

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2025



## WEATHER

Max: 35.2°C  
Min: 19.9°C  
RH: 35%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 35/20°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Magha Bahula Vidiya till 9.55 pm  
Star: Purvaphalguni till 11.11 pm  
Varjyam: Till 7.34 am  
Durmuhurtam: 9.04 am to 9.50 am; 12.53 pm to 1.39 pm  
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon  
HIJRI CALENDAR  
Shaban 15, 1446 H  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.42 am  
Zohar: 12.40 pm  
Asar: 4.41 pm  
Maghrib: 6.23 pm  
Isha: 7.31 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.42 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM  
MOONRISE 7.52 PM  
MOONSET 7.47 AM

## COUNTER POINT



Thank God, we can live for a few more days... people are afraid to eat us!

## IN BRIEF

**Convict hurls slipper at Judge**  
Hyderabad, Feb. 13: An accused in a murder case threw a chappal at 9th Additional District and Sessions Judge Harisha at the Rangareddy District Court, creating chaos in the courtroom. The judge, being vigilant, pushed her chair back thereby avoiding the chappal. She was not hurt in the incident.  
Full report on Page 4

**Ceasefire intact along LoC: Army**  
Srinagar, Feb. 13: The Indian Army on Thursday said that the ceasefire along the LoC in J&K remains intact and continues to be observed as per the mutual understanding with the Pakistan Army. It said that no recent exchange of heavy-calibre weapon fire had occurred along the de facto border and that minor incidents are not unprecedented.  
Full report on Page 9

**Hamas to free 3 hostages tomorrow**  
Cairo, Feb. 13: Hamas said it will release three more Israeli hostages, paving the way toward resolving a major dispute over the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Hamas had threatened to delay the release, accusing Israel of failing to meet its obligations to allow in tents and shelters, among other alleged violations of the truce.  
Full report on Page 12

## WORLD | 12

**Trump: Reciprocal tariffs order soon**

## SPORTS | 15

**Families not to travel with cricketers for Champs Trophy**

## TABLOID

**PM Modi gives eco-friendly gifts for JD Vance's children**

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# President's Rule imposed in Manipur

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA | DC  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

President's Rule was imposed in strife-torn Manipur on Thursday and the state Assembly put under suspended animation, after the BJP-led Central government failed to conju-

re a consensus on a successor to N. Biren Singh even after four days of his resignation as chief minister. Announcing the proclamation of the central rule, a notification issued by the Union home ministry said that President Droupadi Murmu is of the opinion that "a situation has arisen in which the government of that state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

"After considering the report and other information received by me, I am satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of that state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India," the notification said. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 356 of the Constitution, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I hereby proclaim

Page 9: Manipur Assembly under suspended animation

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# Tech giant, TG to train 50K govt students in AI Revanth unveils new Microsoft hub in Hyd

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Microsoft campus in Gachibowli, marking the company's 25th anniversary in Hyderabad.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, IT minister D. Sridhar Babu, Google India Country manager Preeti Lobana during an MoU exchange event in Hyderabad, on Thursday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

The event, attended by IT minister D. Sridhar Babu, highlighted the expansion of Microsoft's presence in the city with the opening of a 1.1 million square foot, LEED-certified building designed to house 2,500 additional employees. Microsoft also plans to hire an additional 4,800 IT professionals in the new campus, further solidifying Hyderabad's role as a major global IT hub. Microsoft unveiled an initiative to train 1.2 lakh persons in AI in collaboration with the Telangana government.

The new facility is Microsoft's largest R&D hub outside the United States and reflects the company's deepened commitment to Hyderabad and India's innovation ecosystem. The expansion continues to emphasise Microsoft's growing footprint in the region.

Page 2: MS to invest ₹15K cr more in coming yrs

# Google to use AI skills in agri, edu

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Google on Thursday announced a strategic collaboration with the Telangana government to harness the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the state.

This collaboration aims to drive the development and implementation of AI solutions in agriculture, mobility, education, sustainability and govern-

ance. A memorandum of understanding was exchanged by the representatives of the state government and Google, in the presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and IT minister D. Sridhar Babu on Thursday.

The partnership will also focus on AI skilling and upskilling programmes.

Page 2: Google to accelerate AI use in key sectors

# Goal is to propel growth; FM tables I-T Bill in LS

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | FC  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that the goals of the Union Budget 2025-26 are to accelerate growth, secure inclusive development and invigorate private sector investments. The Union minister was replying to the discussion on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha amid uproar by the Opposition members.



Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, on Thursday. — PTI

Before the Parliament proceedings were adjourned till March 10, the finance minister also introduced the new Income-Tax Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha and later

past, Sitharaman said that the country emerged as the fifth largest major economy in the world after being listed among the "fragile five" economies post-2008 global financial crisis.

As per the first advance estimates, the government has projected India's economy will grow by 6.4 per cent in real terms and 9.7 per cent in nominal terms.

The finance minister, however, said that the Budget was prepared during a challenging time, with serious external challenges beyond estimates or forecasts.

Page 9: No reduction in capex, says Nirmala

## DISSENT | DELETED

# Opposition MPs term report unconstitutional

# Uproar over JPC Waqf report

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

The Parliament witnessed massive uproar on Thursday after the government tabled the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024.

The Opposition termed the report unconstitutional and alleged that dissent notes were deleted or redacted from the report, which the government vehemently denied. Amid uproar over the

alleged redaction of certain portions of the dissent notes, which saw a brief adjournment and a walkout by the Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha and adjournment till 2 pm in the Lok Sabha, a corrigendum was tabled in the Upper House in the afternoon.

In the Rajya Sabha, the report was tabled by BJP member Medha Vishram Kulkarni, a member of the JPC panel.

In the Lok Sabha, the report was tabled by JPC chairman Jagdambika Pal.

In Lok Sabha, which witnessed an adjournment barely 15 minutes after assembling at 11 am, Union home minister Amit Shah said that the government has no opposition if dissent notes of the Opposition are added to the JPC report. Rajya Sabha Leader of the House J.P. Nadda slammed the Opposition MPs when they staged a walkout and said the Congress, along with other I.N.D.I.A. bloc parties, is strengthening the hands of those who are trying to break the country.

He slammed the "politics of appeasement" by the Opposition and accused them of trying to weaken the country.

At the start of proceedings in the Rajya Sabha, as soon as the JPC report was tabled, the Opposition members were up in arms demanding withdrawal of the report.

The House was adjourned for 10 minutes amidst uproar.

Page 9: Oppn claims dissent notes missing from JPC

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## EVENTS TODAY

**Book launch: Vijaya Telangana** by Sri Thulla Devender Goud  
Time: 4 pm  
Venue: Jalavihar, Necklace road

**Live Musical Orchestra** By Kinnera Art Theatres  
Time: 4.30 pm  
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha

**Live Telugu & Hindi Musical Orchestra** By Balaji International Arts Foundation  
Time: 4.30 pm  
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha

**Kala Utsav 2025: Live Musical Concert** By Nisha Rajagopalan  
Time: 6 pm  
Venue: Saptaparni

**Zak World of Facades India 2025: The Region's Premier Conference on Facade Design & Engineering**  
Time: 10 am  
Venue: Hyderabad International Convention Center - HICC

**CCL 2025: Chennai Rhinos Vs Karnataka Bulldozers & Bhojpuri Dabanggs vs Telugu Warriors**  
Time: 2 pm  
Venue: Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium

**Cultural Programme** By SICA  
Time: 6 pm  
Venue: Conference Hall - Ravindra Bharathi

**Numaish 2025: All India Industrial Exhibition**  
Time: 4 pm  
Venue: Exhibition Ground

## SHORT TAKES

## APPLICANTS FOR NEW RATION CARD FLEECED

NEERAJ KUMAR | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The state government's decision to issue new ration cards after a long gap of nine years, got thousands of poor and middle people rush to MeeSeva Centres to submit their applications.

The extortion of innocent people, however, continued on the second day as people through MeeSeva to submit their applications. On the first day of the ration application timeline, a long queues, especially of women, were witnessed at a number of the government and private Mee Seva centres. In an attempt to address people's anxiety to secure a ration card and control the situation at MeeSeva centres, Deputy Chief Minister Bhattin Vikramarka Mallu said new ration cards will be issued throughout the year and the applications will also be received throughout the year. While the rush at most Mee Seva centres had drastically reduced on the second day, some centres at Yakutpura, Dabirpura, Moghalpura among others continued to see rush as all people were not aware of extended time to receive the applications. Girija, a housewife, who came along with her children to submit the application for new food security card, was asked to pay ₹20 instead of ₹10 for application form and another ₹100 to fill it up at a private MeeSeva centre at Saleemnagar.

## MUSLIMS IN BCs UNACCEPTABLE, ASSERTS BANDI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Union minister of state for home Bandi Sanjay Kumar reaffirmed the BJP's opposition to religion-based reservations, declaring that the party will never accept the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government's attempts to include Muslims in the Backward Classes (BCs) list.

In a social media post on X, Bandi Sanjay warned the CM that the Hindu community would revolt if the Congress government proceeded with this move.

He also accused the Congress of reneging on its promises and deceiving the BCs by failing to implement the promised 42 per cent reservations.

Alleging that Congress lacked the courage to contest local body elections, the minister pointed out that grants under the 15th Finance Commission would be halted if the polls were not conducted by March. He noted that funds had already been stalled twice and questioned why the Congress, despite being aware of this, is still delaying the elections.

## CM orders drone survey inside ORR to boost infra

## Survey to get data on housing, water, electricity, sewage

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday directed officials to develop the core urban area inside the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to international standards by improving infrastructure and providing better facilities to residents.

In a review meeting with officials, the CM ordered a comprehensive drone sur-

vey which has already been piloted to be expanded to cover the entire core urban area.

This survey will collect crucial data on housing, fresh water supply, electricity, and sewage systems, ensuring that basic amenities are provided efficiently and without disruption.

To tackle traffic congestion, CM Revanth suggested seeking technical support from Google if neces-

sary. He highlighted the importance of using advanced technology to streamline traffic management and prevent road-blocks in the city.

Additionally, the Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare detailed plans for the restoration of lakes and the expansion of drainage systems, aiming to improve the city's water management infrastructure. In a move to ease traffic congestion, the CM

approved the construction of flyovers at seven major high-traffic intersections. He directed officials to expedite the process by completing land acquisition and issuing tenders at the earliest.

With these initiatives, CM Revanth said he aims to transform Hyderabad into a model urban centre ensuring sustainable development and improving quality of life for its residents.

## Speed up RRR, Bhatti tells R&amp;B dept

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who also holds the finance portfolio, asked roads and buildings department officials to speed up the construction of Hyderabad Regional Ring Road project.

During pre-budget meetings with ministers and senior officials of the R&B department, Bhatti Vikramarka stressed the urgent need to expedite the construction of the RRR project.

He assured the officials that adequate funds would be allocated for the project in the upcoming budget 2025-26.

He further instructed officials to prioritise the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and 3D designs for the project. He also called for a comprehensive report on R&B assets across the state, ensuring that these valuable resources are protected from encroachment.

Accompanied by R&B minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka urged officials to follow through with the construction of Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) roads and fully develop roadways connecting district centres to Hyderabad. He highlighted the importance of such infrastructure as thousands of people travel to the state capital daily for work.

Addressing the implementation of the SC and ST Sub-Plan Act, Bhatti reminded officials of the Congress government's initiative and stressed the need for its full execution in the current administration. "We will take steps to implement this act in its entirety," he said, ensuring that resources under the act would be utilised effectively to promote welfare and develop-



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka (right) and R&B minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy discuss welfare initiatives on Thursday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

## Ready for 17K-MW demand, says Bhatti

**Hyderabad:** Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said no one in the entire state felt any trouble when the state witnessed this season's peak power demand of around 16,000 MW on February 10.

He also claimed that the state power sector made elaborate summer prepared plans to meet even 17,000 MW of power demand daily in the coming months.

Giving a presentation on the scenario of the power sector in the state, Bhatti said the Central Electricity Commission had made an expectation that the power demand would grow at a rate of 8 per cent every year till

2030, to reach the power demand of 24,215 MW of power demand and thereafter at a rate of 5.6 per cent till 2035 to reach 31,809 MW of power demand in the state.

Listing out the reasons for increased power demand in the state, Bhatti said the fast emergence of Hyderabad as a hub for data centres for major global IT giants, which guzzle up more power, besides the Future City initiative, Musi Riverfront Development which is expected for more economic activity and Regional Ring Road act as major growth drivers for the increased power demand in Telangana.

Backward Classes. He announced that immediate payments would be made to clear the rent arrears of welfare hostels and Gurukuls currently operating from rented buildings.

"We will pay the rent

arrears of hostels and Gurukuls immediately," he said.

The ministers also discussed urgent repairs to welfare hostels and Gurukuls, particularly ensuring the installation of mosquito nets on windows and doors to protect students from mosquito-borne diseases. The meeting also explored measures to transform BC study centres into job creation hubs.

The finance minister directed that coaching programmes be aligned with the Telangana Public Service Commission job calendar, focusing on exams like DSC and banking, to provide students with viable career pathways.

The introduction of vocational courses in Gurukuls was proposed to equip students with skills for future employment. The finance minister said that these courses would complement the existing curriculum, offering students greater opportunities for skill development.

In the transport sector, the ministers discussed the acquisition of electric buses for the RTC and the establishment of charging stations to support their operation.

## Microsoft plans ₹15K-cr additional investment

FROM PAGE 1

The expansion continues to emphasise Microsoft's growing footprint in the region, where over half of the company's 20,000 employees in India are based in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister expressed his happiness over the expansion of Microsoft's presence in Hyderabad, and said that "Hyderabad and Microsoft have grown together, and as a proud representative of this state, I can say with certainty this is just the beginning. The world considers Hyderabad as a technological powerhouse that nurtures innovation and attracts global talent. With partners like Microsoft, Hyderabad's future would be even brighter." Stressing the importance of Artificial Intelligence, Revanth Reddy said, "The future belongs to Artificial Intelligence. Through our partnership with Microsoft and the launch of the Advanta(D)ge Telangana programme, we are introducing AI education in 500 government schools and promoting AI for good governance and public services."

Minister D. Sridhar Babu said, "The new campus and the several AI-related initiatives launched by Microsoft reflect their commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation in the state." Rajiv Kumar, the managing director and president of Microsoft India Development Centre, highlighted the company's ongoing partnership with state, and stated, "This expansion will provide state-of-the-art infrastructure to our teams, enabling them to innovate and develop next-generation AI products."

As part of the AI training initiative, Microsoft will launch three AI programmes, including the AI Foundations Academy, which will introduce AI education to 500 government schools, benefiting 50,000 students. Additionally, the AI-Industry Pro programme will focus on upskilling 20,000 industry professionals, while the AI-Govern initiative will train 50,000 government officials in essential fields such as digital productivity, generative AI, and cybersecurity. As part of MoU, Microsoft will also establish an AI Centre of Excellence (AICoE) in partnership with the TG government. This initiative will focus on the development of cloud-based AI infrastructure, including the creation of an AI Knowledge Hub that will support AI research, case studies, and best

practices across the state. In a move to further bolster Hyderabad's position as a global leader in AI, Microsoft announced plans to double its investments in hyperscale AI data centres in the region, with an additional ₹ 15,000 crore to be invested in the coming years. This investment will make city one of Microsoft's largest global data hubs, contributing significantly to the state's emerging AI-driven economy. These efforts align with Revanth Reddy's vision to establish Hyderabad as a key AI hub in India.

Congratulations



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy opens Microsoft's new building at Gachibowli on Thursday during the firm's 25th anniversary in Hyderabad. — BY ARRANGEMENT

## Google to boost AI in all major sectors

FROM PAGE 1

The partnership will also focus on AI skilling and upskilling programmes, supporting digital learning ecosystems through Google for Education, and launching an Open Agriculture Network to connect farmers with essential resources. The collaboration aims to enhance open data access through Google's Data Commons platform, accelerate solar adoption using Google's Solar API and foster the startup ecosystem through accelerator programmes. Congratulating

Google on the occasion, the Chief Minister stated, "This collaboration with Google strengthens our vision for an AI-enabled Telangana. By integrating cutting-edge AI technologies, we aim to revolutionise key sectors, ensuring better governance, economic progress, and enhanced public services. This partnership marks a significant step in our digital journey."

Preeti Lobana, country manager, Google India, said, "This collaboration with Telangana reinforces Google's commitment to India's digital future.

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Congratulations

## State interests on Krishna river safe, says minister

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Telangana irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said the government will not allow any injustice to the state on its rights and share to the Krishna river waters in the ongoing dispute with AP. Uttam, who was in Delhi on a day when the Supreme Court heard a writ petition filed by Andhra Pradesh, said the court has posted the next hearing to February 27, and asked both sides to submit their arguments in short notes by February 25. Uttam said Andhra Pradesh filed the case challenging the validity of additional terms of reference (TOR) issued by the Centre for the Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) in 2023 and that any resolution of the dis-



Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy with Mukesh Sinha, chairman of Central Water Commission, in Delhi.

pute should be as per pre-revised terms of reference. In the meanwhile, Uttam said a planned meeting of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II (KWDT-II), chaired by Justice Brijesh Kumar (KWDT-II), scheduled for February 21 to 23 will go on as scheduled. Today the court did not provide any relief to AP, the min-

ister said adding that this is a good development for Telangana. It may be recalled that as per the provisions of section 89 of the AP Reorganization Act 2014, KWDT-II was to make project-wise specific allocations if such allocations were not made by a tribunal set up as per the Inter State River Water Disputes Act of 1956.

## REPAIR | REPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Union minister of state for home Bandi Sanjay Kumar reaffirmed the BJP's opposition to religion-based reservations, declaring that the party will never accept the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government's attempts to include Muslims in the Backward Classes (BCs) list.

In a social media post on X, Bandi Sanjay warned the CM that the Hindu community would revolt if the Congress government proceeded with this move.

He also accused the Congress of reneging on its promises and deceiving the BCs by failing to implement the promised 42 per cent reservations.

Alleging that Congress lacked the courage to contest local body elections, the minister pointed out that grants under the 15th Finance Commission would be halted if the polls were not conducted by March. He noted that funds had already been stalled twice and questioned why the Congress, despite being aware of this, is still delaying the elections.

## Union jal shakti ministry will study and forward the report later to the Telangana govt

## NDSA expert panel report submitted to Centre

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

An expert committee is likely to submit its final report to the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) recommending appropriate solutions to the problems at the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and its possible rehabilitation or repairs.

The NDSA will submit the report to the Union jal shakti ministry.

Once the jal shakti ministry studies the report and gives the go ahead, the final report on the future of the Medigadda barrage, as well as those at Annaram and Sundilla — also part of K LIS — will be sent to the state government for taking the required steps.

Originally, the report



File Photo

was to be readied by October 2024, but it was delayed as all the required tests on the three barrages as sought by the NDSA were not completed. It was later expected that the report would be ready by end of December 2024 but now it is finally reported to be ready.

The report is also expected to play a crucial role in the judicial commission headed by retired

Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose probing the circumstances that resulted in the problems at the three barrages, particularly the partial breaking and sinking of one of the Medigadda barrage's blocks. During the commission's hearings so far, several irrigation department engineers, as well as the contracting companies that built the barrages, all indicated

design faults, shortcuts in planning, and poor maintenance as reasons for the seepages, leaks, and the damages to the barrages. Incidentally, Justice Ghose is expected to return to the city soon to continue with the commission's work.

The term of the commission is set to end on February 28 and it is likely that the government will grant one more extension till end of April providing the time required for report completion.

The term of the commission is set to end on February 28 and it is likely that the government will grant one more extension till end of April providing the time required for the commission to complete any further cross examinations it has planned for, and its report.

## HC grants final opportunity

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana High Court on Thursday gave a final opportunity to the complainant, Nagavelli Rajalingamurthy, a resident of Bhupalpally.

Rajalingamurthy contended that Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao, and others were responsible for the breakdown and sinking of the barrage, as they had decided to construct the barrage at the current site on their own, disregarding expert recommendations against constructing the barrage at that site. In his complaint, Rajalingamurthy requested the Bhupalpally court to register a case against all the accused, including Chandrashekar Rao,

Harish Rao, and others, on charges of breach of trust by a public servant and misappropriation of public funds. Based on his complaint, the Bhupalpally court issued notices to the BRS leaders in July 2024. Challenging these notices, they approached the High Court in December 2024. Acting on their petition, the High Court stayed the memo and notices and directed the Bhupalpally police and Rajalingamurthy to file counters. While the police filed a counter stating that they had no role in the issue, Rajalingamurthy, however, failed to do so, prompting the High Court to grant a final opportunity.

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### IN BRIEF

## REPLY TO MOHAN BABU'S PETITION: HC TO JOURNO

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana High Court, on Thursday, directed journalist Muppudi Ranjith Kumar to file his response in a quash petition filed by actor Manchu Mohan Babu, seeking the dismissal of a criminal case against him for allegedly attacking the journalist.

Pahadi Shareef police had registered an FIR against Manchu Mohan Babu on charges of attempted murder following an alleged assault on the reporter on December 10. The incident occurred during a heated dispute at Mohan Babu's residence in Jalpally, Hyderabad, involving his son, actor Manchu Manoj. The journalist sustained injuries and was hospitalised. Mohan Babu's counsel informed the court that the Supreme Court had granted him bail. In response, the High Court directed him to submit the Supreme Court's order.

## POLICE TAKE MASTAN SAI INTO CUSTODY

MANVI VYAS  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Narsingi police on Thursday took YouTuber Mastan Sai into custody in connection with a case of sexual exploitation and blackmail. He was previously sent to Chanchalguda jail for judicial remand. Following a court petition, the police secured a three-day custody to further interrogate him. On Thursday, he was brought to the Narsingi police station for questioning.

The case surfaced after actress Lavanya filed a complaint, alleging that Sai possessed explicit videos of her and other women, using them for blackmail and exploitation. She reportedly provided a hard disk containing 80 such incriminating videos.

## FOUR BOOKED FOR THREATS AND INTIMIDATION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Police have registered a case against four persons for pressurising and issuing threats to a flat owner. The four accused also claimed that they have the proximity to the late gangster Bhongir Nayeemuddin.

Saidabad SHO Raghavender told *Deccan Chronicle* that cases have been registered following complaint filed by Errola Anuradha, a resident of Sri Lakshmi Apartment in Karanbagh. "In the complaint, it is alleged that the accused were threatening her for the last two years using the name of the gangster Nayeemuddin and also putting pressure on her to vacate the flat where she is staying." "We booked cases for instilling modesty, voluntarily causing hurt and criminal intimidation under sections 79, 115 (2), 351 (2) read with 3(5) of BNS," the SHO said. The complainant and victim Anuradha, said, "P. Srihari staying in the same apartment along with his family members has been threatening us to sell the flat. They are also stating that they are associated with late gangster Bhongir Nayeemuddin. The accused threatened to eliminate me and my family members."

