



WAKE UP



TELANGANA

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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Telangana HC dismisses drone case against CM Revanth: P8

McDonald's chooses Hyderabad to set up global capability centre with 2,000 people: P8

Congress Budget Betrays T'gana, Says KTR: P8



Brief Insights

ED attaches Rs. 51.29 lakh worth property in HCA



The Hyderabad zonal unit of Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable property worth Rs.51.29 lakh under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)-2002 in the case of misappropriation of funds of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) by its office bearers. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of several FIRs registered by HCA against its office bearers for misappropriation of funds sanctioned for construction of the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium at Uppal as well as for misappropriation of funds in the procurement of cricket balls, gym equipment and bucket **CONTINUE:P5**

Tension in Odisha's Ganjam District After Sorcery-Linked Killings



Tension gripped Kharipalli village in the Dharakote block of Ganjam district, Odisha, following a violent group clash over allegations of sorcery that left three people dead and three others critically injured. According to sources, the confrontation erupted after a group of villagers accused Khadal Behera and his son, Ratnakar Behera, of practicing sorcery. A verbal altercation quickly escalated into violence, resulting in the brutal killing of Khadal and Ratnakar Behera. Another villager, identified as Ramesh Behera, was also killed amid the retaliatory violence. Three other individuals sustained critical injuries and were rushed to the hospital after police arrived at the scene. The situation in the village remains tense, with authorities detaining around ten individuals in connection with the incident. A forensic team is expected to arrive shortly to assist with the investigation, but officials have yet to release further details. This incident follows a similar case earlier this month in Odisha's Bolangir district, where a clash over allegations of witchcraft in Atgaon village led to the beheading of 40-year-old Sushant Bag and left four others critically injured. Violence related to sorcery accusations continues to be a pressing issue in parts of Odisha, **CONTINUE:P5**

Sunita Williams, a Trailblazer and an Icon: PM Modi

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended a warm welcome to NASA astronaut Sunita Williams and her fellow Crew-9 members upon their return to Earth after an extended mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). "Welcome back, Crew-9! The Earth missed you," Modi posted on X, praising their resilience and determination.



NASA astronauts Sunita Williams, Nick Hague, and Butch Wilmore, along with Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, returned to Earth early

Wednesday aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft. The capsule successfully splashed down off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida.

For Williams and Wilmore, originally test pilots for Boeing's Starliner capsule, an eight-day mission turned into a grueling nine-month stay in space due to technical malfunctions. A series of helium leaks and thruster failures rendered their spacecraft

unsafe, forcing its uncrewed return in September. Acknowledging their perseverance, Modi stated, "Theirs has been a test of grit, courage, and the boundless human spirit. Sunita Williams and the #Crew9 astronauts have once again demonstrated what perseverance truly means. Their unwavering determination in the face of the vast unknown will forever inspire millions."

Sunita Williams returns to Earth, after 9 months stuck in space

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

For NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, an eight-day mission to the International Space Station turned out to be a challenge of a lifetime as problems cropped up on their Boeing space flight that stretched her stay in orbit to over nine months. Williams and fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore bid farewell to the International Space Station, their home since last June, departing aboard a SpaceX capsule alongside two other astronauts.

The capsule undocked from the space station on Tuesday and splashed down off the Florida coast on Wednesday morning, after clocking 286 days in space. **CONTINUE:P4**



Fresh Clashes in Manipur's Churachandpur, Several Injured

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

Several persons were injured as fresh clashes broke out between people belonging to Zomi and Hmar tribes in Manipur's Churachandpur district, an official said on Wednesday. The clashes took place in Churachandpur town late on Tuesday, just hours after a peace settlement was reached between the apex bodies of the two communities. The fresh clashes erupted after a group of men tried to take down a flag of a Zomi militant outfit in the town. Soon, mobs of men armed with batons engaged in stone pelting, prompting security personnel to fire tear gas shells and several rounds in the air to disperse the crowds, he said.



Security forces had a trying time in controlling the mobs that vandalised several properties even as shots were also fired by some people in the crowds at their rivals, the official said. "It is not yet clear who fired the shots," he added. Security forces conducted flag marches in the town and were keeping a strict vigil on the situation, urging people to remain indoors as curfew remained imposed in the entire district in view of the Zomi-Hmar clashes. In response to the development, the Zomi Students' Federation imposed a shutdown in the district with immediate effect. **CONTINUE:P4**

Shiv Sena (UBT) asks Centre to remove protection to Aurangzeb's tomb

Trump, Putin Agree to Ceasefire on Ukraine's Energy Sites

Washington
WUT | Mar . 20

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during a lengthy call Tuesday to an immediate pause in strikes against energy infrastructure in the Ukraine war, but the Russian leader stopped short of backing a broader 30-day pause in fighting



that the U.S. administration is pressing for. The White House described it as the first step in a "movement to peace" that it hopes will include a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea and eventually a full and lasting end to the fighting.

Putin during the call reiterated his demand for an end to foreign military and intelligence assistance to Ukraine, according to the Kremlin. And there was no indication that he has backed away from his conditions for a prospective peace deal, which are fiercely opposed by Kyiv. Russia wants Ukraine to pull back its troops from the four regions that Moscow has annexed but never fully captured, renounce any prospect of joining the NATO military alliance and sharply cut its army. Shortly after the call ended, air raid alerts sounded in Kyiv, followed by explosions in the city. Local officials urged people to seek shelter. **CONTINUE:P4**

On the economic front, Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices has registered a 10.1% growth, reaching Rs 16,12,579 crore in 2024-25. **CONTINUE:P2**

Modi to attend Bimstec summit in Bangkok in April

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the summit meeting of regional grouping Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) early next month in the Thai capital Bangkok on April 3-4. Bimstec comprises seven countries of South and Southeast Asia --



India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Bimstec summit was originally scheduled to be held in

Bangkok last year but was postponed due to political instability in Thailand, which is the current chair of the grouping. Bimstec has been the major regional grouping that India has prioritised ever since South Asian grouping Saarc lapsed into a deep freeze nearly a decade ago due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Islamabad is a member of Saarc but not of Bimstec.

BRS failed to secure Telangana's rightful share in Krishna and Godavari Rivers: Bhatti

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

The State government has proposed an allocation of Rs.23,373 crore for the Irrigation and Command Area Development department. Presenting the budget in the State Assembly here on Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that after achieving Telangana through relentless struggle

of the people, the previous government failed to take any decisive action to secure the State's rightful share of Krishna and Godavari River water allocations.

Moreover, the then government officially permitted Andhra Pradesh to utilize 511 TMC out of the 811 TMC of Krishna River water, depriving Telangana of its fair share and causing a severe injustice to the

state's farmers. "To secure Telangana's rightful share of water, we have presented comprehensive, data-backed arguments before the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal. We highlighted how Andhra Pradesh, despite being allocated less water, has been utilizing more than its fair share, and urged the tribunal to take corrective measures," he said.

"To ensure accurate mon-

itoring and regulation of water usage, we proposed the implementation of a telemetry system to track real time water consumption in both states. We also expressed our willingness to bear the cost of establishing this system if necessary, ensuring that Telangana's water resources are protected and not diverted unfairly," Vikramarka Bhatti said.

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MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD

Telangana presents ₹3.04-lakh-crore budget for 2025-26

Education (Rs 23,108 crore), Agriculture (Rs 24,439 crore), Health (Rs 12,393 crore), SC Welfare (Rs 40,232 crore), ST Welfare (Rs 17,169 crore)

Hyderabad Zafferabedi WUT | Mar. 20

Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the state's annual budget for 2025-26 in the Assembly today. The budget has a total outlay of Rs 3,04,965 crore, with Rs 2,26,982 crore allocated for revenue expenditure and Rs 36,504 crore for capital expenditure. A major highlight of the budget is the Mega Master Plan 2050 for industrial development, which includes the establishment of green-field industrial clusters in Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar districts. To ease urban congestion, the government has announced the construction of 31 flyovers and 17 underpasses at a cost of Rs 7,032 crore under the HICITI initiative. The budget has made significant allocations across various sectors: Rs 23,108 crore for Education, Rs 24,439 crore for Agriculture, Rs 31,605 crore for Panchayati Raj and Rural Devel-

opment, Rs 12,393 crore for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Rs 21,221 crore for the Energy Department, Rs 40,232 crore for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Rs 17,169 crore for Scheduled Tribes (STs) welfare. On the economic front, Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices has registered a 10.1% growth, reaching Rs 16,12,579 crore in 2024-25. The budget reflects the state government's focus on industrial expansion, urban and rural infrastructure development, and social welfare programs, aiming for holistic economic progress. The Telangana government has announced the distribution of two high-quality sarees annually to 64.7 lakh SHG members across the state, with an allocation of Rs 371 crore for the Handlooms sector to support local weavers. As part of the Future City initiative, a state-of-the-art AI City spread across 200 acres is being developed to become a global hub for AI innovation, with

Google setting up an AI Accelerator Center and an allocation of Rs 774 crore for the Information Technology Department. Warangal will be developed as an IT hub and a center for education and medical facilities, while Nizamabad and Khammam will be transformed into key centers for agro-based industries and manufacturing. The Musi Riverfront Development Project aims to make Hyderabad pollution-free, aligning with the Mega Master Plan 2050 focused on technological advancement, transportation expansion, infrastructure development, and environmental conservation. The health sector has seen an 8.06% budget hike to Rs 12,393 crore, and the government has allocated Rs 23,108 crore for the Education Department, including a 40% hike in diet charges and a 200% increase in cosmetic charges across gurukuls, welfare hostels, and Kasturba Gandhi Girls' Schools, with free electricity for all government educational institutions.

