seat in 2024 but the Congress had improved its performance. The mayor's post was held by the BRS, with the BJP and AIMIM establishing pockets of influence.

He said the current situation was different and claimed that voter sentiment had shifted in favour of the Congress. The minister called on party cadres to mobilise support among the BC, SC, ST and minority communities in favour of the Congress. He urged them to highlight what he described as the BJP's failure to expand civic infrastructure in the city and the BRS' decline, while projecting Congress as an alternative focused on development.



CM: ₹4,000-cr plan to develop Godavari basin

FROM PAGE 1

Launching a scathing attack on the family of BRS chief and former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Revanth Reddy contrasted the Congress's welfare legacy with the previous administration's failures. During the Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy government, 25 lakh Indiramma houses were built. Chandrashekar Rao promised double-bedroom houses but ended up building a 1,000-acre farmhouse in Erravelli for himself and 100-acre estates in Janwada for his family, he alleged.

He announced that the Congress government was sanctioning 3,500 Indiramma houses per constituency with a total cost of ₹22,500 crore for 4.5 lakh houses in the first phase, with a second phase to be cleared in the upcoming Budget.

In a direct challenge to the Opposition, the Chief Minister labelled the BRS as the 'Blackmail Rajakiya Samithi,' accusing the party of using phone tapping to extort hundreds of crores from businessmen. He ques-

tioned how ₹1,500 crore ended up in the BRS accounts.

Questioning the Centre, Revanth Reddy asked: "When the Gandhi family can be harassed by the ED and CBI, why is there no action on the Kaleshwaram scam or the Formula-E race case", and added that the BRS and the BJP are two sides of the same coin like Bomma-Borusu.

Highlighting his government's commitment to the region, the Chief Minister noted that ₹6,116 crore has been sanctioned for municipalities in the erstwhile Warangal district, including ₹92 crores specifically for Bhupalpally. He announced a ₹4,000-crore plan to develop the Godavari Basin from Basara to Bhadrachalam as a premier tourism circuit for the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu.

Revanth Reddy also promised people to provide water from Jampanna Vagu to Ramappa Lake and ensure that the tradition of providing Indiramma saris to women would continue every year as a brotherly gift.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy offers prayers at Kodavatancha Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple along with the ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Konda Surekha, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, and local MLA Gandhra Satyanarayana Rao on Sunday.

1,200 SQ. YDS LAND RECLAIMED BY HYDRAA STAFF

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

HYDRAA reclaimed more than 1,200 sq. yds of parkland, valued at more than ₹7 crore, from encroachment in Ameenpur's Chakrapuri Colony on Sunday, according to a statement issued on Sunday.

Officials said that the 1,253.8-sq. yd land was situated in Survey No. 135 of Ameenpur village. The land was dedicated to public usage in 2022 via a gift settlement deed by the layout developers, and had permissions for park and road development.

After receiving complaints from the Charkapuri Colony Welfare Society members about encroachment, HYDRAA officials conducted a site enquiry and found that the boundary stones installed for demarcating the roadways and parklands were removed. On Sunday, officials placed fencing around the park and erected a board stating the land is protected by HYDRAA.

Credai panel sees bright future for Hyd's realty

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

The three-day Credai-Hyderabad Property Show concluded on Sunday with strong buyer participation, recording property sales worth about ₹300 crore, and creating a business pipeline valued at nearly ₹1,000 crore, according to a statement. Organisers said that the response shows the growing confidence in Hyderabad as a brand, and the increasing interest of buyers in making the city their permanent home.

The concluding day of the show featured a panel discussion with leading real estate content creators from across the country. Speakers emphasised that Hyderabad continued to offer relatively affordable property prices compared with other metros, while also providing strong infrastructure, employment opportunities and quality of life.

The panel noted that the next decade could belong to Hyderabad's real estate sector, driven by the



Visitors at the concluding day of Credai-Hyderabad Property Show at HITEX Exhibition Centre on Sunday.

expansion of global capability centres (GCCs), entrepreneurial growth and large-scale infrastructure investments.

Credai-Hyderabad president N. Jaideep Reddy said the city's cultural richness, economic opportunities and stable market conditions have positioned it as one of India's most resilient real estate destinations. He advised buyers to invest only in projects approved by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

President-elect B. Jagannath Rao observed that property values in the city have appreciated significantly over the past decade, while general secretary Kranti Kiran Reddy highlighted the growing trend of working couples jointly investing in homes designed for modern lifestyles.

Reject BRS, Cong. in civic polls, NRR tells electorate

DC CORRESPONDENT
NALGONDA, FEB. 8

BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao on Sunday urged voters to reject both the BRS and the Congress in the forthcoming municipal elections, alleging that Telangana had suffered under a decade of BRS rule and was now facing misgovernance under the Congress government.

Addressing a public meeting at Clock Tower Centre in Nalgonda after concluding his roadshow, Ramchander Rao alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its election promises and had been ineffective in implementing welfare schemes.

He claimed that corruption and commission-based practices had increased under the present regime, surpassing even the previous BRS government.

He claimed that BJP-ruled states were free from corruption and appealed to voters to give the party an opportunity to ensure transparent



BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao speaks at an election campaign meeting at Clock Tower centre in Nalgonda on Sunday.

administration and corruption-free urban development through the municipal elections.

Rao also raised doubts over Saturday fire at the TG Forensic Science Laboratory (TG FSL), demanding an independent probe. He alleged that crucial evidence was destroyed, including material linked to the "cash-for-vote" case involving Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Accusing Congress and BRS leaders of collusion,

Ramchander Rao charged that Revanth Reddy was shielding BRS figures. Ramchander Rao said sensitive data on the Kaleshwaram project and phone-tapping cases was lost in the blaze, which he likened to the Secretariat fire during BRS rule.

"Hard drives, pen drives, DNA reports, voice samples and digital evidence were damaged," he told reporters, urging a comprehensive inquiry into both incidents.

GOOD | SAMARITAN Rescuers in road accidents to be rewarded

TG launches 'Rah-Veer' scheme

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

The transport department has announced that the Rah-Veer scheme, aimed at rewarding Good Samaritans who provide assistance to victims during road accidents, will be implemented across the state.

Those who offer help will be recognised as Rah-Veer and awarded a government incentive of ₹25,000 along with a certificate of appreciation.

The department reiterated that Good Samaritans would be entitled to full legal protection, so that they are not deterred by

concerns over legal or procedural complications while helping out at the accident scene.

According to officials, the key objectives of the scheme include promoting prompt medical assistance to accident victims, encouraging public participation in rescue efforts, and providing legal protection to those who help.

The transport department said a circular has been issued to all district collectors detailing the formation of district-level committees, the selection procedure and the need for wide publicity of the scheme.

As per the selection procedure, details of individ-

uals who assist victims immediately after a road accident and shift them to hospitals will be recorded by the concerned station house officer and hospital authorities.

The police officer will then recommend eligible cases to the district-level committee.

The district committee will be headed by the collector, with the superintendent of police and medical and health officer as members and the district transport officer as convener.

Based on police recommendations and committee approval, eligible individuals will be selected as Rah-Veer. Their details

will be forwarded to the transport commissioner for final approval.

Those who assist accident victims should not be harassed during police investigations or court proceedings, and hospitals must provide medical care without any hindrance. Supreme Court and Central government guidelines mandate complete legal protection for such individuals.

The department urged citizens to come forward and help accident victims instead of remaining passive or fearful, stating that timely assistance can save lives and will be met with protection and recognition from the government.

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, FEB. 8

Candidates of major political parties were said to be contacting persons with local influence and prominent community leaders at the ward level to mobilise voters for the February 11 civic elections, especially after the end of campaigning on Monday.

Party leaders have quietly stepped up what they describe as a "night campaign", mapping influential individuals ward-wise and deploying them, viewing this tactic as being more effective in voter mobilisation than

conventional campaign methods. Sources alleged that liquor and cash were being channelled through these persons.

The parties are placing particular emphasis on slum localities and Muslim-dominated areas in Adilabad, Bhainsa and Nirmal municipalities, where the population den-

sity is considered a decisive factor in the election outcome.

Meanwhile, youth participation has increased across municipalities, with large numbers taking part in rallies held in colonies as part of the campaign.

In a parallel strategy, Congress, BJP and BRS have refrained from announcing their chairperson candidates. Party leaders said the move was aimed at preventing internal dissent and defections ahead of the post-poll process of electing municipal chairpersons or mayor, including in Mancherial in the erstwhile Adilabad district.

IN BRIEF

3 held in attempt to murder case

Hyderabad: Police arrested three persons on Saturday for allegedly attempting to murder Prashanth Reddy, a rowdy-sheeter from the Jeedimetla area, during a group clash in the Jagadgirigutta police limits. The arrested persons were identified as Erpula Sai Kumar alias 'Stoner' Sai, Vallapu Sampath Kumar, and Manjala Aditya. They were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Police said special surveillance is being maintained on rowdy-sheeters as part of preventive measures to ensure peace and public safety in the area.

BIKER DIES AFTER RTC BUS HITS HIM AT U-TURN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Jatavath Hariya, a two-wheeler rider, was killed when an RTC bus rammed into his vehicle on Sagar Road on Sunday, Yacharam police said. Hariya, a resident of Venkateswara Thanda in Manchal mandal, was taking a U-turn when the accident occurred. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

Onlookers alerted the ambulance and police immediately after the collision. Yacharam police said they are probing the circumstances of the crash to determine whether traffic rules were violated. The mishap caused chaos on the stretch before police cleared traffic.

918 MOTORISTS BOOKED FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

The Hyderabad and Cyberabad traffic police booked 918 motorists for driving drunk over the weekend. Of them, the Hyderabad traffic police booked 604 offenders and the Cyberabad traffic police 314. All offenders will be produced before court, police said. In Cyberabad, 15 drivers had blood alcohol content of between 301 and 550, against the legal limit of 30 milligrams of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. In Hyderabad, five drivers were found to have BAC of above 300.

Cyberabad police also reported that 266 drunk-driving cases were disposed of last week, with three offenders sentenced to fine and jail, 19 fined with social service, and 244 fined only.

WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN DROWNED CAR

P. SRINIVAS | DC NALGONDA, FEB. 8

The State Disaster Response Force on Sunday recovered the car that had plunged into the Nagarjunasagar left canal at Mukundapuram in Nidmanoor mandal of Nalgonda, and found the body of a woman inside. She was identified as Tallam Padma. Her husband Pullaiah who was in the car at the time of the accident is still missing. Their driver jumped to safety.

The couple were residents of Kamasagar in Tripuraram mandal and were returning after consulting a doctor at a hospital in Miryalaguda, where Pullaiah had been undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in a road accident a few months ago.

District collector B. Chandrashekar who inspected the work said search operations could not be taken up immediately after the car fell into the canal at around 7.30 pm on Saturday due to the darkness. The operation began early on Sunday morning, with the car being lifted first, leading to the recovery of Padma's body. Efforts to trace Pullaiah were continuing.

Rescue personnel on Sunday retrieve the car that plunged into the Nagarjunasagar left canal at Mukundapuram in Nidmanoor mandal on Saturday. — DC

Goel: No damage caused to evidence, documents

Says most evidence has been retrieved, but some were partially damaged

SYED OMAR FAROOQ | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory director Shikha Goel on Sunday said that the Saturday fire at the forensic science laboratory has partially damaged computers and equipment, training hall and other facilities located on the first floor of the building. She said most evidence has been retrieved, but some were partially damaged.



TGFSL director Shikha Goel at a press meet on Sunday. — P. SURENDRA

The director said the fire accident occurred at the Forensic Science Laboratory at around 10.08 am. It was first noticed by Sai Krishna, an employee working in the computer forensic lab in TGFSL, who saw smoke coming out from the lab on the first floor. He alerted the staff present in the FSL and also informed the inspector of police at TGFSL.

Sai Krishna also used the fire extinguisher available in the room to tackle the fire. A smoke alarm system installed on the first floor also set off a warning sound, she said, adding that fire tenders reached TGFSL within minutes and doused the fire under control at 1.30 pm.

She said most facilities

at the FSL are fully functional, and if any facilities have suffered partial damage, they will be made functional very soon. "No loss of life or injury to any person has occurred in this incident."

She said a large quantity of case documents have been retrieved and placed at a secured place and damage caused by the fire-accident is being assessed.

Goel said the Nampally police have registered a case with a crime number 48 of 2026, and have taken up the investigation. "A case has already been registered on FSL fire mishap after due investigation and the cause would be established at FSL. We are committed to maintaining the highest stan-

Forensic lab assures safety of phone-tapping evidence

FROM PAGE 1

At a press conference in Hanamkonda on Sunday, Rama Rao alleged that the Chief Minister behind the incident since the evidence of the case involving him would permanently be wiped out from the lab when the case was in its final stages in the courts. Citing the police FIR on the incident, Rama Rao said that computers of FSL, properties room, analysis chamber, server room, and case verification chamber had been completely damaged.

All the evidence of key cases involving criminals and rapists of the last 10 years were wiped out in the fire accident, he claimed. But, in the Revanth Reddy case,

material objects comprising 16 items were examined in the FSL and reports as well as the material objects were submitted to the Principal Special Judge, ACB Court, Nampally. Though she did not name the case, except referring to it by the case number — RCA 11/ACB/CRI/2015 of ACB — senior police officer and TGFSL Director Shikha Goel said: "unverified and unsubstantiated" claims have been made in a section of media about loss evidence in the case.

"Forensic Science Laboratory received 16 items on June 12, 2015, and July 14, 2015, from the court. All these objects were examined and the reports were submitted on three occa-

sions in 2015," Goel said. The case property was returned to the court in March 2021, and no material object pertaining to this case was with the FSL, she added.

With regard to the phone-tapping case, again referring to it only by the crime number — 243 of 2024 — Goel said of the 132 objects received in the case between March 2024 and January 2026, all except seven had been examined and reports submitted to the forwarding authority. Even in the seven materials object received recently, examination was completed and reports were under preparation. "Further, all the material objects in the case have been retrieved safely," she added.

this fire and loss of case properties, Shikha reiterated that most of the case properties have already been retrieved.

When *Deccan Chronicle* asked Goel if the police were probing the political angle, she refused to answer.

Snarl on Miyapur road



Several vehicles taking a U-turn to join the opposite flank of a road at Miyapur, have caused a traffic congestion. Hence, vehicles are crawling on the road. — K. DURGA RAO

DALIT BOY'S HOUSE TORCHED IN MANCHERIAL

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, FEB. 8

The Mancherial police have registered cases and arrested three persons after the bridegroom's house was set on fire following an inter-caste marriage in Dampur of Bheemaram mandal in Mancherial district. According to police, the incident occurred after a woman from a BC community married a Dalit youth. The accused were identified as the bride's father Cheruku Laxman and her brothers Anji and Sampath.

MAN BOOKED FOR DUMPING DEBRIS IN GANDIPET

Hyderabad: HMWS&SB booked a tractor owner for trying to illegally dump construction debris into the Gandipet reservoir. Officials said patrolling staff intercepted the vehicle near FTL Point No. 425 at Himayatnagar near the drinking water lake on Sunday before the waste could be discharged.

During inquiry, driver and owner Kummari Gopal (40) admitted to the attempt. A criminal case was registered at Moinsabad police station. Water Board authorities warned that contamination of drinking water sources would not be tolerated and strict legal action would follow against violators. They appealed to citizens to remain vigilant and report illegal dumping or pollution attempts to local authorities or the Water Board's customer care number 155313.

Firemen rescue woman, son, 2 pets from blaze

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

City traffic police on Sunday booked Malakpet resident Syed Aliuddin for allegedly tampering with registration number plate of his two-wheeler. The case came to light after one Faheem Ali, the rightful owner of the registration number, lodged a complaint stating that 23 illegal traffic challans were generated against his vehicle, police said. Upon verification, Faheem found that the accused had changed his vehicle number, replacing '9' with '8' in the series. Police booked an FIR in 48 of 2026 under BNS and Motor Vehicles Act.

Firefighters rescued a senior citizen, A. Kanaka Mahalakshmi, 65, her son A. Subramanyam, 45, and their two pet dogs from a fire broke out in a G+1 building at Akbarbagh on Sunday.

According to Malakpet station fire officer Mohammed Shoukath, the blaze started in the puja room and spread to the bedroom while the inmates were asleep. "We received a call from neighbours at 3.26 pm. Our crew rushed to the scene, broke open the single entry door and rescued the resi-



The team rescued two hunter dogs trapped on the rear balcony. — DC

dent," he said. The victims were shifted to a private hospital and treated as out-

37 held, ₹71.9 L refunds in scam bust

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

City cybercrime police said they booked 117 FIRs, registered 26 cases, arrested 37 scammers from seven states and ensured the return of ₹71.9 lakh to victims during special operations in January.

According to a press release issued by CCS-SIT DCP M. Srinivasulu, the arrests were linked to 15 investment frauds, two digital loan scams,

Bihar and Delhi. Police seized 26 mobile phones, one laptop, 57 cheque books, 79 SIM cards, 62 debit cards, 15 shell company stamps and eight QR code scanners. In January, zonal cyber cells received 1,706 complaints through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, of which 315 FIRs were registered. Srinivasulu said

the rise in FIRs was due to the C-Mitra initiative. Thirteen offenders were arrested in 13 cases across India, with ₹10.65 lakh refunded to victims. In one major case, Hyderabad cybercrime police arrested two accused for allegedly cheating a man of over ₹11 lakh through a fake crypto trading platform. The scam was carried out via a woman that the complainant met on a matrimonial website. Between October 26 and

November 12, 2025, he transferred ₹11.20 lakh via UPI, bank transfers and Binance USDT and received only ₹2,663 in return. Police arrested Geddavalasa Ravi Kiran alias Bhadri of Gajuwaka on January 2, 2026, and Chodipilli Ganga Raju alias Sameer of Gajuwaka on January 13. Ganga Raju allegedly supplied SIM cards to the fraudsters. Five mobile phones and 10 SIM cards were seized.

It is with deepest grief that we inform the demise of

Smt. Konda Vimala Reddy,
who left us on February 8th, 2026.

Viewing at residence No 78,
Road No 13, Banjara Hills, 10 am - 3 pm.

The final rites will take place on Monday,
February 9th, 2026 at 5pm at
Mahaprasthanam, next to Whisper Valley, Jubilee Hills.