**IN DEBT'S RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT KOLKATA**  
9, Old Post Office Street, 7th Floor, Kolkata-700021  
Daily No. 992 of 2024  
Misc. Appeal No. 1024 of 2024  
Arising out of SA 329 of 2024 in DRT-I, Hyderabad  
PNB Housing Finance Limited  
..... Appellants  
Versus  
Cyrus Diagnostic Centre & Anr  
..... Respondents

To, M/s CYRUS DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE  
H. No. 18-10771, Road No. 5, Hanuman Pet  
Medchal, Malkajgiri, District Telangana,  
Pincode - 500047 (Respondent).  
**SUMMONS**  
1. WHEREAS the appellant has filed an appeal U/S 18 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 against the order passed by the Ld. Presiding Officer, DRT-I, Hyderabad, and other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear and file written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 A.M. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on 07-04-2025 to answer the claim.  
2. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.  
3. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed.  
4. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.  
Signature of the officer  
Authorized to issue summons.

# Murder accused hurls slipper at woman judge

Lawyers stunned by action, thrash him outside court

AISHWARYA GANDEED | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

An accused in a murder case threw a chappal at 9th Additional District and Sessions Judge Harisha at the Rangareddy District Court, creating chaos in the courtroom. The judge, being vigilant, pushed her chair back thereby avoiding the chappal. She was not hurt in the incident.

The attack took place during a trial of a murder case, involving the accused, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a separate case.

According to court officials, Sardar Chamkorthi, also known as Karan Singh, who was brought to court under police escort, complained about alleged harassment by the jail superintendent.

When the judge asked him to come forward and speak, he reportedly removed his chappal and threw it at her, despite being

restrained by around six police personnel.

According to senior assistant and bench clerk Satyanarayana Raju, the attack was a deliberate act of revenge, as the judge had recently sentenced Karan Singh to rigorous life imprisonment along with a ₹15,000 fine. The sentence was issued in a case where the accused had attacked two police constables while being pursued for an earlier crime.

Karan Singh has a history of violent offences. He was booked under several sections of the Indian Penal Code for attempt to murder, voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter a public servant from duty. He was also booked under the Arms Act, after he attacked constables Raju Naik and Vijay with a knife during a police operation in Yellamabanda's Sikh Colony. In another case, he was accused of threatening a transgender woman with a knife

for free sex and later murdering her husband, also a transgender person, when he tried to intervene. The case, registered under IPC Sections 302(murder) and 394 r/w 34 (causing hurt while committing robbery) at Narsingi Police Station, was under trial when the courtroom attack occurred.

The incident created immediate outrage among the legal professionals. Lawyers, who were present in the courtroom, were stunned by the act. After the hearing, they reportedly confronted the accused and beat him outside the court.

Condemning the attack, the Rangareddy Bar Association president Kondal Reddy said, "Despite being held by police escort, the accused managed to throw a chappal, shocking everyone in the courtroom. He is a notorious criminal and must be punished for his actions. After the incident, all the lawyers

came out and protested." Bar Association vice-president Rajender Reddy Pam said, "I think this is the first time in the state's legal history that an accused has attacked a judge. We strongly condemn this and demand protection for lawyers."

S w a r n a l a t h a Vaddiraju, TPCC legal cell convener, criticised the act as an insult to the judiciary and women in high-ranking legal positions, especially on a National Women's Day.

Lawyers across Telangana have declared a boycott of court proceedings on Friday as a mark of protest.

They stressed that the incident threatens the dignity of the judiciary and creates an atmosphere of fear among legal professionals. The lawyers have demanded police authorities to take immediate action to prevent such assaults on judicial officers in the future.

## MAN GETS 20-YR RI FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING BOY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

A 35-year-old autorickshaw driver was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment on Thursday by the XII Additional Sessions Judge Court at Nampally for sexually abusing an eight-year-old boy. Judge T. Anitha also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 and directed the Secretary of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to compensate ₹1 lakh for the victim. In April 2018, the accused Masood Khan kidnaped the victim, a first-grade student, when he was playing with his brother, and sexually abused him at a public wash area in Asifnagar.

## MAN DIES AS SCOOTER SKIDS ON FLYOVER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

A garments vendor from Nagaram on Thursday died in a road accident in Hayathnagar when his scooter skidded on flyover leading to fatal injuries. Doctors declared him dead on arrival. Satti Sattipathi Shivaji, 26, succumbed to his injuries he sustained in the accident.

A resident of IPWS Colony in Nagaram, Shivaji is survived by his wife and a daughter. Shivaji was on way to Abdullapurmet from Hayathnagar when his vehicle met with the accident at A1 Bakery. Commuters immediately called police who rushed him to government hospital in Vanasthalipuram. However, Shivaji died by the time he reached the hospital. A case was registered.

# 3 offenders arrested in ₹2 crore burglary

SYED OMAR FAROOQ | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

City police teams solved a ₹2 crore house burglary case within 24 hours. Three notorious history-shooters were arrested in the case. The arrested are all natives of Bihar. The main accused is also involved in a murder case at Domalguda in January 2024, officials said. According to city police commissioner C.V. Anand, the offenders committed a burglary on the intervening night of February 10 and 11 in Narayanguda and stole diamond, gold, silver, cash and foreign currency of different countries all worth over ₹2 crore.

The accused, who were arrested on Thursday, are identified as Susheel Mukhiya, 29, a cook from Bihar, while Basanti Arhi, 40, a maid resident was from West Bengal. The modus operandi of the main accused Molhu Mukhiya, alias Manoj Mukhiyaa, and his associates was to first select the houses of rich people especially from the Marwadi and Jain communities and join as maid servants, cook or security guards, Anand said in a press meet. The trio,



Police commissioner C.V. Anand verifies the recovered valuables at ICC, Banjara Hills in Hyderabad on Thursday.

of Abhay Kedia, caretaker of Rohit Kedia, in his complaint, stated the house owners are in Dubai for their daughter's wedding ceremony. In his absence, on the intervening night of February 10 and 11, some unknown offenders gained entry into the house in N a r a y a n g u d a and ransacked the almira, lockers and stole diamond, gold, silver, net cash of ₹20 lakh and other foreign currency all worth ₹2 crore, the commissioner said.

"The citizens before appointing helpers at their houses should cross check their backgrounds, collect their ID proofs and inform the local police station to prevent such incidents," the commissioner said, appreciating the efforts made by the special teams from Narayanguda Police East Zone and Task Force.

The stolen property worth ₹1-crore is yet to be recovered in the case. Molhu was also involved in property offences in Delhi and went to jail and several non-bailable warrants were pending against him, the commissioner said.

Our teams registered a case on Wednesday based on a complaint

# Crackdown on quarrying

PRIYA RATHNAM  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

In a special drive against illegal sand mining and transportation, Rachakonda police registered 71 cases in a span of two days. The crackdown across Rachakonda commis-

sionerate jurisdiction is part of the ongoing efforts to curb illegal sand extraction and transportation, stated Rachakonda commissioner of police G Sudheer Babu.

The CP said, "The commitment of the police force to fight the sand mafia will contin-

ue. The department would continue to take strict action against illegal sand transportation and mining activities. Such operations would persist without leniency and those involved in these illegal activities would face severe legal consequences."

# Inspectors find major hygiene lapses at FPU in Patancheru

SABA ANJUM SHAIK | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

While conducting inspections, a task force team found severe hygiene and safety violations at food processing units (FPU) in IDA Patancheru. The team has raided Instahot Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Asati Rajkumar Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd.

At Instahot Foods, officials found improper food storage, with items placed directly on the ground and rusted racks. Expired food products, including Kasturi Methi (1.25 kg), Mustard Seeds (0.5 kg), and Rai Mota (1 kg), were dis-



The storage of food at Instahot Foods Pvt Ltd.

carded. Additionally, 1.5 kg of Nutmeg was seized due to missing labeling details such as MRP, batch number, and packing date. Some food items were stored under a

leaking air conditioner, raising contamination concerns. The inspection also revealed severely unhygienic conditions, including spoiled vegetables, rotten tomatoes and cockroach infestations in the cooking and grinding areas.

At Asati Rajkumar Roller Flour Mills, inspectors noted that the FSSAI license was not displayed and food items were stored alongside non-food materials such as cement and tyres. The facility had rodent and bird infestations, with droppings found inside the premises. Walls and ceilings were covered in cobwebs and peeling paint.

## MAN SENTENCED TO 2 DAYS JAIL FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

In their continuous crackdown against drunken driving, S. Chandranna, a 33-year-old man of Nagole, was sentenced to two days in jail after he was caught driving under the influence of alcohol for the third time.

According to police, Chandranna had been apprehended for similar offences twice.

He was produced before the 6th Special MM Court in LB Nagar. The judge imposed a two-day jail sentence on him.

The crackdown is part of an operation launched by the LB Nagar Traffic Police to reduce accidents caused by drunken driving and promote road safety.

The incident occurred on February 11 during a routine "Drink and Drive" check under LB Nagar Traffic Police Station jurisdiction.

LB Nagar police have registered a total of 604 drunken driving cases this year. Of the total cases, 13 were punished with traffic duty, two were sentenced to jail for two days while fines adding up to Rs 8,02,500 were collected. Traffic CID Venkateshwarlu said, "Offenders would face strict legal actions. Public must refrain from driving under the influence of alcohol. Such actions must be stopped as they not only jeopardise other families but also bring immense miseries to their own families as well."

## FAKE IAS OFFICER NABBED FOR ENTERING SECT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Secretariat police arrested a man, N. Balakrishna, who posing as an IAS officer, was reportedly entering the state secretariat. Following the issuance of order by the secretariat chief security officer (CSO) Devidas, a police officer was asked to keep watch on the suspect.

After the arrest of the fake IAS officer, the accused was handed over to Saifabad police for further probe.

It is reported that police also seized alleged appointment orders and other documents from the impostor. Recently, a fake revenue employee and an MRO were detected by the secretariat staffers and the accused were arrested. The case is under investigation and details will be disclosed soon, a senior police officer said.

Secretariat police have been issued instructions to check the ID cards of suspected persons entering the Assembly premises, police sources said.

### 11th DAY CEREMONY IN LOVING MEMORY OF



**Rev. Bro. A. ARUL RAJ**  
Worshipper and Preacher  
Gifted with life - 28-08-1960  
Call to the Glory of God - 04-02-2025,  
On 14th Feb Mass @ 6 am and 6 pm  
@ St. John Maria Vianney Church,  
Evening Prayer @ 6 pm in IDH Colony,  
New Bhoguda, Sec-6, Bad.  
A Tribute of love from Family members  
and Prayer Team.  
Ph: 7032164009, 9502593617  
(S/2425/D01054)

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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

In Loving Memory of



**Mr. MADDELE R. STEPHEN**  
DOB: 01.01.1953 DOD: 03.11.2016  
Inserted By: M. LAVANYA, Sons,  
Daughters, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children  
Ph: 77025 87717, 79892 34356  
(S/2425/D01057)

### 22nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DOB: 03-02-1984 DOD: 14-02-2003



**DARLING MELLY**  
God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and whispered "Come to me"

With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly We could not make you stay "May her soul rest in peace"

In loving memory of our darling daughter  
**Melissinda Foregard**  
By : Family Members  
(S/2425/D01002)

### OBITUARY

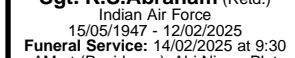
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7



**Sgt. K.S. Abraham** (Retd.)  
Indian Air Force  
15/05/1947 - 12/02/2025  
Funeral Service: 14/02/2025 at 9:30 AM at (Residence) Abi Nivas, Plot No: 32, Opposite to Anam Gardens, Green Fields, Military Dairy Farm Road, Kanajuguda, 11:00 AM at St. Gregorios Jacobite Syrian Cathedral - Mettuguda.  
Funeral: at 12:00 PM, Garrison Cemetery No. 12, Trimulgherry, Secunderabad.

Inserted by: Family Members  
(S/2425/D01060)

### 41st ANNIVERSARY

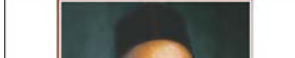


**Late Shiva Sri**  
GOODA SHANKARAPPA GARU  
14-04-1925 14-02-1984

Your loving presence will always be in our hearts.

Sons: Daughters-in-laws:  
G. PRABHU LINGAM UMADEVI  
G. RAMESH BRAMARAMBA RANI  
G. Sharada (Wife Late Sri. G.Kotappa)  
Grand Son: G. Shanker & Grand Children  
Family Members & Well Wishers

### 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



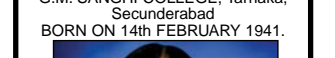
**Smt. BERI GIRIYA**  
DOB: 23-09-1945 DOD: 14-02-2018  
W/o: Beri Chandra Mohan Yadav

Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday. No longer 225 in our life to Share, but in our hearts, you are always there for ever till the last inspiration.

Remembered by Family Members.

### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**Late SARIPALLY LALITHA JOHN** M.A. MPhil BT  
Retd. Lecturer in English  
G.M. SANGHI COLLEGE, Tarnaka,  
Secunderabad  
BORN ON 14th FEBRUARY 1941.



Promoted to His Glory on 19-08-2024  
You are in heaven Singing  
Praises to Our Lord  
"BLESSING AND HONOR  
AND GLORY AND POWER  
BE TO HIM WHO SITS  
ON THE THRONE, AND TO  
THE LAMB FOR EVER AND EVER"  
WE MISS YOU  
SARIPALLY JOHN, Husband  
Relatives and  
Staff of Comsat Systems Pvt.Ltd.  
Hyderabad  
(S/2425/D01057)

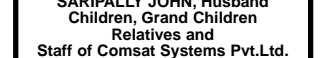
### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

"I will walk before the Lord in the Land of the Living" Psalms 116:9



**Mr. Sukoori Earnest Swaroop Kumar**  
S/o Late Sukoori Gnanu Purushotha Rao  
DOB: 26.10.1954 DOD: 12.02.2025  
Thanksgiving Service will be held on  
Saturday, 15.02.2025 @ 6:00pm, at  
C.S.I Wesley Church, Secunderabad.  
Please treat this as our personal invitation  
Wife & Children  
Contact # for any further details:  
9177129663

### SHRADHANJALI



**GANGISHETTY VENKATESHWAR RAO**  
DOB: 29-10-1955 DOD: 03-02-2025  
With a heavy heart, we announce  
the passing of our beloved Father  
on 3rd Feb 2025 leaving a rich legacy,  
forgiveness & wonderful memories.

Remembered by:  
Uma Rani Gangishetty (Wife)  
Harish & Swathi (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Vandana & Nagesh  
(Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Karthik, Tarun, Mahasana, Kirithik  
and Members of Gangishetty Family.  
(S/2425/D01061)

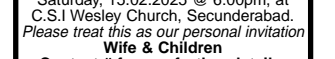
### SAD DEMISE



**K. RAMAKANTH RAO**  
S/o Kondapalli Seshagiri Rao (Artist)  
Date of Death: 12-02-2025  
Cremation : 14.02.2025

**KONDAPALLI FAMILY**  
+91 92463 91206  
(S/2425/D01062)

### A MAN WHO LIVED FOR OTHERS 6th ANNIVERSARY



**Dr. SAKETI DEVASAHAYAM**  
Philanthropist - Educationalist - Social Worker  
Founder: Riding Hood High School,  
Sitlapalmudi, Sec-6d.  
Beloved - Wife Dr. Annie Uma Devi Saketi  
Son - M. Sunder & Family  
Mobile : 9182095177, 9949087889

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## 5 nabbed in Dabeerpura dacoity case

Hyderabad: Dabeerpura police arrested five persons in connection with a dacoity case, with four of them identified as habitual offenders. Two other suspects remain absconding. The arrested are Abdullah, 22, Ayub, 29, Sohail Khan, 23, Syed Omeir, 25, and Shareef Osama Yamani, 17, a juvenile. The absconding suspects are Fareed and Vishal.

The incident occurred when the victim, Mohammed Wahajuddin, a bike rider, was ambushed after he stopped his vehicle near Seven Temple to drink beer.

## Sex trade racket busted in Gachibowli

Hyderabad: Gachibowli police, along with the Cyberabad special operations team (SOT), busted an interstate prostitution racket on Tuesday, rescuing two women and arresting two customers. Gachibowli inspector Mohd Habibullah Khan said the operation was being run from a residential flat in Kondapur. Acting on a tip-off, the police and SOT raided the premises. Officials said women from West Bengal, Delhi and Maharashtra were being coerced into prostitution.

## Woman, 55, burnt to death while making tea

Hyderabad: A 55-year-old woman was burnt to death in a gas leak while she was preparing tea at her residence in Papireddy Nagar in Jagadgirigutta. The incident came to light after the woman succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital on Wednesday. Inspector K. Narsimha, said, the deceased has been identified as Sukarna, 55, residing in Jagadgirigutta with her son and daughter-in-law. The explosion occurred while she was making tea.

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Psalms 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever".



**John Benjamin D'Souza**  
EX LIC D.O.H.Y.D  
D.O.B: Nov 2, 1934 - D.O.D: Feb 13, 2025  
Inserted by: Family Members  
Ph: 9246220582

### 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Smt. BERI GIRIYA**  
DOB: 23-09-1945 DOD: 14-02-2018  
W/o: Beri Chandra Mohan Yadav

Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered everyday. No longer 225 in our life to Share, but in our hearts, you are always there for ever till the last inspiration.

Remembered by Family Members.

### 21st ANNIVERSARY



**M. RUKMINAMMA**  
Wife of Late M.C. Madu Irti Rtd Joint Secretary IGovt

You shall always be treasured in our hearts  
Love From Sons & Daughters-in-law  
Daughters & Sons-in-law Grand Sons,  
Daughters Great grand son & Daughter

**SHORT TAKE**

## WATER SUPPLY TO BE HIT FOR 24 HRS ON FEB. 17

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB.13

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has announced a temporary halt in water supply due to maintenance work at the Kondapaka Pumping Station of the Godavari Drinking Water Supply Phase-1.

As part of this maintenance, 900 mm diameter BF and NRV valves will be installed on the 3000 mm diameter MS Pumping Main at the station.

These works will be carried out from 6 am on February 17 to 6 am on February 18.

Due to this, water supply will be affected for 24 hours in following areas-

O&M Division-6, S.R. Nagar, Sanathnagar, Borabanda, SPR Hills, Erragadda, Banjara Hills, Vengalraonagar, Yellareddyguda, Somajiguda, Fatehnagar, O&M Division-9, Kukatpally, Bhagyanagar, Vivekanandanagar, Yellamabanda, Moosapat, Bharatnagar, Motinagar, Gayathrinagar, Babanagar, KPHB, Balajinagar, Hasmathpet, O&M Division-12, Chintal, Suchitra, Jeedimetla, Shapurinagar, Gajularamaram, Suraram, Adarshnagar, Bhagat Singh Nagar, Jagadrigutta, Ushodaya, O&M Division-13, Alwal, Fathar Balayya Nagar, Venkatapuram, Machabollaram, Defence Colony, Vajpayee Nagar, Yapr, Chanakyapuri, Gautamnagar, Sainathpuram, O&M Division-14, Cherlapally, Saibabnagar, Radhika, O&M Division-15, Kondapur, Doyens, Madhapur (some areas), O&M Division-17, Hafeezpet, Miyapur, O&M Division-21, Kompally, Gundla Pochampally, Thumkunta, Jawaharnagar, Dammaiguda, Nagaram, O&M Division-22, Nizampet, Bachupally, Pragathinagar, Gandhi Maisamma, Tellapur, Bollaram, Transmission Division-4, MES, Trishul Lines, Gun Rock, Hakimpet Air Force, Secunderabad Cantonment, Bibinagar AIIMS, RWS & TAX Areas, Pragayapur (Gajwel), Aler (Bhuvanagiri), and Ghanpur (Medchal/Shamirpet).

# Police to block poultry from bird flu-hit states

Forces deployed at border checkpoints to aide veterinary staff

MOULI MAREEDU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

With poultry transportation into Telangana from bird flu-hit states continuing, the state government asked the police to deploy forces at the border checkpoints to assist veterinary staff to prevent poultry transportation.

Senior police officials said they have asked superintendents of police (SPs) of border districts to deploy forces at the check posts to stop transportation from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Similarly, the government alerted district collectors to closely monitor the situation at border places while animal husbandry officials were instructed to send regular reports on bird flu impact in districts including Hyderabad. The district collectors have given circulars to all veterinary staff to check the vehicles



carrying poultry including eggs coming into Telangana. They were asked to take assistance from police as part of precautionary measures. Following bird flu outbreak, sale and consumption of chicken and eggs was down in Telangana.

In Hyderabad alone, on average the sale of chicken is between 7 lakh kg to 10 lakh kg per day. The rate of eggs in Hyderabad has come down following the outbreak. On February 1, egg price was Rs 4.80 per piece which has come down to ₹ 4 now. Mohammed Ali, a chicken shop owner at Secunderabad, was a worried man after his sales went down.

# Ducks die due to bird flu in Kurnool

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, FEB. 13

Bird flu has been detected in Kurnool city. About 25 of the 50 ducks reared by a farmer at Narasimharao Peta in Kurnool city died within 48 hours. He informed the animal husbandry department officials about his ducks falling ill and dyeing in short span. Officials collected samples from the deceased

There was an outbreak at poultry farms and the regular stock was also irregular. Customers did not prefer chicken due to bird flu. Similarly, N. Ramnarayan Reddy, who runs a poultry farm at Sangareddy, said that the

ducks and sent them to a specialised laboratory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, for analysis. The laboratory results confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus, a type of bird flu.

In response to this outbreak, local officials have issued a public alert. City people were advised to take extra precautions while handling chicken and other poultry products.

outbreak took place in their locality but is not in a dangerous situation. "The sudden outbreak of bird flu has impacted poultry business. The local veterinary staff visited the farm for verification," the poultry farmer said.

# HC to hear claim over French General's asset

L. RAVICHANDER HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana High Court has deferred the hearing of a writ plea challenging the unauthorized construction of a compound wall near a historic tomb built by a French General during the Nizam's rule. A two-judge panel, comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara, is hearing an appeal filed by the State Archaeological Museum over land in Survey No. 318/1. Originally owned by the VIIIth Nizam of Hyderabad and later sold to private parties through registered sale deeds, the land was mistakenly classified as "Sarkari" in 1960-61 revenue records, sparking prolonged legal disputes. Judicial proceedings, including a petition under the AP (Telangana Area) Record of Rights in Land Regulation, reaffirmed private ownership.

The row reignited when museum erected the wall allegedly enclosing three acres without following Land Acquisition Act rules. Affected landowners, including Vegasena Venkata Satyanarayana, secured an injunction from the City Civil Court, which also confirmed that "Raymond's Obelisk" is not within the disputed area. An appellate court upheld the ruling, and a single judge later determined that the museum's encroachment was unauthorised, ordering the wall's removal and dismissing the department's claims due to inconsistencies and lack of evidence. The panel will continue to hear the writ appeal.

**HC: LOCATION OF TEMP. MARKET POLITICAL**

Justice Nagesh



LEGAL STORIES

SCHEDULED AREA INCLUSION CHALLENGED

A two-judge panel of the HC deferred the hearing of a PIL challenging the inclusion of scheduled area villages—Palvocha Manuguru in Bhadradi Kothagudem district and Mandamarri in Mancherial district — into municipalities.

The panel, comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara, is handling the PIL filed by Bhukya Deva Naik.