Telangana Budget 2025-26 Overview

Total Budget: Rs 3,04,965 crore (Revenue: Rs 2,26,982 crore, Capital: Rs 36,504 crore)
Key Initiatives: Mega Master Plan 2050 for industrial development, HICITI initiative for urban infrastructure, AI City with Google's AI Accelerator Center.
Sector Allocations: Education (Rs 23,108 crore), Agriculture (Rs 24,439 crore), Health (Rs 12,393 crore), SC Welfare (Rs 40,232 crore), ST Welfare (Rs 17,169 crore).
Development Plans: Warangal as IT hub, Nizamabad and Khammam for agro-industries, Musi Riverfront Development Project.
Welfare Initiatives: Saree distribution for SHG members, Young India Residential Schools, Indiramma Housing Scheme.
Infrastructure: Flyovers, underpasses, ORR Phase II water supply, Future City development.
Challenges: Mounting debt and revenue gaps.
Vision: Rising Telangana aims to expand the economy to 1,000 billion dollars over five years, focusing on development, welfare, and governance.

Koti Women's University has been renamed after Chakali Ailamma, with Rs 550 crore allocated for new infrastructure. The irrigation sector has been allocated Rs 23,373 crore, and Rs 17,677 crore has been earmarked for the Municipal Administration Department, including Rs 7,032 crore for flyovers and underpasses and Rs 5,942 crore for the ORR Phase II water supply scheme. A Future City spanning 765 sq km is being developed with a dedicated development authority. The government has allocated Rs 11,600 crore for 58 Young India Integrated Residential Schools and Rs

56,084 crore for implementing its six guarantees, including Rs 4,305 crore for the Mahalakshmi scheme and Rs 2,080 crore for Gruha Jyothi. The government has also allocated Rs 5,005 crore in savings through the free travel scheme on Mahalaxmi buses and Rs 433 crore for free gas distribution, with a focus on women's welfare and job opportunities. The Indiramma Housing Scheme aims to construct 20 lakh houses over the next four years with an expenditure of Rs 37,274 crore. Telangana's economy has shown consistent expansion, with a per capita income growth of 9.6%,

exceeding the national average by 1.8%. The budget emphasizes the government's commitment to public welfare, development, and good governance under the Rising Telangana vision, aiming to expand the economy from 200 billion dollars to 1,000 billion dollars over the next five years. However, concerns over mounting debt and the gap between projected and actual revenue highlight ongoing financial challenges. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka presented the budget in the Telangana Assembly after performing a pooja, outlining the financial roadmap for the state.



Rs.18,000 cr allocated for Rythu Bharosa scheme, says Bhatti

Hyderabad WUT | Mar. 20

The Congress government has already allocated Rs.18,000 crore for implementation of Rythu Bharosa scheme, guaranteeing direct financial assistance to farmers across Telangana, according to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. In his budget speech, Bhatti Vikramarka, who also holds Finance Ministry portfolio, said that to provide investment support to farmers and enable them to purchase fertilizers, seeds and agricultural equipment, the State government launched the Rythu Bharosa scheme on

January 26, 2025. Under this scheme, each farmer receives Rs.12,000 per acre annually as investment support. "To safeguard public funds and eliminate irregularities, we have ensured that Rythu Bharosa benefits are directed exclusively to cultivable lands. A comprehensive ground-level survey was conducted, verified through village meetings, and non-cultivable lands were identified to prevent fund misallocation," he explained. To shield landless agricultural labourers from financial distress during period of unemployment, the State government.

Amer Ali Khan welcomes Telangana Government's Rs 3,591 crore allocation for minority welfare

Hyderabad WUT | Mar. 20

Congress MLC Amer Ali Khan has welcomed the Telangana government's decision to allocate Rs 3,591 crore for the Minority Welfare Department in the 2025-26 budget, presented by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu in the Assembly on Wednesday. He said the budget reflects the Congress government's commitment to ensuring the security, welfare, and socio-economic empowerment of minorities in the state. Amer Ali Khan has hailed the Telangana government for making a historic allocation of Rs 840 crore for self-employment schemes for minorities in the 2025-26 budget. He said that no government in India has



ever allocated such a massive amount for the self-employment and economic upliftment of minorities. He described it as an unprecedented step that would empower thousands of unemployed youth from minority communities and help them achieve financial independence. The Congress MLC lauded the state government's initiative under the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam Scheme, which aims to provide financial assistance of up to Rs 4 lakh to every eligible unemployed individual from SC, ST, BC, and minority communities. He said this initiative would be a

game-changer in job creation, not just by offering employment but by fostering a new generation of entrepreneurs. He emphasised that many talented individuals from minority communities struggle due to financial constraints and lack of opportunities, and this scheme would help them establish their own businesses, thereby creating jobs for others as well. The Congress MLC noted that this scheme aligns with the vision of economic empowerment and social upliftment, which has been a long-pending demand of minority leaders and community representatives. He expressed confidence that if implemented efficiently, this initiative could set a national precedent for inclusive economic development.

B.Ed 4 year ITEP admissions date extended

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has issued notification for admissions into various undergraduate regular mode courses through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) 2025. Interested candidates can register and apply on the link <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/> up to March 22, 2025. According to Prof. M. Vanaja, Director, Directorate of Admissions, the admissions will be on the basis of scores obtained in the Common University Entrance Test to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The courses available are B.A. (Hons/Research), B.A. JMC (Hons/Research), B.Com (Hons/Research), B.Sc (Hons/Research), B.Voc (Medical Laboratory Technology), B.Voc (Medical Imaging Technology), B.Voc (Emergency & Trauma Care Technology) The Prospectus for UG programmes is available on the website www.manuu.edu.in. Meanwhile, NTA in its notification issued on March 16 has extended the last date of registration for admissions in B.A. B.Ed., B.Sc. B.Ed., B.Com. B.Ed. four-year Integrated Teacher Education

Madhapur Traffic Nightmare: Locals Plead for Swift Solutions

Hyderabad Dp srinivas rao WUT | Mar. 20

Madhapur, a bustling neighborhood in Hyderabad, is facing severe traffic congestion, particularly during evening hours, causing significant distress among residents. The situation has been deteriorating over the past few months, with traffic jams reaching critical levels between 6 pm and 10 pm. Residents have voiced their concerns over the safety of pedestrians, who are often forced to walk on the road due to the lack of designated footpaths. This creates a hazardous environment, making it difficult and dangerous for people to cross the street. Despite repeated pleas, residents feel that the



Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and traffic police have shown indifference towards the issue. Locals have been calling for better traffic management, improved pedestrian infrastructure, and stricter enforcement of traffic laws, but their concerns have largely gone unaddressed. The ongoing traffic chaos is not only causing delays for commuters but also posing a significant

safety risk. Frustrated residents are now demanding immediate action from the authorities. They propose the following measures to alleviate the situation: Enhanced Traffic Management: Installation of additional traffic signals and creation of better traffic flow patterns to reduce congestion during peak hours. Pedestrian-Friendly Infrastructure: Construction of proper footpaths

and pedestrian crossings to ensure safe passage for pedestrians. Increased Police Patrolling and Enforcement: More visible presence of traffic police to enforce traffic rules and ensure smooth flow of vehicles. Residents hope that these steps will be implemented swiftly to address the growing traffic problem and ensure the safety and convenience of all commuters in Madhapur.

BRS MLC Kavitha Criticizes Telangana Budget and Congress Government's Water Management

Hyderabad WUT | Mar. 20

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha of the BRS party has criticized the Telangana state budget presented by the Congress government, describing it as filled with predictions and lacking realistic allocations. She stated that the budget is more about quotes than facts, with insufficient funds allocated for new schemes. Kavitha expressed her anger over the Congress government's inadequate water management, which has led to drying crops despite abun-



dant rainfall. Kavitha highlighted that under the BRS regime, Chief Minister KCR had successfully implemented Mission Kakatiya to fill ponds and constructed the Kaleshwaram project to benefit farmers. However, she noted that even fields under the ayacut are dry-

ing up under Congress rule, and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming months. She also criticized Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for remaining silent while 10,000 cusecs of water are being withdrawn from the Krishna River. Kavitha ac-

cused the Congress government of spreading false propaganda about the state's debt and misleading the public about loan repayments. The BRS MLCs protested in the Legislative Council premises with dried crops, emphasizing the plight of farmers due to the Congress government's mismanagement. Kavitha concluded that the budget is full of false calculations and is likely to harm the people, urging the government to utilize existing water resources effectively and provide adequate support to farmers.

Former Minister Singireddy Criticizes State Budget

Hyderabad WUT | Mar. 20

The Telangana Assembly witnessed heated debates as the opposition accused the Congress government of mismanagement and failure to fulfill election promises. The opposition alleged that the 15-month Congress rule has reversed the development achieved under the previous ten-year BRS governance. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka criticized the Congress for not responsibly fulfilling their promises, while CM Revanth Reddy requested a year's silence to deliver on all commitments. The Congress government presented its third budget, which the opposition labeled as full of lies and fabrications.