Konda Ramchandra Reddy
Sanjay & Durga
Renuka & Mani
Aparna & Naveen
And the Konda family

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim 4:7

Guidipati Elizabeth Zachariah
W/o Bishop Rev. Dr. Zachariah Guidipati (NCM & Sharon Christian Fellowship)
Beloved Wife, Mother,
Mother-in-law, Grandmother
DOB: 4th June, 1952
Gone to be with the Lord in glory on February 6th, 2026
Visitation: 10-02-2026 at Residence at 1.00 pm
Funeral: 10-02-2026 at APHB Colony's Burial Ground at 3.00 pm
Inserted by: Family Members
John: 9000177917, Jacob: 9866736301

SHYAM AGARWAL
6th November 1947 - 7th February 2026

You lived beautifully and loved deeply. We carry your spirit and your kindness in our hearts, always.
Missed by: wife Chanda Agarwal & Daughters Meena, Sweta, Radhi & Agarwal Family
PRAYER MEET
Monday, 9th February 2026 - 12PM to 1PM
Jubilee Hill International Center (JHIC), Road No. 14, Jubilee Hills, Hyd - 500033
METAL ENGINEERS, Balanagar

"...the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance". Psalm 112:6

KAMALAM WYCLIFFE
(W/o. G. JOHN WYCLIFFE, Retd. Section Officer, G.A.D., A.P. Secretariat)
D.O.B. 22.02.1924 W.C.O.09.02.2002
God couldn't be anywhere but it is through you we visualise Amma. We miss you much.
With love:
Sons, Daughters & their Families.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance Psalms 112:6

Shri B. SOLOMON SUKUMAR DEE (R&B) Dept., Telangana State So Late B. Simon & B. Snehalatha Simon
D.O.B: 10-4-2017
We remember you in silent tears. Your memories are always in our hearts forever. Family Remembered.
Sisters, Family Members, Relatives and Friends.
040-27220421, 9849641950, 8328136082 (CA-4450)

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalms 23:6

Late Rev. T. BENJAMIN
Sr. Pastor, HRC - MCI
Promoted to glory on 09-02-2018
You will remain in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Wife, Children, Sister & Grandchildren
Mobile: 9963383405, 9866381228
(B/2526/D00084)

46th ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Sri. B. RANGAIAH GUPTA
You are always there in our hearts.
Inserted by:
M/s. Gupta & Co., Sec'bad & Family Members.
(S/2526/D00905)

IN LOVING MEMORY

SAKINALA SRINIVAS RAO
D.O.B: 17-11-1964 - D.O.D: 28-01-2026
With profound grief and heavy hearts, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved Sakinala Srinivas Rao. He was a pillar of Strength, Love, and wisdom for Our Family.
From: Sakinala Family

SHRADHANJALI

KYLASA RAJESHWAR RAO
D.O.B: 13.10.1938
Expired on 26 January 2026
Bava You R Always Cherish in our hearts
Inserted by:
Smt. Dr. Alladi Rajkumar
Smt. Sri Prakash Yadav
Smt. Neetha Pannani

GRAND MOTHER WE MISS YOU A LOT

Smt. Bathula Anne Mary Garu
DOB: 24-10-1944 DOD: 09-02-2025
Inserted by: Grand Daughter & Grand Sons
Mrs. & Mr. Bathula Hanashvardhan, M.S. (USA)
Bathula Prithvi Raj, M. Tech
Dr. Bathula Apoorva, MBBS, MD, (Rd.)
Bathula Nithin, B.Tech, M.S. (USA)
Angampally Krishna Chaitanya, MS. (UK)
Dr. Angampally Vishnu Chaitanya MBBS.

In Loving memory of

Late Meera Lalwani
W/o Late Ramchand Lalwani
DOD: 09-02-2024
"Your life was blessing
Your memory is a treasure ...
You are loved beyond words,
And missed beyond measure."
Inserted by:
Lalwani Family members.

IN LOVING MEMORY Of our Mother

Smt. DHANA DEVI SRIVASTAV
W/o Late Tarachand Lal Srivastav
DOD: 9-2-2023
There will never be a day when we don't think of you and wish you were by our side.
Inserted by: Dr. Giridhar Lal Srivastav & Family Members
"OM SRI SAI RAM"

"The Memory of Righteous is a Blessing" Prov. 10:7

4th Death Anniversary

Mrs. Devakrupa Wesley
W/o M. Wesley
DOB: 15.05.1940 DOD: 09.02.2022
Inserted by: Family Members

Hawkers, ghost cars, bins block roads

Stop Duronto at Nizamuddin station in Delhi

We request the railways to provide a halt at the Hazrat Nizamuddin station for Train 12213/12214, the weekly Duronto Express service between Yeshwantpur (Bengaluru) and Delhi Sarai Rohella via Secunderabad. New Delhi and Hyderabad are connected by nine trains, most of which terminate at Hazrat Nizamuddin in the Capital while Telangana Express (12723/12724) operates upto New Delhi but has a halt at Hazrat Nizamuddin. Around 60 per cent of passengers alight at this station. Providing a halt for Train 12213/12214 Duronto Express also at Hazrat Nizamuddin will remove the need for passengers from Hyderabad to travel up to Delhi Sarai Rohella and then take the road back.

— Mohammed Abdul Fasih and others

Streetlights not working at Begum Bazaar

This is to bring to the notice of the authorities that streetlights are not glowing from Sanjeevi Pharmacy till Deepa Hospital in Begum Bazaar for two months. The street remains in the dark throughout the night. I request the GHMC to attend to the problem on priority.

— Anand Begum Bazaar

Tanashanagar faces pothole nightmare

I request the GHMC to repair the road near OU Colony at Tanashanagar. For the past year, motorists and pedestrians have had to negotiate the several potholes on the road. The potholes are a cause for danger for road-users.

— Vineet Manikonda

Triple-riding must end on Tank Bund

I request the Hyderabad police commissioner to take steps to prevent triple-riding on motorbikes or scooters, especially at night, on Tank Bund. I have frequently seen reckless riding by these bikers which could result in accidents. Besides, a long line of four-wheelers is parked on the lake side of the road, which affects traffic flow. Besides, birthday parties are again being held on Tank Bund, resulting in the people throwing trash carelessly.

— K. Ahmed Second Bazaar

WRITE TO US

We at Deccan Chronicle invite you to kindly send all your complaints, issues, grievances, feedback and suggestions to our government and all its departments by writing to Speak Out, the voice of the people, to our new email ID dcspeakout@gmail.com

— Editor



Overflowing water creates nuisance in Srinagar Colony

The park adjacent to the HDFC Bank on Srinagar Colony main road has been provided with public gym equipment recently. Around a week or so ago, water began overflowing at the spot where the public gym has been set up, making it difficult not only for those who intend to use the equipment to get a spot of exercise but also those walking in the area. I request the municipal authorities to immediately get the problem rectified.

— Katuru Durga Prasad Rao Srinagar Colony



Hawkers create traffic congestion at Niloufer

The stretch of road leading to Niloufer Hospital and MNJ Cancer Hospital has been made one way by the traffic police to ease traffic congestion. But a large number of hawkers has put up stalls and carts near Niloufer Hospital, defeating the purpose of one way traffic. I appeal to the traffic police to immediately remove the hawkers and facilitate smooth movement of traffic.

— Dr Srikanth, Hyderabad

Resolve pigeon menace in colonies

Given the large number of pigeons roosting in residential areas, I request the authorities to address the menace. Some of these birds are known to cause diseases among humans. People feed the pigeons at certain places, and I urge the authorities to discourage the practice in the interest of the health and safety of the people. Pigeons are known to breed rapidly, which makes it important to take action immediately.

— Mohd Nasrullah Khan Vijaynagar Colony

VENDORS BLOCK BACHUPALLY ROAD ILLEGALLY

The Bachupally road connecting the national highway at Bachupally is being slowly occupied by vendors. I request the authorities to clear the encroachments immediately before the problem becomes intractable.

— Sudhaker Reddy Nizampet



DC IMPACT

GARBAGE LIFTED AFTER DC EXPOSED INACTION

Let me place on record my heartfelt thanks to Deccan Chronicle for carrying my grievance regarding the piling up of garbage near my residence in Bhoodevinagar, Venkatapuram (Garbage menace in Alwal needs urgent attention, Feb. 6).

Without intending to flatter the newspaper — though Deccan Chronicle is undeniably the heartbeat of Hyderabad, much like the city's enduring fondness for Irani chai — it is evident that grievances highlighted in the Speak Out columns carry a seriousness that even



A image of a page in Deccan Chronicle.

civic authorities cannot afford to ignore. To my pleasant surprise, officials of the GHMC, particularly the local supervisory staff, swung into action soon after the issue was

published and cleared the accumulated garbage.

What more can a genuine reader of Deccan Chronicle expect? This experience reinforces the faith that the people repose in the newspaper and underlines its credibility. It also explains why officials, who otherwise appear indifferent, suddenly find the urgency to act — perhaps to avoid the proverbial axe falling from above once an issue is spotlighted in your pages. My experience speaks for itself.

— Leo Justine Venkatapuram



Garbage bins and ghost cars block RRB Road

Health scare



Drainage water has surrounded a drinking water pipeline at Kamela Road near Purnanapool, raising contamination fears and posing a serious health threat to local residents. — R. PAVAN

The residents of housing societies located around RRB Road are facing unhygienic and unsafe conditions. RRB Road is a very narrow lane and its effective width has been significantly reduced due to the prolonged parking of abandoned vehicles on the one side and placement of garbage bins on the other. This obstructs free movement of traffic and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. The exposed and decomposing garbage has become a constant source of foul stench, which spreads into the surrounding areas. We request officials to remove garbage and relocate the garbage bins as well as the abandoned vehicles from RRB Road. This will help in restoring road safety and improving hygiene in the area.

— Residents of Aparna Oosman's Everest, Mettuguda

'Blame Game' leaves Secunderabad Cantt residents in the dust

Secunderabad Cantonment residents like me endure a blame game between the authorities: the tahsildar deflects responsibility to the SCB, the GHMC claims exhaustive efforts are on and yet fails to curb violators, and Ramky refers to the unclear land ownership by both entities. The Cantonment MLA goes on a fast demanding the SCB's merger with GHMC. But, with persistent nuisance unaddressed, what purpose does a merger serve? This jurisdictional deadlock results in the neglects our surroundings despite our tax contributions funding national development. Violators evade fines, and no dedicated staff monitors repeat offenders. As a taxpayer, I demand accountability — our plight dates back to 2018, marking seven years of neglect. I urge the authorities to enforce penalties, and resolve inter-agency conflicts decisively.

— Vishal Kumar B.R. Old Bowenpally



Banjara Hills: Road No. 12 is overflowing with neglect

A drainage blockage over the past six days at Srirammagar, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, the lane behind Hanuman Temple, is causing an overflow of sewage. The overflow is causing a foul smell and mosquito menace. I request the civic authorities to have the blockage immediately to prevent health issues.

— Pentam Raj Shekar Srirammagar, Banjara Hill

HC strikes down HMDA's turnover condition in new tender

L. RAVICHANDER HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court struck down a 'turnover' eligibility condition prescribed in a tender issued by the HMDA for operation of a gymnasium and swimming pool at the Dr G.S. Melkote Park, Narayan-guda, observing that the conditions did not have a rational nexus with the object of the tender.

The writ petition was filed by Karangula Abhishek Reddy, erstwhile licensee of the gymnasium and swimming pool. It was contended that the facility was allotted to him under a 2017 tender at an annual licence fee of ₹27 lakh for a period of five years, which was later

extended till January 31, 2025. The petitioner challenged the condition in the fresh tender issued on August 19, 2025, which mandated a minimum annual turnover of ₹15 crore in any one of the preceding three financial years.

He contended that the condition was introduced for the first time, was disproportionate to the licence fee involved, and effectively excluded him and similarly placed operators from participating in the bidding process.

The respondents contended that the licence period of petitioner had expired and that he had no vested right to continue. Counsel for respondent would justify the turnover condition on the ground that it was

intended to attract financially sound operators capable of upgrading and maintaining the facility to higher standards.

Justice Vijaysen ruled that while the tendering authority has discretion to prescribe eligibility criteria, such conditions must have a rational nexus with the object sought to be achieved.

The judge found that fixing a ₹15 crore turnover requirement for a lease with an upset price of ₹10 lakh and a past licence fee of about ₹27 lakh was irrational and arbitrary. The judge also noted that the condition would confine participation to a few large players, thereby violating the constitutional guarantees of equality.



LEGAL STORIES

PRE-ARREST BAIL FOR CHEATING ACCUSED

The High Court granted anticipatory bail to Kadari Anjaiah, accused of cheating and criminal intimidation in connection with a land transaction involving ₹69.50 lakh. The petitioner is facing prosecution in a case filed by the Devarakonda police of Nalgonda district, for offences punishable under cheating, crimi-

nal breach of trust and others under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The case arose out of a complaint lodged by a mediator in a property transaction, alleging that the accused had agreed to purchase a plot for a total sale consideration of ₹69.50,000. It was alleged that on December 22, 2025, the accused assured the sellers and the mediator that the amount was kept at office of an associate and persuaded them to proceed with registration. After completion of the registration process, the accused allegedly deceived the parties, collected the cash along with the linked documents, pushed them aside, and fled from the office. The complainant alleged that when he attempt-

ed to contact the accused, he was threatened with dire consequences, compelling him to approach the police. During the hearing, counsel for the petitioner submitted that the offences alleged were punishable with imprisonment of less than seven years, that the police had issued a notice under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and that custodial interrogation was unnecessary. Opposing the plea, the Additional Public Prosecutor contended that the accused was not cooperating with the investigation despite service of statutory notice and that the prosecution intended to seek permission for his arrest.

Counsel appearing for the de-facto complainant also

opposed the grant of bail, citing the seriousness of the allegations and the alleged conduct of the accused. The judge said since the notice under BNSS was issued it was a case for grant of pre-arrest bail, subject to conditions.

WRIT FILED AGAINST OUTGOING BAR MEMBERS

Justice Tukaramji notice to state and all members of Bar Council of Telangana in a writ plea alleging multiple irregularities in disciplinary proceedings and passing of resolutions allegedly by the regulatory and statutory body after expiry of its term. Advocate A. Ushi Reddy, appearing as party-in-person, complained that the term of

member of the Bar Council expired in 2020; however, its members were passing resolutions, signing minutes, and presiding disciplinary committee without any legal sanctity. The petitioner implicated all the members of the State Bar Council and alleged that they acted in contravention of the Advocates Act. It was the case of the petitioner the members had no authority to hold the officer subsequent to the elected period thereupon or to pass any resolution. It was alleged that the members were illegally entertaining false complaints from strangers and passing orders to earn 'easy money'. The judge granted time the respondents to file their respective counter affidavits.



DECCAN Chronicle

9 FEBRUARY 2026

Agri safe, high tech must cope with US deal impact

The India-US bilateral trade deal, which is being dubbed as the father of all deals and lowers trade barriers in the country for the American products, marks a strategic pivot in the bilateral trade relationship. Unlike the last two decades, when the Indo-US relationship was based on strategic considerations, this deal introduces a “give-and-take” model that trades energy and agricultural concessions for the revival of Indian manufacturing exports.

Under this deal, India promised to lower entry barriers for US products in return for America’s reciprocal treatment for Indian products. While it would be beneficial for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear and artisanal products, the deal would force a major restructuring in high-tech engineering sectors.

Companies operating in labour-intensive sectors will be the big gainers. The deal has opened up the \$30-trillion US economy for them. Along with the recently concluded EU deal, they have got a \$50-trillion market to serve, which is a humongous opportunity. Unless new inventions in robotics replace labour requirements further, this deal will help Indian companies to expand and hire more people — a positive for a country with a huge young population.

With India opening up its market to the US and Europe, it will be a setback for the Make in India programme as Indian products in high-tech areas can’t match Western products in quality and price points.

Indian high-tech and industrial companies, which were happy with serving the domestic market under the protection of government trade barriers, will have to face the onslaught of American and European manufacturers. This competition will force Indian companies to choose either of three options — get competitive, improve quality and expand their market, or collaborate with the Western sectoral majors, or get out of business.

With India opening up its market to the US and Europe, it will be a setback for the Narendra Modi government’s Make in India programme as the Indian products in high-tech areas cannot match the Western products in quality and price points at this stage. India, therefore, cannot become self-reliant at least in the next decade.

The India-US deal marks a total reversal of the industrial strategy that India has been following since independence by focusing on big industries and niche technologies. By trading off the Make-in-India programme to collaboration with Western companies for market access for labour-intensive business, India has adopted the East Asian model. Unlike India, the Southeast countries and China initially focused on the creation of employment and used wealth generated thus to build rivals for Western companies.

Contrary to initial demands, the Donald Trump administration appears to have understood the limitations of the Narendra Modi government in opening up US farm produce for human consumption. The US appears to have agreed with the opening of the huge animal feed market, protecting farmers from the US onslaught.

About two decades ago, no Indian government could have agreed on a deal in the current form. Now, however, the Indian economy has matured and cannot demand lollipops like sub-Saharan countries. India’s deal with the US and Europe will lead to two developments which were long overdue — increasing jobs for people and forcing Indian companies to become global. It is high time that Indian companies show that they are second to none.

Boys in Blue script history

Oh boy! That’s been the cry all over India in the past week as the national Under-19 cricketers won the ICC World Cup for that category, stealing the thunder from the senior team preparing to defend their T20 World Cup title. For once, “boys played well” should not sound clichéd. Indeed, they did, registering commanding wins over their rivals and at times digging their heels to wriggle out of tough situations before turning the tables on their stunned opponents.

The last game in the Super Six stage of the tournament against Pakistan was a case in point. It was charged with a heavy political undercurrent that resulted in tremendous pressure put on young shoulders. It showed, as the top half of the batting line-up was out for not much. Vedant Trivedi then rallied around the tail to keep India’s head high before the bowlers defended a decent total of 252 to restrict the arch-rivals to under 200 and script a 58-run victory that put the spring back in their step.

Others stepped up in the semifinal. Chasing Afghanistan’s mammoth 310 for four in 50 overs, they pulled out their top game, literally. Openers Aaron George and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, captain Ayush Mhatre and Vihaan Malhotra fired in unison to finish the game with seven wickets in hand.

The lads changed gears in the final against England and went full throttle. Star Sooryavanshi slammed a whirlwind 175 in just 80 balls, a knock that drew comparisons with Kapil Dev’s 175 in a group game at the 1983 World Cup. Kapil scored those runs against Zimbabwe in England; Sooryavanshi got them against England in Zimbabwe.

The youngster’s innings took India to a colossal 411 and batted England out of the game, which was sealed by a 100-run margin.

That was pure talent. The win proves that the future of Indian cricket is very bright. Quite a few from this side will eventually graduate to Team India. At just 14, Sooryavanshi has already made his mark in the IPL and is constantly knocking on the doors of the senior side. It won’t be long before he breaks it down and takes his place in the crack team.



Naravane exposé reveals Delhi runs on narrative



Bharat Bhushan

Why did Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi to skip the House because of a supposed “security threat” from the Opposition? Was it to do with the “unpublished” memoir of Gen. M.M. Naravane (Retd), a former Chief of the Army Staff, which had surfaced in the House debate?

The Speaker’s claim that there was a threat to the Prime Minister inside the Lok Sabha immediately shifted the narrative to the Opposition’s allegedly threatening behaviour. It seemed to be an attempt to blunt Rahul Gandhi’s interrogation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the indecisiveness which Gen. Naravane describes in his memoir *Four Stars of Destiny* and to portray Mr Modi as a victim.

The timing of the government’s sudden midnight announcement of a “successful” US-India trade deal on the very day Gen. Naravane’s account of Mr Modi’s indecisiveness was aired in Parliament also smells suspicious. It turns out that the deal is unlikely to be signed until mid-March. Why then did the Prime Minister let US President Donald Trump trumpet half-truths about a done deal on social media? And why did he himself enthusiastically endorse it within hours of Mr Trump’s post?

Perhaps the answer lies in the Modi government’s obsession with controlling the narrative.

Rahul Gandhi quoted from journalist Sushant Singh’s exposé in *Caravan* magazine on Gen. Naravane’s unpublished memoir. The carefully inflated image of Mr Modi as the ultimate guardian of India’s national security was punctured. In Gen. Naravane’s words, Mr Modi appeared as a man with sunken shoulders, passing responsibility

to the Army brass during the crisis caused by Chinese incursions in Eastern Ladakh.

Apparently, the government took too long to respond to the Army’s request for clear instructions. After repeated attempts by the Army Chief to seek guidance, the response was ambiguous: “*Jo uchit samajho, woh karo*” (Do what you think is appropriate). If French PM Georges Clemenceau once said “war is too important a matter to be left to the generals”, Mr Modi doesn’t seem to have heard it. Gen. Naravane’s memoirs suggest that he abdicated political leadership, and the instructions given reflected less delegation than indecision.