The petitioner contends that declaring these villages as municipalities violates Article 243 ZC(3) of Part IXA of the Constitution. He argues that the state has failed to hold elections in the affected gram panchayats for 20 years, depriving STs and the public of their rights. The panel directed the state to file its response within three weeks.

**HC TO DECIDE ON ROAD ENCRoACHMENT PLEA**

The HC will decide a writ plea filed by five agriculturists challenging the alleged encroachment of a public road in Shameerpet Village, Jangaon district. Justice T. Madhavi Devi took the petition on file, submitted by Kamsani Bhaskar Reddy and four others, alleging that the Jangaon district collector and other authorities failed to remove illegally erected boundary poles blocking access to their homes along Masjid Road. According to petitioners, despite submitting a written representation that received an endorsement, the authorities did not act.

Full report on deccan-chronicle.com

# KCR plans meet on Feb. 19

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Things appear to be moving towards a more aggressive plan of action by the BRS in taking on the Congress government with former chief minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao calling for an extended general body meeting of his party leaders on February 19.

According to BRS working president Rama Rao, the meeting will discuss "anti-people policies, and the failures of the government." In a statement, the BRS said the meeting will take stock of the steps



K. Chandrashekar Rao

BRS workers need to take to expose the Congress government's failures and hold it accountable to its promises. "The party will also plan its silver jubilee celebrations marking its 25 years, membership drive, and revamping and rebuilding itself."

The meeting comes in the run-up to the expected elections to local bodies — gram panchayats, mandal parishads, zilla parishads and municipal corporations — which are likely to be held in the near future. The BRS is hoping that it can make its presence felt in these elections after its shutout in the last Lok Sabha elections, and their preceding Assembly elections when it lost power in the state.

The February 19 meeting also comes ahead of the expected state budget session of the Assembly in early March. The announcement spurred some hectic online activity among

the BRS social media handles with excited chatter about 'KCR's return' to action. Chandrashekar Rao, speaking to some of his party leaders at his farmhouse in Erravalli village in Siddipet district, had said that the party will soon hold a large public meeting. Rama Rao instructed that all executive members of the party at various levels, along with present and past elected representatives including MLAs, MPs and others must attend the meeting to be held at Telangana Bhavan, the party headquarters in the city.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

14 FEBRUARY 2025

## SC's harsh view of freebies right, but problem deeper

Should you give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, or teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime, as per the Chinese proverb. In an ideal situation, it's always better to skill the man to earn his daily bread, and fish, too. But hunger is not something that can wait for the skill to come by him and hence the second best option, that of charity. Is it becoming the first option now is the new question, which a bench of the Supreme Court asked the other day. Instead of mainstreaming the beneficiaries, "are we not creating a class of parasites", wondered the learned judge. "Unfortunately, because of these freebies, which are declared just on the anvil of elections, such as the Ladki Bahin and other schemes, people are not willing to work," he added, basing his observation on personal experience.

A similar worry of high attrition and difficulty in finding people to replace the dropouts in the construction industry was aired by the engineering major L&T's chief executive officer. The sops that governments rain on the people stop them from coming to work in the industry and worse, they refuse to be relocated, he had complained.

The Ladki Bahin scheme of the Maharashtra government, which the judge mentioned, offers ₹1,500 a month to women aged between 21 and 65 years with an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakhs. The money the scheme offers the woman cannot buy her a coffee and snacks in a five-star hotel the wealthy in the country, including the corporate czars, would frequent but the women labourers feel it is sufficient for them not to return to work.

The primary inference one can draw from the anguish expressed by the judge and the L&T CEO is that those who ensured a steady supply of cheap labour have ceased to do what they have been doing for generations and instead chose to stay back home, tending their families as the government sops kept the home fire burning. A construction worker is paid ₹350 a day while an agricultural labourer is paid ₹300, if we were to go by the record. How much they take home in real terms remains unaddressed but they do not find it to be an offer that they cannot refuse.

These critics must realise, however, that there is nothing in the industrial or agricultural sectors that motivates the labourer to go to work, earn a bit more and live a better life. The government does have now empowered those who have nothing to sell but physical labour to make a hard bargain of their product. In fact, it has helped them realise the value of their offering, and hence added to their dignity as human beings.

Yes, it can have an impact on those who so far profited from labour arbitrage. They must now think on the ways to incentivise human labour and make them come back to work instead of lamenting a bygone era of mindless exploitation. The very same corporate boss who aired this view had recently wondered why people cannot work 90 hours a week, which would translate into 15 hours a day in a six-day week and 18 hours a day in a five-day week. Such proposals cannot work as human beings discover their worth, albeit in small measures.

"Parasites" are those who indulge in the luxury of titles, power and pelf and still do not do justice to their calling; those who do domestic labour and help raise the future citizens of the country for ₹1,500 a month by no means fall in that category. They would, at some point in the future, refuse to feed the real parasites. We should welcome it rather than complain about that outcome.

## Ukraine peace: Is Trump serious?

Donald Trump had often boasted that had he been in office in place of Joe Biden he could have stopped the Ukraine war with one phone call to Russia's Vladimir Putin. That all of it may not have been just braggadocio was proven when it appeared an effort to end the near three-year war was taken off after a 90-minute phone call between Washington and Moscow.

A geopolitically uncertain world that was overtaken by two major conflicts would certainly be grateful if indeed Trump has convinced Putin to sit down and negotiate the end of a war that has ravaged Ukraine while costing several hundred thousand lives on both sides, including some North Korean troops and stray Brits and Indians sucked into battle through shady job offers.

Ukraine may have next to nil leverage in any negotiations, but it may be forced to accept loss of land in a Trump formula that has already determined Ukraine will not become a member of Nato. Since its Nato membership application was said to be one of the root causes for Putin to invade, it appears as if a solution, however painful for the attacked Ukraine and its leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy, could be on the horizon, tricky as the war's end may be when serious negotiations begin.

The only bargaining chip that Zelenskyy holds is a 400 sq km swath of territory captured in Russia's Kursk region. However remote an asset it appears, Trump's word on continuing to back Ukraine with aid could be a reason for Zelenskyy to negotiate to meet his immediate objective which would be for the bombing to stop destroying Ukraine's cities and their power supply.

Ukraine may have to sacrifice most of the 65,000 sq km of land Russia captured from it since February 24, 2022, mostly in the Kharkiv region, as the border with Russia is certain to be redrawn, but without any hope of Ukraine ever getting back Crimea, annexed in a 2014 Russian invasion.

For Putin, any opportunity to consort with the US after years of isolation and sanctions would be a political victory that may mean more than the pieces of Ukraine he has carved out for Russia. Land for peace will be a major sacrifice for Ukraine as it may lose 20 per cent of the country but that such peace will push the world back from a far wider global conflict makes it seem worthwhile.

Subhani



## Trump & US foreign aid: Does global chaos loom?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

Legend has it that tiny Monaco frantically cabled Paris when the Second World War ended for the urgent despatch of half a dozen French Communist terrorists. Monaco would not qualify otherwise for aid under the United States of America's Marshall Plan which it needed desperately for reconstruction after the ravages of war. The "Yankee go home but take me with you!" slogan heard during the agonisingly protracted Vietnam war, when three million Vietnamese may have perished, confirmed Asia's even more blatant double standards where America and Americans are concerned.

Europe knew that the United States alone could save it with its mix of money, manpower and organisational skills. Seventy-seven years later, a world trembling on the brink of disaster blames American parsimony and eccentricity for the threatened chaos throughout the globe.

America has done more for the world than any other nation by distributing more than \$3.8 trillion (adjusted for inflation) to poorer recipients since 1948. It is also the nation that the world — or large parts of it — loves most to hate. The fiasco of the 104 Indians who were flown to Amritsar in a military jet is a case in point. Nobody mentions that this small part of a much larger contingent of some 725,000 undocumented Indian fortune-seekers went illegally to the US, the legendary place of opportunity, land of the free and home of the brave. But no Indian can forget the humiliation of their return in handcuffs and shackles, which is blamed on America's racist arrogance.

Obviously, the fortune that the United States disburses subject to geopolitical circumstances, economic conditions, and national priorities is not undiluted charity. As the globe's leading practitioner of realpolitik, the US regards aid as some sort of investment. If not reward for past acts of friendship, it is advance payment for future favours like Donald Trump's expectations from the Panama Canal, a blatant act of brigandage in 1903. John Hay, then US secretary of state, and Philippe Bunau-Varilla, a French commercial adventurer who had bought up a number of corrupt Colombian delegates representing the Panamanian secessionist movement, signed a treaty that was a cruel hoax perpetrated through fraud, political subversion and military aggression.

The promise of American support persuaded the rebel politicians to allow Bunau-Varilla to grant the United States "in perpetuity the use, occupation and control of a zone of land" and "all the rights, power and authority within the same... which the US would have if it were sovereign of the territory... to the exclusion of the exercise by the Republic of Panama of any such sovereign rights, power or authority". Almost all that Panama could secure after more than 70 years of striving was that its flag would fly with the Stars and Stripes.

Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, who had ruled Panama for many years, denounced this iniquitous arrangement at Non-aligned Nations' Summits. Dean Rusk compared it to the unequal treaties imposed on the Manchus and Ottomans. Even Henry Kissinger admitted it was not "an equitable and freely negotiated agreement". Staunchly pro-American Australia, Austria, France and Kenya supported Panama at the Security Council and only the US veto frustrated the liberation of the Canal Zone until the US, under President Jimmy Carter, initiated steps to restore what

America has done more for the world than any other nation by distributing more than \$3.8 trillion (adjusted for inflation) to poorer recipients since 1948. It is also the nation that the world loves to hate.

had been so unfairly acquired.

President Trump's decision to freeze billions of dollars in international aid projects, including more than \$268 million that Congress allocated to support the independent media and the free flow of information, has resulted in chaos and consternation. While the United States Agency for International Development is in turmoil, its website inaccessible and its X account suspended, the agency's headquarters are closed and employees have been told to stay home. Meanwhile, the South African-born multi-billionaire, Elon Musk, whom President Trump has chosen to lead the quasi-official Department of Government Efficiency, reportedly called USAID a "criminal organisation" and said: "We're shutting down."

Ambivalence about America can involve the most revered national leaders in unpleasant controversies. His Western critics accused Jawaharlal Nehru of biting the hand that fed him. He forbade the publication in India of foreign-owned journals, rejected the *New York Times'* request to print in India, and thundered that the fewer Indians that went to the US the better. Yet, when push came to shove during the 1962 China war, he appealed for US military assistance. If he tried to keep it quiet, it may have been because apart from questions of consistency and self-respect, Nehru knew that America's blessing was the kiss of death for Asian leaders. South Korea's Syngman Rhee, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and the Shah of Iran paid dearly for getting too close to the Americans.

No one expects gratitude in politics or diplomacy. Yet,

curiously, no entity has to put up with as much opprobrium as the government that has given most to the welfare, even survival, of mankind. Daw Zin Mar Aung, the foreign minister of Myanmar's government-in-exile — known as the National Unity Government — has urged the US to carefully reconsider its aid and immigration policies to avoid worsening the already dire conditions that refugees live in. But there was little question of thanking Washington when US food, medical, social and educational aid flowed in. That has been the pattern since June 5, 1947 when George C. Marshall, then US secretary of state, speaking at Harvard, called for a comprehensive programme to rebuild a rapidly deteriorating Europe to avoid a Communist takeover. Spurred by his vision, the US Congress passed the Economic Cooperation Act and approved funding that would eventually rise to over \$12 billion to rebuild Western Europe.

It may sometimes seem like "damned if you do and damned if you don't" to Americans, but there are signs now of another kid on the block and a need for the US to come to terms with China's seemingly unstoppable march in AI. There are also signs of resistance. Almost immediately after the freeze, Clayton Weimer, executive director of Reporters Without Borders, protested that "the funding freeze is sowing chaos around the world, including in journalism... President Trump justified this order by charging — without evidence — that a so-called 'foreign aid industry' is not aligned with US interests. The tragic irony is that this measure will create a vacuum that plays into the hands of propagandists and authoritarian states".

He could also have reminded the President of Kipling's claim which others, including Stanley Baldwin, have reiterated, that "power without responsibility" has been "the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages".

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

### LETTERS

#### FREEBIE FALLOUT

Welfare schemes have merits but it is crucial to balance support and ensure recipients do not become dependent on them (SC wonders if freebies are creating class of parasites, Feb. 13). The aim should be to empower them to work towards self-sufficiency.

Syed Iqbal Hussain  
Hyderabad

Politicians have created a class of freeloaders. Small farmers or businesses are the worst hit. Instead of creating parasites, create opportunities for people to set up businesses. States should vie to get business houses or talented people by creating the right conditions to prosper.

Sheelagh Patel  
Hyderabad

The SC made the right observation. As the EC, due to its own limitations, remained a silent spectator, the apex court alone can come to the rescue of democracy.

Samuel Amruth Kumar  
Hyderabad

The Supreme Court has rightly pointed out that freebies are making people lazy. If this trend continues, it will impact national growth.

S. Satyanarayana  
Hyderabad

Political parties are offering freebies to lure voters. In Maharashtra and Telangana, farmers are struggling to find labourers as many rely on government handouts. While providing support to the elderly and truly needy is justifiable, distributing freebies to everyone is bad.

Thipparthi Srinivas  
Choppadandi

#### GOOD MOVE BY GHMC

It's a good move by GHMC commissioner (*GHMC officials to stay in office 4-5 pm, Feb. 13*). Better governance will lead to faster resolution of issues saving time and resources for people and Government.

Sushma Akula  
Hyderabad

#### RADIO MAGIC

We were reminded of the joy of listening to favourite songs (*Enduring magic of radio memories, Feb. 13*). The nostalgic effect it brings is incomparable. No doubt it survived all other alternatives with the evolution of technology. Though listeners might be dwindling, the passion of radio fans never petered out.

Arnold K.G.J.  
Hyderabad

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Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



Something curious happened in Delhi's bureaucratic circles last week. The government announced the empanelment of 42 officers for joint secretary (JS) or JS-equivalent posts, and here's the kicker — only 16 of them were IAS officers from the 2009 batch. That's barely a fraction. Another six IAS officers made it under the "initially deferred" and "initially leftover" categories, but even with those numbers, the representation of the elite IAS cadre in this list seems... well, underwhelming.

What's even more intriguing? Central Secretariat Service officers appear to be taking up a significant chunk of the slots. This isn't a one-off case either for those who have been tracking recent empanelment lists. They notice a pattern — fewer IAS officers making the cut at the JS level, while non-IAS officers, including those from the CSS and other central services, are steadily increasing their share.

Is this part of a deliberate shift in government strategy — perhaps a move to dilute the dominance of the IAS and distribute power more evenly among different services? Or is it just a function of more stringent performance reviews and a changing approach to empanelment? Babu circles are abuzz with speculation. Some see this as a sign that the government is growing wary of the traditional IAS hegemony, while others argue that the service itself is failing to groom enough officers who meet the Centre's expectations. Either way, one thing is clear: Empanelment, once considered a natural progression for IAS officers, is no longer a given.

#### A TIMELY REPRIEVE FROM TRUMP?

In a well-timed move just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, D.C., US President Donald Trump has ordered the department of justice to halt prosecutions under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). This could have far-reaching consequences for many global business leaders and companies caught in legal battles over alleged financial misconduct. From our point of view, at least one particular Indian tycoon, who has been in the crosshairs of US authorities, may breathe a sigh of relief. But more importantly, babus' hopes are high that they may once again get bouquets with Stars and Stripes as ribbons for favours delivered.

The FCPA, since 1977, prohibited US companies and individuals from bribing foreign officials to secure business deals. Over the years, it ensnared numerous corporate leaders worldwide, including those from India, accused of engaging in financial transactions that allegedly crossed legal boundaries. The US justice department's scrutiny of a major Indian business house has raised concerns about legal entanglements affecting global investments. Critics of FCPA have long argued that strategic government contracts need bribery as much as business acumen. The fear of US legal actions have posed a serious threat to US companies and sprawling conglomerates with international operations.

With Trump's executive order effectively pausing FCPA prosecutions, the potential impact on ongoing

cases is significant. This policy shift may lead to a reassessment of pending investigations, possibly resulting in dropped charges or settlements that are more favourable to the accused. For Indian businesses expanding abroad, this also signals a shift in how US authorities handle corruption-related cases involving foreign entities.

However, global watchdogs argue that weakening anti-corruption enforcement will embolden corporate malpractice and erode global ethical standards. For India, where regulators are already battling accusations of selective scrutiny, this development may further complicate efforts to uphold fair competition in high-stakes industries.

With legal uncertainties possibly easing, the stage is set for babus to prosper and a recalibration of international business strategy by many companies.

#### TOO MANY HATS, TOO FEW HANDS IN GUJARAT'S BABU RESHUFFLE

Gujarat's bureaucratic chessboard has been reshuffled yet again, with the transfer of over 68 senior officials, including nine district collectors and 16 DDOS. Such large-scale moves are often framed as administrative efficiency drives, but this exercise raises pertinent questions about governance, priorities and stability.

The appointment of Pankaj Joshi as Chief Secretary appears to have triggered this overhaul. His relinquished responsibilities have been redistributed, while for the first time, the Ahmedabad col-

lector and municipal commissioner were transferred simultaneously — a decision that could signal deeper political recalibrations.

Some reassignments stand out. Ashwani Kumar, already helming urban development, now also oversees ports and transport. T. Natarajan, a key figure in finance, takes charge of Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Company. While these changes suggest attempts to leverage expertise, they also expose an ongoing issue — senior officials continue to juggle multiple crucial roles. At least 15 still hold additional responsibilities across essential sectors like home affairs, ports and shipping, and technical education.

Meanwhile, the IPS cadre remains in flux. Over a dozen officers are doubling up on roles, and critical posts like Gujarat's Anti-Corruption Bureau chief and CID Crime Branch head remain unfilled. The policing structure appears increasingly overstretched, raising concerns over law enforcement effectiveness.

With another round of reshuffles expected post-Budget, and the model code of conduct for local body elections temporarily stalling major changes, the question remains: Will this reshuffle bring tangible improvements, or is it just another game of bureaucratic musical chairs?

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# Garbage clearance, management need focus

## Reader sends love from Bengaluru

I have been a reader of Deccan Chronicle for over 70 years. Its 'Speak Out' page is a boon for the readers. In fact, what strikes me as very odd is how problems such as an electric pole in the middle of a very busy road; lakes filled with water hyacinth further polluted by rubbish and garbage and streets overflowing with filthy sewage water are some critical issues that go unnoticed for months together. They are never attended until highlighted in the 'Speak Out' page. It is a sad reflection that civic authorities entrusted with noticing and remedying such hazards do not initiate action on their own.

— N. S. Rajan  
Darsh Vista, Basavanagar, Bengaluru

## Paying money to get clean water supply

I reside in Kukatpally's Allwyn Colony. Every Monday the GHMC staff puts medicine in the water tank to ensure supply of clean water to the residents. However, some municipal workers often demand money from the residents for this 'service'. In order to put a stop to this practice, I stopped giving them any money. To my shock and dismay, the workers have stopped sprinkling medicine every alternate week. I request the GHMC officials to look into this issue and take action against such workers, who are bringing disrepute to the civic body.

— Jayashree, Kukatpally

## Temple road remains incomplete

The condition of the main road on Bank Street (opposite the main gate of Central Bank of India) that connects to the temple road, Hanuman Tekdi, is posing a big problem for commuters and pedestrians. A year after pipelines were laid, the stretch remains incomplete and unprepared. I request the concerned authorities to repair the temple road at the earliest.

— Mahesh Prasad  
Hyderabad

## Issue with OU MBA certificates

MBA certificates issued by Osmania University do not mention the specialisation done by a student. Areas like HR/finance/marketing are fields that students opt as electives in the final year of the three-year MBA course. Recently my daughter attended a walk-in interview in NAARM (ICAR). Her candidature was rejected as her degree had no mention of her specialisation.

— B. Venkateswara Rao  
Rajendranagar

## No streetlights, drunken brawls in VN Colony

The lane opposite a function hall in Vijayanagar Colony does not have any streetlights. It remains in total darkness every night. This is leading to safety worries given the potential a security risk, especially when there is an event at the function hall. The lane almost turns into a makeshift bar.

Drunken brawls add to the agony. Myriad complaints to the electricity and municipal departments have fallen on deaf ears. Hope the authorities will spring into action and restore the streetlights to ensure order.

— Uppalpadu Adams  
Vijayanagar Colony

### 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](mailto:dcspeakout@gmail.com)

— Editor

## Utter neglect



A drainage nala is filled with plastic waste and decomposed material, in Ramgopalpet, Hyderabad on Thursday. — P. SURENDRA

## After much use, only steel bolts remain of rubber speed breakers

I would like to draw the attention of GHMC officials about the dangerous condition of the rubber speed breakers, which is a problem that is prevalent across the city. Many of them are torn and only bolts are left on the roads.

These steel bolts are damaging tyres of vehicles. I request the officials concerned to look into this matter by removing the steel bolts and make arrangements to replace them with new rubber speed breakers. This problem can be quite dangerous if left unattended, which is why the officials must attend to this problem immediately.

— M. Munawar Hussain,  
Deluxe Colony



## Water overflowing towards court complex in KPHB

A road in Kaithalapur XV Phase of KPHB Colony is in a deplorable condition. It is an important road as it leads to the newly-constructed courts complex that caters to both Rangareddy and Medchal districts. The state of affairs is made more pathetic by a regular overflow of water following leaks in the Manjira main lines. This is not only causing problems to those visiting the court and the power sub-station situated in Kaitlapur but also to commuters and pedestrians. Apart from a waste of the precious water, the leakage from the Manjira main line is contaminating drinking water. We appeal to the concerned authorities to take steps to cap the leakage of the main pipe line and arrest the overflow.

— Ashok Kumar Shetty  
Kukatpally

## Clear arrears of pensioners

The state government vide GO Ms. No. 121 (30-10-2024) had announced that the revised dearness relief shall be paid along with the November 2024 pension payable in December and arrears of the revised dearness relief to the pensioners for the period 1-7-2022 to 31-10-2024 shall be paid in 17 equal installments from January. However, in the said GO, there is no mention of payment of arrears of revised dearness relief to the families

of pensioners/family pensioners who had since expired. The GO is silent in respect of the relief. In view of the above, I would request the government to give instructions to the treasury officer/pension payment officers to release the arrears of the revised dearness relief w.e.f 1-7-2022 to 31-10-2024, a period of 28 months, to the legal heir of the deceased pensioner/family pensioner, without any further delay.

— Mohammad Zubair  
Tolichowki

## Apartment owners 'letting out' parking space to vendors

The lane opposite KVR Gardens, Kompally is occupied by tea stalls, fast food joints, pan shops, vegetable and fruit vendors. Incidentally, most of them are permanent structures. Several of them are in front of apartments, whose owners have let out the pedestrian and parking space to the vendors illegally. This encroachment goes up to half a kilometre. It turns into a nightmare on Monday when the weekly vegetable market is put

up. The colony residents are unable to drive in these lanes. Moreover, many school buses ply on this road during peak hours as there are around half a dozen international schools in the vicinity. I wonder why the Kompally municipality and its ward members are silent over this. Hope they take some immediate action before the situation worsens.