The opposition highlighted several issues. The Telangana economy is reportedly shattered, with the opposition questioning the feasibility of a "2050 Telangana Rising Plan." The Mission Bhagiratha scheme's success has allegedly been reversed, leading to water scarcity. Farmers were promised loan waivers and annual support, which have not been fully implemented, leading to distress and suicides. The education sector has been severely impacted, with student

deaths reported in Gurukul schools. The promise of filling 2 lakh jobs has been criticized, with the opposition claiming that the jobs announced were from exams completed during the previous KCR government. The opposition accused the Congress government of taking loans amounting to Rs. 58,58,000 crores without implementing significant schemes or completing projects. Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy criticized the state budget, highlighting alleged mismanagement and failure to deliver on promises. The political tension in Telangana continues as the opposition and the ruling party trade accusations over governance and fulfillment of election promises.

Harish Rao Slams Congress Budget, Says "Full of Lies and Untruths, Cheats People"

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Former Minister Harish Rao has sharply criticized the budget presented by the Congress government, labeling it as a political speech filled with "raw lies and untruths." Rao accused the Congress party of losing credibility through this budget, stating that it contains nothing but exaggerations and false promises. Rao highlighted several points of contention, including the claim that the government is providing inter-



est-free loans of lakh crores of rupees, which he argued only applies to amounts up to 5 lakhs. He also questioned the allocation of funds for various schemes, such as the 75 rupees for school uniforms, which he claimed was actually only 50 rupees. The former minister

further accused the Congress government of cheating women, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups by not fulfilling pension promises and reducing the number of ration cards issued. He also criticized the lack of progress on infrastructure projects and the increase in excise reve-

nue through higher liquor prices. Rao challenged the government's claims of a revenue surplus, stating that the state has been portrayed as debt-ridden due to mismanagement. He also questioned the allocation of funds for minorities and the Backward Classes (BCs), accusing

the government of not fulfilling its promises. Overall, Rao described the budget as unrealistic and shameful, accusing the Congress government of deceiving the people of the state. He called for a discussion on the budget's shortcomings and demanded accountability for the unfilled promises. The Congress government has yet to respond to these allegations. The budget remains a contentious issue as the political landscape in the state continues to evolve.

BJP leader Maheshwar Reddy calls state budget deceptive

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20



Telangana BJP floor leader A Maheshwar Reddy criticised the Congress government's budget, calling it misleading and inadequate for welfare and development. Speaking to the media after the budget presentation in the Assembly, he alleged that no welfare scheme or development project had been allocated sufficient funds. He pointed out that the budget mainly focused on debts and mentioned Rs 36,000 crore for development projects. Questioning the feasibility of this allocation, he demanded that Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka explain how Telangana could progress with such limited funding. Maheshwar Reddy claimed that the government had failed to allocate adequate funds for any department or scheme, proving its lack of commitment to delivering benefits to the

people. He asserted that the budget does not serve any section of society and has left everyone disappointed. He further accused Congress of following the BRS model by inflating figures to mislead the public. He declared that the BJP would strongly oppose the budget in the Assembly.

BRS MLA Criticizes Congres Government Over Devadula Project

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Speaking at the assembly media point, BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy launched a scathing attack on the current government, highlighting its alleged failures in managing the Devadula project. Reddy claimed that ministers visited the project site by helicopter yesterday, promising to activate the motors, but failed to do so, leading to ongoing issues. He emphasized that the previous BRS government initiated the project and made significant progress, but the current administration has neglected necessary repairs. The MLA accused cur-



rent ministers of lacking knowledge about the project, comparing their statements to "ghosts reciting the Vedas." He asserted that the current government has no grounds to criticize his party's efforts, especially considering their own inadequacies in managing the project. Reddy pointed out that the current government has failed to effectively carry out Operation &

Maintenance (O&M) works, resulting in crops drying up under the Devadula project. He also noted that even projects initiated during the KCR regime remain incomplete. The MLA's remarks underscore the ongoing political tensions and the challenges faced by the current administration in fulfilling its responsibilities related to the Devadula project.

Narnaul Agrawal Samiti Celebrates Grand Holi Milan in Hyderabad

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

The Narnaul Agrawal Samiti, Hyderabad-Secunderabad, hosted a grand Holi Milan program titled 'Bin Rang Ke Rang Diyo Re Sanwariya' at Tara International Hotel, September Bazaar. The event, held under the leadership of committee president Pankaj Kumar Agarwal, brought together community members for a vibrant celebration. The program com-



menced with the worship of Jugal Sarkar (Radhakrishna) and the ceremonial lighting of lamps

by Pankaj Kumar Agarwal, Anoop Agarwal, Rohit Agarwal, Devendra Kumar, and Vinod

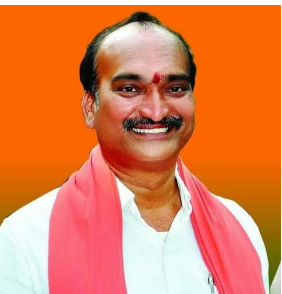
Jain. Renowned singer Pankaj Ojha mesmerized the audience with devotional bhajans, while participants engaged in Holi of flowers with great enthusiasm. Following the Maha Aarti, the announcement of Lord Maharaj Agrasen Ji was made, adding a spiritual essence to the event. The celebration witnessed the participation of several dignitaries, including Pankaj Kumar Agarwal, Rohit Agarwal, Kapil Bansal, Vishal Bansal, Anoop Agarwal, Devendra Kumar

(Bablu), Dr. Sarita Agarwal, Priyanka Agarwal, Ashok Bansal, Deepak Aggarwal, Vinod Jain, and Om Prakash, along with many other members and their families. Attendees exchanged Holi greetings, indulged in kirtan, dhamaal, and enjoyed the festive atmosphere with traditional delicacies. The event concluded on a joyful note, fostering unity and celebrating the spirit of Holi with devotion and festivity.

Non clarity & non purity lackluster Bhatti budget: Kisan Morcha State unit President

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Mar . 20

BJP Kisan Morcha State unit President Shri Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy stated that the budget introduced by the Telangana government as a witness of the Assembly is a hang rope for the people of Telangana. Sridhar Reddy criticized that it is evident that this congress government is escaping away from all the electoral promises given to the people of Telangana during the elections, that there is no mention anywhere in the budget



about the implementation of six guarantees. He said that it is regrettable that there is no provision in the budget for the implementation of promises like escalation. Sridhar Reddy stated that the government has not kept the promise given by the last kharif rabi, so there is no provision in the budget. Sridhar Reddy

stated that it is regrettable that if many farmers are dying across Telangana due to non-payment of insurance premiums, this government is not in a position to support them as well. Sridhar Reddy expressed his grief that the budget estimates introduced by the Congress government last year did not meet the expectations of the people of Telangana. So this year also direction less, non strategically, non clarity non purity lack lustre budget this is not foray of the progress of the farmer.

Telangana State Budget (2025-26) Presented to Legislative Assembly Speaker



Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

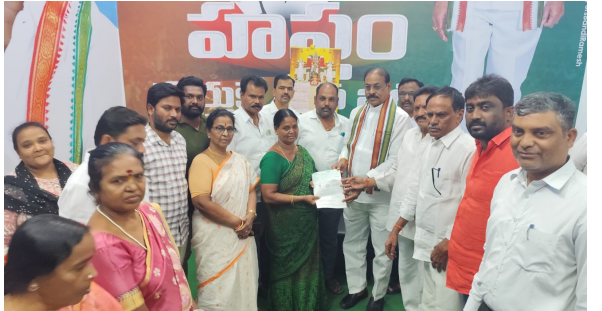
Telangana State Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka formally presented copies of the Telangana State Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Gaddam Prasad Kumar. The presentation took place in the Speaker's Chamber within the Legislative Assembly building. Accompanying the Finance Minister were

Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, State Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar Goud, Whips Adinivas and Beerla Ilayya, along with several MLAs and officials. Special Chief Secretary of the Finance Department, Ramakrishna Rao, and Legislative Secretary Dr. V. Narasimha Charyulu were also present during the presentation. The event marked a significant step in the state's financial planning, highlighting the collaborative efforts of key ministers

Handed over the cheque of 60k to G. Ramakrishna by B. Ramesh through CM relief fund

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Mar . 20

Assistance from Chief Minister relief fund to G. Ramakrishna of Fatenagar Division (118) of Kukatpally Constituency. A cheque of Rs.60,000/- has been sanctioned. cheque of Rs.60,000/- has been sanctioned by Mr. Bandi Ramesh, in-charge of Kukatpally Congress Party, in appreciation of the Chief Minister's assistance. On Wednesday March 19. The above said cheque were handed over by Mr. Bandi Ramesh at



Balanagar Congress Party office on Wednesday. Ex Vice Chairman Lakshmaiah, Market Committee Chairman Pushpa Reddy, Congress senior leaders Dandungula Yadagiri, Division Presidents Praveen, Krishna Rajput, Moizuddin, Satish Goud, Kukkala Ramesh, Mallikarjuna

Yadav, Madhu Goud, Mekala Ramesh, Ramesh, Sunil Yadav, Bharatama and others participated in this program. On this occasion, the beneficiaries thanked the Chief Minister of the State Shri Revanth Reddy and Shri Bandi Ramesh.