Mr Modi never spoke to Gen. Naravane directly. The message was conveyed by defence minister Rajnath Singh, ostensibly from Mr Modi, but neither of them has denied the content. Instead, the government is hiding behind a technicality that because the book is unpublished it cannot be quoted in Parliament. The book remains “unpublished” because the government itself has not allowed its official release for over one year (although PDFs of the book are widely available on social media).

The day after Rahul Gandhi attempted to read from the *Caravan* article, he was able to procure a copy of the book. He told the media: “I don’t think the PM will have the guts to come to the Lok Sabha today, because if he comes, I’m going to give him this book.” Clearly the prospect that a copy might be thrust into Mr Modi’s hands when he came to reply to the President’s address had to be avoided at all costs.

This was where the Speaker’s warning of a “security threat” saved the day. He advised Mr Modi not to attend the Lok Sabha,

By giving Mr Trump a visible win on trade, and allowing him to crow about it, did Mr Modi hope to prevent him from exploiting his vulnerability as revealed in Gen. Naravane’s memoirs?

claiming physical danger to him from Opposition MPs. Mr Birla did not reveal the source of his intelligence: was it the Delhi police, CRPF, Parliamentary Security Service, Intelligence Bureau or the Special Protection Group? And why did none of these agencies think it fit to inform their overseeing authorities — the home minister, intelligence chiefs or the PMO?

Surely the Lok Sabha Speaker should have called the Leader of the Opposition and other leaders to share the alarming intelligence, and sought their help to prevent an incident? Alternatively, he could have informed the Prime Minister’s security detail and left it to Mr Modi to decide whether to attend Parliament or not. His decision would have shown Mr Modi’s character as a leader. Instead, the PM meekly agreed to the Speaker’s advice, which was politically convenient. If the threat was real, it implies two disturbing things: First, that the Parliamentary Security Service is spying on Opposition MPs; and second, the Speaker is not acting against those allegedly conspiring MPs. The Opposition ought to demand answers on both counts.

Gen. Naravane’s revelations were a double whammy for Mr Modi, who had earlier declared that “no one has entered our territory”. US officials may have seen Mr Modi’s rhetoric as domestic spin but let it pass, believing that structurally India was willing to stand up to China. But they could not have known how poorly it would perform under stress and leave the Army to struggle without clear political instructions.

The details of the Army

Chief running from pillar to post for guidance are shocking. The US would be right to ask: If India under Mr Modi could not protect its own territorial claims against China, how could it be expected to serve as America’s bulwark against China in the region? During the Ladakh crisis, India received US diplomatic backing and perhaps military intelligence and logistics support. While Washington may not have expected transparency in Mr Modi’s public statements, it did expect India to hold its ground. Gen. Naravane’s memoirs suggest that Mr Modi did not rise to the occasion. This was a bad strategic signal for all concerned.

President Donald Trump is notorious for weaponising the weaknesses of his negotiating partners. Is it plausible that Mr Modi, apprehensive of Mr Trump’s tendency to embarrass counterparts publicly, may have sought a face-saving trade deal? By giving Mr Trump a visible win on trade, and allowing him to crow about it, he may have hoped to prevent him from exploiting Mr Modi’s indecisiveness and vulnerability revealed by Gen. Naravane’s memoirs.

Both the Opposition “security threat” and the midnight trade deal appear as desperate attempts at narrative control. The fallout from Gen. Naravane’s exposé shows how this government runs on narrative. Its instinct is not to confront uncomfortable truths but to change the subject. Yet changing the narrative does not resolve the issue. Statesmanship requires decisiveness, not diversion.

The Speaker’s intervention and the midnight trade deal reveal a government obsessed with optics. The government’s frantic attempts to bury it all underscore the fragility of the image that Mr Modi has so carefully constructed. The government’s response shows us a political system in which managing the narrative is a substitute for leadership. Surely a crisis demands better governance and leadership.

The writer is a senior journalist based in New Delhi

LETTERS

FIRE IN FSL

The repeated instances of fire accidents in Hyderabad, even in government offices, demand answers (*Records burnt in major fire at FSL, Feb. 8*). Do departments follow mandatory fire NOC norms, or are safety laws enforced only on the public?

Siraj ur Rahman Hyderabad

ROW OVER TARIFFS

When India refused to give in to pressure from the US on tariffs, the Gandhi family blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed that the economy was dead (*18% of US tariffs on Indian goods take effect, Feb. 8*). Now that trade conditions are more balanced, they still continue to attack the Prime Minister in Parliament.

Sivakumar Narayanal Kuntloor

Citizens would like Prime Minister Modi to get an even playing field on tariffs with the US, and import only items not available in India with due regard to indigenisation to maintain the trade surplus of \$45 billion. Mr Modi should safeguard our indigenous industries from dumping by the US at zero per cent tariff in the agro sector, food, energy, coke coal etc. The deal should be deliberated thoroughly.

T.M. Uday Shankar Hyderabad

CONGRESS VS CONGRESS

The Congress in Telangana would do well to learn from the successful model adopted by their counterparts in Kerala, by refraining from thrusting candidates from the top and giving the freedom to the local leadership who are best suited to judge (*Turfed out. Congress Vs. Congress in Nalgonda, Feb. 8*).

L. Prabhakar Secunderabad

WORLD BILLIONAIRES

The article on the rise of billionaires is really a thought-provoking one and, in the present Gen X era, definitely to be pondered over (*As billionaires are rising, govts busy defending wealth, eroding freedom, Feb. 8*). The Budget becomes a routine financial exercise with the government doling out some figures but the end result is often a zero. The question that is most relevant in India is whether this will bring in reforms and reduce the inequality in our society.

Wg Cdr V. Sundaresan (Retd) Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com.

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Bhupendra Tripathi

Targeting lymphatic filariasis: Mission to overcome a lifetime of disability in India

On Feb. 10 morning each year, in select villages and urban settlements, frontline health workers walk door to door carrying blister packs of medicines and a simple message: These tablets can prevent a lifetime of disability. For many, the Mass Drug Administration campaign against lymphatic filariasis (LF), known as “haathipaan”, is a short, yearly interaction with the public health system. For public health professionals everywhere, it represents one of the world’s largest coordinated public health efforts, requiring trust, precision and systems that work at scale.

India’s progress against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as filaria, Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL), leprosy, etc, reminds us that elimination is not a short-term goal, but the steady strengthening of health systems that place the most vulnerable at the heart of the mission. As a country bearing one of the highest global burdens of NTDs, India’s journey has been complex. However, sustained leadership by the Union health ministry has transformed diseases once considered “neglected” into national priorities.

Filaria remains endemic in 348 districts across 20 states and UTs. However, consistent programmatic efforts have ensured that 41 per cent of previously endemic districts (143) have stopped MDA after clearing Transmission Assessment Survey-1 (TAS-1), signalling interruption of transmission. This progress is mirrored at the sub-district level as well, where there has been a 32 pc decrease in the number of

blocks conducting MDA from 2023 to 2025 alone. For the remaining areas, the health ministry’s National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control is launching the 2026 MDA round across 124 endemic districts in 12 states.

This MDA round is not merely about distributing anti-filarial tablets, but employing sophisticated programmatic architecture designed to end a disease that has significantly impacted the health landscape of our most vulnerable regions.

At the heart of India’s filaria elimination efforts is a mission-mode, systems-led strategy. Through a unified nationwide round each year, India now runs one of the largest MDA campaigns globally, supported by an enhanced five-pronged approach integrating administration of preventive medicines, surveillance, morbidity management and disability prevention (MMDP), vector control and community engagement. In recent years, the Government of India has also expanded the use of triple-drug therapy across 98 endemic districts, accelerating progress toward elimination and reducing the number of rounds required to break transmission.

Digital transformation has further strengthened the programme approach. The integration of the filaria programme within the government’s Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) allows near real-time monitoring of MDA coverage, line-listing of patients and identification of cases carrying the filarial parasite. During recent MDA rounds,

over 95 pc of blocks reported data digitally, enabling rapid identification of gaps and course correction. Modelling support from the National Disease Modelling Consortium at IIT Bombay has helped the national elimination programme understand emerging transmission aspects, optimise MDA approach and plan next steps precisely. Complementing this, the induction of Filariasis Test Strips, now made in India and available through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, has not only streamlined procurement, but it is also strengthening field-level investigation capacity.

The elimination programme also focuses on those already affected. India has scaled up MMDP services, including care for those with lymphedema (swelling in the limbs) and hydrocele surgeries (for scrotal swelling), supported through the Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) scheme. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of MMDP kits distributed and hydrocele surgeries conducted more than doubled. UP is ensuring filaria patients have access to disability certification for social protections. Bihar, under state health minister Mangal Pandey, has nearly completed the full backlog of hydrocele surgeries.

Another critical pillar of this progress has been the expanded role of medical colleges. These colleges now serve as district-level partners in elimination. Their participation has grown dramatically, with nearly all filaria-endemic districts supported by academic institutions. To ensure the “last mile” is cov-

ered and elimination endures we require a shift from a government-run programme to what is known as Jan Bhagidari, true community ownership. In this context, Jan Bhagidari means that the local residents’ welfare associations in urban areas, school principals and village panchayats take responsibility, neighbours encourage neighbours.

The goal set by the government to eliminate LF by 2027, three years ahead of the global target, is ambitious. Achieving this requires us to treat this Feb. 10 launch with the same war-footing urgency we once reserved for polio. The main thing to remember is that anti-filarial medicines are safe. Millions have consumed them globally with no to minimal side effects. Treatment is vital for every individual because even if you feel perfectly healthy, you may be carrying the parasite. Finally, consumption is the only metric of success. Please do not just accept the tablets, consume them in presence of the health worker.

India has the technical expertise, the frontline workforce and the programmatic resolve to end this disease. We must now provide the collective will. Let us use this February MDA round to demonstrate to the world India’s collective resolve, showing that we are not only overcoming neglected tropical diseases but leading the way in eliminating them.

Dr Bhupendra Tripathi is the deputy director, infectious diseases and vaccine delivery, at the Gates Foundation’s India Country Office



SHORT TAKES

READY TO STEP DOWN IF SANGH ASKS: BHAGWAT

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on the second day of the lecture series titled '100 Years of the Sangh's Journey: New Horizons', organised as part of the RSS centenary celebrations, Bhagwat said that in the organisation's early years, a larger number of Brahmmins were associated with the Sangh, but stressed that it has always worked for people across castes. He said that in future, even workers from SC or ST communities could rise to the top post.

The programme was attended by over 900 invited guests, including MLAs, industrialists, bureaucrats and film personalities. On reservations, Bhagwat reiterated the RSS position that constitutionally mandated quotas should continue until communities that have suffered generations of injustice achieve comprehensive upliftment and a sense of security. Referring to his continuation as RSS chief after turning 75, Bhagwat said he had expressed his willingness to step down but was asked to continue. "It is not in my hands to decide whether I retire or continue. When the Sangh asks me to step down as Sar-sangchalak, I will do so, but I will not retire from work."

RAJ: 2 DEAD, 15 INJURED IN BUILDING COLLAPSE

Jaipur, Feb 8: A total of 15 people were pulled out of the debris after a three-storey building collapsed in Rajasthan's Kota on Saturday night, of which two died, officials said on Sunday.

Eight of the injured are undergoing treatment, while five have been discharged after primary care, they said.

The deceased were identified as Aryan (20) and Lakshman (15). "In total, 15 people were taken out of the debris. While two have died, some of the injured were discharged after treatment. A probe will be ordered to ascertain the facts, and action will follow," Cabinet minister Heeralal Nagar told reporters. Divisional Commissioner Anil Agarwal said some new construction work was going on in the neighbourhood, which might have caused the building collapse.

SHAH REVIEWS LWE PROGRESS INTENSIVELY

FROM PAGE 1

The Raipur meeting on Left-wing extremism was Shah's second high-level review since Saturday. The back-to-back security review on the LWE comes 51 days ahead of the Centre's March 31 deadline to eliminate Maoist insurgency in the country. According to sources, the Sunday meeting will likely be the Union home minister's last high-level security review on the LWE ahead of the deadline.

At the meeting, the Union home minister reviewed progress in the rehabilitation of the surrendered Naxals in Chhattisgarh and infrastructure development and other welfare measures being undertaken in Naxal-affected regions of Bastar, sources said. Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai, deputy CM and home minister Vijay Sharma, Union home secretary, Intelligence Bureau director and the ministry of home affairs special secretary (internal security) attended the Sunday meeting held at a hotel in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

Assam sends Gogoi's Pak links case to MHA

Case involves national security, not personal: Cabinet

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs GUWAHATI, FEB. 8

The Assam cabinet has decided to refer the case of Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's alleged Pakistan links to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

He maintained that there are "three key players" in the case an MP, his British wife and Pakistani national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh. "The Assam government had constituted an SIT to inquire into the alleged anti-India conspiracy of Sheikh in connivance with a British citizen and an MP. Keeping in mind the seriousness of the matter, it was decided to hand it over to the MHA," Sarma said, while addressing a press conference after chairing a cabinet meeting on Saturday.

"The SIT report and the case registered on the basis of which the probe was conducted will be forwarded to the MHA. It can use any of its investigating agencies to take it forward," he said. The chief minister stated that the cabinet was of the view that the case "involves national security and is not a personal one, with three players involved." Sarma and the BJP have been attacking Gogoi, who also heads the state Congress, over his wife's alleged connection with Pakistan's spy agency ISI. The state



Gaurav, wife have 'deeper connection' with Pak agent; FCRA violated to pay her salary. We believe there is a deeper connection between Gogoi, Colburn and Sheikh. We believe that Colburn and Sheikh were part of an international conspiracy.

— Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam

WORSE than C-grade cinema, This #SuperFlop is in contrast to our #XomoyParivartanYatra which has been a hit in uncovering the 12,000 bighas of land occupied by the Chief Minister and his family members.

— Gaurav Gogoi, Assam Congress president.

CONG.: IT IS A CALL TO GENOCIDE

FROM PAGE 1

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the video reflected a deeper ideological issue within the BJP. "An official BJP handle posted a video showing the targeted, 'point-blank' murder of minorities. This is nothing but a call to genocide, a dream this fascist regime has harboured for decades," Venugopal said in a post on X, adding that the content represented "poison spread from the very top" and must have consequences.

Venugopal said he did not expect Narendra Modi to condemn or act on the issue, but called on the judiciary to intervene and ensure there was "no leniency" in dealing with the matter. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said deleting the video was insufficient. "This is who the BJP really is. This venom, hatred and violence is on you, Modi," she said, questioning whether courts and institutions were "sleeping" over the issue.

government had formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe a case of alleged interference of Sheikh, who was claimed to have links with Gogoi's British wife Elizabeth Colburn, in India's internal affairs. The SIT submitted its report to Sarma, who also holds the Home portfolio, on September 10, the date initially set by the chief minister for providing evidence to support his accusations against Gogoi. Sarma said the "information that is not confidential will be revealed at a

press conference" on Sunday, with the cabinet authorising him to do so. Without naming Gogoi, Sarma said, "I can at least confirm that an honourable MP from Assam visited Pakistan when his father was the chief minister." Gaurav's father, late Tarun Gogoi, had helmed Congress governments in the state from 2001 to 2016. The CM claimed that information about the MP's visit to Pakistan was not shared with the central government, adding that he had "blacked out".

3 BODIES FOUND IN PARKED CAR ON DELHI FLYOVER

New Delhi, Feb 8: Three people, including a woman, were found dead inside an abandoned car on the Peeragarhi flyover in outer Delhi on Sunday, police said.

A PCR call was received regarding a car parked on the flyover, they said. On reaching the spot, emergency personnel found three people dead inside the vehicle, following which police, along with a forensic team were informed and the area was cordoned off, they said. According to the police, the deceased include two men and a woman. No visible external injuries were found on the bodies and all valuables were intact, the police said. Prima facie the case appears to be a suicide. — PTI

Bengal to EC: Ready with 8,505 officers

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

The West Bengal government has informed the Election Commission that it is ready to provide 8,505 Group B officers of the state or its instrumentalities for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, according to an agency report.

The submission assumes significance as the poll panel had earlier told the Supreme Court that the state had made available only a limited number of officers for overseeing the exercise.

The development comes ahead of a scheduled hearing on Monday before a Supreme Court Bench comprising Chief

THE DEVELOPMENT wcomes ahead of a scheduled hearing on Monday before a Supreme Court which is set to hear a batch of pleas related to the SIR process in WB.

Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice N.V. Anjaria, which is set to hear a batch of pleas related to the SIR process in West Bengal, including a petition filed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Sources were quoted as saying that the state government had conveyed to the Election Commission of India its willingness to deploy 8,505 Group B

officers for the revision exercise.

During the February 4 hearing, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, told the apex court that the state had provided only 80 Grade II officers, such as sub-divisional magistrates, to supervise the SIR. He had also submitted that lower-ranked staff, including Anganwadi workers, were largely deployed for the exercise. Banerjee had disputed the allegation, stating that the state had provided all assistance sought by the Election Commission. She had urged the Supreme Court to intervene in the SIR process, alleging that West Bengal was being unfairly targeted and that voters were being inconvenienced.

Patna Metro Phase-I spanning 30.91 km

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC PATNA, FEB. 8

The Patna Metro project is expected to strengthen Bihar's urban transport network, with Phase-I comprising two corridors covering a total length of 30.91 km and 24 stations.

At present, a 4.3-km stretch with three stations, ISBT, Zero Mile and Bhatnath Road, is



operational. The project was showcased to a group of reporters from Telangana during a media tour to Bihar organised by the Press Information Bureau,

Hyderabad. An official from a district collectorate in Bihar said the metro project would help counter negative perceptions about the state.

Referring to a widely circulated video showing gutka and paan stains on metro tracks, the official said it did not pertain to Bihar.

"This Metro Rail project will change the way some people see Bihar in a negative way. A viral video with Gutka and Paan stains on Metro track is not from Bihar, it is from a Metro City, I don't want to name," the official said.

Goyal says buying US crude in India's interest

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

Amid allegations that India "ceded sovereignty" while allegedly agreeing to US President Donald Trump's demand to stop the purchase of Russian Federation oil, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday claimed that buying crude oil from the United States is in India's interest. "The buying of crude oil or LNG, LPG from the US is in India's own strategic interests as we diversify our oil sources. But the decisions are taken by the buyers, by the companies themselves," he said.

Goyal also stated that the trade deal doesn't discuss who will buy what and from where. His remarks came amid the confusion over the issue of Russian oil purchase. Announcing the interim framework of the India-US trade deal, the White House claimed that New Delhi will stop buying

FTAS ARE all about preferential access to your competition. So, today when we got an 18% reciprocal tariff, we have a preference over other developing nations who are usually our competition,

— Piyush Goyal, Union commerce minister



Russian energy products and purchase more from the US.

However, India didn't confirm any such agreement but dropped several hints suggesting that New Delhi may consider diversifying its oil sources. Goyal further defended the agreement with the US, saying that the trade deal ensures that the pathway to trade is smooth and India gets preferential access. "FTAs are all about preferential access to your competition. So, today when we got an 18% reciprocal tariff, we have a preference over other developing nations who are usually our competi-

tion..." he stated. Calling the Opposition's criticism "absolute nonsense", the minister described the agreement as a "labour of love" aimed at advancing India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. "Absolute nonsense. Whoever is articulating this must be a pretty ignorant person who doesn't understand that this trade deal is truly a labour of love. It has come out of intense negotiations on both sides, in the best interests of our country's stated goal to become a developed and prosperous country by 2047 - Viksit Bharat 2047," he said.