— Raj Shukla  
Srinivas Colony,  
Kompally

## Parvathapuram Kunta stinks

I wish to appeal to government officials to urgently address the severe health problems we have been subject to because of the poor condition of Parvathapuram kunta (cheruvu). This monumental blunder is not only affecting the tank but also threatening the health of those living nearby. The mosquito menace is leading to a rise in dengue cases and other illnesses. We urge the authorities to remove the trash and litter that have accumulated in the lake over a long period of time and resolve the problem.

— Kajjam Kailash Babu  
Parvathapuram



## Hindu graveyard violating NGT Act 2016

In spite of several complaints to GHMC, a series of X (Twitter) and email reminders and also at Prajavani, the ESI Hindu graveyard allows burning of body waste in the open air, which is against the NGT Act 2016. No steps are being taken to stop this burning, which is a major health hazard to the local residents, ESI hospital patients, children, students and senior citizens. The fireworks and the high decibel music in the graveyard after 6 pm have become a public nuisance. The civic body is requested to take immediate action and stop open air burning of hazardous waste and high decibel sounds in order to safeguard the health and well-being of the patients and the entire vulnerable lot staying in the graveyard vicinity.

— Prof. V. Madhava Rao, SR Nagar

## NEW ROAD NEEDED AT AMEENPUR

For over seven years, Ameenpur residents have been suffering because of the deteriorating road conditions, which are worsening by the day. The delay in constructing a new road has left the area with potholes, which is creating problems for the locals. As Ameenpur has a lot of lakes, monsoons are particularly bad. The roads flood whenever it rains and this combination of overflowing water and potholes is as hazardous as it can get. This is a public safety concern, as there are frequent road accidents.

— P. Mahathi Sai  
Siri, Ameenpur

## Disorder of epic proportions



Stray cattle feed on garbage thrown on the Chaderghat Road in Hyderabad on Thursday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## NEED FOR TRAFFIC POLICE IN DSNR

In spite of several complaints, there has been no action worth the effort to regulate traffic on the Shiva Ganga theatre road in Dilsukhnagar. Road accidents are increasing by the day as drivers and bikers ignore traffic rules. There is congestion in the morning because of junior and degree colleges for boys and girls that are located in the area. Tiffin centres near a prominent restaurant on the road add to the traffic woes. I urge the authorities to deploy traffic police on this stretch.

— Mohammed Abdul,  
Dilsukhnagar

## BOULDER ON ROAD CREATING PROBLEMS

A huge boulder on the road is posing a danger to motorists and pedestrians moving on the stretch between Apollo Hospitals, Secunderabad, and the northern exit gate of Keyes High School for girls. It becomes a bigger threat in the darkness of the night. Unfortunately, the authorities have not taken any action to remove the boulder and make the road safe.

— George Sekaran,  
Padmaranagar



## BUMPY | RIDE | Roads in Bagh Amberpet, Musheerabad, Nanakramguda, Vanasthalipuram riddled with potholes

# Several city roads remain dug-up after sewage works

AISHWARYA GANDEED | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The poor condition of many roads is making travel difficult for commuters, in areas like Bagh Amberpet, RTC X Roads to Musheerabad, Nanakramguda, and the Vanasthalipuram-Hayathnagar stretch. Residents of Street No. 15, Bagh Amberpet, said that following Diwali, HMWS&SB undertook drainage pipeline work. After it was completed, the road was left with large potholes and was generally uneven. Despite appeals, the situation is unchanged. "Whenever we approach GHMC officials, they claim that the contract has been assigned to the Roads and Infrastructure Corporation (RIC), but approval is still pending. Temporary fixes like dumping dust on the road are not a solution," said Vishweshwar Rao, a resident of Srinivas Nagar Colony, Bagh Amberpet. A GHMC official said that the project fell under the RIC on the instructions of the Amberpet MLA and was not within their jurisdiction. The RIC claimed that the tender had been approved and the foundation stone for the repair work will be laid by transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar. The road from RTC X Roads to Musheerabad has also been severely affected, causing dangerous riding conditions. "I almost skidded due to the poor road condition," said Shrivani, a local resident who uses a two-wheeler. Musheerabad executive engineer Srinivas attrib-



The condition of damaged road at RTC X Roads. — DC

uted the issue to leakage from a major water supply line running along the Metro Rail pillars. "Leaks from these pipelines are leading to pothole formation. Only if the pipes are replaced can the road condition improve," he explained. Commuters under the Tolichowki flyover were frustrated by the poor road conditions and water stagnation, particularly during the rainy season. "The stretch near the Wipro circle signal, Nanakramguda, is one of the worst in the city. Despite being a major corridor for the city's IT workforce, the road condition is shocking," said Priya Sharma, an IT professional. Residents in multiple colonies in Hayathnagar, including Green City Colony, Gayatrinagar, and



Whenever we approach GHMC officials, they claim that the contract has been assigned to the Roads and Infrastructure Corporation (RIC), but approval is still pending.

— VISHWESHWAR RAO,  
a resident of Srinivas Nagar

Sri Krishna Hills Colony, say they haven't had good roads for over six months. A GHMC assistant engineer cited budget constraints for it. Unfinished and irregular road surfaces in certain stretches on the NH65 including those in Vanasthalipuram, Thorur junction, Hayathnagar, Abdullahapurmet, and Toopranpet are increasing the risk of accidents. Local leaders have sought elevated corridors which

they said had been sanctioned by the roads and buildings department. They were of the view that the original plan of the R&B department would create more traffic issues and rainwater storage problems. "To fulfil the local leaders' demands, we require an additional budget of ₹350 crore to the initially sanctioned ₹541 crore. The road works in these stretches will stop until the additional budget is provided by the Central government," said a senior R&B official. Experts said more needs to be done. "If the quality of work is poor, the road gets damaged in a year. Uneven roads are caused by the negligence of contractors," said N. Raghavan, an expert, asking citizens to use the "My GHMC" app to raise complaints within their area.

# Pochampally in cockfight case

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Moinabad police on Thursday served notices to BRS MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy in connection with the ownership of the farmhouse which was raided by the SOT for illegally conducting cockfighting. According to investigating officer Muzaffar, after reviewing revenue records and other valid documents, it was discovered that the farm-

house belongs to BRS MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy. In this regard, the police served the MLC notices under Section 35(3) of the BNS, directing him to appear at the police station for questioning. "According to the notice, the MLC has been given four days of time to appear before the police and answer all the questions pertaining to the case. We are yet to confirm whether he was a part of the organising team or is related

to anyone we have identified as an organiser," the IO said. The farmhouse where the gambling took place is located in survey number 165/a, in Tolkatta village in Moinabad. The police said that based on the MLC's reply they will be able to decide whether he can be added as an accused in the case or not. On February 11, at 7.30pm, the Cyberabad SOT, along with the Moinabad police, arrested 64 persons for allegedly conducting cockfights.

# Prakruthi bldgs razed after Prajavani complaints

Resorts were built inside Komati Kunta lake's FTL area

PRATHYUSH NALLELLA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

HYDRAA authorities on Thursday demolished many buildings of Prakruthi Resorts in Thumkunta Municipality (Medchal-Malkajgiri) for encroaching the Komati Kunta Lake in Devaryamjal village. Authorities removed several structures illegally constructed inside the full tank level and buffer zones.

HYDRAA officials, speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, said that they razed a G+3 fully constructed building, one building which is almost completed, three under-construction buildings, a gazebo and compound walls. All buildings were a part of Prakruthi's resorts and a convention area.

Local residents, during HYDRAA's Prajavani, complained about unauthorised structures being raised inside FTL of the lake. Acting on these complaints, HYDRAA officials along with officials from irrigation, revenue, and municipal departments conducted a detailed investigation on ground. Their report confirmed that Prakruthi Resorts were built inside the Komati Kunta lake's FTL area. Authorities also found that the businesses did not carry any valid permissions. Based on this finding, HYDRAA gave notices to the management.

Challenging the notices issued by HYDRAA, the owners of the Resorts and Prakruti Convention filed



Buildings of Prakruthi Resorts being demolished by HYDRAA on Thursday at Thumkunta Municipality over encroachment of the Komati Kunta lake. — DC



A HYDRAA volunteer instructing a driver at Jubilee Hills. This special wing is recently introduced to assist traffic police. — R. PAVAN

a motion in the High Court. However, after the court reviewed the reports from irrigation, revenue and HYDRAA officials, they ruled that the structures are in encroachment of the lake's FTL and buffer zones, and should be removed. Management of Prakruthi Resorts, however, requested 30 days of

time to remove the structures themselves. HYDRAA stated that even after the deadline expired, no action was taken, and they took direct action on Thursday and carried out the demolitions. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, a HYDRAA official said, "Although they challenged it in court, it was of no use. We had all

# HYDRAA PULLS DOWN 53 ILLEGAL HOARDINGS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

HYDRAA authorities are now focusing on illegal hoardings in suburban municipal areas around Hyderabad, taking down 35 unipoles, 4 uni-structures and 14 rooftop hoardings on Thursday.

The drive was carried out in Shamshabad, Kothwalguda, Narsingi, Thondpally, Gollapally Road, and Tellapur. A massive crane was used to take down the hoardings on both sides of the roads.

Advertising agency representatives also met HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Thursday, requesting him to not remove the hoardings to which Ranganath clarified that only unauthorised hoardings were being taken down. He said that they had earlier been given time to remove illegal hoardings, but since they failed to act, HYDRAA had to intervene.

Despite the agencies requesting another seven to 10 days to clear the hoardings, Ranganath denied and pointed out that they had already been given enough time.

the proofs and we won, and removed the buildings. We request people to come forward against encroachments, and we will investigate."

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# 710 HAJ PILGRIMS SELECTED FOR ACCOMMODATION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana State Haj Committee, in collaboration with the Waqf Committee and H.E.H. Nizam Trust, conducted a draw of lots for Rubath accommodation for Haj pilgrims for 2025. The event took place at 3 pm at Chowmohalla Palace in Khilwath, Hyderabad, under the supervision of Haj Committee chairman Syed Shah Gulam Afzal Biyabani (Khusro Pasha). Hussain Mohammed Mudar Al Shareef and Nazir Rubath oversaw the draw and selected 710 pilgrims for accommodation. They assured that all selected pilgrims would receive the best possible facilities during their stay. The list of selected pilgrims is now available on the official Telegram channel of the Telangana State Haj Committee. For further details and updates, pilgrims are encouraged to join the official Telegram channel or contact the committee during office hours.

● **HUSSAIN MOHAMMED** Mudar Al Shareef and Nazir Rubath oversaw the draw and selected 710 pilgrims for accommodation.



The historic Macca Masjid near Charminar in Hyderabad was illuminated on Thursday night to mark Shab-e-Barat. — P.SURENDRA

# Muslims in city observe Shab-e-Barat with fasting

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Shab-e-Barat, a significant night of repentance for Muslims, was observed with prayers, fasting and charitable acts. Devotees sought forgiveness, participated in congregational prayers and observed a fast on Thursday, similar to Ramadan. Many also continued fasting on Friday as part of tradition. On the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, believers spent time in prayer and visited graveyards to pay respects to their departed loved ones. Mosques and graveyards were well-lit, and food, sweets and fruits were distributed as part of charitable activities.



Muslims offer prayers at graves of their loved ones at Daira Mir Momin graveyard in Sultan Shahi, near Hari Bowli Road in Hyderabad. — DC

Mushtaq Mallik, president of Tehreek Muslim Shabban, delivered the message on the occasion at Jama Masjid, Marredpally, on living a life of a true Muslim, who is free of hatred and helps fellow human beings and society. He highlighted the growing issue of elderly parents being abandoned and stressed that Islam teaches care and respect for elders.

At the residence of Faiyazuddin Soherwardi in Masab Tank, the family observed the occasion with prayers and rituals.

# WOMEN'S DAY Sarojini Naidu belongs to Telangana by birth, education: ELTA

# Sarojini's birth anniv. to be Eng lit. Day

MRITTIKA BANERJEE | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

This year schools in Telangana celebrated the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. Traditionally, February 13 is marked as National Women's Day. However, in a circular on February 7, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) asked all schools under it — government model, local body, TREIs and KGBVs — to henceforth observe the occasion in honour of the Night-ingle of India as 'English Language Day'. Students participated in essay writing, elocution,



Students and teachers at the ZPHS, Wasar celebrated National English Language Day on Thursday. — DC

story writing, poetry composition, and poster-making competitions. English teachers were honoured for their contributions. "Indian English is not celebrated enough. This is a

good opportunity to recognise its importance," said Anuradha, academic monitoring officer, Sangareddy. "It was nice to see children come together for these activities."

The English Language Teachers' Association (ELTA), Telangana, had proposed this idea to SCERT. "Unlike other Indian English laureates, Sarojini Naidu belongs to Telangana by birth and education. Honouring her legacy aligns with the state's cultural and educational aspirations," the ELTA's letter stated.

Sarojini, a political activist, feminist, the first Indian woman president of Indian National Congress and former governor of Indian state, was also noted poet with works like *The Golden Threshold* (1905), *The Bird of Time* (1912). Sarojini (1879-1949)

was born in Hyderabad. Schools across the state, including ZPHS Posanipet, ZPHS Mudimanik, ZPHS Wasar, and ZPHS Thogurpally in Kondapur, participated in the celebrations. ZPHS Mudimanik organised an essay writing competition where students explored the role of English in India. SCERT's circular focused on the global and cultural relevance of the English language. The event was organised to encourage creativity and literary expression among students, especially those with limited access to language resources.

# TG INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO COMBAT TB

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana government is intensifying its fight against tuberculosis (TB) with a comprehensive strategy that includes continuous screening, awareness campaigns and free medical support for patients. Health minister C. Damodar Rajanarsimha said the state's commitment to achieving a TB-free Telangana while recognising the role of pharmaceutical companies in supporting patients.

Under the initiative, eight pharmaceutical companies are providing free monthly nutrition kits to TB patients during their treatment period, funded through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions. The government is also offering free medicines and a monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000 to TB patients.

As part of the state's TB eradication efforts, active case-finding camps and awareness programmes are being conducted at the village levels. The government has intensified the programme across nine districts, which includes Adilabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Suryapet, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Medak, Mahbubnagar, Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy. This will be a 100-day dedicated campaign. At an event held at his residence, Damodar Rajanarsimha presented appreciation certificates to representatives of the eight pharmaceutical companies — Aurobindo Foundation, Optimus Drugs, Biological E, Gland Pharma, Metro Chem, Natco Pharma, Granules, and Sun Pharmaceutical.

# GSI DRIVE TO SPREAD AWARENESS AGAINST TB

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) training institute, in collaboration with the Telangana TB Cell, organised a N-Kshay Shivir screening camp on Thursday at its Bandlaguda-Nagole office. The camp was part of a 100-day intensified campaign to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about TB, improve early detection and ensure proper treatment and prevention measures. Employees and trainee officers were offered free TB screening and counseling. The camp was inaugurated by Mission-V deputy director general and head Dr S. Ravi. Dr. Ravi stressed the role of government institutions like the GSI training institute in eradicating TB. Senior geologist and nodal officer for TB at GSITI Dr Mallesh Ganji said a team of 15 medical professionals, including Dr Ayesha, Dr Aditya, Dr Vasu Prasad and Dr Wilson Anil Kumar conducted the screenings. A total of 120 employees, officers and trainees participated in the camp.

### SHORT TAKES

#### OPPN CLAIMS DISSENT NOTES MISSING FROM JPC

FROM PAGE 1  
Opposition MPs led by Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that dissent notes were deleted from the report, a charge denied by Union parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju.

The uproar continued as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar tried to read out a message from President Droupadi Murmu. "Don't show disrespect to the President of India," Dhankhar said and urged Kharge to ask the Opposition members to take their seats.

The Opposition members, however, kept demanding the withdrawal of the report amid the threat of serious action from the House Chairman.

Dhankhar said Samirul Islam, Nadimul Haque and M. Mohamed Abdulla "created chaos and disruption in the House". Kharge was then called to speak, who said the dissent notes of the Opposition MPs in the report on the Waqf Bill were redacted from the report.

"The report of the JPC on Waqf... In which several members had given their dissent note has been taken out. Bulldozing the report by only keeping the views of the majority members is not right. It is condemnable, anti-democratic... These MPs are not protesting for their own sake, they are protesting for the community against which injustice is being done," Kharge said.

#### NO REDUCTION IN CAPEX, SAYS SITHARAMAN

FROM PAGE 1

"Despite this, the government has tried to keep the assessment as accurate as possible, keeping India's interests paramount. There are no models that you can build and understand how the trends will be because they are dynamic. We have tried keeping the assessments as close as possible, keeping India's interests as topmost," Sitharaman said.

Rejecting some Opposition member's claims on the government's shift in focus away from capital expenditure, Sitharaman said that the Budget has not reduced sectoral allocations, adding that the effective capital expenditure during the next fiscal is estimated at ₹19.08-lakh crore.

"The effective capital expenditure for the next fiscal year is projected to be at ₹15.48-lakh crore as against ₹13.18-lakh crore in the revised estimate of FY25. Including the outlay by public enterprises, the capex will be ₹19.80-lakh crore for fiscal year 2025-26," she added. After the finance minister concluded her reply to the discussion on the Union Budget, Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the proceedings till 11 am on March 10, marking the conclusion of the first part of the Budget Session.

Lok Sabha proceedings were also adjourned till March 10, with the first part of the Budget Session recording a productivity of 112 per cent.

On Thursday, the finance minister also introduced the new Income-Tax Bill 2025 first in the Lok Sabha and subsequently in the Rajya Sabha, saying that the Bill will consolidate and amend the law relating to income-tax.

The much-anticipated Bill will replace terminologies like "assessment year" and "previous year" with the easier-to-understand "tax year" as part of a move to simplify language while removing provisos and explanations.

## Delhi worried over rise of pro-Khalistani elements

### Modi meets NSA Waltz, discusses defence, technology and security

FROM PAGE 1

It may be noted that New Delhi had been worried over the growing influence and violence resorted to by pro-Khalistani elements in the US right under the nose of the previous Biden administration that seemed to turn a blind eye to India's concerns then.

The last bilateral meeting of Modi on Thursday night was with Republican politician and Indian-origin entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

Soon after the Prime Minister landed in Washington early on Thursday morning (IST), United States director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard called on him. Gabbard, who is of Samoan origin and professes the Hindu faith, is known to share a special relationship with India. She has previously been a member of the US Congress and, before that, an officer in the US armed forces. In a statement to the meeting, New Delhi said, "The Prime Minister fondly recalled his earlier interactions with Gabbard. The discussions touched on enhancing bilateral intelligence cooperation, particularly in counterterrorism, cybersecurity, emerging threats and strategic intelligence sharing. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, reaffirming their commitment to a secure, stable, and rules-based international order".

After the meeting with Waltz, Modi posted on X, "Had a fruitful meeting with NSA@michaelgwaltz. He has always been a great friend of India. Defence, technology and security are important aspects of India-USA ties and we had a wonderful discussion around these issues. There is strong potential for cooperation in sectors like AI, semiconductors, space and more." Earlier, Modi, who is staying at the Blair House, which is the US presidential guesthouse, was given a warm welcome by the Indian diaspora on landing in Washington despite freezing temperatures. The Prime Minister thanked the diaspora for the gesture. The keenly watched Modi and Trump meeting will be the first one to take place



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. — PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. — PTI

ever since the US President assumed office last month for a second term in office. The Prime Minister is in Washington on a two-day "official working visit". Trade tariffs imposed by India, the defence and security partnership including proposed defence deals, illegal immigration from India, the critical technology, energy partnership, energy supply from the US to India, cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and within the four-nation Quad in the face of Chinese military assertiveness, the Russia-Ukraine war and the situation in the Middle East, including Iran are expected to be discussed

between the two leaders. The Prime Minister will hold both "restricted and delegation-level talks" with the US President, including an "intense" discussion that is likely to take place on trade issues. Before his departure, Modi, earlier this week, had said that he had a "very warm recollection" of working together with Trump in his first term (from 2017-20) in "building a comprehensive global strategic partnership between India and the US". The US President, during a phone conversation about a fortnight ago, had told the Prime Minister that it is "important for India to increase its procurement of

American-made security equipment and move toward a fair bilateral trading relationship". Trump has previously mentioned India among several countries that levy high tariffs on American goods and has called for this to be rectified. According to recent global news agency reports, India is considering a range of tariff concessions on American goods with the objective of assuaging Trump's concerns on the trade front. The US has also been urging India to buy more American defence platforms and equipment, which is being seen as part of the US President's efforts to boost American manufacturing in the defence sector.



Security personnel stand guard in Imphal following imposition of President's rule in Manipur on Thursday. — PTI

## Prez Rule: Manipur Assembly under suspended animation

FROM PAGE 1

The notification further said that the powers of the legislature of the state shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.

With this notification, the Central government will take over all functioning of the state government except the legislature. However, the President's Rule has to be approved by the Parliament within the two months of the notification. The Centre's decision came at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in the US. The Manipur Assembly, which has the tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation, the home ministry notification said.

N. Biren Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister on February 9 after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that claimed over 250 lives so far. Singh submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal, hours after his meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda in the national capital last Sunday.

The Central government decision to impose the President's Rule came after the saffron party in the state failed to pick up a consensus

CM candidate despite having several rounds of meetings between party's northeast in-charge Sambit Patra and BJP's legislators to select a consensus name for the next CM.

In the last couple of days, Patra had held a series of meetings with the ministers, MLAs and leaders of BJP and other party allies to take their views for the selection of the new legislature party leader. He also met the Governor a few times in the last two days.

Responding to the Centre's decision, the Congress said it had been demanding imposition of President's Rule in strife-torn Manipur for the past 20 months and the Central government did so only after the fabric of state's society was allowed to be "severely damaged".

"Finally what the Indian National Congress has been demanding for almost 20 months has happened. President's Rule has been imposed in Manipur. This has come after what the Supreme Court called 'the absolute breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state' that saw the killing of over 300 people and displacement of over 60,000 men, women, and children since May 3, 2023," Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

## Modi to open 1st SOUL leadership conclave

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave by the School of Ultimate Leadership on February 21.

The two-day event at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital will

bring together leaders from across politics, sports, arts and media, public policy, business, the social sector and the spiritual world to talk about their personal leadership journeys, engaging in insightful conversations and sharing transformative experiences to inspire a new generation of

thinkers. The conclave will feature speakers such as railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, former Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das, spiritual leader of the Brahma Kumaris B.K. Shivani, chess world champion D.

Gukesh, Piramal Group chief Ajay Piramal, and Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, among others. "Leadership is not just about guiding others. It is about inspiring them to act with vision, purpose and integrity — towards the greater cause of public good." "Our imperative at

SOUL is to help broaden the landscape of political leadership in India through formal training and to include those who rise through merit, commitment and passion for public service and not just from political lineage," said Saurabh Johri, director in-charge, School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL).

### CRPF JAWANS KILLS 2 BEFORE TAKING HIS LIFE

Imphal, Feb. 13: A CRPF jawan allegedly killed two of his colleagues and injured eight others before taking his own life at a camp in Manipur on Thursday, official sources said.

The incident took place at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Lamphel located in the Imphal West district at around 8.20 pm, they said.

Accused Havildar Sanjay Kumar opened fire from his weapon killing a constable and a sub-inspector of the force on the spot. He later turned the gun on himself and has been declared dead, the sources said.