Aam Aadmi Party Initiates Survey of Government Schools in Hyderabad

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Telangana has launched a survey program to assess the condition of government schools across Greater Hyderabad. Led by Ramnagar Division Leader Dorapalli Satish Kumar, State Convener Dr. Diddi Sudhakar, and youth leader Vijay Mallangi, the initiative aims to identify and address issues in these educational institutions. During a visit to Jaministapur Government Primary and High School in Musheerabad, the AAP leaders inspected classrooms and interacted with students and teachers. They commended the school for its 100% pass rate, attributing the success to the dedication of the teaching staff and



headmaster. However, the survey revealed several concerns. The school's toilets were found to be substandard and in need of repair. Additionally, the stench from the nearby Musi River was identified as a significant problem, affecting students' comfort. Vijay Mallangi highlighted that irregular silt removal by GHMC staff exacerbates the issue and pledged to bring it to the attention of

local authorities to seek a resolution before the summer vacations. The AAP leaders also noted the lack of playground facilities within the school premises and in surrounding areas, emphasizing the need for recreational spaces for students. They urged the government to build new primary and high schools in Ramnagar, an area with numerous old industrial units.

Political Tensions Rise in Kukatpally Constituency

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Mar . 20

Kukatpally Constituency is witnessing a surge in political tension as BRS party leaders, including YC Cell President Bottu Vishnu and Balanagar Division President Darshanam Sakhaiyya, have launched a scathing attack on the Congress party's leadership. The criticism is particularly aimed at Congress Incharge Bandi Ramesh, who is accused of being disconnected from the constituency's needs and engaging in base-



less accusations on social media. BRS leaders praised MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao for his 35 years of service, highlighting his deep roots and contributions to the area. They dismissed Con-

gress leaders' claims, asserting that they have failed to deliver tangible benefits to Kukatpally residents. The BRS accused Congress leaders of engaging in negative politics for self-promotion without addressing

real issues. The BRS leaders expressed frustration with "migrant leaders" who, despite having no connection to the constituency, are attempting to interfere in local politics. They warned Bandi Ramesh and his supporters against making false claims, vowing to challenge such accusations. The BRS emphasized that Madhavaram Krishna Rao's commitment to Kukatpally would not be undermined by political tactics. Leaders from the SC Cell of the BRS party, including N V Ratnam and Edla Prab-

hakar, reinforced the message that local leadership remains strong and determined to counter political attacks. They asserted that the people of Kukatpally have made their choice and that opposition efforts to stir controversy would not succeed. As political tensions escalate, BRS leaders have pledged to continue fighting for development and against negative political tactics from the opposition. The war of words between BRS and Congress shows no signs of abating, with both parties vying for the electorate's support.

Assam chief minister condemns call opposing celebration of Bihar Diwas in Assam

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday condemned the move opposing the celebrations of Bihar Diwas in Upper Assam’s Tinsukia district. Defining it a narrow approach, Mr Sarma told reporters that there should be no opposition to proposed celebrations of Bihar Diwas in Assam. Pointing out that Assam Diwas is also observed in different parts of the country including in Bihar, Mr Sarama said, “There should be no opposition if some people want to observe Bihar Diwas in Assam. Hundreds of our boys and girls are working outside the state. Such a narrow approach may paint the state’s image in a very poor light. We should not send a message that we are opposed to any community. Such protests may spoil the investment scenario of the state too.”

Mr Sarma was reacting to the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) led by Parash Baruah’s warning to the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled government and Hindi speaking people against organising ‘Bihar Diwas’ in Upper Assam’s Tinsukia town. The decision to organise the event dedicated to Bihar on March 22 was taken at a meeting of local BJP leaders in Tinsukia a few days ago. It is significant that Eastern Assam’s Tinsukia has a large population of Hindi speaking people, mostly from Bihar and Jharkhand. The town is also known as the commercial hub of much of the eastern half of the northeast.

The outlawed Ulfa-I, which warned of a serious consequences if their diktat is defied, in a statement said, “The move by (BJP) legislators Suren Phukan (Digboi constituency) and Sanjoy Kishan (Tinsukia) is an attack on the culture, heritage, and pride of the indigenous people. We will not tolerate the celebration of Bihar Diwas by outsiders.”

Maharashtra Govt. Mulling New Rules To Restrict Social Media Use by Its Employees

Mumbai
WUT | Mar . 20

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday announced new rules for use of social media by the state government employees. Mr. Fadnavis said that few government employees have been found posting messages against the government’s policy. He was replying to a calling attention motion, moved by BJP MLC Pranay Fuke in the Upper House. The Chief Minister said that they will incorporate new rules under Maharashtra Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1979 within the next three months.

Raising the issue of “misuse” of social media by the government servants especially officials, Mr. Fuke said that the government employees including officials and personnel have been using facebook, Instagram and snapchat to make political comments. They even openly criticize the government’s policies. “The government employees use government assets, vehicles and offices for making reels of themselves for their glorifications. It appears that they are only running the government and all machineries in the system,” the motion said.

The BJP legislator alleged that the government employees are defaming the government by making the reels on social media and asked whether the government will bring an amendment to existing law to stop the misuse of social media by the government employees.

Sunita Williams Returns to Earth After Record-Breaking Space Mission

Sunita Williams Returns After Record-Breaking 286-Day Space Mission



New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has returned to Earth after spending an extended 286 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Originally scheduled for an eight-day mission, Williams' stay was prolonged due to technical challenges with Boeing’s spacecraft, making this journey a test of resilience and adaptability.

Williams, along with fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore, bid farewell to the ISS, their home since June last year, and departed aboard a SpaceX capsule. Accompanied by two other astronauts, they undocked from the space station on Tuesday and successfully splashed down off the Florida coast on Wednesday morning. With this mission, Williams has now accumulated an impressive 608 days in space across her three flights.

Born on September 19, 1965, in Euclid, Ohio, Williams, 59, has strong

multicultural roots. She is the daughter of Deepak Pandya, originally from Jhulasan in Mehsana district, Gujarat, and Ursuline Bonnie Pandya, of Slovenian descent. Proud of her heritage, she has previously carried symbols representing her cultural background into space, including samosas, a Slovenian flag, and a Ganesha idol.

On her third mission to the ISS, Williams achieved a historic milestone, setting a new record for the most time spent spacewalking by a woman. On January 30, she surpassed the previous record of 60 hours and 21 minutes held by astronaut Peggy Whitson, reaching a cumulative total of 62 hours and 9 minutes in extra-vehicular activity.

Williams had an early inclination towards science but initially aspired to become a veterinary doctor. However, a visit to the US Naval Academy, where her brother Jay was enrolled, changed her course. Inspired by the aviation world, she pursued a career as a naval officer, especially at a time when the Tom Cruise-starrer Top Gun was making waves.

She joined the Naval Aviation Training Command and aimed to fly combat aircraft but eventually piloted helicopters. Designated a naval aviator in 1989, Williams served at

Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 8 in Norfolk, Virginia. Her service included overseas deployments to the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf in support of Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort. She played a crucial role in transporting troops and humanitarian aid, displaying exceptional leadership skills under extreme conditions—traits that paved her path to becoming an astronaut.

In 1998, NASA selected Williams as an astronaut, and she underwent rigorous training at the Johnson Space Center. She also worked in Moscow with the Russian Space Agency on the ISS project.

Her first space mission commenced on December 9, 2006, when she launched aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery to join ISS Expeditions 14 and 15. She spent 195 days in orbit. Williams returned to the ISS on July 17, 2012, aboard the Russian Soyuz spacecraft for a four-month stay, before landing back on Earth on November 19, 2012.

In 2007, Williams made history by becoming the first person to run a marathon in space. She completed the Boston Marathon on a treadmill aboard the ISS in 4 hours and 24 minutes.

During her second spaceflight in 2012, she became only the second woman to command the ISS, overseeing station operations and even completing a triathlon in orbit. A now-iconic image of Williams appearing to “touch” the Sun during a spacewalk remains one of her most memorable moments.

Williams has visited India multiple times, including in 2007 and 2013, following her space missions. She was honored with the Padma Bhushan, India’s third-highest civilian award, in 2008. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged her accomplishments, referring to her as one of India’s illustrious daughters and extending an invitation for her to visit the country

Trump, Putin Agree to Ceasefire on Ukraine’s Energy Sites

Washington
WUT | Mar . 20

In a significant development, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to an immediate halt in strikes against Ukraine’s energy infrastructure following a lengthy call on Tuesday. However, the Russian leader refrained from endorsing a broader 30-day ceasefire, which the U.S. administration is actively advocating.

The White House described the agreement as the first step toward a potential peace settlement, with hopes for a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea and, ultimately, a full cessation of hostilities.

Putin’s Conditions and Ukraine’s Response According to the Kremlin, Putin reiterated his demand for an end to foreign military and intelligence support for Ukraine. However, he has not backed away from his core conditions for a peace deal, which Kyiv strongly opposes. Russia demands that Ukraine withdraw its troops from four annexed regions, renounce NATO membership aspirations, and significantly reduce its military capabilities.

Shortly after the call, air raid sirens blared in Kyiv, followed by explosions, prompting officials to urge residents to take shelter. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized the need for transparency in negotiations, stating that Ukraine remains open to meaningful peace discussions but rejects any compromise that would weaken its sovereignty.