MALAYSIAN PM HAILS INDIA'S SPECTACULAR RISE

FROM PAGE 1

Both leaders strongly condemned terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism". Prime Minister Modi thanked his Malaysian counterpart for condemning the Pahalgam terror attack and the Red Fort blast last year and called for continued cooperation in counter-terrorism, stating, "Our message on terrorism is clear: No double standards. No compromise."

In remarks seen as a signal on regional security, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and urged peaceful resolution of disputes. They encouraged expanding maritime cooperation through regular deployments and naval exercises and reiterated support for Asean centrality and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised India's "spectacular rise" and described India and Malaysia as "true friends".

He also commended Prime Minister Modi's efforts towards peace in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine conflict and welcomed closer cooperation in local currency trade and education. Modi said Malaysia was the destination of his first overseas visit of 2026 and highlighted the historical and cultural bonds.

India, Canada agree on security workplan: MEA

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 8

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval completed a two-day visit to Canada earlier on Saturday during which he met his Canadian counterpart Nathalie Drouin. The activities of pro-Khalistan extremists in that country are understood to have been discussed during the meeting.

The two nations also agreed to a "workplan" on security issues. Both nations also agreed to establish security and law-enforcement liaison officers so that their respective agencies would build on working relationships. This comes ahead of a possible visit by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney next month to India.

Bilateral ties have improved enormously since the Carney-led Government assumed charge almost a year ago.

New Delhi said, "The visit was part of regular bilateral security dialogue between the two sides. The two sides acknowledged the progress on initiatives aimed at supporting the safety and security of their countries and citizens. They agreed to a shared workplan to guide bilateral cooperation on national security and law enforcement issues and to enable practical collaboration on respective priorities." New Delhi further said, "During the meeting, it was agreed that each country would establish security and law-enforcement liaison officers and that their respective agencies."

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency PUBLICATION OF TENDER NOTICE DEPARTMENT: MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT - TELANGANA, COMMISSIONER HYDRABAD

S.No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Bid details
1	23/COM/1 HYDRABAD/2025-26, Dt: 07.02.2026	Hiring of various Machinery and Heavy Vehicles for Unit: Rate Contract for a period of one year for the. O/o Commissioner, HYDRABAD (Empowerment)	Bid Submission Start Date & Time: 08.02.2026 at 03:00 PM Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time: 11.02.2026 at 03:00 PM Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 16.02.2026 at 03:00 PM Opening of Technical Evaluation: 16.02.2026 at 03:30 PM Opening of Price / Financial Bid: 16.02.2026 at 04:00 PM

Details are available on www.eprocurement.telanganagov.in Contact Person- Additional Commissioner (Admin), HYDRABAD, Ph. No.: 040-25890748. Sd/- COMMISSIONER, HYDRABAD, SEC' BAD, TELANGANA.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED 6-1-50, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad - 500063 Short Tender Notice Tender Notice No: 19/2025-26 of SE/Civil/Corporate Office/ Mint Compound/Hyd. Dt: 06.02.2026

Tenders are invited by the under signed for the following works:

- Tender Specification No. 40/2025-26 - Providing office furniture, electrical fixtures and other miscellaneous civil works in the Finance, HRD, ECCO and other offices in A&B Blocks, Corporate Office, Hyderabad. (Reserved for Waddera/Sagar) (2nd Call)
- Tender Specification No. 47/2025-26 - Supply & installation of Electrical wiring Accessories, PVC Casing, Modular Switchgear, LED Lighting Fixtures and associated Surface Boxes at Corporate Office, TGSPDCL, Mint Compound, Hyderabad. (Reserved for SC Category)
- Tender Specification No. 48/2025-26 - Execution of Electrical works including Supply & Fixing of Accessories, LED Lighting Fixtures, CCTV Cameras, Door Hardware, Curtains and Water Dispenser Compressor at Corporate Office, TGSPDCL, Mint Compound, Hyderabad. (Reserved for SC Category)
- Tender Specification No. 49/2025-26 - Supply, installation and repairs of Air Coolers with Associated Components across All Block of TGSPDCL, Corporate Office, Hyderabad. (Reserved for SC Category)

For the detailed specifications, eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions etc. may be downloaded from the web site www.tgspower.com for further details. Please contact SE/Civil/Corporate Office/TGSPDCL/Hyderabad. Last date for sale of tender 17.02.2026 and tender opening date on 18.02.2026

Phone No. 8712468185 Fax No. 23431006 Sd/- DIPP R.O. No.: 15108-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Superintending Engineer/Civil/TGSPDCL

SEBI भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड Securities and Exchange Board of India NOTICE OF DEMAND PASSED

Notice of Demand dated May 29, 2025 under Recovery Certificate No. 8756 of 2025 in the matter of Unregistered Investment advisory services by Baap of Chart, managed by M/S Golden Syndicate Ventures Pvt Ltd has been passed. The demand notice could not be served at the last known addresses of the entities mentioned in the Table below.

Name of Entity	PAN of Entity	Address of Entity	Amount Due as on date of Notice of Demand
M/S Golden Syndicate Ventures Pvt Ltd	AAJCG9452E	SY, 130P and 115/1P, Rajapushpa Summit, Ranga Reddy, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032	Rs. 2,13,000/- + interest, expenses and other costs shall be applicable.

The above mentioned entity (ies) is/are hereby advised to collect the demand notice from Southern Regional Office, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Overseas Towers, 7th floor, 756-L, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002.

The entity (ies) is/are also advised to download a copy of the order from the official website of SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in) under the head "Enforcement - Recovery Proceedings" or obtain a copy of the Order by sending a request to sajidm@sebi.gov.in/recoverypro@sebi.gov.in.

Date: 09.01.2026 Place: Chennai

(Mohd Sajid) (DGM and Recovery Officer)

CBC 15204/11/0237/2526

SMVDSB approves international Shakti Museum

Vaishno Devi shrine major revamp

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC JAMMU, FEB. 8

A landmark cultural and spiritual initiative is set to take shape at Natali in Katra, the basecamp of the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has approved the establishment of an International Museum dedicated to Mata Vaishno Devi—an embodiment of Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, and Mahasaraswati. Developed in consultation with the Asian Heritage

Foundation, the proposed Shakti Museum will be the first of its kind, envisioned as a vibrant religious, educational, and cultural centre that celebrates the spiritual heritage of Maa Shakti, a spokesman of the board said.

Alongside the museum, the Shrine Board has also sanctioned a state-of-the-art light and sound show near the holy shrine. Designed to blend mythology with modern technology, the spectacle aims to bring ancient narratives to life through an innovative fusion of tradition and

- Vacant Board positions to be filled; free NEET coaching centres planned.
- Rehabilitation plan for Vaishno Devi service providers phased under NGT directives.
- Pilgrim experience to improve: committee formed to boost numbers and facilities.
- Major infrastructure projects reviewed: exit track, new Bhawan, temple constructions.
- Local entrepreneurship prioritized: offerings sourced from self-help groups, women, youth.



contemporary storytelling. The Board will additionally sponsor a documentary on Mata Vaishno Devi, further enriching the spiritual and cultural documenta-

tion of the shrine. These decisions were taken during a high-level meeting of the SMVDSB chaired by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who also serves as the

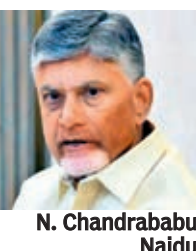
Board's Chairman. He emphasised that the Board is committed to transforming the shrine and its surrounding region into one of India's most vibrant and globally acclaimed spiritual destinations. The Board approved a series of high-impact initiatives, including the museum, the light-and-sound show, and the documentary, marking a significant step toward enhancing the pilgrimage experience, an official statement issued here said. In a move aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, the Board decided to fill vacant positions.

TIGER BODY PARTS TRADE BUSTED

Kannur: The forest department has busted a seven-member gang and seized tiger skin, claws and teeth at Kathiroom here, officials said on Sunday.

Stop supporting non-performing states: Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency input AMARAVATI, FEB. 8



N. Chandrababu Naidu

Poor-performing states of the country have inevitably ended up with a higher share in the Centre's devolution of tax revenues at the expense of better performers such as Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Sunday, acknowledging that it is a good sign that the laggards are gradually getting their act together.

For the country to prosper, all its regions have to prosper, Naidu said in an interview with PTI Videos, adding that the states are allies, not enemies. "Deliberately, they (the Centre) do not want to do any injustice. There are some parameters of backwardness, population - all these things. South India has gone ahead with population control. Because of economic reforms, south India has taken the lead in technology and the growth rate. The per capita income is very high in south India. Because of that, devolution is a problem. Naturally, there will be heart burning. Our policy should not always be for non-performing states. At certain times, protection is okay. Ultimately, everybody has to perform. I am confident now that every state is moving forward. That is the responsibility," he said.

B'uru Metro fare revision halted: BMRCL

M.B. GIRISH | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 8

The recent fare revision announced by the Bangalore Metro Corporation Limited, a couple of days back, did not go well with the commuters. Taking note of the commuters' resentment to the fare revision, BMRCL on Sunday decided to put on hold its decision on fare revision which was to come into force from Monday. BMRCL stated "The decision on the revised fare will be communicated after the Board's review."

BMRCL on February 5 announced fare revision of Re 1 to Rs 5 on its Fare Zones and termed the fare revision "a small" annual revision intended to ensure financial sustainability and service reliability. BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in Assembly R. Ashoka stated he brought to the notice of union minister of housing and urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar that the fare revision burdened lakhs of daily commuters and the Union minister responded to his plea to put on hold the fare revision for the "time being." Ashoka said the Union minister Khattar assured to review the shortcomings and anomalies in the Fare Fixation Committee's recommendations and also to constitute a new Fare Fixation Committee on the formal request of the State Government to carry out a "scientific" and "rational" fare revision in future. BJP Lok Sabha member P.C. Mohan termed the decision to put on hold the fare revision.



People gather around the wreckage of a private mini aircraft that crashed in Vijayapura, Karnataka. — PTI

Mini aircraft crashes, crew safe in K'taka

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAPURA, FEB. 8

Capt Kunal Malhotra, a flight instructor with Redbird Aviation, and Goutham Sankar PR., a trainee pilot were injured when a two-seater flight training aircraft landed in an emergency and overturned in a field at Mangalura of Vijayapura district in Karnataka between 2.30 pm and 2.40 pm on Sunday.

The aircraft was on a training sortie. Local farmers and sugarcane-cutting workers came to the rescue of the duo. Superintendent of police Laxman Nimbargi said both occupants were safe and were shifted to a hospital where doctors said they sustained minor injuries and were in a stable condition.

The local police cordoned off the landing area, and a fire engine has been deployed at the site as a precautionary measure," he said. Officials from DGCA will come from Hyderabad to take up further investigation.

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VYJAYANTHI 70MM 11.00, 2.00PM	VLS SRIDEVI 70MM 11.00, 6.00PM
BR HITECH 70MM 2.30, 9.30PM	ASIAN JYOTHI 70 2.00, 9.00PM
SVC SRILAXMI 2.45, 9.30PM	SENSATION CINEMA 11.45, 2.45PM

SKY MALL-11.00, 1.45, 7.30PM
GACHIBOWLI-11.30, 2.15, 8.00, 10.30

AAA-10.40, 7.45, 10.35PM

ART MALL-10.35, 4.35, 7.20, 10.20

PRASAD'S-5.40PM

SHA/SHAHENSA-11.30, 6.30PM
RADHIKA-10.20, 4.15, 10.20PM
LAXMIKALA-11.15, 6.30PM

CINEPLANET-10.50, 1.15, 4.15, 10.20PM
JP CINEMAS-10.15, 4.30, 7.10, 10.30PM
MJR SQUARE-10.50, 4.15, 7.15, 10.20PM
CINEMART-10.15, 4.30, 7.10, 10.30PM
MCUBE MALL-10.50, 4.15, 10.20PM

GPR MALL 1.15, 7.30, 10.30
APARNA MALL 11.00, 1.55, 7.45

10.40, 4.40, 10.50PM
VIJAYALAXMI 11.00, 6.00

AMR MALL
NACHARAM 1.15, 10.15

RK PLEX-11.00, 7.50PM
CENTRAL MALL-2.00, 7.45PM
L&T ICON-11.00, 8.00PM
MOOSARAMBAGH-2.30, 10.40PM
IRRUMMANZIL-11.00, 10.30PM
FORUM MALL-11.00, 1.30, 7.40, 10.40PM
INORBIT MALL-11.00, 5.00, 8.15, 10.50PM
L&T NEXT GALLERIA-11.00, 1.50, 8.00PM
PRESTONE-11.00, 7.00, 10.30PM
ATRIUM MALL-11.00, 8.15PM
PRISM MALL-11.00, 8.00PM
SMR MALL-11.00, 7.50PM
INOX LAKESHORE-11.10, 5.00PM
PVR ODEAN MALL-11.00, 7.45, 10.50PM

SUDHA-11.00, 2.00, 8.10PM
DLS MALL-11.30, 2.45, 8.00PM
TNR NORTH-11.30, 4.50, 7.50PM
MANTRA MALL-10.30, 2.00, 11.05PM
LULU-11.00, 4.50PM | CCPL-11.30, 5.00PM

GVK-11.00, 5.00, 10.30PM
MP MALL-10.50, 8.00PM
GSM MALL-11.00, 5.00, 10.50PM
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FORUM MALL | INORBIT MALL | RK MALL
IRRUMMANZIL | MUSARAMBAGH | PRISM
GALLERIA | ICON HITECH | ATRIUM MALL
PRESTONE | SMR MALL | CENTRAL MALL

GVK MALL | GSM MALL | MP MALL |
NECKLACE MALL | ASHOKA ONE

BALANAGAR | CHANDANAGAR | SHALINI
MIYAPUR | NARSINGI | MALKAJGIRI

LULU MALL | SUDHA | DSL MALL
CCPL | TNR NORTH | MANTRA MALL

AAA CINEMAS | **AMB CINEMAS**

PRASAD'S-NTR GARDENS
ART CINEMAS-VANASTALIPURAM

RADHIKA | CINESQUARE | MCUBE
JP MALL | MJR SQUARE | SHA |
CINEPLANET | CINEMART | LAXMIKALA

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SHORT TAKES

PRIEST ABDUCTED, 3 KILLED IN KADUNA ATTACK

Bauchi, Feb. 8: Gunmen killed three people and abducted a Catholic priest and several others during an early morning attack on the clergyman's residence in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state, church and police sources said on Sunday. Saturday's assault in the Kauru district highlights persistent insecurity in the region, and came days after security services rescued all 166 worshippers abducted in attacks by gunmen on two churches elsewhere in Kaduna.

WASHINGTON POST CEO WILL LEWIS STEPS DOWN

Washington, Feb. 8: The Washington Post said its CEO and publisher Will Lewis was leaving effective immediately, just days after the storied newspaper owned by billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos made drastic job cuts that angered readers. Though newspapers across the United States have been facing brutal industry headwinds, Lewis's management of the outlet was sharply criticised by subscribers and employees alike during his two-year tenure as he tried to reverse financial losses at the daily.

TRUMP BACKS HONDURAN PREZ ASFURA

Washington, Feb. 8: US President Donald Trump praised conservative Honduran counterpart Nasry Asfura after a meeting at his Mar-a-Lago resort, with Asfura vowing on Sunday to be Washington's "most reliable strategic partner." Asfura, a businessman and former mayor of Honduran capital Tegucigalpa, was sworn in last week after winning November elections with Trump's backing. Trump had threatened to cut aid to Central America's poorest country if his "friend" was defeated.

5 HELD IN FRANCE CRYPTO RANSOM KIDNAPPING

Lyon, Feb. 8: French authorities have arrested five suspects after a magistrate and her mother were held captive last week for around 30 hours in a cryptocurrency ransom plot, prosecutors said on Sunday. Four men and one woman were detained, three overnight and two on Sunday morning, Lyon prosecutor Thierry Dran said.

The individuals were taken into custody following the discovery of the 35-year-old magistrate and her 67-year-old mother on Friday morning, found injured in a garage in the southeastern Drome region.

ISRAEL TO TAKE MORE WEST BANK POWERS

Jerusalem, Feb. 8: Israel's security cabinet approved a series of steps on Sunday that would make it easier for settlers in the occupied West Bank to buy land while granting Israeli authorities more enforcement powers over Palestinians, Israeli media reported.

The West Bank is among the territories that the Palestinians seek for a future independent state. Much of it is under Israeli military control, with limited Palestinian self-rule in some areas run by the Western-backed Palestinian Authority (PA).

MELONI HITS OUT AFTER COMEDIAN QUILTS SANREMO

Rome, Feb. 8: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni accused centre-left opponents of trying to silence their critics in the entertainment world after a self-declared right-wing comedian pulled out of a hugely popular show. Andrea Pucci had been expected to appear at this month's Sanremo music festival, a week-long song contest that is the most popular television event of the year in Italy. However, he abruptly quit the line-up on Sunday, saying he and his family had faced a wave of insults and threats after state broadcaster RAI announced he would be a co-host for one night of the festival.

UK PM's chief of staff quits over Epstein row

McSweeney takes responsibility for envoy appointment

London, Feb. 8: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's chief of staff resigned on Sunday over the furore surrounding the appointment of Peter Mandelson as the UK ambassador to the US despite his ties to Jeffrey Epstein.

Morgan McSweeney said he took responsibility for advising Starmer to appoint Mandelson, 72, to Britain's most important diplomatic post in 2024. "The decision to appoint Peter Mandelson was wrong. He has damaged our party, our country and trust in politics itself," McSweeney said in a statement. "When asked, I advised the Prime Minister to make that appointment and I take full responsibility for that advice."

Starmer is facing a political storm and questions about his judgement after newly published documents, part of a huge trove of Epstein files made public in the US, suggested that Mandelson sent market-sensitive information to the convicted sex offender when he was the UK government's business secretary during the 2008 financial crisis.

Starmer's government has promised to release its own emails and other documentation related to Mandelson's appointment, which it says will show that Mandelson misled officials.

The UK foreign ministry said on Sunday it was reviewing an exit payment to former US envoy Peter Mandelson. Mandelson received an estimated payout of between \$8,750 and \$5,000 (\$52,000 and \$74,000) after only seven months in the job as British ambassador to the United States, according to a report. —AP



Series of photos released as part of the Jeffrey Epstein files. — AFP

Dalai Lama denies any link to Epstein

New Delhi, Feb. 8: The office of the Dalai Lama said on Sunday that he had never met convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, after Chinese media reported the Tibetan Buddhist leader's name was mentioned in a cache of files released by the US government.

The US Justice Department published last month the latest tranche of the Epstein files — more than three million documents, photos and videos related to its investigation into the disgraced financier.

An AFP search of the files found the Dalai Lama's name was mentioned more than 150 times with no mention of him meeting or interacting with Epstein. The mere mention of someone's name in the Epstein files does not in itself imply any wrongdoing by that person. "Some recent media reports and social media posts concerning the 'Epstein files' are attempting to link His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Jeffrey Epstein," the leader's office said in a statement posted on X. "We can unequivocally confirm that His Holiness has never met Jeffrey Epstein or authorised any meeting or interaction with him by anyone on His Holiness's behalf," it added.

On Thursday, state-run broadcaster the China Global Television Network reported that 'Dalai Lama' appeared at least 169 times in the Epstein files and mentioned emails. —AFP

FRANCE CULTURAL CHIEF QUILTS AMID EPSTEIN SCANDAL

Paris, Feb. 8: Veteran French politician Jack Lang, a former minister, was forced out of a key cultural post Saturday as pressure grew on him over revelations in the latest release of the Epstein files.