The accused was from the 120th battalion of the force. — PTI

## Army: Ceasefire remains intact along LoC in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, FEB. 13

The Indian Army on Thursday said that the ceasefire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir remains intact and continues to be observed as per the mutual understanding with the Pakistan Army. It said that no recent exchange of heavy-calibre weapon fire had occurred along the de facto border and that minor incidents are not unprecedented.

"While tensions have arisen due to stray incidents of cross-LoC firing and a suspected IED blast targeting an Indian patrol, these are being addressed through the established mechanism," the Indian Army said. It added that con-

### OMAR OPTIMISTIC ON STATEHOOD

Srinagar, Feb. 13: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed optimism about the restoration of statehood, saying, "I believe that time has come now." Asked if he had raised

cerns have been raised with the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level and the situation remains stable and under close monitoring, with the Indian Army maintaining a high state of alertness and dominating the LoC. However, tensions reportedly returned to certain areas along the

LoC following a series of violent incidents including a ceasefire violation that claimed the lives of two Indian Army personnel and injured two others. Pakistan has claimed that two of its soldiers were injured in firing and a civilian died in an IED blast, blaming both these incidents on the Indian Army.

### POLL | PROCESS

## Sena(UBT) leader says need more clarity on EVMs, VVPATs

## Aditya Thackeray meets Kejri, Rahul

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Shiv Sena(UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, days after the two parties suffered setbacks in the Delhi Assembly polls.

Thackeray met Gandhi late on Wednesday and called on AAP chief Kejriwal whose party was trumped by the BJP in last week's Assembly elections on Thursday. On a whirlwind tour of the national capital, Thackeray met the party's parliamentarians amid



Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi during a press conference, in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

reports of dissent in the ranks and some leaders planning to join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena. After calling on Kejriwal, he described the meeting as a

gesture of friendship. "Is there any difference between the BJP and the Election Commission?... I don't even know where my vote goes. There needs to be more clarity on EVMs (electronic voting machines) and VVPATs (voter-verifiable paper audit trail)," said Thackeray. "Governments keep coming and going but relationships continue. We met Mr Kejriwal as a gesture of friendship. However, our democracy is not free and fair. Elections are not free and fair," he told reporters after the meeting. He was accompanied by party MPs

Sanjay Raut, Arvind Sawant, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Sanjay Dina Patil and Bhausaheb Wakchaure, among others. The Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP) had alleged irregularities in the conduct of last year's Maharashtra assembly election, claiming that there were more registered voters in the state than its total adult population. The three parties, which formed the MVA grouping, claimed 39 lakh new voters were added between the Lok Sabha elections in May and the November assembly polls.

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**TALLURI70MM-11.15, 6.15PM**

**AAA MALL-1.30, 4.25PM**

**AAA MALL-4.30, 10.30PM**

**LAXMIKALA-11.00, 4.25PM**

**PRASAD'S-2.10, 8.00PM**

**CINEMART-4.30, 10.25PM**

**CINEPLANET-7.30PM**

**CINESQUARE-10.25, 7.20PM**

**MCUBE-7.30PM | JP CINEMAS-1.35, 7.20PM**

**MJR SQUARE-10.25PM**

**GSM MALL-10.40, 4.40, 7.40PM**

**ASHOKA ONE-10.40, 10.40PM**

**SATTVA NECKLACE-1.50, 7.50PM**

**MP MALL-4.15PM**

**GVK MALL-2.00, 7.50PM**

**LULU-2.35PM | MANTRA-1.10, 8.10PM**

**TNR NORTH-10.30, 4.50, 10.45PM**

**CCPL-2.40PM | SUDHA-5.00PM**

**DSL MALL-4.00, 11.05PM**

**CENTRAL MALL-1.30PM**

**RK MALL-4.50PM | ATRIUM MALL-1.45PM**

**INORBIT MALL-1.50, 7.50PM**

**FORUM MALL-11.05, 7.45, 10.50PM**

**ICON-10.40PM | GALLERIA-4.50, 10.50PM**

**IRRUMMANZIL-1.50, 7.50PM**

**MUSARAMBAGH-1.45, 7.15PM**

**PRESTONE-4.40PM**

**BALANAGAR-7.20PM**

**CHANDANAGAR-7.10PM**

**MIYAPUR-1.30PM**

**MALKAJGIRI-1.30PM | SHALINI-7.10PM**

**AMEERPET-1.30PM**

**GACHIBOWLI-5.00PM**

**SANATH NAGAR-1.00PM**

**GPR MALL-4.45PM**

**NEO APARNA-5.15PM**

**AMR MALL-11.00, 2.00, 5.00PM**

**4.50PM**

**BVK MALL**

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04:00 PM, 04:25 PM, 06:50 PM  
07:20 PM, 07:30 PM, 10:00 PM  
10:05 PM, 10:20 PM

**CAPTAIN AMERICA : BRAVE NEW WORLD** ENG 2D (UA) ₹1325/380  
10:15 AM, 12:45 PM, 05:45 PM  
08:15 PM, 10:50 PM  
03:15 PM

**THANDEL** TEL 2D (UA) ₹1295/350  
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07:20 PM, 07:15 PM, 07:40 PM  
10:25 PM, 10:25 PM

**LAILA** TEL 2D (A) ₹1295/350  
09:55 AM, 01:35 PM, 04:20 PM  
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**BRIDGET JONES : MAD ABOUT THE BOY** ENG 2D (A) ₹1295/350  
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**SANKRANTHIKI VASTHUNAM TEL 2D (UA)** ₹1295/350  
01:00 PM, 07:10 PM

**BRAHMA ANANDAM** ₹1250/350  
01:30 PM, 04:25 PM

**ORANGE** ₹1250/350  
10:10 AM

**LOVEYAPA** HIN 2D (UA) 12:35 PM

**IT'S COMPLICATED** TEL 2D (UA) ₹1250/350  
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**MALL - MADHAPUR | PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI |**  
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**MOOSRAMBAGH | CENTRAL MALL - PUNJAGUTTA |**  
**PRISM MALL - GACHIBOWLI | ATRIUM MALL - GACHIBOWLI |**  
**GVK MALL - BANJARAHILLS | MAHESHWARI**  
**PARMESHWARI MALL - KACHIGUDA | GSM MALL -**  
**MIYAPUR | ASHOKA ONE MALL - KUKATPALLY |**  
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**PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX APARNA CINEMAS**  
**NTR GARDENS NALLAGANDLA**

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**MUSARAMBAGH | CENTRAL MALL - PANJAGUTTA | RK**  
**MALL - BANJARA HILLS | ATRIUM MALL - GACHIBOWLI |**  
**PRESTON PRIME - GACHIBOWLI | PRISM MALL -**  
**GACHIBOWLI | GVK ONE - BANJARA HILLS | MP MALL -**  
**KACHIGUDA | GSM MALL - MADINAGUDA | SATTVA**  
**NECKLACE MALL - KAVADIGUDA | ASHOKA - KUKATPALLY |**

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**CCPL - MALKAJGIRI | SUDHA - SHALIBANDA |**  
**DSL VIRTUE MALL - UPPAL | TNR MALL - KOMPALI**

**SHALINI SIVANI - DSKN | BALANAGAR |**  
**CHANDRA NAGAR | MIYAPUR | MALKAJGIRI**

**CINE PLANET - KOMPALLY | CINE SQUARE - UPPAL |**  
**SIVA GANGA - DSKN | SHA SHAHNSHA - CHINTAL |**  
**CINEPRIDE SHASHIKALA - MOOSAPET | M CUBE**  
**MALL - ATTAPUR | RADHIKA - KAPRA | SWAPNA -**  
**KATEDAN | MUKTA CINEMAS A2 MJR CINEMAS**

**GACHIBOWLI | AMEERPET | AAA CINEMAS**  
**AMEERPET**

**SECUNDERABAD** **AMR MALL - MOULALI**

**SUDARSHAN35MM**  
Enjoy 4K Laser Projection & Dolby Atmos  
11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM

**VISWANATH70-KUKATPALLY**  
11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45PM

**MYTHRI MEGA70-DILSUKNAGAR**  
11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45PM

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI70**

**SREERAMULU70MM-MOOSAPETA**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

ANJALI70MM	TALLURI70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
SVC SRI LAXMI70MM	INDRA/NAGENDRA70
6.30, 9.30PM	11.15, 2.30PM
MAHALAXMI70MM	BHUJANGA70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.45PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
ASIAN JYOTHI70MM	SRIRISHNAUPPAL
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
LAXMIKALA MANDIR	SRIRAMANA COMPLEX
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
SUSHMA70MM	AKANKAR70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
VIJETHA70MM	SUPER70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
LAXMI SHAMSHABAD	AARADHANA70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
SAIRANGA70MM	ASIAN SWAPNA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.15, 6.00PM
SANTOSHIBPATNAM	SREEPREMA70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM	11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**AAA-10.30, 1.25, 4.20, 7.35, 10.30PM**

**AMB-10.20, 1.00, 4.05, 7.10, 10.25PM**

**PRASAD'S-8.45, 11.30, 2.30, 5.00, 10.30PM**

**ASIAN LAXMIKALA-9.50PM**

**GACHIBOWLI-9.00, 2.30, 8.00, 10.30PM**  
**AMEERPET-11.00, 4.30, 7.00, 10.00PM**  
**SANATH NAGAR-10.30, 4.00, 10.00PM**

**CCPL-11.00, 1.55, 7.50, 10.45PM**  
**DSL-11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20PM**  
**TNR-11.30, 2.20, 5.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**  
**SUDHA-11.00, 5.30, 11.05PM**  
**MANTRA-11.30, 2.20, 5.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**  
**LULU-11.00, 1.55, 7.50, 10.45PM**

**SIVAGANGA-11.00, 6.30PM**  
**SHA SHAHNSHA-2.00, 9.30PM**  
**RADHIKA-1.30, 4.30, 10.15PM**  
**CINEPLANET-10.40, 4.30, 7.25, 10.30PM**  
**MCUBE MALL-10.20, 4.35, 7.40, 10.25PM**  
**CINESQUARE-10.40, 1.45, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25PM**  
**MJR SQUARE-10.40, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25PM**  
**JP CINEMAS-10.40, 1.35, 4.30, 7.25, 10.20PM**  
**CINEMART-10.50, 1.45, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25PM**

**GPR MALL-KUKATPALLY**  
10.00, 2.00, 7.30, 10.30PM

**FORUM MALL-10.40, 2.20, 5.10, 8.10, 11.00PM**

**INORBIT-11.30, 2.20, 5.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**

**CENTRAL MALL-10.50, 1.40, 4.30, 7.40, 10.20**  
**RK MALL-11.10, 2.00, 4.50, 7.40, 10.30PM**

**L&T METRO MALL-11.00, 2.20, 5.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**

**IRRUMMANZIL-10.35, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10PM**

**MUSARAMBAGH-11.00, 1.50, 4.40, 7.30, 10.20PM**

**PRESTONE-11.20, 2.05, 4.70, 10.30PM**

**ATRIUM MALL-11.20, 2.10, 5.00, 7.50, 10.40PM**

**PRISM MALL-10.00, 5.05, 7.40, 10.30PM**

**GSM MALL-10.00, 12.45, 4.50, 7.40, 10.40PM**  
**MP MALL-10.35, 1.55, 4.45, 7.30, 10.20PM**  
**GSM MALL-10.00, 12.45, 4.50, 7.40, 10.40PM**  
**ASHOKA ONE-10.50, 1.50, 5.00, 7.50, 10.40PM**  
**NECKLACE-10.10, 2.00, 4.40, 7.30, 10.50PM**

**BALANAGAR-11.20, 2.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**  
**MIYAPUR-2.10, 4.30, 7.40PM**  
**CHANDANAGAR-11.20, 2.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**  
**MALKAJGIRI-2.10, 4.30, 7.40PM**  
**SHALINI-11.20, 2.10, 8.00, 10.50PM**

**11.10, 2.00,**  
**7.50, 10.50PM**

**11.00, 2.00, 5.00**  
**8.00, 11.00PM**

### Valentines DRY

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

<b>THANDEL</b> TEL 2D (UA) 10:40 AM, 1:40 PM, 4:35 PM 7:30 PM, 10:40 PM	₹250/350
<b>LAILA</b> TEL 2D (A) 10:35 AM, 1:50 PM, 4:25 PM 7:45 PM, 10:35 PM	₹250/300
<b>CHHAAVA</b> HIN 2D (UA) 10:10 AM, 1:15 PM, 4:15 PM 7:20 PM, 10:30 PM	₹250/300
<b>CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD</b> ENG 3D (UA) 7:40 PM TEL 3D (UA) 10:55 AM, 4:55 PM, 10:45 PM	₹280/330
<b>BRAHMA ANANDAM</b> TEL 2D (UA) 4:30 PM, 10:30 PM	₹200/250
<b>ORANGE</b> TEL 2D (U) 10:00 AM, 7:20 PM	₹200/250
<b>IT'S COMPLICATED</b> TEL 2D (UA) 1:35 PM	₹200/250
<b>SANKRANTHI VASTHUNAM</b> TEL 2D (UA) 1:20 PM	₹295/350

**UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS**  
RELEASING ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEB (FRIDAY)

HUSBAND 40MM | KOPANHA | DRAGON

FIRST EVER LED SCREEN IN SOUTH INDIA  
Book your tickets at aaacinemas.in

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**

**ASIAN CINEMAS**

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

**ASIAN SHIVA GANGA - DILSUKHNAGAR**  
THANDEL/CHHAAVA Rs.50 | LAILA/ORANGE Rs.50 | CAPTAIN 3D Rs.70

**ORANGE** TEL-2DU: 8:00AM, 11:15- LAILA TEL-2DJA: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 7:00- CHHAAVA HIN-2DUJA: 2:30PM, 9:45- THANDEL TEL-2DUJA: 6:00PM, 9:15- CAPTAIN (ENG-3DUJA): 4:30PM

**ASIAN SHA & SHAHNSHA - CHINTAL**  
THANDEL/CHHAAVA Rs.110 | LAILA/ORANGE Rs.100 | CAPTAIN 3D Rs.120

**ORANGE** TEL-2DU: 8:00AM, 11:15- LAILA TEL-2DJA: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 7:00- CHHAAVA HIN-2DUJA: 2:30PM, 9:45- THANDEL TEL-2DUJA: 6:00PM, 9:15- CAPTAIN (TEL-2DUJA): 4:30PM

**ASIAN MUKTA A2 MJR SQUARE - NARAPALLY**  
THANDEL Rs.250 | LAILA Rs.250 | SANKRANTHI Rs.295 | CHHAAVA/BRAHMA/ORANGE Rs.200 | CAPTAIN 3D Rs.230

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLY ON **district**

LAILA (TEL-2DU): 10:30AM, 1:25PM, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35- THANDEL TEL-2DUJA: 10:40AM, 1:35PM, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20- CHHAAVA HIN-2DUJA: 10:20AM, 1:25PM, 7:15, 10:30- CAPTAIN (TEL-2DUJA): 11:00AM, 7:55PM- CAPTAIN (ENG-3DUJA): 1:35PM- SANKRANTHI (TEL-2DUJA): 4:35PM- BRAHMA (TEL-2DUJA): 10:25PM- ORANGE (TEL-2DU): 4:30PM

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**సామి**

**SAPTHAGIRI 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**SRIKRISHNA ALIYABAD** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 | **VENKATESWARA70** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

**Cinépolis** DSL MALL-11.00AM | TNR MALL-2.00PM

**PVR** FORUM MALL-11.25AM | L&T GALLERIA-2.25PM | MUSARAMBAGH-11.00AM

**INOX** GSM MALL-1.35PM

**MIRAL** BALANAGAR-1.40PM

**NEO** APARNA CINEMA-11.10AM

**DEEPA ARTS RELEASE**

**VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL ATTRACTION**

**భవిష్యత్తు**

**RELEASING TODAY**

**VENKATASAI 70-KEESARA** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**VENKATESWARA 70-GUMMADIDHALA** 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

**Cinépolis** TNR NORTH-2.20PM

**PVR** FORUM MALL-2.05PM | L&T METRO MALL-10.30, 2.25, 5.05 | IRRUMMANZIL-1.05PM | MOOSARAMBAGH-1.40PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS** JP CINEMAS-4.25PM | CINESQUARE-4.25PM

**MIRAL** SHALINI/SHIVANI-1.40PM

**INOX** GVK MALL | MP MALL | ASHOKA ONE | GSM MALL | NECKLACE MALL | PRISM MALL

**AMR MALL** | **GPR MALL** | **NEO** APARNA

**SRI LAKSHMI JYOTHI CREATIONS THRU RAJA RAJESHWARI FILMS RELEASE** 7702777715 & 9030161717

**GRAND 5th WEEK**

**సామి**

**SANDHYA 35MM**  
Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos  
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**MALLIKARJUNA 70-11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30**

**RAJADHANIDELUXE-11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM**

**TALLURI 70MM-2.15, 9.15PM**

**INDRA/NAGENDRA 70-6.00PM**

**LAKSHMIKALA-11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM**

**OAMB** 1.00, 7.10PM | **AAA**-1.20PM

**2.40, 7.50PM** | **NEO** 1.55, 4.55, 7.55

**GPR-7.45PM** | **MOVIE TIME** 7.40PM

**AMR MALL-1.30, 7.30PM**

**Cinépolis** CCPL-4.40PM | DSL MALL-8.10PM | LULU-11.05PM | MANTRA-1.50PM | TNR NORTH-10.30, 4.35PM

**MOVIE TIME** GACHIBOWLI-7.30PM | AMEERPET-7.45PM

**PVR** FORUM MALL | INORBIT MALL | CENTRAL | MUSARAMBAGH | GALLERIA | IRRUMMANZIL | ATRIUM MALL | IOCN HITECH | PRESTONE MALL

**INOX** ASHOKA ONE-1.20PM | GVK-4.00PM | GSM-1.40PM | MP MALL-1.15PM | PRISM-1.25PM | SATTVA MALL-4.50PM

**MIRAL** BALANAGAR-4.20PM | CHANDANAGAR-5.00PM | SHALINI/SHIVANI-5.00PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS** CINESQUARE | MJR SQUARE | CINEMART | JP MALL | RADHIKA | LAKSHMIKALA | SIVANGA | SHA SHAHNSHA | GPR MALL-KUKATPALLY

**RE-RELEASING**  
Experience The Ocean Of Love ALL Over Again!!!  
This FEB 14<sup>th</sup> IN THEATRES

**భరించే**

**RELEASING TODAY**

**DEV 70MM | SUDARSHAN 35**

**SANDHYA 70MM | SANDHYA 35MM**

**ARJUN 70 | BRAMARAMBA 70**

**MALLIKARJUNA | VISWANATH 70**

**MEGA 70MM | ASIAN KONARK 70**

**ASIAN TARAKARAMA 70MM**

**BHUJANGA 70 | BR HITECH 70**

**INDRA/NAGENDRA 70MM**

**VENKATARMANA/PADMAVATHI**

**SRSAIRAM 70 | SRIRAMULU 70**

**VIJETHA 70MM | MYTHRI VIMAL**

**JAGADAMBA 70 | SAIRANGA 70**

**RAJYALAKSHMI | SVC EESHWAR**

**Surya S/o. Krishnan**

**WORLDWIDE RE-RELEASE**  
ON VALENTINE'S DAY (TODAY)  
WATCH & ENJOY  
EVERGREEN BLOCKBUSTER SONGS  
WITH YOUR NEAR & DEAR

**AASCAR FILM (P) LTD**  
V. RAVICHANDRAN

**SUDARSHAN 35MM**  
Enjoy 4k laser projection & dolby atmos  
(SPL MORNING SHOW 8.00AM)

**INOX** GSM MALL-9.30, 1.00, 10.30PM | SATTVA NECKLACE-10.15AM, 10.20PM | ASHOKA ONE-7.15PM

**Cinépolis** DSL-1.40PM | TNR NEW-11.00AM | **OAMB** AMB MALL

**PVR** FORUM MALL-10.30AM | PRESTON-10.10PM | L&T METRO-4.10PM | CENTRAL MALL-10.30PM

**నన్ను క్రితము రాము**

**ONLY ON SUNDAY 16th**

**GOOD NEWS FOR DARSHAN FANS**

**PRASADS** Necklace Road. | **ANJALI A/C - SEC'BAD** SPECIAL MORNING SHOW AT 9:00 AM

**VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL ATTRACTION**

**sanam Teri kasam**

**OPENS TODAY**

**METRO 70MM**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

**RELEASES TODAY**

**"STAR BOY" SIDDHU in it's Complicated**

**SHANTHI 70MM**  
NARAYANAGUDA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
MAHALAXMI COM-KOTHAPETA 11.15AM (ONE SHOW)

**OAMB** 10.15AM | **ASA** 1.35PM

**PRASAD'S** 10.45AM

**NEO** 1.10PM | **3PK** 4.30PM

**TIVOLI** 1.50PM | **MOVIE MAX** 8.15PM

**MATREX** 10.20AM | **MOVIE TIME** 2.00PM | **LB NAGAR** | **AMEERPET**

**ASIAN CINEMAS** CINESQUARE-1.45PM | RADHIKA-4.30PM | MJR SQUARE-1.20PM | JP MALL-11.00AM | CINEMART-4.40PM

**GLOBAL** GLOBAL CINEMAS LLP

**VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANTIC BLOCKBUSTER**

**LOCAL CINEMAS KUMAR 70MM**

Enjoy with 2k Laser Projection & Dolby Digital provides A 5.1 Surround sound experience

**11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**

**INOX** GSM MALL-12.50PM | SATTVA NECKLACE-11.10AM | ASHOKA ONE-2.00PM

**PVR** FORUM-10.20AM | CENTRAL-4.45PM | MOOSARAMBAGH-1.20PM | ATRIUM-4.40PM | SHALINI-4.50PM | BALANAGAR-4.50PM | CHANDANAGAR-1.50PM

**RELEASING TODAY**

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**RELEASING TODAY**

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## Jr student pierced with compass in Kerala

Kottayam (Kerala), Feb. 13: Disturbing visuals of the brutal ragging of a junior student at the Government Nursing College here surfaced on Thursday, showing the victim being tied to a cot and his body repeatedly pierced with a compass.

According to footage received by the Gandhinagar police, the victim was stripped half-naked and subjected to horrifying acts, including having dumbbells placed on his private parts after being tied to a cot and having facial cream poured into his mouth.

Kottayam District Police Chief Shahul Hameed said that police are investigating whether more students were subjected to ragging.

"The case has been registered based on a complaint from one student but we will record statements from others to determine if there are more victims," he told reporters here.

Hameed added that the investigation will also examine whether there were any lapses on the part of the college authorities.

The five students arrested on Wednesday in connection with the case are currently in the district jail after being remanded by a court here.

The visuals aired by TV channels showed the junior student-lying on the bed with lotion all over his body and his hands and legs tied with a rope-screaming in pain, unable to move while his body was repeatedly pierced with the compass.

The senior students pierced various parts of his body with the compass, counting aloud, "one, two, three."

As the victim screamed in pain, the accused mocked him, taunting and insulting him by calling him a "sexy body".

The video recorded by third-year students captured this brutal act of ragging, police said.