“There are two sides in this war—Russia and Ukraine. Negotiating without Ukraine’s involvement will not be productive,” Zelenskyy asserted. Putin informed Trump that Russia and Ukraine would exchange 175 prisoners each on Wednesday, with Russia also set to release 23 severely wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

Trump welcomed the agreement as a step toward ending the war. “We agreed to an immediate ceasefire on all energy and infrastructure targets, with the understanding that we will work toward a complete ceasefire and, ultimately, an end to this horrible war,” Trump said in a social media post.

The Trump administration has been pushing for a 30-day ceasefire proposal, which Ukrainian officials conditionally accepted during Saudi Arabia-led negotiations. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff recently met with Putin in Moscow to discuss the proposal.

Despite Trump’s push for diplomacy, skepticism remains about Putin’s commitment to peace. Zelenskyy expressed doubts about Russia’s intentions, warning that Ukraine must remain vigilant.

Meanwhile, Trump’s engagement with Putin has led to shifting U.S.-Russia relations, drawing concerns from American allies who seek accountability for Russia’s invasion. Trump has repeatedly stated that Ukraine is in a weak negotiating position and suggested that discussions include dividing key assets between Russia.

Shiv Sena (UBT) asks Centre to remove protection to Aurangzeb’s tomb

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 20

On the backdrop of violence erupted in Nagpur over Aurangzeb’s tomb, Shiv Sena UBT has demanded that the Centre should remove the protected tag of the monument. This will prevent riots and cool down the heads of fanatics, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said. An editorial in Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece Saamana termed the Hindu groups’ demand to remove Aurangzeb’s tomb a ‘plain drama’.

Earlier, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader had said that the tomb is a testament of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s bravery and wiping out a villain (Aurangzeb) from the history will eventually devalue the hero (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj).

“There is no need to do this drama to remove Aurangzeb’s grave. Aurangzeb is under the grave and he will never get up and come out,” said the editorial. The Mughal emperor’s grave is currently being protected by the central security forces. Since this grave is under the central agency Archaeological Survey of India, the Centre should immediately remove this security and withdraw the status of the protected monument given to the grave so that the land would be freed. This will prevent riots and cool down the heads of fanatics,” Saamana said.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party’s demand came on the backdrop of violence in Nagpur, in which several police personnel were injured. The violence erupted over rumours that the holy book of a community was burnt during an agitation for the removal of Aurangzeb’s tomb by the Hindu groups, who have threatened to demolish the monument like Babri Masjid. The Saamana editorial said, “At the time of the Babri Masjid (demolition), there was a Congress government at the Centre. Chief Minister Kalyan Singh’s BJP government was in Uttar Pradesh. That is why there was conflict.”

“Today, there is Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and CM Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra. Both are from the BJP. Also, Fadnavis has the experience of Kar Seva in Ayodhya. Therefore, PM Modi, CM Fadnavis, Mohan Bhagwat, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar - these five people should dig Aurangzeb’s grave under government orders with spades in their hands. This will stop riots in Maharashtra and calm the minds of fanatics, said the editorial taking jibe at the BJP. Earlier, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve said that the tomb is a testament of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s bravery and wiping out a villain (Aurangzeb) from the history will eventually devalue the hero (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj). Mr. Raut had also claimed that the BJP wants to remove the tomb as it wanted to wipe out Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s legacy. “The tomb is testament of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s legacy. The BJP wants to remove it because if the villain’s identity is erased, the hero’s identity will also be automatically erased,” the Rajya Sabha member

Family of slain BJD leader Naba Das meets Odisha CM, demands CBI probe

Bhubaneswar
WUT | Mar . 20

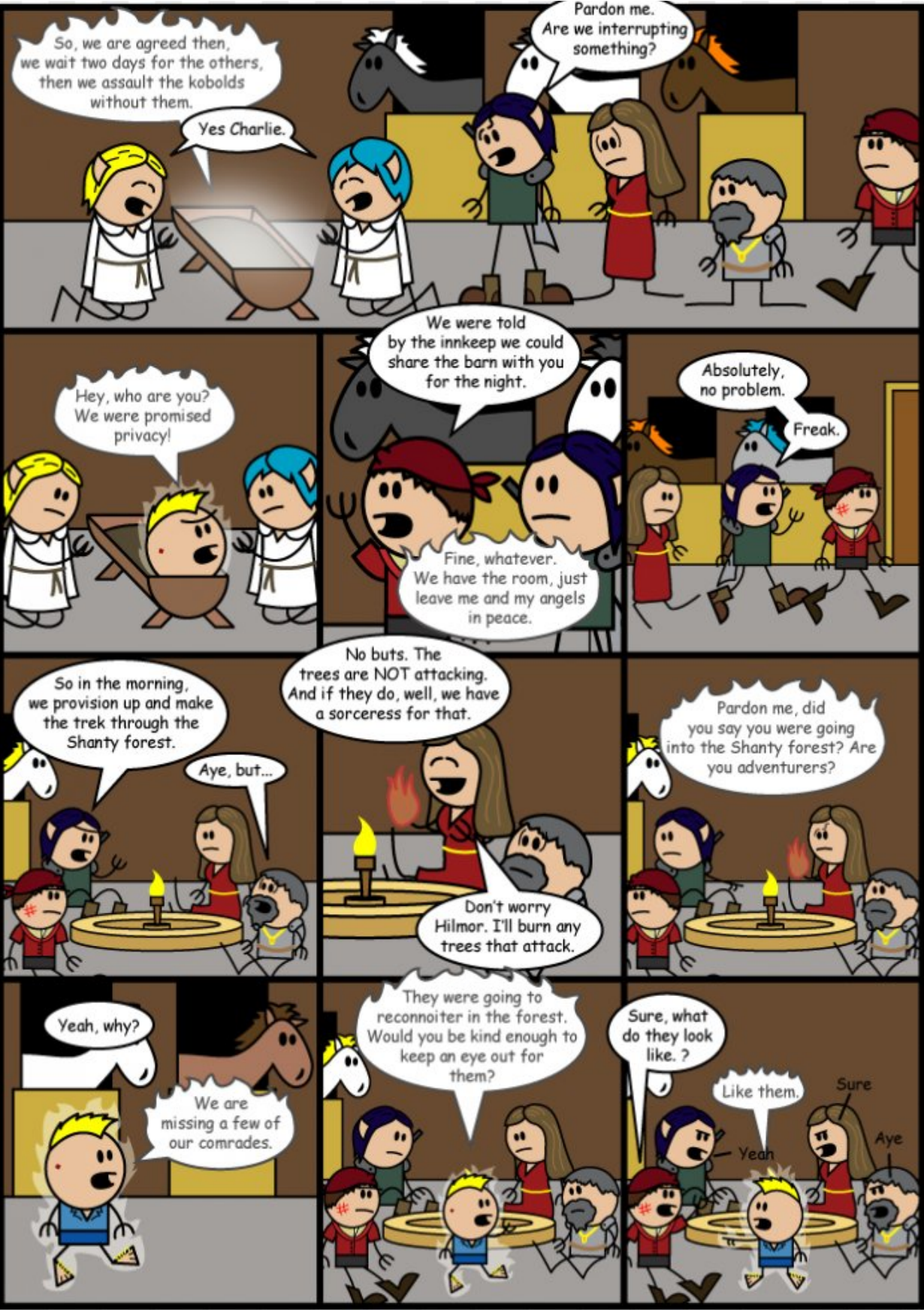
The family of Naba Kishore Das, the late senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Odisha’s former health minister who was shot dead in January 2023, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday evening at the state secretariat, urging him to order a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the incident. Das’ wife, Minati Das, daughter Dipali Das and son Vishal Das, held a 90-minute discussion with the Chief Minister, which was also attended by State Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania and Crime Branch DG Vinaytosh Mishra.

“We submitted a letter to Chief Minister Majhi, requesting him to initiate a CBI probe into our father’s murder. The Chief Minister assured us that the ongoing Crime Branch investigation will be conducted properly. Regarding our demand for a CBI probe, he said he would carefully examine the matter and inform us of his decision,” Dipali Das told reporters after the meet-



ing. Naba Das, widely known for his influence in Odisha’s political landscape, was fatally shot on January 29, 2023, as he stepped out of his vehicle at Braja-

rajnagar in Jharsuguda district to attend a statue unveiling ceremony. Gopal Das, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police, was immediately taken into custody for allegedly firing at Das with his service revolver, reportedly over a past enmity. The then BJD government, led by Naveen Patnaik, had ordered a Crime Branch investigation into the murder. While the family initially expressed satisfaction with the probe, their confidence has since waned. Recently, Dipali Das voiced her family’s concerns about the outcome of the investigation, questioning the Crime Branch’s failure to clearly establish the motive behind the crime and address the possibility of a larger conspiracy. After Naba Das’ death, Dipali contested and won the bye-election for the Jharsuguda Assembly seat. However, she lost her seat in the 2024 general elections.



EDITORIAL


WILL TELANGANA QUOTA LAW STAND?