He offered to resign in a letter to French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, who told reporters he planned to launch the process to name an interim president for the IMA.

But Lang continued to insist he was innocent of any wrongdoing. Lang, who has headed the Arab World Institute (IMA) since 2013, is the most high-profile public figure in France caught up in the latest release of private messages from the convicted sex offender.

"I offered to submit my resignation" at the next board meeting, the 86-year-old wrote in the letter, seen by reporters.

As recently as Wednesday, he had ruled out stepping down from his post over the affair.

Lang had been summoned to the foreign ministry for a meeting on Sunday but that has now been cancelled, said a source at the ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lang's lawyer, Laurent Merlet, told broadcaster BFM TV his client was "very sad" to be leaving an institution he loved so much but also "extremely combative and will not let slander gain ground". —AFP

LDP crosses two-thirds mark on its own

Takaichi drives LDP to historic Japan win

Tokyo, Feb. 8: Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is poised for a historic election landslide, positioning her to become the nation's strongest leader in years in an outcome that may fuel further market volatility.

Her ruling Liberal Democratic Party is on track for the biggest post-war victory for a single party in a general election in Japan, an extraordinary transformation of fortunes for a party that was on the ropes just last summer.

The LDP secured a two-thirds super majority in the 465-seat lower house by itself, according to public broadcaster NHK. A tally of results by NHK showed that the ruling coalition had already won 341 seats in the lower house, expanding its razor-thin majority of 233 by a considerable margin. The LDP's haul of 310 seats gives it the highest proportion of representatives in the lower house than any other party in post-war elections in Japan.

Takaichi had staked her job on the outcome of the snap election just months after taking office, saying she would step down if her ruling coalition failed to win a majority. The gamble appears to have paid off spectacularly, just seven months after the LDP lost control of both houses of parliament. —Bloomberg



Japan PM Sanae Takaichi places red rose for elected LDP candidate at party headquarters during House of Representatives election in Tokyo on Sunday. —AFP

Bhumjaithai clinches Thailand poll victory

Bangkok, Feb. 8: Thailand's ruling conservative party clinched a surprisingly solid election win on Sunday night, marking the first victory this century for a party aligned with the country's royalist establishment and a clear defeat for an emerging progressive movement.

The Bhumjaithai Party, led by incumbent Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, is set to secure 194 seats out of a possible 500 in the House of Representatives, according to preliminary results from the country's Election Commission, with votes from about 82% of the

polling stations counted. The pro-democracy People's Party, which had been leading in the pre-poll surveys, was on track for 108.

Anutin told reporters at Bhumjaithai's headquarters in Bangkok that he was certain the party had secured victory, but said he would await official results before seeking to form a coalition. He spoke shortly after People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut conceded his party had lost.

The race was cast as a referendum on the People's Party's reform agenda. —Reuters

FOUR INDIANS INJURED IN RUSSIA ATTACK

Moscow, Feb. 8: Four Indian students were among several people who were injured in an attack in Russia's Ufa, the Indian embassy in Moscow said in a post on X.

The embassy's post came hours after the local media reported a stabbing attack in the sports hall of a foreign students' hostel at a University in Russia's Bashkortostan Republic. The local media said two police officers were also injured.

"An unfortunate incident of attack has occurred in Ufa. Several persons including four Indian students have been injured. The Embassy is in touch with the authorities and the officials from the Consulate in Kazan are on their way to Ufa to provide assistance to the injured students," the Indian embassy in Moscow said.

According to preliminary reports, a teenager armed with a knife entered the State Medical University in Ufa, and stabbed several students, news agency reported. —PTI

PUTIN THANKS UAE OVER GRU ATTACK SUSPECT

Moscow, Feb. 8: Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked his UAE counterpart Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for help with the detention of a man suspected of shooting a Russian military intelligence officer during a phone call on Saturday evening, Russian agencies reported, citing Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

A Ukrainian-born Russian citizen has been extradited to Moscow from Dubai on suspicion of gravely injuring Vladimir Alexeyev, deputy head of Russia's vast GRU military intelligence service. Lieutenant General Vladimir Alexeyev, deputy head of Russia's vast GRU military intelligence service, was shot three times on Friday with a Makarov pistol equipped with a silencer in an apartment block on the Volokolamsk highway in northern Moscow, according to investigators. —Reuters

Dhaka vote may redraw South Asia power lines

Dhaka, New Delhi, Feb. 8: Bangladesh's elections next week could reshape South Asia's balance of power, as Beijing seeks to consolidate influence and ties with India falter, analysts say.

The February 12 poll will be the nation's first since a student-led uprising toppled former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime in August 2024.

India's sheltering of Hasina — despite extradition requests — has angered Dhaka's interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, which has deepened engagement with China and Pakistan.

The Muslim-majority nation of 170 million people maintained strong trade and defence ties with China under Hasina, but New Delhi was Dhaka's pre-eminent partner, an arrangement that analysts say is shifting.

"The interim government in Bangladesh, and a future government, is really pivoting to China," said Joshua Kurlantzick, a senior fellow at the US-based Council on Foreign Relations.

"Bangladesh now has become central to China's strategic thinking regarding the Bay of Bengal, and China is increasingly confident that Bangladesh will play a pro-China role in this strategy." —AFP



Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Tarique Rahman arrives to address an election rally ahead of the country's general election in Dhaka on Sunday. —AFP

Bangladesh scraps port leasing plan

Dhaka, Feb. 8: Bangladesh on Sunday retracted from its plan to lease out a major container terminal at the strategic sea port town Chattogram to a foreign operator amid intensified protests ahead of the February 12 election.

The announcement by a key functionary of Yunus' administration came as dockers called a fresh indefinite shutdown after two days of pause following previous six days of stop work protest against the interim government's plan to lease out the port to the foreign private entity. "In practical terms, the discussion (over leasing

out) may move beyond this government's tenure and after the upcoming election, will continue under the next government," Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) chairman Ashik Bin Harun said.

Officials said discussion to lease out the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to Dubai-based DP World had reached its final stage. The BIDA chief, however, said DP World recently sent a letter to Bangladesh praising the progress of the ongoing negotiations but requested more time to review the draft. —PTI

KRANJI | TRIBUTE Tribute to 3,318 fallen warriors bearing the name 'Singh'

S'pore honours WW1 Sikh soliders

Singapore, Feb. 8: A Singapore minister and High Commissioners from seven Commonwealth countries, including India, joined the Sikh community here on Sunday to remember soldiers who laid their lives while defending Singapore-Malaya during World War II.

A Remembrance Day Memorial Service was held at Kranji War Memorial for honouring the lives and sacrifices of 3,318 fallen soldiers bearing the

name "Singh", or Sikhs, drawn from communities across the then undivided Punjab, who served and fell defending Singapore and Malaya against the Japanese forces.

Senior Minister of State Murali Pillai joined about 400 community members and leaders at the memorial service and also in celebrating 100 years of the Gurdwara built by the then immigrant Sikhs on the east coast. The High Commissioners of the

3,318
Sikh soldiers killed defending Singapore and Malaya in World War II.

REMEMBRANCE DAY service held at Kranji War Memorial. **FALLEN SOLDIERS** drawn from undivided Punjab. **EVENT ALSO** marked 100 years of a Sikh gurdwara in Singapore.

United Kingdom, Australia, Malaysia, India, New Zealand, Canada and Pakistan all the countries that were part of World

War II laid wreaths at the Kranji War Memorial. Calling it a "very memorable and important event," the Indian High

Commissioner to Singapore Shilpak Ambule noted the contribution of the slain soldiers and also of the Indian community to the redevelopment of Singapore and Malaya.

Echoed Ravinderpal Singh, secretary of the Pradeshi Khalsa Dharma Diwan that was founded 100 years ago by then Sikhs living in Singapore. "Their contribution forms an enduring chapter in both Sikh and global history." —PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	83580.40 0.32
Nifty 50	25693.70 0.20
S&P 500*	6,865.30 0.98
Dollar (₹)	90.66 0.34
Pound Sterling (₹)	123.10 0.41
Euro (₹)	106.91 0.44
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	155,050*401 -0.26
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	67.52 -0.04
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.733 1.23
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.204 -0.006

* As of 8:30 PM IST

IT dept invites inputs on draft income-tax rules

The Income Tax department has invited inputs and suggestions from stakeholders on the draft tax rules and forms under the new Income Tax Act, 2025, which will come into effect from April 1. To encourage wider stakeholder participation, the proposed Income Tax Rules, 2026, and corresponding forms have been uploaded on official website of the department, before their final notification, it added.



FPIs turn into net buyers after gap of three months

After three consecutive months of heavy selling, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net buyers in the first week of February, infusing more than ₹8,100 crore in Indian equities, aided by improving risk sentiment, along with a trade deal with the US. The FPIs pulled out ₹35,962 crore in January. Overall, in 2025, FPIs pulled out a net ₹1.66 lakh crore from Indian equities, marking one of worst periods for foreign flows.

Anant Raj in deal with Submer on data centres

Realty firm Anant Raj subsidiary Anant Raj Cloud has partnered with AI infrastructure provider Submer to develop data centres across India. The company said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed. The collaboration would enable the rapid deployment of high-density, energy-efficient computing platforms designed to support sovereign and enterprise AI workloads at scale.

Labour codes accelerates hiring in smaller cities

As businesses expand beyond metros, labour codes are accelerating recruitment in smaller cities, pushing job postings in tier III and IV markets by up to 56 per cent, according to a report. India's labour codes are triggering a dramatic redistribution of job opportunities across the country, with smaller cities emerging as the unexpected winners of regulatory reform, according to a report by WorkIndia.

India agrees to sync its policy with US strategy

New Delhi to take guidance from US on its trade with other countries

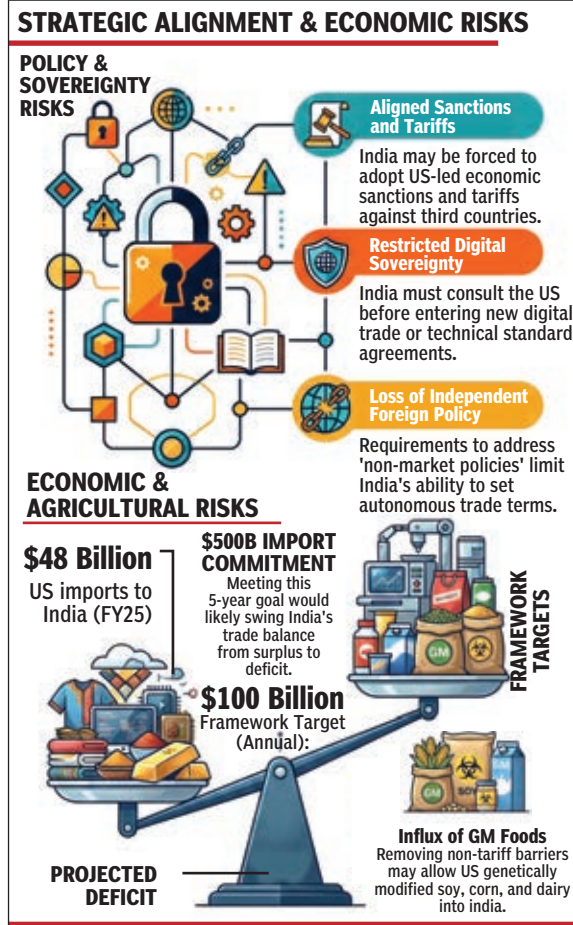
SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, FEB. 8

India has agreed to take "complementary actions to address non-market policies of third parties" in its framework agreement with US. Under this, if the US takes action against any other country, including economic sanctions, India will be forced to adopt similar measures. "The United States and India agree to strengthen economic security alignment to enhance supply chain resilience and innovation through complementary actions to address non-market policies of third parties, as well as cooperation on inbound and outbound investment reviews and export controls," the statement said.

This provision seeks to align India's security and economic policies with those of the United States, and therefore requires great caution, finds GTRI. "Agreeing to such a provision could have far-reaching adverse implications. If the US were to impose 100 per cent tariffs on imports from countries such as Russia or China on economic security grounds, India will be expected to adopt similar measures. India will also have to restrict transactions in third countries that are sanctioned by the US. No independent foreign policy for India," said Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI.

Further, India will have to address discriminatory or burdensome practices or barriers to digital trade and this could also take away India's rights to have an independent digital trade policy. "India may be required to consult the United States before entering into new digital trade agreements with other countries, to ensure that such agreements do not affect America's interests. India may also be constrained from entering into agreements on technical or health standards with other countries if those standards are seen as disadvantageous to US," said GTRI.

The US had received similar commitments from Malaysia. "India must consult the US before entering new digital trade or technical standard agreements. Requirements to address 'non-market policies' limit India's ability to set autonomous trade terms. Meeting this 5-year goal would likely swing India's trade balance from surplus to deficit. \$500B IMPORT COMMITMENT: Meeting this 5-year goal would likely swing India's trade balance from surplus to deficit. \$100 Billion Framework Target (Annual): Influx of GM Foods: Removing non-tariff barriers may allow US genetically modified soy, corn, and dairy into India."



Trade deal to push India to run huge trade deficit with America

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, FEB. 8

As agreed in the interim framework of the trade deal with the US, if India fulfils the \$500 billion import commitment, the country's trade balance will fall from surplus to deficit next year. However, fulfilling the commitment looks implausible.

The framework statement said that India intends to purchase \$500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next five years. In FY25, the US imports into India stood at \$48 billion and exports to the US \$86.5 billion. The \$100 billion imports per year will double the imports from

the US and make India's trade balance swing from surplus to deficit.

However, this looks unlikely as aircraft are a major component of this commitment. If India adds another 200 aircrafts over the next five years, at an estimated cost of \$300 million per aircraft, the total value would be about \$60 billion.

The framework also said that India has agreed to remove non-tariff barriers on food and agricultural products. Going by terms of similar deals by US with other countries, this will let genetically modified soybean, corn and dairy products into the country. "India also agrees to

GOYAL: NO ISSUE IN BUYING \$500 BN GOODS FROM U.S.

New Delhi, Feb. 8: India will have no difficulty in purchasing goods worth \$500 billion from the US over the next five years, as envisaged under bilateral trade pact, and in fact, this is an extremely conservative number for a country which aspires to become a \$30 trillion economy, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said.

"We need at least a 100 billion dollar plus only for aviation sector, in addition to oil, LNG, LPG, and crude oil," Goyal said. The minister said that the 18 per cent tariffs will still have a competitive advantage in US markets compared to products from China and others. China has been slapped with 35 per cent tariffs, and other countries in Asia face 19 per cent and up.

He said, India could source imports worth \$300 billion from US that it currently buys from other countries. —PTI

Budget lays pathway for long-term growth: FM

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on avoiding policy ping-pong has shaped the Union Budget 2026-27, which is anchored in policy stability while laying the pathways for the long-term vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' at its core, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Framed as the first Budget of a new five-year fiscal cycle and the second quarter of the 21st century, it prioritises capital expenditure, infrastructure expansion and structural reforms over populist measures, while maintaining fiscal discipline.

By emphasising predictable policymaking, sustained investment and multi-year planning extending to 2047 and beyond, the Budget seeks to strengthen economic resilience, crowd in private investment and position India for durable, export-led growth.

Emphasising the government's focus on policy continuity, she said Prime Minister has consistently stressed the need to avoid abrupt shifts in direction. "The Prime Minister always speaks of avoiding 'policy ping-pong'. Once a

FUTURE GOALS

BUDGET 2026-27 prioritises capex, infra expansion, structural reforms, while maintaining fiscal discipline.

BUDGET SEEKS to strengthen economic resilience, private investments and position India for export-led growth.

The long-term perspective will guide policymaking across sectors, with an emphasis on sustained growth, institutional strength and economic resilience in the decades ahead.

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Union finance minister

policy direction is announced, the government remains steady in its execution," she said. The finance minister also said the government will soon constitute a high-level committee on banking to draw up a blueprint to create mega-lenders capable of meeting the financing needs of a developed India.

Meanwhile, expenditure secretary V. V. V. said the key focus of the government's ₹12.2 lakh crore capex for the next fiscal will be mainly on sectors like shipbuilding, nation-

highways, railways, and metro train projects.

The government has budgeted total expenditure in 2026-27 at over ₹53.47 lakh crore, of which about ₹12.22 lakh crore is projected to be the capital expenditure.

V. V. V. said the sectors, which have huge ongoing and new projects, like the national highways, railways, and the urban sector, to the extent of metro train projects, will continue to dominate the government public capex spending in the next fiscal. —PTI

PUBLIC ETAILER'S PLATFORM TO GET FUTURE-READY

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Public procurement platform GeM is upgrading its portal to handle higher data load and roll out a future-ready platform this year, its chief executive Mihir Kumar said.

With government e-marketplace (GeM) platform completing nine years, it is replatforming itself which will be a data lake for frictionless buyer-seller interface, Kumar said. "We are discussing how we can bring about ease of selling and buying on the GeM portal. How we can scale it up so that we can take data load of 5 times or 10 times of the present volume. We will be rolling out a future-ready platform in 2026," he said.

So far in FY26, more than ₹4 lakh crore goods and services were procured from GeM. —PTI

Bank loans to help REITs investors

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, FEB. 8

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decision to allow banks to lend directly to real estate investment trusts (REITs) will benefit REIT investors with higher profit as REIT's borrowing cost will be reduced and will be passed on to investors, said experts.

"This move strengthens the financial framework for REITs and supports their long-term growth. Direct access to bank lending provides REITs with a stable, long-term source of funding, expanding the avenues of fund raising for these instruments. This is particularly important for an asset class built on long-duration, income-generating real estate," said Indian REITs Association (IRA).

"The ability to borrow at the REIT level is also expected to result in more efficient financing costs. REITs today raise debt funds through issuance of debt securities which are subscribed by mutual funds, NBFCs, etc. Since these investors prefer instruments with 3-5 years tenor, long term



funding remains a challenge," IRA said.

"With RBI allowing banks to lend to REITs, these vehicles will be able to access long term funding. With greater financial flexibility and access to long-term capital, REITs will be better positioned to support portfolio expansion and contribute to the formalisation and institutionalisation of India's commercial real estate sector," IRA said.

Units of five publicly listed REITs moved up by 0.19 per cent to 1.80 per cent on Friday on NSE after RBI announcement. Indian REITs outperformed equity indices and government bonds in 2025 as large, grade-A office portfolios in major cities continued to benefit from steady demand from technology firms, global capability centres, and domestic corporates.

Tax holiday to help data firms

New Delhi, Feb. 8: Domestic data centre companies are likely to benefit significantly from the Budget proposal offering a tax holiday of 20 years, as it will enable them to provide services to global clients without the risk of their foreign earnings being taxed in India, sources said.

The Budget proposal, which offers a tax holiday of 20 years to any foreign firm that procures data centre services in India, allays fears of their global income being taxed by Indian officers. Irrespective of whether a global company sets up

its own data centre in India or procures services from an Indian data centre, the tax treatment will be same, they said. The corporate tax rate in India is 25.17 per cent.

Corporate tax will be levied on profits made by domestic data centres on income earned from services provided to global entities and from resale of cloud services to Indian customers.

In case the data centre is a subsidiary or arm of a foreign company, the safe harbour margin of 15 per cent will kick in, and corporate tax will be levied accordingly. —PTI

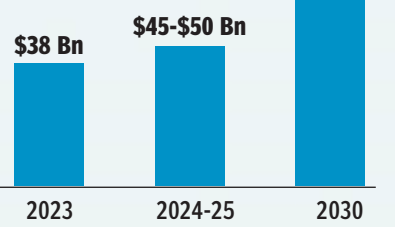
SELF-RELIANCE

INDIA IS RAPIDLY TRANSFORMING INTO A GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR HUB THROUGH THE INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION (ISM), AIMING FOR HIGH SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND A \$100 BN MARKET VALUE BY 2030.