The abuse took place in the boys' hostel targeting first-year nursing students. The arrested students have been identified as Samuel Johnson (20), Rahul Raj (22), Jeev (18), Rijil Jith (20), and Vivek (21).

One of the arrested students was an office-bearer of a nursing student organisation, police said.

They were arrested after a case was registered under the Prohibition of Ragging Act, following a complaint that ragging had been ongoing for nearly three months at the nursing institute, which operates under the Government Medical College.

The accused have also been booked under Sections 118(1) (intentionally causing hurt using dangerous weapons or means), 308(2) (punishment for extortion), and 351(1) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the police said.

—PTI

**RELEASE TODAY**

**సామి**

**PVR IRRUMMANZIL 11.00AM**

**LIBERTY CINEMA-Nanded**  
SRINADH CHITRAMANDIR-Parlivaajinath  
NATRAJ CINEMA-JALNA

**SREE VEERABHADRA FILM DISTRIBUTORS**

**RELEASES TODAY**

**"STAR BOY" SIDDHU in it's Complicated**

**SHANTHI 70MM**  
NARAYANAGUDA 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM  
MAHALAXMI COM-KOTHAPETA 11.15AM (ONE SHOW)

**OAMB** 10.15AM | **ASA** 1.35PM

**PRASAD'S** 10.45AM

**NEO** 1.10PM | **3PK** 4.30PM

**TIVOLI** 1.50PM | **MOVIE MAX** 8.15PM

**MATREX** 10.20AM | **MOVIE TIME** 2.00PM | **LB NAGAR** | **AMEERPET**

**ASIAN CINEMAS** CINESQUARE-1.45PM | RADHIKA-4.30PM | MJR SQUARE-1.20PM | JP MALL-11.00AM | CINEMART-4.40PM

**GLOBAL** GLOBAL CINEMAS LLP

**VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANTIC BLOCKBUSTER**

**LOCAL CINEMAS KUMAR 70MM**

Enjoy with 2k Laser Projection & Dolby Digital provides A 5.1 Surround sound experience

**11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**

**INOX** GSM MALL-12.50PM | SATTVA NECKLACE-11.10AM | ASHOKA ONE-2.00PM

**PVR** FORUM-10.20AM | CENTRAL-4.45PM | MOOSARAMBAGH-1.20PM | ATRIUM-4.40PM | SHALINI-4.50PM | BALANAGAR-4.50PM | CHANDANAGAR-1.50PM

**RELEASING TODAY**

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**RELEASE TODAY**

**సామి**

**PVR IRRUMMANZIL 11.00AM**

**LIBERTY CINEMA-Nanded**  
SRINADH CHITRAMANDIR-Parlivaajinath  
NATRAJ CINEMA-JALNA

**SREE VEERABHADRA FILM DISTRIBUTORS**

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**"STAR BOY" SIDDHU in it's Complicated**

**SHANTHI 70MM**  
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**MATREX** 10.20AM | **MOVIE TIME** 2.00PM | **LB NAGAR** | **AMEERPET**

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**GLOBAL** GLOBAL CINEMAS LLP

**VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANTIC BLOCKBUSTER**

**LOCAL CINEMAS KUMAR 70MM**

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**PVR** FORUM-10.20AM | CENTRAL-4.45PM | MOOSARAMBAGH-1.20PM | ATRIUM-4.40PM | SHALINI-4.50PM | BALANAGAR-4.50PM | CHANDANAGAR-1.50PM

**RELEASING TODAY**

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## Vallabhaneni Vamsi arrested in Hyderabad

AP police arrested former MLA and YSR Congress leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Hyderabad on Thursday in connection with a February 2023 case of abduction and intimidation of computer operator Musunuri Satyavardhan who worked at the TDP office in Gannavaram.

Amid high drama, AP police escorted the YSRC leader to Vijayawada. Patamata police booked a case against him under section 140, 308, 351 (3) read with 3 (5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and also relevant sections of the SC and ST Act.

When the TDP office in Gannavaram had been ransacked in February 2023, computer operator Satyavardhan lodged a complaint with the police. Accordingly, police booked a case against nearly 88 persons. Subsequently, Satyavardhan had allegedly been abducted and allegedly intimidated, forcing him to withdraw the case involving Vallabhaneni Vamsi.

Based on a complaint lodged by Satyavardhan's mother with Patamata police, a case has been booked against the former MLA and five others.

Following his arrest in Hyderabad, police took Vallabhaneni Vamsi first to the Bhavanipuram police station on entering Vijayawada. Later, they shifted him to Krishna Lanka police station and grilled him for several hours about abduction and intimidation of the complainant.

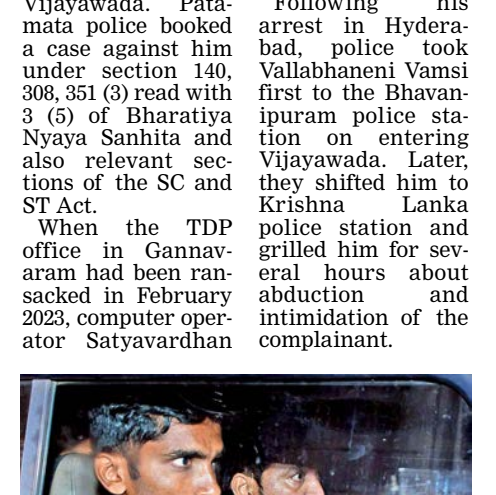
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Following his arrest in Hyderabad, police took Vallabhaneni Vamsi first to the Bhavanipuram police station on entering Vijayawada. Later, they shifted him to Krishna Lanka police station and grilled him for several hours about abduction and intimidation of the complainant.



Policemen shifting former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi from Hyderabad to Vijayawada's Krishnalanka police station on Thursday.

**TN GOV. ROW: SC FRAMES 12 QUESTIONS**

New Delhi, Feb. 13: The Supreme Court has framed questions to answer in a dispute between Tamil Nadu government and Governor R. N. Ravi over the delay in assent to bills passed by the legislative assembly.

A bench of Justices J. B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan which reserved its verdict on February 10, framed the 12 questions largely on the power of the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution in giving assent to bills, withholding assent and reserving for consideration of the President.

The top court, in its order made available recently, said it would also answer whether the discretion of the Governor in reserving a Bill for the consideration of the President exercisable upon any Bill, or limited to certain specific categories of Bills, such as those in which the subject matter appeared to be beyond the competence of the state legislature or was repugnant to a Central legislation.

—PTI

**TIVOLI**

CATCH THE STARS!  
TODAY SCHEDULE

**LAILA** (136 MIN) (A)  
11.10, 2.00, 7.50, 10.50PM

**THANDEL** (152 MIN) (U/A)  
10.40PM

**SANKRANTHI VASTUNAM** (144 MIN) (UA13)  
7.40PM

**BRAHMA ANANDAM** (148 MIN) (U/A)  
5.00PM

**CHHAAVA** (161 MIN) (U/A)  
9.45, 1.00, 4.15, 7.30, 10.50PM

**SANAM TERI KASAM** (155 MIN) (U)  
11.00, 4.40PM

**ITS COMPLICATED** (129 MIN) (UA)  
2.00PM

**CAPTAIN AMERICA** (118 MIN) (U/A)  
3D-12.15, 2.45, 5.15PM  
2D-8.15PM, 10.45PM

**ASHOKA ONE-7.15PM**

**INOX** GSM MALL-9.30, 1.00, 10.30PM | SATTVA NECKLACE-10.15AM, 10.20PM | ASHOKA ONE-7.15PM

**Cinépolis** DSL-1.40PM | TNR NEW-11.00AM | **OAMB** AMB MALL

**PVR** FORUM MALL-10.30AM | PRESTON-10.10PM | L&T METRO-4.10PM | CENTRAL MALL-10.30PM

### SHORT TAKES

#### GAS EXPLOSION AT TAIWAN FOOD COURT KILLS FOUR

Taipei, Feb. 13: A gas explosion at a department store in Taiwan on Thursday killed four people and injured 26, fire authorities said.

The blast occurred at the food court on the 12th floor of the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi department store in Taichung city, the Taichung Fire Bureau said.

Among the dead were two people visiting from Macao, Macao's Tourism Office confirmed on Thursday.

Local media reported that they were part of a family of seven who were there for tourism.

#### AF MINISTRY COMPOUND BLAST KILLS 1, HURTS 3

Kabul, Feb. 13: A blast at a government ministry compound in Kabul killed one person and injured three, a spokesman said on Thursday.

Mohammad Kamal Afghan, a spokesperson for the urban development and housing ministry, said a man had attempted to carry out an attack inside the compound but was killed by guards before he reached his target. There was an explosion due to the incident, leading to casualties, according to the spokesperson.

He did not clarify the source of the blast and provided no further details.

#### BELARUS FREES 3, INCLUDING AN AMERICAN

Washington, Feb. 13: Belarus has released three people, including an American and a journalist, who had been detained for more than three years, US officials said on Wednesday.

The name of the American and the alleged offence for which the person was held were not disclosed by the White House. *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* identified one of those freed as one of its journalists, Andrey Kuznechik, who was arrested in 2021 near his home in Minsk as authorities there launched a multipronged crackdown on the country's independent media.

#### UK ARRESTS SIX FOR SMUGGLING OF PEOPLE

London, Feb. 13: UK law enforcement officers have arrested six people wanted in Belgium over their suspected involvement in a people-trafficking ring, the National Crime Agency (NCA) said on Thursday.

NCA officers detained the men, all Afghan nationals, on Wednesday in Leicester and Birmingham, both in central England, and Essex in south east England.

The detentions come as part of coordinated action in Belgium and Italy launched after Belgian courts issued a warrant for their arrests.

#### SEOUL SAYS NK DESTROYING REUNION FACILITY

Seoul, Feb. 13: North Korea is demolishing a South Korea-built property that had been used to host reunions of families separated during the 1950-53 Korean War, Seoul said, as it continues to eliminate symbols of engagement between the war-divided rivals.

Relations between the Koreans are at their worst in years, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continuing to flaunt his expanding nuclear weapons programme and declaring to abandon long-standing goals of inter-Korean reconciliation, while describing the South as a permanent enemy.

#### FREEZING RAIN, SNOW HEADING FOR OREGON

New York, Feb. 13: Officials in California distributed sandbags, prepositioned rescue swimmers and told residents to have their go-bags ready as the state prepares for an atmospheric river that could bring heavy rain, winds and flooding on Thursday to areas that were recently ravaged by wildfires and left a trail of devastation.

Meanwhile, Portland coated its streets with 2,000 gallons of liquid anti-icer while officials in Oregon and Idaho opened emergency shelters to prepare for a punishing mix of snow and ice starting Thursday.

# Reciprocal tariffs soon, says Trump

### Musk asks US govt to 'delete entire agencies'; judge lifts temporary freeze on Trump admin buyout plan

Washington, Dubai, Feb. 13: US President Donald Trump said that he would announce "reciprocal tariffs" on trading partners on Thursday, opening new fronts in a trade war economists warn could fuel inflation at home.

Trump has announced a broad range of tariffs targeting some of the biggest US trading partners since taking office, arguing that they would help tackle unfair practices — and in some cases using the threats to influence policy. He has referred to tariffs as a way to raise revenue, remedy trade imbalances and pressure countries to act on US concerns.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk called on Thursday for the United States to delete entire agencies from the federal government as part of his push under President Donald Trump to radically cut spending and restructure its priorities.

Musk offered a wide-ranging survey via a video call to the World Governments Summit in Dubai, of what he described as the priorities of the Trump administration interspersed with multiple references to thermonuclear warfare and the possible dangers of artificial intelligence.

"We really have here rule of the bureaucracy as opposed to rule of the people — democracy," Musk said, wearing a black T-shirt that read: Tech Support. He also joked that he was the White House's



People rally against the policies of President Donald Trump and Elon Musk at the US Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

Three great weeks, perhaps the best ever, but today is the big one: reciprocal tariffs!!! Make America great again!!!! — DONALD TRUMP US President

● Among Asian economies, India has a 9.5-per cent weighted average effective tariff on US exports, while there is a three-per cent rate on India's exports to the United States.

● Thailand has a 6.2-per cent rate.

● China has a 7.1-per cent rate on US products, Nomura noted.

## Kapur is diplomat for S. Asian Affairs

Washington, Billings, Feb. 13: Paul Kapur, an expert on South Asian security, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to be the assistant secretary of state for South Asian Affairs. Kapur, if confirmed by the Senate, will replace Donald Lu.



Paul Kapur

The Senate on Thursday confirmed Robert F. Kennedy Jr as health secretary, putting the prominent vaccine sceptic in control of \$1.7 trillion in federal spending, vaccine recommendations and food safety as well as health insurance programmes for roughly half the country.

Republicans fell in line behind Trump despite hesitancy over Kennedy views on vaccines, voting 52-48 to elevate the scion of one of America's most storied political — and Democratic — families to secretary of the health and human services department.

Trump has nominated Kathleen Sgammata, president of the Colorado-based oil industry trade group Western Energy Alliance, to oversee an agency that manages a quarter-billion acres of public land concentrated in western states. She was named Bureau of Land Management director, a position with wide influence over lands used for

energy production, grazing, recreation and other purposes.

At her confirmation hearing on Thursday, Linda McMahon told senators she believes it would take an act of Congress to abolish the education department, saying the Trump administration wants to do this right and craft a plan that senators will support.

McMahon used softer language than Trump has invoked in his pledge to close the department. If confirmed, she vowed to reorient the department without ending some of its core work, adding that defunding is not the goal here.

"We'd like to make sure that we are presenting a plan that our senators could get on board with, and our Congress could get on board with, that would have a better functioning," she said. But closing the department certainly does require congressional action.

## Denver schools sue Trump admin

Denver (US), Feb. 13: Denver Public Schools became the first US school district Wednesday to sue the Trump administration challenging its policy allowing ICE immigration agents in schools.

Colorado's largest public school district argued in the federal lawsuit that the

policy has forced schools to divert vital educational resources and caused attendance to plummet.

"DPS is hindered in fulfilling its mission of providing education and life services to the students who are refraining from attending DPS schools for fear of immigration en-

forcement actions occurring on DPS school grounds," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit against the department of homeland security secretary Kristi Noem says the Trump administration hasn't provided good reason for rescinding the rules nor adequately considered or addressed the fallout. Last month, Trump lifted longtime rules restricting immigration enforcement near sensitive locations, including schools. It came as the new president seeks to make good on campaign promises to carry out mass deportations.

President Trump a victory in his efforts to drastically slash the government workforce.

US District Judge George O'Toole, who had temporarily paused the plan last week, lifted his restraining order on the mass buyout offer.

"Three great weeks, perhaps the best ever, but today is the big one: reciprocal tariffs!!! Make America great again!!!!" Trump wrote.

## Hamas to free three hostages tomorrow

Cairo, Feb. 13: Hamas said on Thursday it would release three more Israeli hostages as planned, paving the way toward resolving a major dispute over the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Hamas had threatened to delay the next release of captives, accusing Israel of failing to meet its obligations to allow in tents and shelters, among other alleged violations of the truce.

Israel, with the support of US President Donald Trump, had threatened to renew its offensive if hostages were not freed. There was no immediate comment from Israel on Hamas' announcement, but it should allow the ceasefire to continue for now, though the future of the truce remains in doubt.

Hamas said its delegation held talks in Cairo with Egyptian officials and was in contact with Qatar's Prime Minister about bringing into Gaza more shelters, medical supplies, fuel and heavy equipment for clearing rubble — its key demand in recent days.

It said in a statement

## U.S. AID FREEZE SHUTS SYRIAN HEALTH CLINICS

Sarmada (Syria), Feb. 13: In the town of Sarmada in northern Syria, Dr Mohammad Fares unlocked a clinic that once bustled with patients. Now it's empty, and shelves of medicine reduced to a few boxes of bandages and expired drugs.

This is what it looks like after the Trump administration halted US foreign assistance last month. The US Agency for International Development, USAID, issued stop-work orders during a 90-day review.

that the mediators had pledged to "remove all hurdles."

Shortly after the announcement, Hamas spokesman Abdul Latif al-Qanun confirmed to *The Associated Press* by phone that three hostages will be released on Saturday.



Relatives and supporters of Israeli hostages held in Gaza since the October 7, 2023 attacks, block Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv during a protest calling for the release of all hostages, on Thursday.

## U.S. EGG PRICES AT RECORD \$5 OVER BIRD FLU

Omaha (US), Feb. 13: Egg prices hit a record high as the US contends with an ongoing bird flu outbreak, but consumers didn't need government figures to tell them eggs are terribly expensive and hard to find at times. The latest monthly consumer price index showed that the average price of a dozen Grade A eggs in US cities reached \$4.95 in January, eclipsing the previous record of \$4.82 set two years earlier and more than double \$2.04, recorded in August 2023.

## JURASSIC | DISCOVERY Study was published in latest issue of the journal Nature

# Oldest fossil sheds light on bird origin

Beijing, Fuzhou, Feb. 13: A short-tailed bird fossil, stated to be the oldest dating back about 150 million years, was discovered by Chinese scientists in east China's Fujian Province shedding a new light on the origin of the birds, official media here reported on Thursday.

The fossilised bird *Baminiornis zhenghensis* was discovered in Zhenghe County, Fujian Province. Its short tail ends in a compound bone called the pygostyle, a feature uniquely present in modern birds.

This indicates that the body structure of modern birds emerged in the Late Jurassic Period, 20 million years earlier than previously known, state-run *Xinhua* news reported.

This suggests that birds might have originated earlier than previously thought, according to the report. The bird displays a unique combination of traits, including modern bird-like shoulder and pelvic girdles, as well as a non-avian dinosaurs-like hand, which is a very interesting and contradictory phenomenon, Wang Min, a researcher with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and the

This is a groundbreaking discovery. It overturns the previous situation that *Archaeopteryx* was the only bird found in the Jurassic Period.

— ZHOU ZHONGHE, Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences

leading scientist of the research team said.

"This is a groundbreaking discovery. It overturns the previous situation that *Archaeopteryx* was the only bird found in the Jurassic Period," claimed Zhou Zhonghe, an academician of CAS.

Based on the new discovery, scientists speculate that the emergence of the earliest birds could be traced back to an even earlier time, possibly 172 million to 164 million years ago, according to Wang.

The study, conducted by researchers from IVPP and the Fujian Institute of Geological Survey, was published in the latest issue of the journal *Nature*.

While it is well established that birds evolved from dinosaurs, the timing of this transition has long been debated.

Some studies suggest that birds' earliest diversification occurred during the Jurassic Period. *Archaeopteryx*, often considered the earliest known, and arguably the only Jurassic bird, has been focus of this debate.

## FRANCE VOTES TO BAN SINGLE-USE E-CIGARETTES

Paris, Feb. 13: The French parliament on Thursday voted to ban single-use electronic cigarettes, gateways to tobacco addiction for teenagers and harmful to the environment.

The bill was approved by the French Parliament with a final vote in the Senate upper house. France now becomes the second EU country after Belgium to have introduced such a ban. Pre-filled disposable e-cigarettes, known as "puffs", are popular with young people.

## Europe warns Trump against Ukraine deal 'behind our backs'

Brussels, Feb. 13: Blindsided Europeans warned on Thursday that a "dirty deal" between US President Donald Trump and Moscow on ending the Ukraine war was doomed to fail — insisting they and Kyiv must have a seat at the negotiating table.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday the US should agree on a joint plan to stop Russia before talks with Moscow. He said it was "not very pleasant" that Trump had called Putin first before speaking to him, adding the US President had said he wanted to speak to both together.

Meeting Nato partners the day after Trump revealed he had agreed to start peace talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin, Pentagon



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, speaks to the press, on Thursday.

## Trump peace push not anti-Ukraine: US

Brussels, Feb. 13: Donald Trump's defence chief denied on Thursday the US president was betraying Ukraine by opening talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

"There is no betrayal there. There is a recognition that the whole world and the United States is invested and interested in peace," US secretary of

defence Pete Hegseth said ahead of a meeting with his Nato counterparts in Brussels.

Hegseth on Wednesday had laid out a string of United States expectations to halt the conflict, saying it was not realistic for Ukraine to either regain all its land or become a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation member.

rettable" that Washington was already making "concessions" to the Kremlin.

In a blunt address to reporters at Nato talks in

## Af refugee's car rams Munich crowd, held

Munich, Feb. 13: Some 28 people were hurt when a car driven by an Afghan asylum seeker ploughed into a crowd in Munich on Thursday in what the state premier said was probably an attack, putting security back in focus before next week's federal election.

The suspected attack also came hours before international leaders, including US Vice-President J.D. Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy were due to arrive in the southern German city for the Munich Security Conference.

Police said a white car had approached police vehicles that were accompanying a demonstration

of striking workers, before speeding up and hitting people. "One shot was fired at the suspect and it was unclear if he was wounded," police added.

Officers detained the 24-year-old driver. His motive was unclear.

"It was probably an attack," Bavaria state premier Markus Soeder told reporters. Bavarian interior minister Joachim Herrmann said the suspect had been known to police for drug and shoplifting offences. Immigration and security issues have dominated campaigning ahead of the February 23 election, especially after other violent incidents in recent weeks, with polls showing

the centre-right conservatives leading followed by the far right.

In December, six people were killed in an attack on a Christmas market in Magdeburg and last month a toddler and adult were killed in a knife attack in the Bavarian town of Aschaffenburg. Immigrants have been arrested over both attacks.

Conservative Friedrich Merz, frontrunner to be Germany's next chancellor, said safety would be his top priority.

"We will enforce law and order. Everyone must feel safe in our country again. Something has to change in Germany," Merz posted on X.



Members of the emergency services work at the scene where a car drove into a crowd in the southern German city of Munich, on Thursday.

## ASYLUM ATTACK PLOT: SUSPECT HELD

Berlin, Feb. 13: Police have arrested a suspect over a plot to bomb a German asylum seeker shelter, prosecutors said on Thursday, amid an inflamed debate on migration ahead of a general election.

Prosecutors in Dresden said they had "received an anonymous tip-off on February 12 that a 21-year-old German man from the Meissen area had armed himself with explosives to carry out an attack on a shelter for asylum seekers in Senftenberg".

## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	76138.97	-0.04
Nifty 50	23,031.40	-0.06
S&P 500*	6,061.35	0.15
Dollar (₹)	86.88	-0.01
Pound Sterling (₹)	108.55	0.38
Euro (₹)	90.57	0.49
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	85,845.364	0.43
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	74.55	-0.84
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.712	0.015
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.597	-0.037

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

### Natco share price slumps 20% on decline in Q3 net

Shares of NATCO Pharma on Thursday slumped 20 per cent after the firm reported a 37.75 per cent decline in consolidated net profit in December quarter. The stock tanked 19.99 per cent to settle at ₹973.4 on the BSE. Intra-day, it hit the lower circuit limit of ₹973.35. At the NSE, it cracked 19.99 per cent to ₹975.05 - the lower circuit limit. The company's market valuation eroded ₹4,356.85 crore to ₹17,434.55 crore.



### Chevron plans to set up innovation centre in India

Energy giant Chevron is setting up an engineering and innovation centre in India, its second biggest in the world, as it looks to tap country's engineering and technology talent to support its global operations, its India head Akshay Sahni said. The centre in Bengaluru will do works ranging from understanding geology for oil and gas production and carbon storage to developing digital twins for oil refineries.