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed the Telangana Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Rural and Urban Local Bodies) Bill, 2025, to increase reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in education, employment, and local bodies to 42 per cent from 29 per cent. It takes the total reservation in Telangana to 67 per cent. Though there are states like Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh, where the total reservation extended in the state has already touched 69 per cent, the Telangana reservation law is a landmark development, as it was done after a proper headcount conducted

through an official caste survey that showed that BCs constitute 56.33 per cent, including those from Muslims. According to the caste survey, people from backward classes make up 46.25 per cent of the state population, Scheduled Castes 17.43 per cent, Scheduled Tribes 10.45 per cent and other castes 13.31 per cent. BC Muslims are 10.08 per cent and OC Muslims 2.48 per cent. With this law, Telangana becomes the second state after Bihar which followed the caste survey route to enhance reservation. Though the stated intent behind the reservation law is Rahul Gandhi's philosophy of "Jitni Abadi, Utna Haq" (rights com-

mensurate with population), the Telangana reservation law could face legal disapproval. In 2023, the Bihar Assembly enhanced total reservation to 75 per cent following a caste survey to support its stand. However, the Patna high court struck down the law as it breached the 50 per cent cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India case. The new Telangana law, too, could face legal challenges unless the Central government incorporates it into the IXth Schedule of the Constitution to protect it from judicial scrutiny. That call, however, lies with the PM.



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The Editor

Hyderabad City Police Hosts 'Daawat-e-Iftar'



Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

The Hyderabad City Police organized a grand 'Daawat-e-Iftar' at the historic Chowmahalla Palace to celebrate the holy month of Ramzan. The event brought together around 1,500 fasting devotees from various Muslim families, along with senior officers and politicians. Iftar, the meal that marks the end of the daily fast during Ramzan, was held at sunset following the Maghrib prayer. The occasion was graced by notable dignitaries, including Hon'ble Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar, Minister in-charge of Transport and BC Welfare for Telangana & Hydera-

bad, who attended as the chief guest. Also in attendance were Telangana DGP Shri Jitender IPS, Hyderabad CP Shri CV Anand IPS, and other esteemed guests who broke the fast after delivering welcome speeches. Ponnamm Prabhakar extended Ramzan greetings to the Muslim community, emphasizing Hyderabad's symbolic status as a city of religious harmony. He highlighted the city's unique spirit where festivals are celebrated collectively, irrespective of religious affiliations. Prabhakar assured that the government has made all necessary arrangements to ensure a joyous Ramzan celebration for everyone.

CV Anand IPS, DG CP Hyderabad, expressed his gratitude to the attendees for accepting his invitation to the Iftar feast. He underscored the significance of the gathering, stating, "This evening we are coming together to honour a sacred tradition and celebrate the message of peace and love. Let us strive to realise harmony and goodwill." The event was further graced by the presence of Mir Zulfeqar Ali (AIMIM), Member of Legislative Assembly for Charminar Constituency, Jaffer Hussain Meraj (AIMIM), Member of Legislative Assembly for Yakutpura Constituency, and Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala

(AIMIM), Member of Legislative Assembly for Malakpet Constituency. Other notable attendees included Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), and Major General Ajay Mishra, GOC Telangana & Andhra Sub Area (TASA), along with senior police officers and religious leaders. The Iftar feast at Chowmahalla Palace was a testament to the city's unity and the spirit of communal harmony that defines Hyderabad.



Sharad Kelkar calls voicing Ravan in 'The Legend of Hanuman' a thrilling experience



Actor Sharad Kelkar has shared his excitement about voicing the iconic character of Ravan in the animated series “The Legend of Hanuman.” Describing the experience as nothing short of thrilling, Sharad opened up about the challenges and satisfaction of bringing such a larger-than-life character to life through his voice. Kelkar recently revealed that Season 6 takes his character to an entirely new level. On this Hanuman Jayanti, “The Legend of Hanuman” will make its highly anticipated return with an exciting new season that promises to elevate the epic saga even further.

Stonecraft Group Launches AQI Monitoring Station in Hyderabad

Hyderabad WUT | Mar . 20

Stonecraft Group, a pioneer in sustainable and biophilic real estate, has inaugurated an innovative AQI (Air Quality Index) Monitoring Station at Woods Shamshabad. This initiative underscores the company's dedication to environmental responsibility and its mission to develop eco-conscious living spaces. The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. Tea Pirih, Economic Counsellor of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. VVL Subhadra Devi (IFS), Additional Commissioner, Urban Biodiversity Wing,

GHMC, and Mr. Ashok Pavadia, Former Additional Secretary, Government of India, along with other prominent experts and media representatives. The AQI Monitoring Station not only emphasizes Stonecraft Group's commitment to monitoring air quality for community benefit but also aims to raise awareness about environmental sustainability. The inauguration featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, symbolic tree-planting activities, and an interactive media session discussing the project's broader impacts. Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, highlighted the global importance of sustainable



initiatives, stating, "It is essential for all organizations—whether governments, NGOs, corporates, or businesses—to collectively work towards improving air quality and promoting environmental sustainability. Town planners, architects, and real estate developers, such as Stonecraft Group, led by Mr. Kirthi Chilukuri, play a critical role in building environmentally sustainable and well-ventilated spaces with cleaner air and efficient lighting. Sustainable buildings should use clean water resources, implement water harvesting and recycling, and harness renewable energy. Around the world, we are seeing such innovative projects. It is in-

spiring to see companies like Stonecraft Group championing sustainability with impactful projects like the AQI Monitoring Station. International co-operation is vital to tackling environmental challenges, and I hope this initiative serves as a beacon for others to follow. These efforts need to be celebrated.” Mr. Kirthi Chilukuri, Founder & Managing Director of Stonecraft Group, emphasized the importance of collective environmental efforts, adding, "At Stonecraft, we believe that real estate development is more than just creating physical spaces; it's about building sustainable communities. The AQI Monitoring Station at Woods Shamsha-

bad is just one of the many steps we are taking towards promoting environmental responsibility. As developers, we have a significant role in shaping spaces that are better ventilated, use clean energy, recycle water, and contribute to the health and well-being of communities. It is crucial for all of us to change our mindset and take personal responsibility for our environment. By fostering a culture of sustainability, we can create impactful change that replicates the kind of eco-friendly habitats we are developing at Stonecraft.” The AQI Monitoring Station aims to provide critical air quality data, benefiting local communities while contrib-

uting to long-term improvements in air quality management. This initiative aligns with Stonecraft Group's vision of integrating sustainable practices with innovative living spaces. The inauguration provided an opportunity to engage with dignitaries and gain deeper insights into the project's objectives and impact. Stonecraft Group has recently achieved significant milestones with the successful launch of three flagship projects: PGA Golf City, Woods Indresham, and Assisted Living—demonstrating its commitment to redefining real estate with sustainability, biophilic design, and innovative living solutions.

Atlas Copco Group Unveils New State-of-the-Art Facility in Pune

Hyderabad WUT | Mar . 20

Atlas Copco Group has inaugurated a new manufacturing facility in Talegaon, Pune. The expansive 270,000 sq. ft. plant is designed to produce a range of air and gas compressors and systems, including CNG (compressed natural gas), biogas, hydrogen compressors, air dryers, N2 and O2 generators, and medical filters and accessories. The facility's launch, initially announced in 2023, underscores the Group's dedication to delivering innovative and high-quality products tailored to the local market. The new facility embodies Industry 4.0 principles, integrating smart manufacturing technologies and sustainability practices. It is powered by a 1.3 MW rooftop solar system and grid supply, which will provide approximately 80 percent of the energy required for operations. Additional sustainable features include rain-water harvesting and advanced cooling systems. Equipped with multiple



testing capabilities, the facility supports extensive research and development efforts by Atlas Copco Group. It is certified with ISO 9001, ISO 45001, ISO 14001, and ISO 50001, ensuring adherence to the highest quality, safety, environmental, and energy standards. The facility's operations are further enhanced by robust internal audit systems, quality management systems, and Six Sigma methodologies aimed at improving business processes. Philippe Ernens, President of the Compressor Technique Business Area, highlighted the significance of the new facility: "This cutting-edge plant is designed to meet local demand efficiently, reducing lead times and increasing ca-

capacity. It allows us to offer a broader product range, meet market expectations, and provide superior lifecycle support, reinforcing our commitment to delivering high-quality solutions." Thierry Monart, Vice President and Managing Director of Atlas Copco (India) Pvt Ltd., added, "The launch of our new manufacturing plant is a major milestone in Atlas Copco Group's journey in India. This facility not only strengthens our localization efforts but also plays a crucial role in driving job creation and skill development in the region. By fostering local talent and innovation, we aim to contribute significantly to India's manufacturing ecosystem."