BUDGET 2026-27 allocates ₹1,000 cr for ISM 2.0 prioritising indigenous design and talent development. FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR mission started in 2021 with incentive framework of ₹76,000 cr.

AS OF DEC. 2025, 10 projects started with total investment of ₹1.60 lakh cr from companies including Micron, Tata Electronics and others. Start-ups attracted ₹430 crore in funding.

SIZE OF INDIAN SEMICONDUCTOR MARKET (in USD bn)



BY 2029, INDIA expected to design, manufacture chips required for 75% of domestic applications.



MONEY | FLOW Amazon to invest \$200 billion; Alphabet lines up \$185 billion

Big tech cos to spend more on AI

New York, Feb. 8: The biggest technology companies are gearing up to spend even more on artificial intelligence (AI) than investors had anticipated, and money managers increasingly fear that whatever happens, credit markets will get hit.

Microsoft, Oracle and other hyperscalers are in an arms race to invest in AI and beat competitors in a technology that could change vast parts of the economy. Google parent Alphabet said it's poised to spend as much as \$185 billion on data centres this year, more than it has

invested in the past three years combined. Amazon.com promised an even bigger outlay: \$200 billion.

A chunk of those investments will come from the corporate bond market, potentially resulting in more debt sales this year than investors had expected. But the more tech companies borrow, the greater the potential pressure on bond valuations. The securities are already expensive by historical standards, trading at close to their tightest spreads since the late 1990s.

"The AI spending bonanza is finding buyers today

MICROSOFT, ORACLE and other hyperscalers are in an arms race to invest in AI.

CHUNK OF INVESTMENTS will come from corporate bond market, potentially resulting in more debt sales this year.

INVESTORS STARTING to price in threat AI poses to businesses.

but leaves little upside and even less room for error," said Alexander Morris, chief executive officer of F/m Investments. "There is no asset class that can't and won't spoil." Those fears weighed on tech companies' notes this

wider this week. Beyond supply and demand, intensifying worries around AI's power to disrupt have sparked tremors in the market.

As companies like Anthropic release a steady stream of tools targeting professional services from finance to software development, investors are starting to price in threat AI poses to entire businesses.

Software companies have seen their leveraged loan prices drop about 4 per cent this year amid fears that AI will leave many software products obsolete. —Bloomberg



Banks unlikely to cut deposit rates

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, FEB. 8

The Indian banks are unlikely to cut deposit rates immediately as credit growth is likely to further accelerate in the fourth quarter of the financial year and also the RBI's MPC kept the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent.

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has signalled that it would not be tinkering with deposit rates in near future even as it revised its credit growth projection upwards.

"I do not think any one of us in the near term would be tweaking the deposit rates significantly unless the liquidity position improves, and credit growth slows down. There are so many other factors, but otherwise, I do not think there will be any significant movement in the deposit rates," C.S. Setty, chairman, SBI told reporters during the bank's Q3 FY26 earnings press conference.

Setty said that currently banks are facing challenges in deposit mobilisation as household sav-



ings are moving towards mutual funds, insurance, pensions, small saving schemes and equities.

SBI raised its FY26 credit growth guidance to 13-15 per cent from 12-14 per cent earlier, after reporting a strong December-quarter performance that saw net profit jump 24.5 per cent year-on-year to ₹21,028 crore. However, bank's deposit growth lagged credit growth, with deposits growing 9 per cent Yo-Y to ₹57 lakh cr.

"Credit growth has remained strong and there has been a robust demand for credit across all the segments," said Setty. Meanwhile, financial services secretary M. Nagaraju said to PTI that public sector banks are on track to post a record combined profit exceeding ₹2 lakh crore in the current financial year.

Short takes



Former England player Eoin Morgan poses with the T20 World Cup trophy before the start of the match between England and Nepal at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday.

— PTI

South Africa aim to reverse recent form

South Africa would need to raise their recent form to challenge for the title as they open their T20 World Cup campaign against Canada, a team short on match practice but looking to make a strong impression in Ahmedabad on Monday. South Africa have only managed to win 12 out of the 32 games they have played since losing the 2024 T20 World Cup final to India in June 2024.

However, they now do have the emboldened belief of winning a world title, having ended the trophy drought with the World Test Championships triumph last year. Ryan Rickleton and Tristan Stubbs were not part of the original squad but have rightfully included following injuries to Donavan Ferreria and Tony de Zorzi. Keshav Maharaj will lead the spin attack while the performance of pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada will be critical as ever on the batting friendly pitches in India and Sri Lanka.

— PTI

Football giants Italy set for cricket debut

Football powerhouse Italy will get a chance to make a mark in cricket's biggest stage when they face Scotland in a historic ICC T20 World Cup debut game in Kolkata on Monday. Winner of four FIFA World Cups, the Azzurri will now give way to *Gli Azzurri* who find themselves scripting an unlikely cricketing chapter after making the expanded 20-team tournament through the European regional qualifiers last July.

Italy and Channel Islanders Jersey, who upset Scotland, finished on five points, but the Italians sealed the second place behind the Dutchmen on superior net run rate to book their maiden appearance at the global showpiece. For a country with its cricket history dating back to 1793 — when English naval hero Horatio Nelson reportedly "organised the first-ever recorded game in Naples" — the qualification marks a curious return to forgotten roots.

— PTI

Trump wishes USA's cricketers good luck

US President Donald Trump wished the American cricket team good luck in the ongoing T20 World Cup in India, saying the country was rooting for the players. "I just heard the Cricket World Cup is underway in India! I wish the best of luck to TEAM USA! We have a very strong team. America is rooting for you!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social on Sunday.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor responded to the post saying, "Thank you for the kind words Mr. President!" India, led by captain Suryakumar Yadav defeated the USA team by 29 runs in the opening match played at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday.

— PTI

AFGUNS DOWN

New Zealand hold nerve to silence Afghanistan

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 8

Afghanistan threatened to reprise their giant-killing reputation, but New Zealand held their nerve to seal a five-wicket victory in their Group 'D' opener of the T20 World Cup at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday morning.

Having beaten the Kiwis on their memorable run to the semifinals in the previous edition, Afghanistan had fuelled expectations of another thriller. They did their part with the bat, recovering from a quiet start to post a competitive 182 for 6. New Zealand, though shaken early in the chase, regrouped in time to begin their Cup campaign on a winning note, with 13 balls to spare.

Introducing spin as early as the second over, Mujeeb Ur Rahman made an instant impact by rattling Finn Allen's stumps. He followed it up with a peach of a delivery to dismiss Rachin Ravindra on the very next delivery, leaving New Zealand reeling at 14 for two. But Tim Seifert weathered the storm, stitching together a vital partnership with Glenn Phillips to revive the chase. The Kiwis reached 52 for 2 at the end of the powerplay.

Seifert anchored the innings with a fluent 65 off 42 balls, striking three towering sixes, while Phillips chipped in with a brisk 42 off 25. Afghan skipper Rashid Khan eventually broke their 74-run stand, bowling Phillips to make it 92 for three, but by then the momentum had firmly shifted. New Zealand needed 91 off the final 10 overs, but they cruised home without further hiccups.

Earlier, Afghanistan had clawed their way back after a sedate beginning, thanks largely to Gulbadin Nabi's aggressive half-century. Gulbadin smashed 63 off 35 balls, unleashing a range of strokes to lift the



New Zealand's Tim Seifert plays a shot during the T20 World Cup match against Afghanistan in Chennai on Sunday.

— SANJAY KISHORE

scoring rate through the middle overs. Gulbadin went on the attack, slogsweeping, muscling and slapping the bowlers to all parts.

The 79-run third-wicket stand between Gulbadin and Sediqullah Atal steadied the innings and set a platform, taking Afghanistan to 72 for 2 at the halfway mark.

Late cameos from Darwish Rasooli (20 off 13), Azmatullah Omarzai and Mohammad Nabi ensured Afghanistan finished strongly.

SCOREBOARD

Afghanistan: Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Lockie Ferguson 27, Ibrahim Zadran c Glenn Phillips b Lockie Ferguson 10, Gulbadin Nabi c Tim Seifert b Rachin Ravindra 65, Sediqullah Atal c Tim Seifert b Jacob Duffy 29, Darwish Rasooli c Glenn Phillips b Matt Henry 20, Azmatullah Omarzai run out (James Neesham/Lockie Ferguson) 14, Mohammad Nabi not out 10. Extras (lb-3, w-6) 9. Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 182.

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-44, 3-123, 4-156, 5-164, 6-182.

Bowling: Matt Henry 4-0-27-1, Jacob Duffy 3-0-30-1, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-40-2, James Neesham 3-0-33-0, Mitchell Santner (c) 4-0-23-0, Glenn Phillips 1-0-12-0, Rachin Ravindra 1-0-14-1.

New Zealand: Tim Seifert c Azmatullah Omarzai b Mohammad Nabi 65, Finn Allen b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 1, Rachin Ravindra b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 0, Glenn Phillips b Rashid Khan 42, Mark Chapman c Rashid Khan b Azmatullah Omarzai 28, Daryl Mitchell not out 25, Mitchell Santner not out 17. Extras (w-3, nb-2) 5. Total (for 5 wickets in 17.5 overs) 185.

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-88, 4-124, 5-155.

Bowling: Fazalhaq Farooqi 2-0-25-0, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4-0-31-2, Azmatullah Omarzai 3.5-0-40-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-36-1, Ziaur Rahman Sharifi 3-0-33-0, Mohammad Nabi 1-0-18-1.

INDIA MATCH | BOYCOTT ROW

ICC deputy chair arrives in Lahore for talks with PCB

Karachi, Feb. 8: Imran Khwaja, deputy chair of the International Cricket Council, arrived in Lahore on Sunday evening for crucial talks with PCB officials as efforts to resolve the standoff over Pakistan's proposed boycott of the high stakes T20 World Cup match against India gather pace. Khwaja, who represents Singapore in the ICC, is an influential figure in the world governing body and has voting rights on the board as an associate member director.

A source close to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed Khwaja has been nominated by the ICC board as a mediator on the controversial subject.

"He has been in talks with Mohsin Naqvi for a while now and he is reaching Lahore today to first talk to the PCB chief and also the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President, Aminul Islam before the virtual meeting this evening," the source said.

Aminul is already in Lahore and has met Naqvi on Sunday. Aminul is expected to be part of the discussions aimed at persuading Pakistan to reconsider its decision not to play India in

Colombo on February 15. The two officials — Khwaja and Aminul — were greeted at the airport by senior PCB officials and then driven to the Gaddafi Stadium where they are scheduled to meet with the board's chief Mohsin Naqvi.

A PCB source said that Khwaja and Aminul, after their discussion with Naqvi, will have a meeting with some ICC governing board members virtually later Sunday.

The source said the ICC was doing its best to convince PCB to get permission from its government for the February 15 match.

Aminul reached Lahore ahead of Khwaja and his arrival is significant because the dispute between the PCB and ICC began because of the apex body's decision to replace Bangladesh with Scotland after the former refused to play their World Cup matches in India citing security reasons.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif recently said that Pakistan's decision to not play against India was taken to show solidarity with Bangladesh, whose request to move their matches from India to Sri Lanka was rejected by the ICC.

— PTI

AXAR SURPRISED BY NATURE OF WICKETS AT WANKHEDE

Mumbai, Feb. 8: India vice-captain Axar Patel said the team was surprised by the nature of the pitch in its T20 World Cup opener against USA at the usually high-scoring Wankhede Stadium. Despite the batting collapse on a tricky pitch, Axar said the team was confident of putting a competitive total on board.

"The planning is according to the match situation. Generally, the wicket in Mumbai is flat (and) we took about three overs to determine what would be a good score," Axar said after the match.

"The dressing room atmosphere was like that... the kind of confidence with which we are coming in, we knew even if one batter gets going we would reach around 140-150. The wicket was also behaving (differently). We were surprised because we thought that this is a flat wicket which generally in Mumbai is," he added.

— PTI

LANKA EASE PAST IRELAND IN OPENER

Colombo, Feb. 8: Kusal Mendis and Kamindu Mendis impressed with the bat before Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana's incisive spin bowling powered Sri Lanka to a 20-run win over Ireland in their T20 World Cup clash here on Sunday.

Kusal scored a gritty 56 not out off 43 balls while Kamindu Mendis provided the late impetus with a 44 off 19 deliveries, as Sri Lanka recovered from a sluggish start to post a fighting 163/6.

In reply, leg-spinner Hasaranga (3/25) and Theekshana (3/23) bowled with superb control, as Ireland were dismissed for 143 in 19.5 overs.

Earlier, Ireland's bowlers, led by George Dockrell (2/17), kept a tight grip on the innings, leaving Sri Lanka struggling at 68 for 3 by the 11th over.

But Kusal played a determined innings, grinding out a crucial half-century in testing conditions to give Sri Lanka a competitive base, before Kamindu provided the late flourish, smashing four boundaries and two sixes to add respectability to the total.

— PTI

BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka 163/5 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 56 not out, Kamindu Mendis 44, George Dockrell 2/17, Barry McCarthy 2/40) beat Ireland 143 in 19.5 overs (Ross Adair 34, Harry Tector 40, Maheesh Theekshana 3/23, Wanindu Hasaranga 3/25, Matheesha Pathirana 2/26).

Siraj cancels football trip after last-minute call-up

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, FEB. 8

"Miyun bags pack kar le aur aaja..." (Miyun, pack your bags and come). When Mohammed Siraj, who was cooling his heels in Hyderabad, got a call from the India captain Suryakumar Yadav, he first thought the latter was joking.

He even asked Surya not to make fun of him. "Surya bhai, mazaak mat karo." (don't joke, because this is not going to happen).

However, as Surya insisted saying, "I'm telling you the truth — get ready," it suddenly dawned on Siraj that he had been drafted in India's squad for the T20 World Cup in place of Harshit Rana, who sustained a knee injury during India's warm-up match against South Africa. The subsequent call from national selector Pragyan Ojha confirmed the news, which made the Hyderabad man believe in destiny, which had other plans for him.

Surya's call, though, interrupted Siraj's well-planned holiday. He had planned a trip to Spain to watch his favourite football club Real Madrid play against Real Sociedad in La Liga. Next up on his list was preparations for the festivities of Ramadan alongside his family.

Not that Siraj would be complaining for his



Mohammed Siraj celebrates the wicket of USA's Saiteja Mukkamalla in Mumbai on Saturday.

— AP



England players celebrate their win over Nepal in the T20 World Cup match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. Nepal batsman Karan K. C. is on the right.

— DEBASISH DEY

England survive massive scare

Mumbai, Feb. 8: Two-time champions England survived a massive scare against a doughty Nepal in their Group 'C' clash of the T20 World Cup, clinching a narrow four-run win in a tense finish to their tournament opener here on Sunday. Nepal came within touching distance of creating history as they nearly upset one of the teams to beat in the competition, scoring 180/6 in reply to England's 184/7.

Lokesh Bam (39 not out off 20 balls) kept Nepal in the hunt for an upset victory but could not finish the game in the final over after a heroic effort.

Needing 10 runs off the last over, Nepal couldn't find a boundary as their inspired show with the bat ended in a narrow loss. Sam Curran nailed his yorkers relentlessly as all that Nepal could manage were five runs.

Nevertheless, more than 17,000 fans thronged the iconic Wankhede Stadium and witnessed Nepal punching far above their weight, with majority of them being from the Himalayan nation.

Skipper Rohit Paudel (39), Dipendra Singh Airee (39), Kushal Bhurtel (29) and Lokesh, who smashed four boundaries and two

BRIEF SCORES

England 184/7 in 20 overs (Jacob Bethell 55, Harry Brook 53) bt Nepal 180/6 in 20 overs (Lokesh Bam 39 not out, Dipendra Singh Airee 44, Liam Dawson 2/21).

sixes in a late assault, fought valiantly but they could not take their side over the line.

Lokesh went hammer and tongs when Nepal's backs were against the wall, hitting two sixes off Jofra Archer's 18th over and two consecutive fours off Luke Wood's penulti-

mate over when they needed 46 runs off the final three overs.

Bhurtel had provided early fireworks while a robust 82-run stand for the third wicket between Paudel and Airee consolidated Nepal.

— PTI



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glam sham

Vittoria Ceretti turns Olympic flagbearer



hyderabad CHRONICLE

matinee

Alia Bhatt loses a major project



3 >>

8 >>

MONDAY | 9 FEBRUARY 2026

B-TOWN STARS ATTEND RSS CENTENARY

The RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat invited them

SUBHASH K. JHA

After a highly successful meeting with the A-listers of Telugu cinema in Hyderabad, the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat went to Mumbai to invite Bollywood stars for a two-day RSS convention on February 7 and 8.

Attendees included Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and others. Salman's presence raised many eyebrows. But apparently the RSS chief had personally invited Khan who has always maintained that his family believes in all religions, his father being Muslim, mother Hindu and stepmother (Helen) being Catholic.

The other two Khan superstars Aamir and Shah Rukh did not attend the event. Karan Johar who was busy with his twin children's birthday on Saturday, attended on Sunday.



Salman Khan with Praseon Joshi and industrialist Ajay Piramal. (L) Actors Ananya Panday, Raveena Tandon, Shilpa Shetty and Karan Johar

MEANWHILE...

Battle Of Galwan postponed yet again

The film is now most likely to release on Independence Day instead of April 17, as announced earlier



PUJA TALWAR

According to sources, the delay is primarily because the team is reshooting several sequences and does not want to rush the process. The makers are reportedly keen on fine-tuning the film before locking the final cut.

As per other reports, another factor contributing to the possible post-

ponement could be the mandatory screening for the Ministry of Defence. The makers will need to obtain the necessary approvals before the film can be cleared for a theatrical release. Given these factors, the chances of the film meeting its mid-April release are said to be "remote."

Industry experts, however, have welcomed the move. "March 19 sees the clash of two big films — *Dhurandhar 2* and Yash's *Toxic*. To have yet another big-ticket

release arrive just a few weeks later does not make sense," says a trade source.

Film critic Joginder Tuteja also believes the delay is a positive step. "It's a good sign that the film is being polished to deliver a strong cinematic experience. With back-to-back war films, one also needs a breather from the genre. This is an important film for Salman and the stardom he carries — one wants to see him in a truly respectable, impactful outing."

INDUSTRY EXPERTS HAVE WELCOMED THE MOVE. "MARCH 19 SEES THE CLASH OF TWO BIG FILMS — DHURANDHAR 2 AND YASH'S TOXIC. TO HAVE YET ANOTHER BIG-TICKET RELEASE ARRIVE JUST A FEW WEEKS LATER DOES NOT MAKE SENSE," THEY SAY.

IT'S A GOOD SIGN THAT THE FILM IS BEING POLISHED TO DELIVER A STRONG CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE. WITH BACK-TO-BACK WAR FILMS, ONE ALSO NEEDS A BREATHER FROM THE GENRE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FILM FOR SALMAN AND THE STARDOM HE CARRIES — ONE WANTS TO SEE HIM IN A TRULY RESPECTABLE, IMPACTFUL OUTING."

— JOGINDER TUTEJA, FILM CRITIC



Ram Charan keen on a 'Pushpa'-scale film

Has locked his next project with director Sukumar

SUBHASH K. JHA

Ram Charan has had a relatively quiet run at the box office of late, with his next release *Peddi* undergoing multiple revisions. While the actor is currently giving finishing touches to the film, he has already locked his next project. He has given the nod to director Sukumar for a two-part action drama, expected to be mounted on a scale similar to Sukumar's blockbuster *Pushpa* franchise.