### BHEL bags order for installing steam generator

BHEL has bagged an order for installing steam generator (boiler) island package at 2x660 MW Raghunathpur thermal power station Phase-II, in West Bengal. The order has been placed by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) through the international competitive bidding (ICB), the company said in a statement. BHEL is already executing the turbine and generator package of this project.

### Bharat Forge inks deal to set up aerospace facility

Bharat Forge has formed a strategic partnership with French firm Liebherr-Aerospace & Transportation SAS to establish an advanced aerospace manufacturing facility in Pune to cater to global industry demand. The proposed facility will feature a ring mill that incorporates advanced forging and machining technologies to produce high-precision components and is planned to be operational within this year, it said.

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## Deeply invested in India on AI prowess: Google official

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Conditions are ripe for India to be at the forefront of AI, and that Google is deeply aligned to the country's vision of having indigenous foundational models, said Karan Bhatia, Google's global head of government affairs and public policy. He expressed optimism that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing visit to Washington DC will further cement bilateral relationship, and lead to greater collaboration between India and the US, on AI.

Bhatia asserted that the company is already deeply invested and engaged in India's vision of having indigenous foundational models, and is excited to be a partner in the country's tech journey. "On what makes us optimistic about India, is not just a matter of localised talent... not just things like the language diversity... it is also the evidence that we've got that Indians are very excited about AI," Bhatia said.

### REALTY PLAYERS RAISE ₹22,320 CR FROM QIPs IN 2024

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Real estate developers raised about ₹22,320 crore last calendar year by selling equity shares to investors through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route, according to Anarock.

Real estate consultant Anarock data showed that the total fund raised through the QIP route across all sectors peaked in 2024 with 99 issues raising nearly ₹1,41,482 crore.

Real estate was a dominant contributor with 8 developers and 1 REIT collectively raising ₹22,320 crore, a 16 per cent share in the overall fundraising through QIP.

"Despite market fluctuations, capital markets remain robust, and companies continue to attract strategic investments," said Anarock chairman Anuj Puri.

Institutional investors remain extremely bullish on real estate sector's growth potential, he added.

Puri said the robust financial positioning supports the massive influx of upcoming real estate developments.

As per the data, the overall fundraising via QIPs across sectors in 2024 was 75 per cent higher than previous high of ₹80,816 crore in 2020. — PTI

### Sebi's new platform to widen access to government securities

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, FEB. 13

Sebi's recent decision to permit registered stockbrokers to access the negotiated dealing system-order matching (NDS-OM) platform through separate business units (SBUs) is a significant step towards democratising the government securities market, say experts.

Historically, access to NDS-OM was limited to entities like banks, fund managers, creating barriers for retail investors.

#### MORE REASONS

## OpenAI, Musk's xAI to launch new AI models

San Francisco, Feb. 13: OpenAI is nearing the release of a new AI model called GPT-4.5 after hitting stumbling blocks in developing the artificial intelligence (AI) system last year.

In a series of posts on social network X, OpenAI chief executive Officer Sam Altman said the model, which the company has referred to as Orion internally, would come in a matter of weeks. The release of GPT-4.5 will mark the end of an era of sorts for OpenAI.

**BIG MARKET**

**GOOGLE INDIA** renews lease agreement for nearly 1.11 lakh sq ft office space in Mumbai at ₹3.55 crore per month rent.

**GOOGLE ENGAGED** in India's vision of having indigenous foundational AI models.

**GOOGLE CLOUD** India too renews lease for office space at ₹1.24 cr per month in Mumbai.

**PM NARENDRA MODI'S** visit to Washington DC will cement an already-strong bilateral relationship between India and US.

His comments assume significance coming as they do in the backdrop of AI events in the world, which has been buzzing ever since DeepSeek stunned the industry with its AI model.

India has declared its intent to build its very own AI model with New Delhi exuding confidence that the indigenous foundational model will indeed be able to compete with the best across the globe.

Citing a recent global survey done in partnership with Ipsos, he said

the findings had revealed that positive perceptions about AI and its economic impact in India were substantially higher than the global average. Bhatia said the case is strong for India to have indigenous large language models, given the diversity of languages, the desire to build tools that really meet local needs and demands.

"We worry about AI being delayed by regulations that prescribe different requirements in different jurisdictions," he pointed out. — PTI

## Capex deployed via PLI to hit ₹1.8 L-cr

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, FEB. 13

By the end of FY25, the manufacturers availing production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and design-linked incentive (DLI) scheme would have deployed ₹1.8 lakh crore of capex. The scheme has generated direct and indirect employment for 9.5 lakh individuals.

Of total expected capex of around ₹4 lakh crore to be incurred by corporates, ₹1.5 lakh crore invested as of August 2024.

ICRA expects that by March 2025, this will go up to ₹1.8 lakh crore or 45 per cent of the total estimated capex for the scheme.

Around 50 per cent of this deployed capex has come from sectors like solar PV modules, specialty steel, automobile and auto components. Due to high capex requirements and long gestation periods, they are expected to start major commercial production from FY26.

The current capex deployment has led to incremental sales of around ₹12.5 lakh crore as of August 2024, which is 30-35 per cent of the total incremental sales of ₹35-40 lakh crore anticipated from the incentive-linked scheme.



As of August, exports have surpassed ₹4 lakh crore with significant contributions from sectors such as large-scale electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and telecom and networking products.

The scheme has generated direct and indirect employment for 9.5 lakh individuals.

Local production of raw materials for processed food has generated additional off-farm employment opportunities, which has resulted in employment for 2.9 lakh people, accounting for 30 per cent of the total employment generated from the PLI scheme.

By FY25, 11 per cent of the capital outlay by the government or ₹32,600 crore is expected to be utilised. This could go up to 16 per cent or ₹49,000 crore by FY26.

## Adani pulls out of wind projects in Sri Lanka

Plan under scrutiny of new President Anura Kumara Dissanayake

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Adani Green Energy, the renewable arm of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate, has withdrawn from two proposed wind power projects in Sri Lanka, following the island nation's new government deciding to renegotiate tariffs.

"Adani Green Energy has conveyed its Board's decision to respectfully withdraw from further engagement in the renewable energy (RE) wind energy project and two transmission projects in Sri Lanka," the firm said in a statement.

The company was to invest a total of \$1 billion in generating electricity from wind at two projects and laying transmission lines to take it to users.

The plan came under the scrutiny of newly elected administration under President Anura Kumara Dissanayake who wanted to reduce electricity costs.

"However, we remain committed to Sri Lanka and are open to future collaboration if the government of Sri Lanka so desires," AGEL said.

Adani group, however, continues to be invested in a \$700 million terminal project at Sri Lanka's largest port in Colombo. AEGNL was originally

**ROUGH PATCH**

IT WAS TO DEVELOP TWO WIND FARMS IN SRI LANKA WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 484 MW AT AN INVESTMENT OF **\$740 MN**

**PROJECT** had a rough start due to legal challenges in Sri Lanka's Supreme Court over ecological concerns.

**NEW GOVERNMENT** begins investigation following an indictment against Adani group founder chairman Gautam Adani and associates in a US Court.

**IN MAY LAST YEAR**, Sri Lanka's previous government agrees to purchase power from the proposed Adani wind plant at \$0.0826 per kilowatt-hour.

**IN JAN.**, the Sri Lanka's new administration revokes Adani's power purchase deal.

- NEW GOVERNMENT decides to renegotiate tariffs.
- ADANI GROUP continues to invest in \$700-mn terminal project at Colombo port.



supposed to develop two wind farms with a total capacity of 484 megawatts in Sri Lanka, with an investment of \$740 million.

The project, slated for completion by mid-2026, had a rough start with opposition from environmental groups and legal challenges in Sri Lanka's Supreme Court over ecological concerns.

In May last year, Sri Lanka's previous government agreed to purchase power from the proposed Adani wind plant at \$0.0826 per kilowatt-hour. The new government

began investigating the contract following an indictment against the Adani group founder chairman Gautam Adani and his key associates in a US Court for allegedly paying bribes to Indian officials to secure contracts to supply renewable energy in the country.

In January, the new administration revoked Adani's power purchase and began investigations. Thereafter it opted to review and renegotiate the terms to bring the cost below \$0.06 per unit. Unable to meet the

demand, the Adani group has withdrawn from the project. The group conveyed its decision to the Sri Lankan government saying it learnt that a Cabinet-appointed negotiations committee and project committee would be constituted to renegotiate the project proposal.

The Board of AGEL board deliberated on the issue and decided that while the company fully respects the sovereign rights of Sri Lanka and its choices, it would respectfully withdraw from the said project. — PTI

## Brazil nixes BRICS common currency idea for global trade

Brasilia, Feb. 13: Brazil's BRICS presidency this year will not advance a common currency for the group of major developing economies this year, four government officials said, but its agenda may pave the way for less reliance on the U.S. dollar in global trade.

That agenda could draw the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump, who has twice in recent months warned the BRICS group, founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and not to challenge dominance of dollar.

"There is no chance that BRICS will replace the U.S. dollar in international trade, or anywhere else, and any country that tries should say hello to tariffs, and goodbye to America!" Trump wrote on social media last month.

The Brazilian officials, who requested anonymity to discuss plans, said the idea of a shared currency

to replace the dollar, floated by Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and others at BRICS summits, has never entered technical discussions.

The sources said Brazil is instead pushing reforms within BRICS to ease international payments in local currencies, opening the door to less dependence on dollar for global trade, although they said that is not main objective.

"It's not directed against anyone," said one source, who stressed the focus was on reducing friction for global trade.

The agenda includes studying technologies such as blockchain and linking payment systems to cut transaction costs, following standards set by multilateral bodies like the Bank for International Settlements, sources said. "No one wants to create

trouble, but BRICS countries also don't want to abandon the idea of exploring this possibility," said another source, adding that no member countries intend to eliminate their dollar reserves.

Even Lula has backed off the idea of a new currency for the bloc, while still defending the BRICS nations' right to discuss establishing forms of trade that do not make us fully dependent on the U.S. dollar."

Last week, Brazil's finance ministry and central bank discussed their proposals for BRICS presidency this year, including cross-border payment initiatives, sources said.

BRICS representatives will meet in South Africa this month on sidelines of G20 meetings, where Brazil will present its plan for BRICS summit in July, the sources added. — Reuters



### GOLD PRICE TOUCHES ₹88,100 FOR 10 GM ON STEADY DEMAND

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Gold prices rose ₹140 to ₹88,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid strong trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹87,960 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity went up ₹140 to ₹87,700 per 10 grams from the previous close of ₹87,560 per 10 grams.

"Gold recovered from a recent swing bottom and traded higher on Thursday, as haven demand remains intact in response to multiple disruptive tariff announcements by the US President Trump that are scheduled to be implemented shortly," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Silver prices also jumped ₹800 to ₹98,000 per kg on Thursday. The white metal had settled at ₹97,200 per kg in previous trading session. — PTI

### SALES OF PASSENGER VEHICLES UP 1.6% TO 3.99L UNITS IN JAN.

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches from companies to dealerships witnessed an increase of 1.6 per cent year-on-year in January at 3.99 lakh units from 3.93 lakh units in same month a year ago driven by robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said.

It was the highest-ever passenger vehicle dispatch for January.

Utility vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers rose 6 per cent to 2.12 lakh units last month as against 2 lakh units in January 2024.

Total two-wheeler dispatches increased by 2.1 per cent year-on-year at 15.26 lakh units last month as against 14.95 lakh units in January 2024, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said. — PTI

## Markets continue to see volatility

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, FEB. 13

Market's bumpy ride continued amid PM Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump meeting outcome expectations, fresh macroeconomic data released on inflation from India and US inflation rising which impacted IT stocks after overnight fall in the US market as rate cut hopes faded.

The domestic market lower consumer price inflation of 4.2 per cent led to better performance by rate sensitive sectors but later saw profit taking.

#### BEARISH TREND

INDICES fall for 7th consecutive session after intraday gains were erased towards market close.

SENSEX closed 32.11 points lower at 76,138.97 while Nifty-50 shed 13.85 points closing at 23,031.40.

Sensex and Nifty-50 fell for the seventh consecutive session after intraday gains were erased towards market close, leading to a flat close. Sensex closed 32.11 points

lower at 76,138 while Nifty-50 shed 13.85 points closing at 23,031. The broader market BSE small-cap index fell 0.43 per cent while mid-cap index gained 0.07 per cent.

DIIS NET buyers of equities worth ₹2,934.5 cr while FPIs net sold equities worth ₹2789.91 crore.

SENSEX closed 32.11 points lower at 76,138.97 while Nifty-50 shed 13.85 points closing at 23,031.40.

Nifty-50 shed 13.85 points closing at 23,031. The broader market BSE small-cap index fell 0.43 per cent while mid-cap index gained 0.07 per cent.

#### Altman says goal is to simplify experience so users are not forced to choose from list of tools

#### EFFICIENT BOTS

OPENAI embraces reasoning approach with some of its newer models, including o1 and o3.

AI START-UP to combine its GPT models with newer o-series of models to build AI systems.

ruminate over a query before spitting to an answer.

The goal, he said, is to simplify the experience so users aren't forced to

#### ELON MUSK praises upcoming Grok 3 chatbot as an AI model outperforming everything else.

ings have gotten," Altman wrote. "We hate the model picker as much as you do."

Altman also said OpenAI is moving forward with a GPT-5 model for later this year that will pull together much of the company's AI technology.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk praised his upcoming Grok 3 chatbot as an AI model outperforming everything else that's been released thus far, and said the world would get to see it in a matter of weeks.

"At times I think Grok 3 is scary smart," Musk said

via video conference at World Government Summit in Dubai on Thursday.

Musk said the upcoming model from his own company, xAI, was trained on synthetic data and is capable of reflecting on mistakes that it makes by going back and forth through the data in a bid to achieve logical consistency.

"We're really in the final stages of polishing Grok 3 and probably it gets released in about a week or two pretty soon," he said. — Bloomberg

### SHORT TAKES

## Gill moves to 2nd ahead of Rohit

**Dubai:** India opener Shubman Gill gained one place to move to second spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batters with his captain Rohit Sharma at third spot on the back of timely centuries from both of them in the home series against England as they head into the Champions Trophy, beginning February 19.

The Indian duo closed in on star Pakistan batter Babar Azam who maintained a narrow lead at the top of the chart. Gill is just five rating points adrift of Babar while Rohit is within 13 rating points of the Pakistan right-hander following his splendid century (119) in Cuttack on February 9.

With just one week remaining until the start of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan and the UAE, it sets up a tight race for the premier position for batters in 50-over cricket during the eight-team tournament.

Fakhar Zaman (13th), Kane Williamson (29th), Jos Buttler (38th), Devon Conway (equal 40th) and Joe Root (51st) are among the big names to re-enter the rankings for ODI batters. — PTI

## Odisha eye 7th win against Hyd

**Bhubaneswar:** A top-six finish and a play-offs berth at stake, Odisha FC will be wary of facing Hyderabad FC in their home Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Thursday.

With 26 points in 20 matches, courtesy six victories, six losses and eight draws, Odisha FC are currently at seventh place and they would aim to notch as many wins as possible with just three matches left after Friday's game to make it to the top-6 which will allow them feature in the play-offs.

Hyderabad FC, on the other hand, have endured a struggling season, since they are currently occupying the last but one place with 16 points from 19 matches on the back of four wins and draws each.

However, they have bagged encouraging outcomes in their last five matches, winning and drawing twice each, comprising two victories in their previous three encounters.

The Juggernauts will threaten Hyderabad FC with their attacking prowess, having netted 38 goals in their 20 matches, with Diego Mauricio leading the pack. — PTI

## Jail for Schumi kin blackmailers

**Wuppertal, Germany:** Three men have been found guilty in a case of attempted blackmail against Formula 1 great Michael Schumacher's family.

The perpetrators demanded 15 million Euros (\$15.6 million) from the family to avoid releasing hundreds of private photos and videos of the family as well as digitised copies of Schumacher's medical records.

A district court in Wuppertal, western Germany, sentenced the main defendant to three years in prison, while his son received a six-month suspended sentence and a fine of 1,200 Euros, news agency DPA reported on Wednesday.

The main defendant had previous convictions. Another defendant, a former security guard for the family, received a two-year suspended sentence and a fine of 2,400 Euros for aiding and abetting the other two men.

The family has shielded Schumacher from public view since his serious skiing accident in December 2013. Schumacher was skiing in the French Alps at Meribel when he fell and his head hit a rock, resulting in a near-fatal brain injury. — AP

## Wildcards for Manas, Aryan

**Pune:** Upcoming players Manas Dhamne, Aryan Shah and Karan Singh were on Thursday handed wildcard entries for the Maha Open ATP Challenger 100 men's tennis championship in which top players from 28 countries will be seen in action here from February 16 to 23.

The tournament, to be organised by Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) in association with the department of sports and youth services in the Maharashtra government, will be held at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex at Mhalunge Balewadi.

As far as the wildcard entries are concerned, 17-year-old Dhamne is coming off a \$15000 ITF win at Monastir, Tunisia last week, 19-year-old Shah has been performing well in the last year at ITF events, and Karan, 21, made his Davis Cup debut two weeks ago. The tournament carries a total prize purse of ₹1.12 crore. The winner will receive 100 points. — PTI

# PATIDAR RAJAT RCB

## Madhya Pradesh bat to lead Royal Challengers in IPL

**Bengaluru, Feb 13:** IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday named Rajat Patidar as its captain for the upcoming season starting March 21, replacing South African Faf du Plessis who was released from the squad last year.

Patidar was among RCB's retained players before the mega auction in November, 2024 and has the experience of leading Madhya Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final where his side lost to Mumbai by five wickets last year.

The 31-year-old, who signed up with the franchise in 2022, guided Madhya Pradesh to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final where his side lost to Mumbai by five wickets last year.

"Rajat has the simplicity, (he) cares about the people around him, we have closely seen how he has led Madhya Pradesh, we really liked it," RCB chief coach Andy Flower said at the franchise event to announce Patidar's elevation.

The right-hander was also the second highest run-getter in the premier domestic T20 tournament, behind Ajinkya Rahane, scoring 428 from 10 matches at an average of 61 and a strike-rate of 186.08.

Patidar takes over from du Plessis, who was released after captaining the team from 2022 to 2024. The 40-year-old South African will play for Delhi Capitals this season.

Prior to the announcement on Thursday, there was some speculation about Virat Kohli returning as captain of the franchise. — PTI



## You've earned the right to lead, Virat tells Rajat

**Bengaluru, Feb. 13:** The talismanic Virat Kohli on Thursday backed the appointment of Rajat Patidar as Royal Challengers Bengaluru's new skipper, saying the batter has "earned the right to be in this position" with his consistency and discipline.

"I am here to inform everyone, like the others will do as well, that Rajat Patidar is going to be the new captain of RCB. Rajat, firstly I want to congratulate and wish you all the very best," Kohli, who captained the franchise from 2013 to 2021, said in a video posted by RCB.

"The way you have grown in the franchise and the way you have performed, you have really made a place in the hearts of all the fans of RCB, all over India. They get excited to watch you play. So, this is very well deserved. Myself and the other team members will be right behind you and you'll have all our support to grow into this role," Kohli added.

Patidar was among RCB's retained players before the mega auction in November, 2024 and has the experience of leading Madhya Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (ODI).

Impressed with Patidar's captaincy in the

domestic circuit, Kohli has expressed his confidence in the experienced batter taking the team forward in the coming times. "Of course it's a big responsibility. I have done this for many years, Faf (du Plessis) is done it for the last few years, and to be seen as the guy who will take this franchise forward, I am sure this is a great honour for you. I am very very happy for you. You've earned the right to be in this position. I am sure you will grow from strength to strength," he said.

"I wish him all the very best and request all the fans to support and get right behind him," Kohli added. — PTI

## NEW CAPTAIN SAYS WILL PICK KOHLI'S BRAINS

**Bengaluru, Feb. 13:** Newly-appointed Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar on Thursday said he would want to pick talisman Virat Kohli's brains to learn the nuances of leadership and stressed on the importance of "standing with players" in all circumstances.

"I'm not that much expressive, but I'm aware of the situation of the matches. So, I think it's important to back my players and stand with them in all situations, and give the sort of environment where they feel relaxed and confident," Patidar said in a press conference here.

Patidar said the experienced names in the RCB dressing room can navigate him through the challenging job of IPL captaincy. "We have a group of leaders, where their experience and ideas will definitely help in my new leadership role, and grow as an individual also. And it's a great opportunity for me to learn from one of the best of cricket (Kohli).

"I think his ideas and experience will definitely help me in my leadership role. I've done a lot of (batting) partnerships with him. I know him very well. We're looking forward to that partnership with the bat as well," he said.

Patidar also spoke of chats surrounding RCB captaincy ahead of a new season and said he was a part of it. — PTI

### CITY CLIPS

## Sreenidi, Shillong in defensive battle

Sreenidi Deccan Football Club will play their first away game of the month against Shillong Lajong FC at the SSA Stadium here on Friday. The Deccan Warriors played out a 1-1 draw against Real Kashmir at the Deccan Arena in their last game, whereas Lajong secured a 3-2 victory against Namdhari FC at home.

Assistant coach Ishant Singh, who is in charge of the Deccan Warriors, spoke about the opposition and said, "It is going to be a difficult game against a team that is very organised when in possession. We have made some changes since the last time we faced Lajong and have seen improvements in our team's defensive performance."

Emphasising the team's defensive efforts, he further added, "We have conceded almost two goals per match, and this is one area we have worked on extensively over the past month. In the last three games, we have improved in this aspect, and we will look to add another clean sheet to our tally when we face Shillong Lajong tomorrow."

Defender Emboklang Nongkhaw spoke about playing in front of his home crowd, saying, "I am excited to play against Shillong Lajong, the club where I spent my youth days. We are staying together as a family and pushing each other in training to get the best out of ourselves and help the team secure maximum points."

In the reverse fixture, the Deccan Warriors had played out a thrilling 5-5 draw against Shillong Lajong at the Deccan Arena on January 18.



Sreenidi Deccan forward Seilenthang Lotjem in action during a training session ahead of their match against Shillong Lajong.

## Bodybuilder Karmjeeth wrests gold

Hyderabad bodybuilder Karmjeeth Singh Soni won a gold medal at the Mr India Classic competition conducted by the Indian Body Building Federation in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, recently. Karmjeeth stood first in the 65 kg section, beating off competition from 12 other bodybuilders in his weight category to add to his titles from previous competitions.



Karmjeeth



Medallists at the inaugural Indian National Master Players Table Tennis Tournament held in Mumbai pose with GHMC Deputy Mayor Mothe Sriatha Shoban Reddy at a felicitation function organised by the Veteran Table Tennis Association in Lalapet, Hyderabad.

## Vasavi set to host fitness conference

The International Federation of Physical Education, Fitness and Sports Science Association (Hyderabad) along with co-host Vasavi Engineering College is organising the International Conference on Physical Education and Sports on February 15 and 16. About 30 international delegates and 350 Indian delegates will participate in the conference.

## Towns lifts NY in nick of time

**New York, Feb. 13:** Karl-Anthony Towns had scored 40 points in consecutive games for the first time in his career and was worried he might have thrown away the chance for it to come in a victory.