Uber India narrows losses to Rs 89 crore, expenses surge 26 per cent

Mumbai WUT | Mar . 20

Ride-hailing major Uber India continued to struggle with profitability despite strong revenue growth, as rising expenses weighed heavily on its financial performance, its latest financials showed. The company's total expenditure surged 26.4 per cent to Rs 3,977 crore in FY24, driven largely by employee costs, legal fees, advertising and operational expenses. Employee costs alone accounted for nearly 68 per cent of overall spending, growing by 29.4 per

cent to Rs 2,690 crore in the fiscal year ending March 2024. However, Uber India managed to reduce its losses significantly. The company's losses shrank by 71.4 per cent to Rs 89 crore in FY24 from Rs 311 crore in the previous fiscal, as per its financials. Its revenue surged 41.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to over Rs 3,700 crore, but profitability remained elusive. According to its financial statements, Uber India's revenue from operations grew to Rs 3,762 crore in FY24 from Rs 2,666 crore in FY23. A large

portion of this revenue came from engineering support services and back-office functions provided to its parent company, Uber BV. Meanwhile, its core ride-hailing business generated only Rs 807 crore, increasing at a slower rate of 18.9 per cent. Recent reports suggest Uber India is considering acquiring BluSmart Mobility, a move that could potentially improve its financial standing. However, as per reports, without major changes to its business model and operations, the company may continue to struggle in a highly competitive

India banned over 1,000 betting, gambling websites in 2024

Hyderabad WUT | Mar . 20

The government on Wednesday said there has been a significant improvement in tackling online gambling and betting activities, with more than 1,000 betting and gambling websites banned in 2024. Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, told the Lok Sabha that both State governments and the Centre have to work together to deal with such activities. Responding to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the Minister asserted that whenever

any instances of violations come to the notice of the central government, action is taken within the constitutional framework. Various members raised concerns about online gambling activities and violent online games adversely impacting young people. According to Vaishnaw, 1,097 betting and gambling websites were banned in 2024 and with coordination among various agencies handling cyber-related crimes, there has been a significant improvement in dealing with such activities. Overall, a good legal framework is being made, he added.

Rs 10,600 crore fertilizer project in Assam gets Cabinet nod

Mumbai WUT | Mar . 20

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, approved the proposal for setting up a new brownfield ammonia-urea complex in Assam with an annual capacity of producing 12.7 lakh tonnes of urea with an estimated total project cost of Rs 10,601.40 crore. The new

project will come up on the existing premises of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation Limited (BVFCL) at Namrup in Assam. It will have a debt to equity ratio of 70:30 through a joint venture (JV), under the New Investment Policy, 2012 read with its amendments on October 7, 2014. The tentative overall time schedule for the commissioning of the

Namrup-IV project is 48 months, according to an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting. Additionally, the Cabinet also approved the National Fertilisers Limited's (NFL) equity participation of 18 per cent in relaxation to the limits prescribed in Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines; and the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial

Committee (IMC) to oversee the process of setting up of Namrup-IV Fertiliser Plant. In the proposed JV, the Assam government will have 40 per cent equity, BVFCL will have an 11 per cent share, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited will hold a 13 per cent stake while National Fertilisers Limited (NFL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) will each own an 18 per cent share, according to the

statement. The BVFCL's share of equity will be in lieu of tangible assets. The project will increase the domestic urea production capacity in the country, especially in the northeastern region. It will meet the growing demand for urea fertilisers in the North East, Bihar, West Bengal, eastern Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand.

Yuzvendra Chahal, Dhanashree Verma's divorce plea fast-tracked

Mumbai WUT | Mar . 20

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday put on fast track a divorce-by-mutual consent petition of cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and his estranged wife Dhanashree Verma, waiving the mandatory six-month cooling-off period. Justice Madhav Jamdar directed the Bandra family court in the city to decide the couple's divorce petition by March 20 as the cricketer would not be available after March 21 on account of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The cricketer and Verma had filed a joint

petition before the HC seeking that the cooling-off period be waived in their case as they have applied for divorce by mutual consent. The petition, filed through advocate Nitin Gupta, also prayed for a direction to the family court to decide the divorce petition expeditiously. The couple challenged the family court order of February 20 refusing to waive the cooling-off period. Under the Hindu Marriage Act, a couple has to undergo six-month cooling-off period before divorce is granted.

Shishir Bajjal Hails Telangana's 2025-26 Budget: A Catalyst for Real Estate and Urban Transformation

New delhi WUT | Mar . 20

In a significant move, the Telangana State Budget for 2025-26 has placed a strong emphasis on infrastructure and housing, setting the stage for substantial growth in the real estate sector. The budget, outlined by Mr. Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, highlights several key initiatives aimed at transforming the urban landscape of Telangana. The development of afford-

able housing through satellite townships along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) is a cornerstone of the budget. This initiative aims to create new residential corridors, enhancing accessibility for low- and middle-income buyers while alleviating congestion in Hyderabad's core areas. With an allocation of INR 17,677 crore for urban development, the budget focuses on improving connectivity through the construction of flyovers, underpasses, and road expansions. These initiatives, under projects like



HICITI, are expected to drive demand for both residential and commercial real estate. Investments in water supply projects are set to enhance

liveability in emerging areas, further supporting the growth of new residential and commercial zones. The Future City initiative, spanning 765 square kilometers, aims to position Hyderabad as a global hub. This ambitious project includes dedicated zones such as AI City and Pharma Hub, designed to attract high-value industries. Notably, the Future City is poised to become India's first Net Zero urban development, aligning with global sustainability goals. These strategic investments

reinforce Telangana's status as a high-growth real estate destination, offering diverse investment opportunities. The focus on infrastructure and sustainability is expected to drive significant growth in the real estate sector, attracting both domestic and international investors. The Telangana State Budget 2025-26 underscores the state's commitment to fostering a sustainable and prosperous urban environment, setting a new benchmark for real estate development in India.

CITY CLICKS

Comeback man Chhetri scores as India beat Maldives 3-0 in friendly football match



The talismanic Sunil Chhetri scored on his international comeback to lead India to a commanding 3-0 victory over Maldives in a football friendly here on Wednesday, helping the home side snap their 12-match winless streak that started in November 2023.

Rahul Bheke gave India the lead in the 35th minute before Liston Colaco made it 2-0 in the 66th minute. The 40-year-old Chhetri, who returned to the national team after hanging his boots in May last year, made it a memorable day as he scored India's third with a glancing header in the 77th minute for his 95th international goal. Captain Chhetri, who was denied by the Maldives goalkeeper in the 47th minute, was substituted in the 82nd minute.

This was India's first win in 16 months and also first under Manolo Marquez who was made the head coach in July last year. India's last win was against Kuwait (1-0) in their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying round match in Kuwait City on November 16, 2023.

Before Wednesday, India under Marquez lost once and drew thrice. The match served as a dress rehearsal for the all-important AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh at the same venue on March 25. Chhetri came out of his international retirement earlier this month to help the team successfully navigate the qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup, starting with the March 25 clash. Maldives are ranked 162 in the world, 36 places below India (126). This is also Shillong's first international match.

Adani Group enters Indian professional golf



The Adani Group is set to enter Indian professional golf with the launch of the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 in partnership with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the official sanctioning body of men's professional golf in India.

"This Adani Group initiative intends to promote and broaden golf's accessibility and elevate its status as a mainstream sport, and also to cultivate the next generation of global champions from India," a company statement said.

The inaugural tournament, offering a Rs 1.5-crore prize, will be held at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort, Greater Noida, from April 1-4, 2025, marking PGTI's return to the venue after 11 years.

"We are delighted to join hands with Kapil Dev and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) to contribute to the growth of Indian professional golf," said Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises Limited.

"Our goal is to cultivate Indian global champions in golf. We are committed to enhancing accessibility to golf, promoting greater participation and offering world-class training and playing opportunities."

Kapil Dev, President of the PGTI, said the backing of the Adani Group will help the PGTI produce more champion golfers from India who will make the country proud on the international stage.

"I expect to see golf fans in big numbers following their favourite players on the course during the tournament," he said.

17 years on...the elusive IPL trophy...Kohli's star-crossed journey with RCB: Will a new captain for the side change

New delhi
WUT | Mar . 18

As the 2025 IPL season gets underway, Virat Kohli will be eagerly eyeing the elusive IPL trophy. For a cricketer who has been part of some of India's most iconic triumphs—including the 2011 ICC ODI World Cup, the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup, and the recently concluded 2025 ICC Champions Trophy—Kohli's determination to script a new chapter with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) could be a game-changer this season.

Despite consistently fielding some of the most explosive line-ups in IPL history, RCB has yet to claim the trophy. However, RCB fans are holding



onto hope that Season 18 could finally be their lucky year—coincidentally matching Kohli's jersey number.

In a strategic move, Rajat Patidar has been appointed as the new captain, tasked with giving the team fresh direction and guiding them to the dream finish. Patidar, known for his composure and aggressive strokeplay, is expected to mentor the squad and lead

from the front.

RCB's remarkable comeback last season, where they won six consecutive matches to make the playoffs, demonstrated their resilience. The team's fighting spirit and momentum could play a key role this year.

During the recent IPL mega auction, RCB made some significant decisions. They chose not to use the Right To Match

(RTM) card for Mohammed Siraj and Glenn Maxwell, two of their core players. Instead, they strengthened their squad with notable acquisitions:

Josh Hazlewood: The Australian pacer, known for his accuracy and wicket-taking skills, will be a vital asset in RCB's bowling arsenal.

Phil Salt: The explosive English wicket-keeper-batter, instrumental in

KKR's title-winning campaign last season, brings firepower to RCB's top order.

RCB's roster is stacked with versatile match-winners. Key players to watch include:

Liam Livingstone: The dynamic English all-rounder offers both power-hitting and handy spin options.

Tim David: The big-hitting Singaporean Australian provides middle-order stability and finishing prowess.

Krunal Pandya: The Indian all-rounder adds depth with his left-arm spin and aggressive batting.

Romario Shepherd: The West Indian pacer's raw speed and lower-order hitting make him a valuable X-factor.

The team also made some smart acquisitions, including Jitesh Sharma, a proven finisher behind the stumps.