A close friend of the actor clarifies the comparison. "Calling it another *Pushpa* would be misleading. Ram Charan has asked Sukumar to make a film on the same scale, but in terms of theme and treatment, it will be completely different from *Pushpa*," the source says.

Meanwhile, buzz suggests that Ram Charan is keen to cast *Pushpa* star Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead. However, the actress' packed schedule may pose a challenge.

BUZZ SUGGESTS THAT RAM CHARAN IS KEEN TO CAST RASHMIKA MANDANNA AS THE FEMALE LEAD. HOWEVER, THE ACTRESS' PACKED SCHEDULE MAY POSE A CHALLENGE



"CALLING IT ANOTHER PUSHPA WOULD BE MISLEADING. RAM CHARAN HAS ASKED SUKUMAR TO MAKE A FILM ON THE SAME SCALE, BUT IN TERMS OF THEME AND TREATMENT, IT WILL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM PUSHPA," THE SOURCE SAYS.

YELLOW HALO IN FASHION WORLD





FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

ROCHELLE CRASTO

Seemingly overnight, yellow dresses are everywhere. From celebrity airport looks and red-carpet appearances to viral Instagram reels and street-style moments, the colour has quietly—but confidently—taken over wardrobes and feeds. It's not just a fashion coincidence. The rise of the yellow dress signals something deeper: a collective craving for joy, visibility, and optimism after years of uncertainty.

Once considered a risky colour choice — too loud, too bright, too attention-seeking—yellow is now being worn unapologetically. And nowhere is this shift more evident than in the way the yellow dress has become a recurring visual trope across pop culture.

BOLD & BRIGHT

In fashion psychology, yellow has long been associated with happiness, warmth, creativity, and energy. It's the colour of sunlight, spring, and renewal. "Unlike black or beige, yellow refuses to fade into the background. It demands to be seen. In a post-pandemic world, that visibility feels intentional," says psychologist Karen Lobo. "Clothing choices often reflect emotional states."

After prolonged periods of isolation, muted routines, and emotional fatigue, people are gravitating toward colours that feel uplifting. The yellow dress, in that sense, becomes wearable optimism — a subtle declaration that joy is not just allowed, but chosen.

Celebrities have played a major role in amplifying this effect. Whether it's a breezy yellow maxi worn during casual outings, a structured yellow gown on the red carpet, or a playful mini dress in paparazzi shots, the message is consistent: confidence doesn't have to be loud to be powerful. "Yellow has become the colour of quiet rebellion—against minimalism fatigue, against neutral overload, and against the idea that 'safe' fashion is better fashion," says stylist Michelle Gupta.

SAY YELLOW!

Pop culture has cemented the yellow dress as a moment-maker. Viral reels often use the colour as a visual hook — the kind that stops scrolling



YELLOW HALO IN FASHION WORLD

ONCE LABELLED AS LOUD AND RISKY, THE YELLOW DRESS IS SPREADING POSITIVE VIBES GLOBALLY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

SUNNY DELIGHT

- After prolonged periods of isolation, muted routines, and emotional fatigue, people are gravitating toward colours that feel uplifting.
- The yellow dress represents a collective craving for joy, visibility, confidence and optimism.



instantly. A yellow dress against a grey cityscape or a neutral café backdrop stands out effortlessly. It photographs beautifully, catches natural light, and adds emotion to otherwise simple frames.

In digital storytelling, yellow translates as warmth and authenticity, making it perfect for content-driven platforms.

Interestingly, the yellow dress effect isn't about extravagance. Many of the most viral looks are simple silhouettes: cotton sundresses, slip dresses, wrap styles. The power lies not in embellishment but in colour choice. Yellow doesn't need help to make a statement—it is the statement.

this trend. Historically, women were often discouraged from wearing yellow, with myths around it being unflattering or "too much." Choosing yellow today feels like rejecting those outdated rules. It's an act of self-assurance, especially for those who once avoided standing out. "Yellow is a colour that brings so much warmth and joy—definitely something you can't take your eyes off," says Rosanne Fortez, a student.

In a broader cultural context, yellow dresses are emerging as symbols of emotional resilience. Post-pandemic fashion has shifted away from purely aesthetic dressing — clothes that communicate how we feel or how we want to feel. Yellow represents hope without being naïve, happiness without performativity. It's optimistic, but grounded.

ELEMENT OF POWER

There's also an element of empowerment tied to

SUNBEAM STATUS

Designers and high-street brands alike have noticed this shift. Recent collections feature multiple shades of yellow — from soft butter tones to bold marigold and citrus hues. This versatility allows wearers to choose how loudly they want to speak. Pale yellow whispers joy. Bright yellow declares it.

What's fascinating is how the yellow dress has transcended seasons and occasions. It's no longer reserved for summer vacations or daytime brunches. It's being worn at weddings, parties, work events, and even evening outings. Styled with sneakers, heels, or boots, it adapts effortlessly—much like the modern woman herself.

CLOTHING CHOICES OFTEN REFLECT EMOTIONAL STATES. UNLIKE BLACK OR BEIGE, YELLOW REFUSES TO FADE INTO THE BACKGROUND.

— KAREN LOBO, Psychologist

YELLOW HAS BECOME THE COLOUR OF QUIET REBELLION—AGAINST MINIMALISM FATIGUE, AGAINST NEUTRAL OVERLOAD, AND AGAINST THE IDEA THAT 'SAFE' FASHION IS BETTER FASHION.

— MICHELLE GUPTA, Stylist



VITTORIA CERETTI TURNS OLYMPIC FLAGBEARER

The supermodel stepped onto one of the world's biggest stages as a ceremonial flagbearer, blending high fashion presence with patriotic symbolism during the opening celebrations



The Italian supermodel stepped onto one of the world's grandest stages at the 2026 Winter Olympics opening ceremony, proudly carrying her nation's flag. Known for her commanding runway presence, Ceretti blended high fashion with patriotic symbolism as millions watched worldwide.

Her appearance marked more than celebrity glamour — it celebrated Italy's cultural influence and style legacy. Dressed in a striking ensemble reflecting the national colours, she embodied modern Italian elegance while honoring the Olympic delegation.

FOR CERETTI, THE MOMENT ADDS OLYMPIC PRIDE TO A CAREER ALREADY DEFINED BY GLOBAL FASHION MILESTONES.

Monica Lewinsky says emotional fallout still lingers



Years after global scrutiny reshaped her life, she admits fear and anxiety continue to surface, long after the headlines faded

In a heartfelt conversation, Monica Lewinsky admitted that the fallout from her relationship with Bill Clinton continues to shape her sense of safety and public life. Lewinsky described living with persistent anxiety and the lasting impact of global scrutiny at a young age. What began as a deeply personal chapter evolved into a historic media storm, leaving her to navigate public shaming in the early days of the internet age. Over time, she has transformed that painful experience into advocacy work focused on anti-bullying and online accountability.

LEWINSKY TODAY SPEAKS AS A SURVIVOR DETERMINED TO ADDRESS THE HUMAN COST OF PUBLIC HUMILIATION.

Amber Rose questions Billie Eilish's Grammy Speech

A recent awards-stage remark has triggered political debate, with criticism emerging over whether young pop voices are being influenced by media narratives



Pop culture tensions flared after Amber Rose criticized Billie Eilish for comments made during a recent Grammy Awards speech. Rose argued that the young pop star had been influenced by what she described as left-leaning media narratives, igniting debate across social platforms. Eilish's remarks, which touched on political and social issues, were applauded by some fans for their boldness but criticized by others who felt entertainers should avoid partisan commentary. Rose's response added another layer to the discussion, questioning how public figures engage with activism in highly visible spaces.



PAULINA PORIZKOVA'S STARK TRUTH

Entering the fashion world at just 15, she says early success came with unsettling experiences

Entering fashion at just 15, Porizkova says early success came with unsettling experiences that exposed the industry's darker side. Long before global fame, she navigated Europe's fashion capitals while confronting blurred professional boundaries and power imbalances. Reflecting on her early years in Paris, she emphasizes how young models often lacked safeguards. Today, Porizkova calls for stronger protections for minors in fashion, transforming personal memories into advocacy.



Claire reveals 5-year health struggle

The actor was privately battling a persistent stomach parasite that disrupted daily life and demanded major lifestyle changes

Award-winning actress Claire Foy has revealed that behind her acclaimed performances lay a prolonged and deeply uncomfortable health struggle. The star of *The Crown* shared that she battled a persistent stomach parasite for nearly five years, an ordeal that affected her daily life and well-being. Foy explained that the condition caused ongoing physical distress, forcing her to reassess her diet and lifestyle while juggling a demanding acting schedule. Despite the discomfort, she continued to deliver powerful performances, keeping the issue largely private at the time.

FOY'S STORY UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO ONE'S BODY AND SEEKING PERSISTENT MEDICAL ANSWERS. FOR FANS, IT OFFERS A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HER RESILIENCE DURING SOME OF THE MOST DEFINING YEARS OF HER CAREER.

The Jaggery Juggernaut

BINDU GOPAL RAO

Jaggery has sweetened Indian lives for centuries. Made from concentrated sugarcane juice or palm sap, it is widely used across India and other parts of Asia as a traditional alternative to refined sugar.

Unlike processed sugar, jaggery retains molasses, minerals, and antioxidants, making it richer in nutrients such as iron, magnesium, and potassium. **Vikram Debnath**, Executive Chef, SUKA Brew and Kitchen, says, "Jaggery has been a cornerstone of Indian cooking for centuries, cherished not merely as a sweetener but as an ingredient that brings depth, warmth, and balance to food. Unlike refined sugar, it retains its natural molasses, lending dishes a rounded flavour and gentle, earthy sweetness. In traditional Indian kitchens, it is used to temper spice, enrich grains, and craft wholesome festive fare, playing a vital functional and cultural role across regional flatbreads, sweets, curries, and beverages."



THE EDGE

Jaggery is not only a traditional sweetener. A popular trivia is that jaggery is often eaten during winter months because it generates warmth in the body, making it a seasonal favourite. However, while jaggery is healthier than processed sugar, moderation is key. Excess consumption can raise blood sugar levels and contribute to weight gain. "It is best consumed in small amounts, paired with balanced meals, and avoided by those with diabetes unless advised by a doctor. Thus, jaggery stands out for its cultural significance, nutritional value, and unique role in both food and wellness," says **Rohit Yadav**, Executive Chef, Marriott Executive Apartments Bengaluru UB City.



ARISELU

(Courtesy: **Rohit Yadav**, Exe. Chef, Marriott Executive Apartments Bengaluru UB City)

Ingredients

- Raw Rice 500 g
- Jaggery 375 g (adjust to taste; the general ratio is 1 kg rice to 500 grams jaggery)
- Water as needed (approx. 1 cup for the jaggery syrup)
- Cardamom Powder 1 tsp
- White Sesame Seeds 2 tbsp
- Ghee 3 tbsp (for mixing into the dough and greasing)
- Oil (or ghee) for deep frying

Method

1. Soak the raw rice in water for 16-24 hours. Drain the water completely and spread the rice on a clean cotton towel to air dry for about 30 minutes, until it is still damp. Grind the damp rice in a blender into a fine powder and then sieve it to ensure a smooth flour. Cover the flour to retain moisture.
2. In a heavy-bottomed pan, add the grated jaggery and a small amount of water (around 1 cup). Heat on a medium flame, stirring until the jaggery dissolves completely. Strain the syrup to remove any impurities, then return it to the pan. Continue to boil the syrup on a low-medium flame, stirring frequently.

AS PEOPLE LOOK AT HEALTHIER AND NATURAL ALTERNATIVES TO WHITE SUGAR, JAGGERY IS BECOMING THE FIRST CHOICE

THE DIFFERENCE

Jaggery is an ingredient with its own personality. "A small amount can completely change how a dish feels on the palate. It softens spice, rounds off acidity, and adds warmth without overpowering other flavours. Jaggery connects food to tradition, but at the same time, it adapts beautifully to modern cooking," says **Chef Rahul Gladwin Massey**, Founder, Culinary Mentor, Culinaryart. **Suresh Rajan Pillai**, Chef De Cuisine, Marriott Executive Apartments Hyderabad, adds, "In Indian cuisine, jaggery plays a vital role in balancing flavours, softening bitterness, enhancing spices, and adding warmth to everyday cooking, jaggery represents nourishment, tradition, and mindful eating."

ROTTI BELLA (Jaggery Flatbread)

(Courtesy: **Vikram Debnath**, Exe. Chef, SUKA Brew and Kitchen)

Ingredients

For the Dough

- Whole wheat flour 200 g
- Salt 3 g
- Oil 10 ml
- Water 130 ml

For the Filling

- Grated jaggery 150 g
- Fresh grated coconut 60 g
- Cardamom powder 0.5 g
- Dry ginger powder 0.5 g

For Cooking

- Ghee 10 ml

Method

1. In a bowl, mix whole wheat flour and salt. Add oil and water gradually to form a soft dough. Cover and rest for 15 minutes.
2. In another bowl, combine grated jaggery, grated coconut, cardamom powder, and dry ginger powder. Mix well to form a moist filling.
3. Divide the dough into equal portions. Flatten each portion slightly.
4. Place a spoonful of jaggery filling in the centre, seal carefully, and gently flatten using your fingers.
5. Roll lightly into a thick flatbread using minimal flour.
6. Cook on a preheated tawa on medium heat until golden spots appear on both sides.
7. Finish with a light brushing of ghee and serve warm.

JAGGERY HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF INDIAN COOKING FOR CENTURIES, CHERISHED NOT MERELY AS A SWEETENER BUT AS AN INGREDIENT THAT BRINGS DEPTH, WARMTH, AND BALANCE TO FOOD.

— **VIKRAM DEBNATH**, Executive Chef, SUKA Brew and Kitchen



CARAMELISED ONION, CORN & RED PAPRIKA PIZZA

(Courtesy: **Chef Rahul Gladwin Massey**, Founder | Culinary Mentor, Culinaryart)



Ingredients

For the Pizza Base

- Flour 160 g
- Instant dry yeast, 3 g

- Warm water 95 ml
- Salt 2 g
- Olive oil 10 ml
- Jaggery Tomato Sauce
- Grated jaggery 40 g
- Water 30 ml
- Peeled tomatoes (crushed by hand) 80 g
- Red paprika ½ tsp
- Salt ½ tsp

For the Toppings

- Onion (thinly sliced) 1 medium (about 80 g)
- Sweetcorn kernels (boiled) 50 g
- Mozzarella cheese (grated) 90 g
- Royal Grove Extra Virgin Olive Oil 5 ml
- Black pepper powder ¼ tsp

Method

1. Mix warm water and yeast in a bowl and rest for 5 minutes. Add flour, salt, and olive oil. Knead into a soft, smooth dough. Cover and rest for 45-60 minutes until doubled in size.
2. Heat grated jaggery and water on a low flame until the jaggery melts completely. Add crushed La Puglia peeled tomatoes, salt, and red paprika. Cook gently for 4-5 minutes until slightly thick. Cool before use.
3. Caramelize the Onions. Heat olive oil in a pan. Add sliced onions and cook slowly on a low flame until soft, lightly golden, and naturally sweet. Do not rush this step.
4. Preheat oven to 250°C. Roll the dough into a thin 9-inch base and place on a greased baking tray. Spread the jaggery tomato sauce evenly. Top with caramelised onions, corn, and mozzarella. Finish with black pepper.
5. Bake for 10-12 minutes until the base is crisp and the cheese melts evenly.
6. Rest for a minute before slicing and serve warm with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil.

JAGGERY CONNECTS FOOD TO TRADITION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT ADAPTS BEAUTIFULLY TO MODERN COOKING.

— **CHEF RAHUL GLADWIN MASSEY**, Founder, Culinary Mentor, Culinaryart



CHETTINAD UKKARAI

(Courtesy: **Suresh Rajan Pillai**, Chef De Cuisine, Marriott Executive Apartments Hyderabad)

Ingredients

- Raw rice ½ cup
- Split Bengal gram (Chana dal) ½ cup
- Jaggery (powdered) ¾ cup
- Fresh coconut (grated) ½ cup
- Ghee 4 tbsp
- Cardamom powder ½ tsp
- Cashew nuts 2 tbsp
- Raisins 1 tbsp
- Water as required
- Salt a pinch

Method

1. Soak rice and chana dal together for 1 hour.
2. Drain and grind coarsely (grainy paste, not smooth).
3. Steam the mixture until fully cooked (like soft puttu).
4. Mash lightly while still warm.
5. Heat a pan, add ghee, and fry cashews & raisins; remove.
6. In the same pan, add the mashed mixture, jaggery and a little water.
7. Cook on a low flame, stirring continuously.
8. Add coconut, cardamom powder, fried nuts & a pinch of salt.
9. Finish with the remaining ghee; mix until crumbly and aromatic.



FAQS ANSWERED BY DR ED BLONZ



I REVIEWED THE RESEARCH ON OREGANO AND ONE OF ITS KEY COMPOUNDS, CARVACROL, AND FOUND NO CLINICAL EVIDENCE FROM HUMAN STUDIES TO SUPPORT HEALTH-RELATED CONCLUSIONS. WHILE THERE ARE SOME TEST-TUBE (IN VITRO) AND ANIMAL STUDIES, THESE DO NOT MEET THE STANDARD REQUIRED TO MAKE HEALTH CLAIMS. WHAT IS WELL ESTABLISHED, HOWEVER, IS OREGANO'S ABILITY TO ADD WONDERFUL FLAVOR TO FOODS.

Oregano Oil's health claims lack concrete evidence

DEAR DR. BLONZ: What are your thoughts about the use of oregano oil as a dietary supplement? One of my flight attendant colleagues uses it every day and has positive feelings about it, although she could not provide any specifics.

— U.A., Washington, D.C.

DEAR U.A.: Oregano, native to the Mediterranean region, is a culinary seasoning whose flavor and characteristics can vary depending on the soil in which it is grown. Like many plants exposed to sunlight and environmental stress, oregano evolved to produce its own set of protective substances that work together to help the plant survive and reproduce.

We benefit from eating a variety of whole plant foods because they provide a range of beneficial substances working in concert. Oregano's flavors and compounds can also be extracted into an essential oil, but the question is whether taking this oil as a dietary supplement provides added health benefits — and if so, in what amount. I reviewed the research on oregano and one of its key compounds, carvacrol, and found no clinical evidence from human studies to support health-related conclusions. While there are some test-tube (in vitro) and animal studies, these do not meet the standard required to make health claims. What is well established, however, is oregano's ability to add wonderful flavor to foods. Pharmacological development is an evolving field, and many modern medications are based on naturally occurring substances. The challenge lies in fully understanding their effects, risks, dosage limits, and interactions once removed from their natural plant context and introduced into the complex biochemistry of the human body. This is where clinical research is essential. Commercial interests — many operating through social media — often promote and market novel substances before adequate testing is done to verify effectiveness, determine safe dosing, and identify side effects or interactions with medications. These steps are critical, so caution is warranted until solid evidence is available. For more on oregano's botany, history, uses, and medication interactions, see [blink/48d9upx](https://blink.48d9upx.com). And don't overlook the wide variety of healthy whole foods already available.