His turnover on an inbound pass under the basket had contributed to the Knicks blowing a six-point lead with 10 seconds left in regulation, and suddenly they were headed to overtime against the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

"I would have needed a therapist if that had ended up in an L, I'm not going to lie to you," Towns said.

It didn't, with Jalen Brunson hitting the go-ahead jumper with 11.1 seconds left as the Knicks pulled out a 149-148 victory. New York improved to 36-18, its most wins before the All-Star break since 1972-73, its last championship season.

Now the biggest worry for Towns might be having to stop playing when he's really rolling.

He heads to San

Francisco as an All-Star starter after scoring 40 points Tuesday in a victory at Indiana, followed by 44 more along with 10 rebounds Wednesday. He made seven 3-pointers, the most in his first season in New York.

"Playing that like, who wants to stop now? I'm just happy we got ourselves going into the break with momentum," Towns said. But it is true, its the worst time, right, to have something working right now.

Towns had struggled a bit recently after injuring the thumb on his shooting hand, but seems back on track. The consecutive nights with at least 40 points and 10 rebounds gave him five this season, second-most by a Knicks player behind only Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing's eight in 1989-90.

Towns joined Ewing, along with Bernard King, Carmelo Anthony and Brunson, who did it at the end of last season, as Knicks with at least 40 points in consecutive games. — AP



Detroit Pistons forward Ausar Thompson dunks during their NBA basketball game against Chicago Bulls in Chicago, USA, on Wednesday. The Pistons won the match with a 128-110 scoreline. — AP

## Services on top of Nat Games tally

**Dehradun, Feb. 13:** Services continued their dominance in the National Games as it topped the medal tally at the 38th edition in Uttarakhand, achieving the feat for the fifth time in the last six Games, after a rather low key final day of competitions here on Thursday.

Services bagged nine more medals on Thursday, including three gold, for a Games total haul of 121 (68 gold, 26 silver, 27 bronze). It had finished second behind Maharashtra in the 2023 edition in Goa.

Before that, it had topped the medal tally in four successive National Games (2007, 2011, 2015 and 2022).

Maharashtra won more medals than Services with 198 (54 gold, 71 silver, 73 bronze) but the lesser number of gold meant that it ended at second spot.

Even Haryana got more medals than Services with 153 (48 gold, 47 silver, 58 bronze) but had to be content with third-place finish. Karnataka (34 gold, 18 silver, 28 bronze) and Madhya Pradesh (33 gold, 26 silver, 23 bronze) finished at fourth and fifth positions respectively. Tamil Nadu (27 gold, 30 silver, 34 bronze), Uttarakhand (24 gold, 35 silver, 43 bronze), West Bengal (16 gold, 13 silver, 18 bronze), Punjab (15 gold, 20 silver, 31 bronze) and Delhi (15 gold, 18 silver, 29 bronze) rounded off the top-10. — PTI

## Golfer Hardik earns coveted card

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13**

Hyderabad golfer Hardik Chawda secured the prestigious 'A' card for the year at the Professional Golf Tour of India's (PGTI) Qualifying School tournament held at the Golumuri Golf Course in Jamshepur recently.

The 24-year-old is the first from Hyderabad Golf Association and among 33 players to earn full cards for the 2025 season. The 'A' card gives Hardik automatic entry to all the events hosted by PGTI.

The cut in the final round went at three-under 281 with the top 33 players earning their full cards for the season. They included five amateurs. Six foreigners (three from Bangladesh and one each from the USA, South Korea and Italy) were also among the ones who earned full cards.

"I went into the tournament with no hope which allowed me to play freely. I wanted to just execute my shots and see how the game progressed. Gradually, I got very com-



Hardik Chawda

fortable and got over the line to get the 'A' card," said an understandably elated Hardik, who has been playing on the 'B' card so far.

In the two pre-qualifying rounds, Hardik registered scores of 2-under 69 and 4-under 67 to finish seventh out of 120 players.

In the Qualifying, the Hyderabad player shot 1-under 70, 1-under 70, 2-under 69 and 1-over 72 to finish with an overall score of 3-under 281 and earn the coveted card. "I was dropping a lot of shots initially but came back strongly to finish with seven birdies to get 2-under 69. I remember I had shot 1-over last year. This is a great feeling," Hardik beamed.

The Qualifying School event saw the participation of 408 golfers, 32 of them from 15 foreign countries such as United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, Germany, Canada, Austria, Indonesia, Uganda and Nepal.

The qualifiers from the First Stage joined the 48 exempt players in the 72-hole Final Stage, which featured a field of the top 120 players. Then, the top 80 and ties made the halfway cut after two rounds of action.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LIMITED**  
Tender Notice No. 13/2024-25 (Paper Notification)

TSPDCL intends to float tenders for various contractors having experiences for "Spec.No.T-215(2024-25)- Bifurcation of existing 11 KV Mediality feeder and 11 KV Dharam feeder originating from 33/11 KV P&T SS by stringing 2.52 KM of 11 KV 55 Strmm. SCOH AAA Conductor on new proposed 11 mts PSCC poles along with extension and erection of 1 No. 11 KV feeder VCB at 33/11 KV Parvathapur SS in Narappally Section of Ghatkora Sub-Division of Keesara Division in Habsguda Circle under T&D improvements to the original works under summer Action plan-2024-25". For further details, please visit [www.tgsotherpower.com](http://www.tgsotherpower.com).

Sd/ (P. BRAHMAM)  
Superintending Engineer,  
Operation, Habsguda Circle.

DIPR No.: 10240-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
Office of the Regional Officer, Panchayath Raj Mahabubnagar  
Tender Notice

NIT No. TO/Tender/403 to 567/2024-25 Dt. 12.02.2025

No. of works (165) works Providing BT Roads & Construction of GP Building, Construction of Submerge Building and Laying of CC Roads under CRR 2024-25, CRR SCF, MRR, STSDP, PMGSY-III, SATS, TISHS & 15th FC in Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy & Jogulamb Gadwal Districts. Estimate Cost Rs. 34105.77 Lakhs. Tenders Schedules can be had from e-procurement market from 14.02.2025 for each tender with minimum (14) days to participate from date of upload. Other details can be had from e-procurement market place @ <https://tenders.telangana.gov.in> email id: se\_p\_mbrn@yahoo.co.in. Further details can be had from the office of the Superintending Engineer/Regional office PR Circle Mahabubnagar.

Sd/- Regional Officer  
PR Mahabubnagar

DIPR No.: 10221-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA STATE LIMITED**  
TENDER NOTICE No. 11/2024-25 OF DEE/OP/HABSGUDA

Sealed Tenders are invited from registered contractors for Tender SP.No.29/24-25 (General). Estimate for erection of 1 No. 100KVA A&D DTR at Anapurna colony, Main Road on 11KV SRI Nagar Feeder to give relief to 100KVA SRI Nagar DTR (1513058170) 2. Replacement of 32 Nos Damaged earthing to 16 Nos at Location Ramanthapur in Uppal Sagayath section of Uppal Sub-Division in Habsguda Division, Habsguda Circle. The last date of sale of above tenders is 14.02.2025 upto 17:00 hrs. Further information can be obtained from the O/o the Divisional Engineer/OP/Habsguda.

Contact Person: Sd/ DEE/OP/Habsguda: 9448013131  
Email ID: dehabsguda13@gmail.com

Sd/- Regional Officer  
PR Mahabubnagar

DIPR No.: 10249-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25 Sd/ DEE/OP/HABSGUDA

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LTD.**  
SCADA circle/TGSPDCL/Hyderabad-500045  
NOTIFICATION

Sd/ Anumula Lakshmi Manikanta, Artisan Grade-I (ID. No.5105189), O/o. ADE/ANM/SCADA of TGSPDCL, is under the charge of in-charge in abstaining from duty unauthorizedly with effect from 11.09.2022. Article of charges were framed against him vide Memo No.SE/SCADA/DE(T)/JAO/ADM/D.No.412/2024, dttd.06.05.2024 and was sent through proper channel by Registered Post. The same was returned by postal authorities stating that "No such person in this address". Despite repeated attempts to contact and notify the said employee, there has been no response or valid explanation for the absence.

Sd/ Anumula Lakshmi Manikanta, Artisan Grade-I is therefore directed through this notification to present himself before the Superintending Engineer/SCADA circle/TGSPDCL within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification to receive charge sheet and submit his explanation, lest it would be construed that he has got no defence to offer on the charge of his unauthorized absence and enquiry will be finalized as ex-parte on the basis of material facts available on records.

Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
SCADA Circle, TGSPDCL.

DIPR R.O. No.: 10184-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 GTS Colony, Eragadda, Hyderabad

**Directorate of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand**  
MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Durgam, Ranchi-04 Tele Fax : 0651-2331828  
Email: [dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com](mailto:dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com) / [jtdcltd@gmail.com](mailto:jtdcltd@gmail.com)

Ref. No.- 107 / 2025 TENDER NOTICE Date : 13/02/2025

Tender for Selection of An Agency for Supply of Security Service to (JTDCCL)

The Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JTDCCL), Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) undertaking intends to invite RFP for Selection of an Agency for Supply of Security Service to JTDCCL.

The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the website <https://tourism.jharkhand.gov.in> and submit their Applications. The applications Submission Date is on or before 10/03/2025 at 17:00 hours and the date of opening of the applications is on 11/03/2025 at 10.30 hours.

All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the above website.

PR 346436 Tourism, Art Culture Sd/-  
Sports And Youth Affairs(24-25).D Deputy Director

### SHORT TAKES

## Shaheen & 2 other Pak players fined

**Karachi:** International Cricket Council (ICC) has slapped Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel and Kamran Ghulam with fines and a demerit point each for their belligerent behaviour during the tri-series match against South Africa here. Shaheen was fined 25 per cent of his match fee for breaching Article 2.12 of the Code, which pertains to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match." The incident occurred in the 28th over of South Africa's innings when Shaheen deliberately obstructed batter Matthew Breetzke as he ran a single, resulting in physical contact and a heated exchange between the two players on Wednesday.

The ICC had imposed a similar 20 percent match fees fine and one demerit point on Indian star Virat Kohli for barging into Australia's Sam Konstas during the Border Gavaskar Trophy series. — PTI

## Jaiswal in Mum squad for Ranji

**Mumbai:** Flamboyant India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was on Thursday drafted into the Mumbai squad for their upcoming Ranji Trophy semifinal against Vidarbha, strengthening the domestic giants ahead of the big game in Jamtha, Nagpur. Mumbai outclassed Haryana by 152 runs in their quarterfinal match at Kolkata on Tuesday. The semifinals will be starting on February 17. Jaiswal, who made his ODI debut against England, scoring 15 in Nagpur last week and was at Ahmedabad with the Indian team for the third and final match, will join the Mumbai team in Nagpur on Friday. Jaiswal and Shivam Dube are among the non-travelling substitutes for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, meaning they will travel to Dubai only if necessary. Jaiswal was initially named in India's preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy but was omitted from the final list. The 23-year-old Jaiswal's lone Ranji Trophy appearance this season saw him score 4 and 26 in Mumbai's shocking five-wicket loss to Jammu & Kashmir. — PTI

## India lose, to play Japan in quarters

**Qingdao, China:** Indian shuttlers went down to South Korea 2-3 in a Group 'D' tie of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, but they had already made it to the quarterfinal after finishing second in the pool here on Thursday. India, who had made a sizzling start on Wednesday defeating Macau 5-0, fought till the very end before the men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy lost the deciding rubber in straight games to Jin Yong and NA Sung Seung.

The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto started the proceedings by winning opening game 21-11, but lost the next two 12-21, 15-21 to go down in 56 minutes. India's top-seeded women's player here Malvika Bansod found world No. 19 Sim Yu Jin a very tough opponent to handle, as the youngster, runner-up in the 2022 edition of the Syed Modi International, went down without a fight 9-21, 10-21 in just 27 minutes. — PTI

## Boxer Panghal turns professional

**New Delhi:** India's lone male boxer to win a world championship silver medal, Amit Panghal, has become the latest from the country to turn professional. One of India's most accomplished male boxers, the 29-year-old has signed with US-based talent management company Critical Sports and Entertainment. "Critical Sports and Entertainment is proud to announce the signing of world-renowned Olympian boxer Amit Panghal," the agency wrote in an Instagram post.

The Haryana boxer, who competes in the 51kg category in the amateur circuit, is yet to be allocated his maiden professional fight. — PTI

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# TRAVEL CHECK

## No cricketers' families for Champions Trophy

**New Delhi, Feb. 13:** Families will not be accompanying the Indian cricket players heading to Dubai on February 15 for the ICC Champions Trophy as the BCCI's new travel policy comes into effect for the first time with this tournament.

The Indian team starts its campaign in Dubai against Bangladesh on February 20, followed by the marquee clash against arch-rivals Pakistan (February 23) and the final preliminary face-off with New Zealand on March 2.

The Rohit Sharma-led squad will play its games in Dubai while the rest of the tournament unfolds from February 19 in Pakistan across three venues.

Given that the duration of the tour is just over three weeks even if the final on March 9 is taken into consideration, the BCCI will not allow families to accompany the players. As per the new policy, families can be with players for a maximum of two weeks during a tour which is of 45 days or more.

"If anything changes then it is different but as of now, the players are unlikely to be accompanied by their wives or partners for this tour. One of the senior players had enquired about it and he was told that the policy decision will be followed," a senior BCCI source said on Thursday.

"Since the tour is of less than one month, families won't be accompanying the players. But if exceptions are made, I think that individual will have to bear the full expenses as BCCI won't be covering any cost," he added.

The BCCI policy document states: "Players absent from India for more than 45 days during overseas tours can be joined by their partners and children (under 18) for one visit per series (format wise) of up to a two-week period.

"Any deviation from this policy must be pre-approved by the coach, captain and GM Operations. Additional expenses outside the visitors' period will not be covered by the BCCI."

However, families will be there with the team during the five-Test tour of England in June-July-August as the five-Test. The window for their two-week stay during the trip will be worked out later. — PTI



India's Shreyas Iyer (from left), Ravindra Jadeja and Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrate with trophy after winning the One Day International series against England in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. India won the series 3-0. — DEBASISH DEY

## Iyer important cog for India: Coach

**Ahmedabad, Feb. 13:** India head coach Gautam Gambhir has rubbished speculation that Shreyas Iyer was being side-lined from the ODI set-up despite his brilliant form, saying that the consistent right-hander was always in the "scheme of things" and will be an important player in this month's Champions Trophy.

Iyer displayed excellent form during the just-concluded 3-0 ODI series sweep against England, hitting a counter-attacking 36-ball 59 in the opener when India were 19/2 chasing 249 in Nagpur, and scoring 44 and 78 in the next two games. After the opening match, he created quite a stir by stating that he got into the side only after Virat Kohli had to sit out of the game because of a sore knee. This led to speculation that he would be dropped for Kohli in the next two games.

"He wasn't supposed to be benched throughout the series. We wanted to give Yashasvi (Jaiswal) a go in the first game and see what he can bring on the table because he was in (a) really good form in Australia," Gambhir said after the third and final match here on Wednesday.

Iyer was preferred over Jaiswal eventually and Gambhir described him as an "important player" in



India captain Rohit Sharma holds the trophy after winning the ODI series against England. — AP

the side. "I know that you can't judge someone (Jaiswal) by one innings. But we always knew that Shreyas was going to be an important player for us. Sometimes when you've only got three games, you want to try and rotate your squad as well. "(And) when you've got Champions Trophy around the corner, you want to try and maximise these three games and try and give everyone an opportunity. But Shreyas was always in the scheme of things (and it is) good that he played all the three games," Gambhir added.

### HARSHIT & ARSHDEEP WILL HAVE TO STEP UP

Someone's missed opportunity is another person's golden chance, believes Gambhir, who expects the likes of Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh to step up and fill the void created by star pacer Jasprit Bumrah's injury-forced absence from the Champions Trophy.

"Someone missing out opportunity could be a great opportunity for someone else as well, that is how sport goes. Hopefully, these guys (Rana, Arshdeep and Mohammed Shami) can deliver and put their hand up and do the job for the team," he said. — PTI



From left Captains Ashleigh Gardner (Gujarat Giants), Deepti Sharma (UP Warrioz), Meg Lanning (Delhi Capitals), Smriti Mandhana (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and Harmanpreet Kaur (Mumbai Indians) pose with the Women's Premier League trophy on Thursday.

## RCB take on GG as WPL kicks off today

**Vadodara, Feb. 13:** The Women's Premier League is set to continue nurturing India's emerging cricket talent while showcasing top-tier international players as the third edition kicks off with defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru taking on Gujarat Giants here on Friday.

While the global superstars have brought immense value to the competition, the league's true success lies in the rise of

domestic players. The first two seasons witnessed several domestic talents like Shreyanka Patil and Saika Ishaque thrive under pressure, earning national call-ups and making their India debuts.

With each WPL season, the list of emerging Indian players continues to grow. With overseas stars like Alyssa Healy, Sophie Molineux and Kate Cross missing this edition due to injuries, the upcoming season presents a golden opportunity for both

experienced domestic players and fresh talent to shine. "Even before the auctions, we discussed that a lot of domestic cricketers have done really well, and everyone had names in their minds to watch out for. We are really hoping they do well and that the Indian team becomes stronger," Harmanpreet Kaur said.

Out-of-favour India opener Shafali Verma, who has been in good form in the domestic circuit, will be eager to deliver for Delhi

Capitals as she looks to make a comeback to the national team, with a tour of England in July and the ODI World Cup at home on the horizon.

Fast-bowling allrounder Kashvee Gautam, who made headlines in domestic cricket, will have the chance to prove herself against the best. The tournament has introduced two new venues — Vadodara and Lucknow — marking a step toward implementing a full-fledged home-and-away

format similar to the IPL.

**SISODIA FOR MI, PARWEEN FOR RCB**

Mumbai Indians have picked Parunika Sisodia as a replacement for an injured allrounder Pooja Vastrakar for the Women's Premier League, the franchise said on Thursday.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, meanwhile, opted for keeper-batter Nuzhat Parween as replacement for injured wrist spinner Asha Sobhana. — PTI

### Women's Premier League 2025

Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, UP Warrioz

Match	Date	Match
1	Feb 14	Gujarat Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru
2	Feb 15	Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals
3	Feb 16	Gujarat Giants vs UP Warrioz
4	Feb 17	Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru
5	Feb 18	Gujarat Giants vs Mumbai Indians
6	Feb 19	UP Warrioz vs Delhi Capitals
7	Feb 21	Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Mumbai Indians
8	Feb 22	Delhi Capitals vs UP Warrioz
9	Feb 24	Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs UP Warrioz
10	Feb 25	Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Giants
11	Feb 26	Mumbai Indians vs UP Warrioz
12	Feb 27	Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Giants
13	Feb 28	Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians
14	Mar 1	Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals
15	Mar 3	UP Warrioz vs Gujarat Giants
16	Mar 6	UP Warrioz vs Mumbai Indians
17	Mar 7	Gujarat Giants vs Delhi Capitals
18	Mar 8	UP Warrioz vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru
19	Mar 10	Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Giants
20	Mar 11	Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Mar 13 2nd placed team vs ELIMINATOR 3rd placed team  
Mar 15 1st placed team vs FINAL winner of the eliminator

Matches will start at 7:30 pm IST

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

## Kane wins it for Bayern Munich

**Paris, Feb. 13:** Harry Kane was on target as Bayern Munich beat Celtic 2-1 in Glasgow in the first leg of their Champions League play-off on Wednesday, while there were also wins for Benfica, Feyenoord and Club Brugge.

Bayern are hoping to go all the way to this season's final, which will be played at their own Allianz Arena in Munich on May 31.

They threatened to run riot against the Scottish champions at Celtic Park as they dominated the first half and took the lead just before the interval thanks to a superb Michael Olise strike.

Bayern's second goal came just four minutes after half-time, with the unmarked Kane scoring with a cushioned finish at the back post following a corner. It was Kane's seventh goal in this season's Champions League, and his 29th in 29 games in all competitions.

However, the Bundesliga leaders took their foot off the pedal after that, allowing Celtic — who had a first-minute Nicolas Kuehn goal disallowed for offside — to come back into the game.

Brendan Rodgers' team pulled one back as Daizen Maeda scored following a corner with 11 minutes left, but they could not find an equaliser.

"It's cliché to say, but it's the first half of the game. Overall, it's a really great result," said Bayern coach Vincent Kompany, according to the BBC.

Celtic's first home defeat since December 2023 leaves them facing a huge task to try to turn the tie around in Germany next Tuesday, with the winners going through to face either Bayer Leverkusen or Atletico Madrid in the last 16.

"It's only a one goal dif-

### THE RESULTS

**KNOCKOUT PHASE**  
**PLAY-OFFS, FIRST LEG**

Celtic (Maeda 79)	1
Bayern Munich (Olise 45, Kane 49)	2
Feyenoord (Paixao 3)	1
AC Milan	0
Club Brugge (Jutgla 15, Nilsson 90+4-pen)	2
Atalanta (Pasalic 41)	1
Monaco	0
Benfica (Pavlidis 48)	1

ference. It's a big challenge, we know that but it's still a possibility," insisted Rodgers.

### CONTROVERSY IN BRUGES

Elsewhere, Vangelis Pavlidis scored the only goal as Benfica won 1-0 away to Monaco, as the home side were forced to play much of the second half with 10 men.

Benfica had won 3-2 in Monaco in the league phase in November and they came out on top again at the Stade Louis II thanks to a Pavlidis strike just after half-time.

It was the Greek international's sixth goal in his team's last five Champions League outings, a run which includes a hat-trick in the dramatic 5-4 loss to Barcelona last month.

Monaco had Libyan midfielder Moatasem Al-Musrati sent off in the 52nd minute, when the recent signing from Besiktas gestured to the referee calling for a yellow card after his teammate Brel Embolo had been fouled, only to be handed a second caution himself. — AFP

### PREMIER LEAGUE



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) celebrates after scoring against Everton during their English Premier League match in Liverpool on Wednesday. — AP

## Toffees strike late to hold Liverpool

**Liverpool, Feb. 13:** James Tarkowski struck in the 98th minute to salvage a 2-2 draw for Everton against Liverpool in a dramatic final Merseyside derby at Goodison Park on Wednesday. Liverpool edge seven points clear at the top of the Premier League but were denied a vital win by Tarkowski's blistering strike after Mohamed Salah put Arne Slot's men in front.

Abdoulaye Doucoure, Curtis Jones and Slot were then sent off as tempers flared at the final whistle on a night Liverpool will come to regret if they do not go on to lift a record-equalling 20th English top flight title.

Everton are set to move to a new 53,000 capacity stadium in Liverpool's Bramley Moore Dock

next season and gave their home since 1892 a night to remember against their local rivals. Liverpool's quest for a quadruple came unstuck with a shock FA Cup exit to second-tier strugglers Plymouth on Sunday.

Slot made 10 changes as he resorted to his strongest available side with Salah and Virgil van Dijk among those who had been afforded the weekend off.

Everton's own FA Cup exit to Bournemouth on Saturday had punctured some of their momentum since David Moyes' return for a second spell in charge.

The Toffees had won their previous three Premier League games to pull nine points clear of the relegation zone and got off to a flying start. — AFP

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