I reviewed the research on oregano and one of its key compounds, carvacrol, and found no clinical evidence from human studies to support health-related conclusions. While there are some test-tube (in vitro) and animal studies, these do not meet the standard required to make health claims. What is well established, however, is oregano's ability to add wonderful flavor to foods. Pharmacological development is an evolving field, and many modern medications are based on naturally occurring substances. The challenge lies in fully understanding their effects, risks, dosage limits, and interactions once removed from their natural plant context and introduced into the complex biochemistry of the human body. This is where clinical research is essential. Commercial interests — many operating through social media — often promote and market novel substances before adequate testing is done to verify effectiveness, determine safe dosing, and identify side effects or interactions with medications. These steps are critical, so caution is warranted until solid evidence is available. For more on oregano's botany, history, uses, and medication interactions, see [blink/48d9upx](https://blink.48d9upx.com). And don't overlook the wide variety of healthy whole foods already available.

(Ed Blonz, Ph.D., is a nutrition scientist and assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco.)

— Asia Features

coffee-break

Your day today

By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam

Aries: Shift into steady cruise mode and handle changes calmly. Focus on hobbies you enjoy. Tighten spending on entertainment and fashion. Support family, prioritizing meaningful time together.

Taurus: Stay aware of others' emotions and take a small break. Enjoy family activities. Productive discussions can resolve issues. Business and communication dominate.

Gemini: Don't leave matters pending; act promptly and decisively. Interesting news or unusual encounters arise. Stay responsive. Expect travel delays.

Cancer: Work or family responsibilities demand attention. Negotiate carefully and hold back until clarity emerges. Balance personal interests with formal obligations.

Leo: Foreign connections influence your day, including authority figures. Overseas communications or travel themes surface. Review future plans involving study and legal matters.

Virgo: See the bigger picture and avoid nitpicking. Try new experiences or venues. Wise companions inspire. Act on plans. Compassion helps resolve lingering family concerns.

You share your b'day with

Michael B. Jordan is an American actor, producer and director. His accolades include Producers Guild Award and an Actor Award, alongside nominations for an Academy Award, Golden Globe Award and two Emmy Awards.



Libra: Relax and reassess troubling issues. Optimism boosts confidence. Listening empathetically brings easy solutions. You move ahead with renewed energy and ambition.

Scorpio: Professional progress brings recognition and appreciation. Family health may demand attention. Unexpected expenses on necessary luxury repairs could slightly unsettle your budget plans.

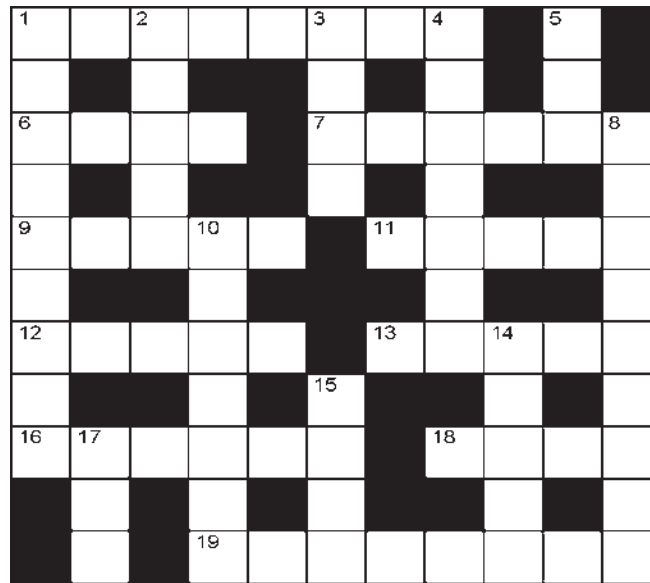
Sagittarius: Have honest conversations to ease tensions. Avoid venting frustrations. Minor health concerns cause worry. Guests may distract those focused on studies.

Capricorn: Manage time efficiently. Seniors appreciate your efforts, boosting creativity. Communicate actively with colleagues. Complete unfinished tasks and assist at home.

Aquarius: Evening sparks sporty enthusiasm, inspiring you to try something refreshingly new. Meeting everyone's expectations could feel draining. Regain your wit. Loved ones' company restores balance and calm.

Pisces: Demands test your strength, yet workplace praise motivates you. Begin boldly. Bonds with spouse deepen. Avoid friend-circle conflicts. Financial gains favor brokers.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1. Clumsy, awkward (8)
 - 6. Avoid (4)
 - 7. Vinegar acid (6)
 - 9. Bury (5)
 - 11. Scent (5)
 - 12. Grub (5)
 - 13. Farewell (5)
 - 16. Reduce in rank (6)
 - 18. Economise (4)
 - 19. Austrian composer (8)

- 3. Undiluted (4)
- 4. Produced (7)
- 5. Snow runner (3)
- 8. Fat (9)
- 10. Begrudging (7)
- 14. Silly (5)
- 15. Gauze (4)
- 17. Do wrong (3)

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 6. Stalactite, 8. Canny, 10. Ennui, 13. Incarcerate, 14. Awash, 17. Relic, 19. Elongation.

Down: 1. Stun, 2. Flay, 3. Ache, 4. Sign, 5. Reticence, 7. Activated, 9. Nears, 11. Nerve, 12. Icy, 15. Avow, 16. High, 17. Rate, 18. Look.

- Down**
- 1. Lacking expertise (9)
 - 2. Haggard (5)



bridge

PHILLIP ALDER

WHAT DOES THE LEAD SUGGEST TO DECLARER?

To start this week, for a change of pace, let's have some golf trivia questions. First, how far did the longest drive go on the PGA tour in 2013?

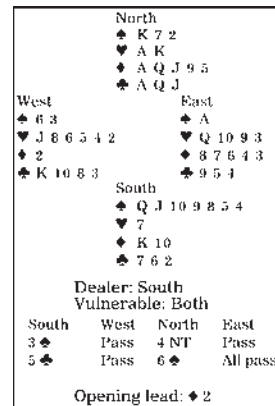
Having been asked that question, you are probably expecting today's deal to be a grand slam, the longest drive in bridge. Instead, though, here is a small slam. However, if you played it during a tournament and went down, it would make the drive home feel very long. South is in six spades. West leads the diamond two. How should declarer plan the play?

South had a textbook three-spade opening: a good seven-card suit and some 6-10 high-card points. North used Blackwood, hoping his partner had the spade ace and a minor-suit king,

which would probably have made seven no-trump laydown. When South denied an ace, though, North had to be content with six spades. (Yes, he should have signed off in six no-trump, to avoid a potentially fatal minor-suit lead. But that would have ruined the story.)

The careless declarer would lead the first trick and immediately play a trump. But East would win with his ace and give West a diamond ruff.

Leading a low card usually guarantees at least one honor in that suit. South, though, can see all five diamond honors. So he should fear that the lead is a singleton. Before playing a trump, declarer should cash dummy's top hearts and discard his remaining diamond.



Then he can lead a trump and claim shortly thereafter.

Phil Mickelson hit the longest drive at 450 yards. His ball rolled a long way down a cart path.

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SU-DO-KU



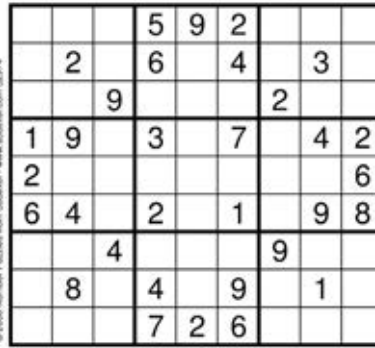
WHAT TO DO

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

SATURDAY'S ANSWER



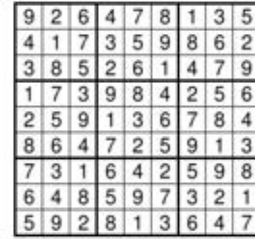
SU-DO-KU 2



Did you think the SU-DO-KU

on the left was easy? Try this. Check the solution tomorrow. Tips available at www.sudoku.xls.com DC-AGE SU DO KU FORUM: Discuss the SU DO KU puzzles printed and contribute mind teasers of your own at www.sudoxel.com/forum

SATURDAY'S ANSWER



Word Mine

G
O I E
O U L E D

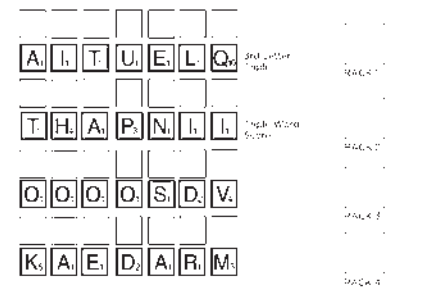
TODAY'S RATINGS: 18 AVERAGE; 20 GOOD; 22 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.



ANSWERS: 9. BOLDNESS, 10. BOLDNESS, 11. BOLDNESS, 12. BOLDNESS, 13. BOLDNESS, 14. BOLDNESS, 15. BOLDNESS, 16. BOLDNESS, 17. BOLDNESS, 18. BOLDNESS, 19. BOLDNESS, 20. BOLDNESS, 21. BOLDNESS, 22. BOLDNESS.

scrabble brand | G2 R1 A5 M5 S1



PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble words (Chambers). JUDD'S Solution on Monday

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

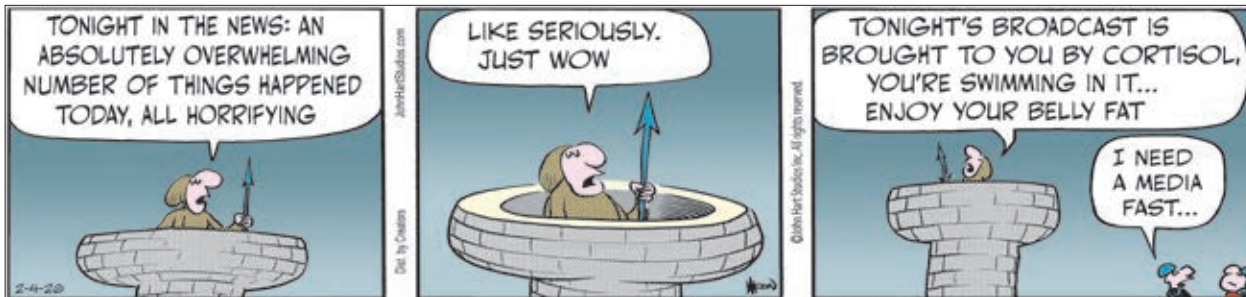
M, I, M, O, S, A	RAK 1 = 20
U, N, B, O, L, T	RAK 2 = 8
S, T, R, E, W	RAK 3 = 24
B, E, A, U, T, Y	RAK 4 = 11
PAR SCORE 40-50	JUDD'S TOTAL 63

coffee-break

CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



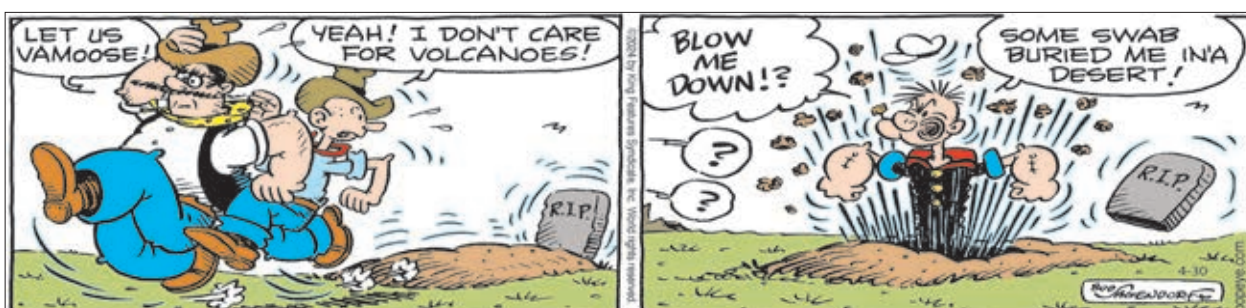
BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



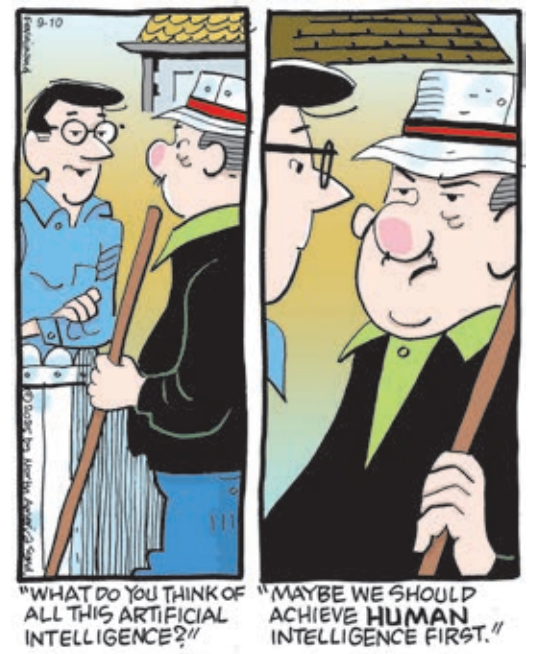
ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



POPEYE | Bud Sagendorf



Dennis the Menace



hocus focus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is larger. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Mouth is no longer open wider. 4. Dress collar is different. 5. Man is taller. 6. Feather is longer.

jumble



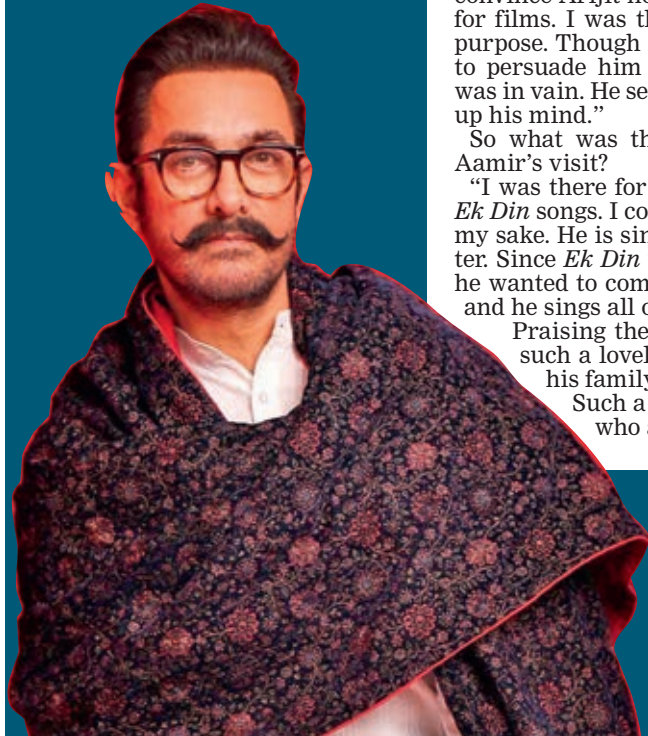
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: -

(Answers tomorrow) Saturday's Jumbles: HOUSE TABOO PERMIT BIGGER Answer: While making cupcakes for her son's baseball team, she said BATTER UP

'I CONVINCED ARIJIT TO SING 5 SONGS FOR MY SON'

Aamir Khan revealed what transpired during his recent visit to West Bengal to meet the singer



SUBHASH K. JHA

Explaining his decision to meet Arjit Singh after the latter suddenly announced his decision to quit playback singing, Aamir Khan said, "I was in Murshidabad a few days ago. I wasn't there to convince Arjit not to quit singing for films. I was there for another purpose. Though I did try my best to persuade him to reconsider, it was in vain. He seems to have made up his mind."

So what was the real purpose of Aamir's visit?

"I was there for his rendering of the *Ek Din* songs. I convinced him to sing for my sake. He is singing for Junaid's character. Since *Ek Din* was an earlier commitment, he wanted to complete it. The film has five songs, and he sings all of them," Aamir revealed.

Praising the singer, Aamir added, "He is such a talent — and such a lovely person. I had such a memorable time with him, his family, and his team. He has absolutely nailed the songs. Such a talent! And it's so sad for films — and for all of us who are his fans."



"I WAS THERE FOR HIS RENDERING OF THE EK DIN SONGS. I CONVINCED HIM TO SING FOR MY SAKE. HE IS SINGING FOR JUNAI'D'S CHARACTER. SINCE EK DIN WAS AN EARLIER COMMITMENT, HE WANTED TO COMPLETE IT. THE FILM HAS FIVE SONGS, AND HE SINGS ALL OF THEM"

— AAMIR KHAN

'I am not playing Vibhishana'

Vijay Sethupathi clears the air

The latest report doing the rounds claims that Tamil superstar Vijay Sethupathi is set to play Ravana's brother Vibhishana in producer Namit Malhotra's ambitious adaptation of *The Ramayan*. However, when this writer contacted Vijay Sethupathi, he flatly denied the claim.

Vijay said, "No, I am not part of this project. I have no clue where this is coming from."

Meanwhile, another piece of false news continues to make the rounds: that Rashmika Mandanna and Shahid Kapoor are coming together for Amit Sharma's next film. That, too, is incorrect. While Amit Sharma is in talks with Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna is not part of the project in any capacity.



— SKJ

Yash emerges as a major force in Telugu market

Toxic fetches record ₹105 cr

B.V.S. PRAKASH

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Kannada star Yash appears to have overtaken Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the Telugu market. According to leading distributors, Yash's upcoming Telugu-dubbed film *Toxic* has fetched a record price.

Trade sources say *Toxic* has been sold for Rs 105 crore (recoverable advance) in the two Telugu states, the highest-ever price for a dubbed film in the region. "The film has been sold for Rs 105 crore in the Telugu states, which is unprecedented for a dubbed movie," says a source. "In comparison, Rajinikanth's last release *Coolie* was traded for around Rs 52 crore. Clearly, Yash has outpaced the Tamil superstar in the dubbed-film business."

Industry observers attribute this surge largely to the phenomenal success of *KGF* and *KGF 2*. "KGF transformed Yash into a bonafide superstar among Telugu audiences. Both films enjoyed strong repeat value and helped him build a massive fan base here," explains a distributor. With *Toxic* positioned as a high-octane action entertainer, expectations are high. "Yash returns in a fiery avatar, and the film is expected to take a big opening. Telugu distributors were confident enough to breach the Rs 100-crore mark," the source adds.



"KGF TRANSFORMED YASH INTO A BONA FIDE SUPERSTAR AMONG TELUGU AUDIENCES. BOTH FILMS ENJOYED STRONG REPEAT VALUE AND HELPED HIM BUILD A MASSIVE FAN BASE HERE" DISTRIBUTOR.

Alia Bhatt loses a major project

Maddock Films had finalized her for a supernatural thriller titled *Chamunda*, but are now keen in creating a female superhero universe with *Saiyaara* star Aneet Padda

SUBHASH K JHA

In yet another blow to Alia Bhatt's career plans, the actress has reportedly lost a major assignment. Sources say Maddock Films had finalized Alia for a supernatural thriller titled *Chamunda*.

"It was meant to be Alia's own supernatural franchise, much like Shraddha Kapoor's *Stree*. Alia was very excited about the project. Then *Saiyaara* with Aneet Padda happened, and Maddock became more interested in creating a female superhero universe with her. That's how *Shakti Shalini* came about, and *Chamunda* was pushed to the back burner," reveals a source in the know.

The source adds, "This happened after Alia's female-led film *Jigra* for producer Karan Johar failed to take off at the box office, and *Alpha* with Yash Raj Films was postponed indefinitely."

So, is *Chamunda* shelved?

"For now, yes. I think they are waiting to see which way Alia's *Love & War* with Sanjay Leela Bhansali goes," the source says.



AFTER ALIA'S FEMALE-LED FILM JIGRA FOR PRODUCER KARAN JOHAR FAILED TO TAKE OFF AT THE BOX OFFICE, AND ALPHA WITH YASH RAJ FILMS WAS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, THE MAKERS ARE WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY ALIA'S LOVE & WAR WITH SANJAY LEELA BHANSALI GOES