Adding experience to their pace attack, Bhuvneshwar Kumar returns to RCB, bringing his swing and accuracy. He is expected to share the new ball with Hazlewood, Lungi Ngidi, and Yash Dayal, forming a potent bowling unit.

With a balanced squad, a new leader, and Kohli's unwavering desire to lift the IPL trophy, RCB appears ready to mount a serious challenge. Fans will be hoping that this is finally the season where the stars align and RCB ends their long wait for glory.

Gill goes down memory lane to recollect first time he saw Sachin Tendulkar

hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Shubman Gill, captain of Gujarat Titans, goes down memory lane to recollect the first time he had seen legend Sachin Tendulkar and Glenn Maxwell.

I remember attending three to four matches with my father at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula. In the second or third year of the IPL, Mumbai Indians came there for practice. I was around nine or ten years old at the time. I even have a photo with Sachin Sir and Glenn Maxwell. I was throwing balls to them during their practice. These are some of my earliest memories of the IPL," Gill recalled. "I was extremely nervous, but I already knew about Sachin Sir. He was the reason I started playing cricket. My father is his biggest fan. Though my dad never had much interest in posters, we had Sachin's posters in our village," Gill said in a chat with JioHotstar.

"I believe leadership is a continuous journey. You gain new insights with every match and every week. Different players bring different perspectives, teaching you not just about leadership but also about themselves," he said.

"The more you play, the



more experience you gain through highs and lows, and that shapes you as a leader. It is essential to have one-on-one conversations with teammates. Initially, I was not the type to naturally engage in such interactions, but as a leader, it became a conscious effort," Gill said.

"As a batter, when you're on the field, you just need to focus on your batting. If you start thinking about your leadership responsibilities while batting, it can take you away from your best game. Batting is an individual battle between you and the bowler, whereas fielding is a collective effort. Leadership plays a bigger role in fielding and team strategy," he explained.

"We have a strong fast-bowling attack. Rashid has been with us, and we have explosive batters like Rutherford, Philips, and Butler. Some talented Indian players like Mahipal and Sai add depth to our squad," Gill said on Gujarat Titans.

marks for huge totals. I am sure breaching the 300-mark is going to be a talking point and there is a huge possibility if one looks at the practice games of this team," Vihari said.

Reflecting on SRH, Vihari said the addition of Ishan Kishan, who should bat at No.3, would only make the team even more imposing in batting with Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma at the top, followed by the likes of Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy.

Bowlers need to have special skills to succeed in IPL, says Hanuma Vihari

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Former India star G Hanuma Vihari feels that the days of someone playing an anchor role in the IPL are a thing of the past as the teams prefer to really go hard at the bowlers.

In an interaction with the media, the 31-year-old JioStar Expert Vihari, who played for Sunrisers Hyderabad in its first edition in 2013, said it was all about fours and sixes now in the IPL.

"The bowlers need to have special skills, a lot of variety – be it pace or spin. In fact, most of the teams prefer mystery or wrist spinners than finger spinners because of this," he said.

"The dynamics of IPL have changed drastically since the first IPL was played. Look at how SRH set bench-



"I feel that SRH has covered all the bases pretty well, including the spin department by preferring Adam Zampa and Rahul Chahar. Even in pace, though I was a bit surprised by the decision to leave Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel can be a like-for-like replacement," he said.

"Even an 80 per cent Shami coming up with performances is a huge plus for the team, for he is such a quality bowler," he added

minute when Brandon Vanlalremdika glanced in a header off Abhishek Ambekar's throw-in to put his team in the lead.

In an evenly contested final quarter of an hour, both teams pushed hard for the next goal. It was in the first minute of additional time that the visitors equalized through Bidyashagar Singh. Moments later, Eli Sabia headed the ball into the back of the net from a corner, but his goal was disallowed, and the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

Sreenidi Deccan settles for draw against Inter Kashi at I-League

Hyderabad
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Sreenidi Deccan FC settled for a two-all draw against Inter Kashi in the 19th round of the I-League football championship at Deccan Arena here on Wednesday.

K Prasanth opened the scoring for the visitors in the 17th minute, but David Castaneda equalised in the 48th minute.

The Deccan Warriors then took the lead through Brandon Vanlalremdika in the 72nd minute, but soon, the visitors responded with a late



equalizer from Bidyashagar Singh in the 91st minute. Assistant coach Ishant Singh made one change to his start-

ing eleven, bringing in Lalnuntluanga in place of Lanchungnunga. The visitors controlled the

game from the outset and took the lead in the 17th minute when Prasanth K tapped in a cross from the right flank.

Despite continued pressure from the Deccan Warriors, the first half ended 0-1 in favor of the visitors.

The home team scored the equalizer just three minutes after the restart. Lalromawia's cross from the right was met perfectly by David inside the box, whose header found the back of the net. The relentless attacking play of the Deccan Warriors was rewarded again in the 72nd

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Congress Budget Betrays Telangana, Prioritizes Delhi Over Local Welfare: KTR

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

BRS Working President KTR has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government's latest budget, labeling it a "complete betrayal" of Telangana's people. He accused the government of prioritizing political greed over the welfare of the state's citizens, calling it a "40% commission budget" that sends funds to Delhi rather than fulfilling local promises. KTR criticized the budget for failing to deliver on key promises, including the much-hyped six guarantees that were supposed to be implemented within 100 days. He highlighted that promises such as Rs 2,500 monthly for women and Rs 4,000 pensions for the elderly remain unfulfilled, leaving vulnerable groups dis-



appointed. The budget's financial mismanagement was a significant point of contention. KTR noted that while the BRS government borrowed Rs 4.17 lakh crore over 10 years, the Congress government amassed Rs 1.6 lakh crore in just one year without initiating new projects or schemes. He blamed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's policies for a Rs 73,000 crore drop in state revenue.

KTR accused the Congress of neglecting various sections of society, including auto drivers, farmers, and marginalized communities. He pointed out that the promised Auto Drivers' Welfare Board is absent from the budget, and farmers' loan waivers remain incomplete. He also criticized the government for ignoring the plight of weavers and government employees, who were promised better bene-

fits. Hyderabad's deteriorating conditions under Revanth Reddy's municipal oversight were also highlighted. KTR mentioned pending works and the lack of basic medicines in government hospitals, calling the situation shameful. The BRS leader warned that the Congress's priority is to funnel funds to Delhi, escalating from a 20% to a 40% commission regime. He demanded accountability and a shift from Delhi-centric corruption to addressing Telangana's real needs. KTR concluded by stating that the BRS will fiercely oppose this "anti-people budget," which he said buries welfare and erases development. He held the Congress accountable for plunging Telangana's economy into an abyss after one year of rule.

Cafe Niloufer Unveils India's Largest Tea Cafe at Hitech City

Hyderabad
WUT | Mar . 20

Cafe Niloufer, a beloved name in Hyderabad's tea culture, has launched India's biggest tea cafe at Hitech City. Spanning an impressive 40,000 sq. ft., this grand outlet can accommodate over 700 guests. The cafe features the breathtaking 2-ton 'Niloufer's Kettle of Love', symbolizing its rich heritage. The second floor offers exclusive party and meeting zones, perfect for elegant social events and corporate gatherings. The outdoor dining area, set against the backdrop of Hyderabad's bustling IT corridor, offers a mesmerizing experience of enjoy-

ing Niloufer's legendary chai and snacks under the open sky. Speaking at the inauguration, D. Sridhar Babu, Telangana's Minister for IT, EC, I & C, highlighted how Cafe Niloufer has become an iconic part of Hyderabad's culinary heritage. Shabir Ali, Advisor to the Government of Telangana, praised Babu Rao, the founder, for transforming a local cafe into a landmark. Founded in 1978 by Shri Anumula Babu Rao, Cafe Niloufer started as a humble tea stall. With dedication and passion, it grew into a household name. Anumula Shashank, Managing Director, has brought innovation, expanding the



with nine outlets across Hyderabad. The cafe serves its signature Irani chai, Bun Muska, Malia Bun, and Kunafa Cheese-cakes, along with millet-based dishes and hearty rice combos. Cafe Niloufer is not just a cafe—it's an experience. The new outlet blends tra-

with modern elegance, offering a sophisticated ambience, impeccable service, and an enhanced menu. With 47 years of heritage, Cafe Niloufer continues to delight tea lovers across Telangana and beyond, bringing the authentic taste of Hyderabad to new heights.

Telangana High Court dismisses drone case against CM Revanth Reddy

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The Telangana High Court has dismissed the drone case filed against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The case was registered by Narsingi police in March 2020, when Revanth Reddy, then a Member of Parliament, allegedly flew a drone over the Jan-



wada farmhouse, reportedly linked to former minister K. T. Rama Rao, and filmed the area. Following the incident, Narsingi police arrested Revanth

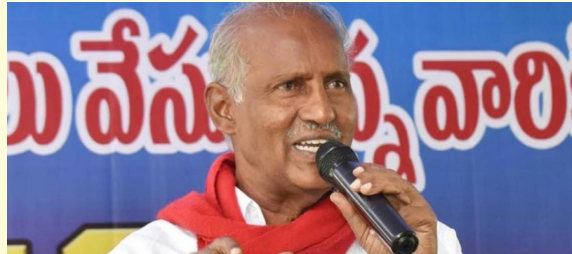
Reddy and sent him to jail. He was later released on bail. Recently, he filed a petition in the High Court seeking dismissal of the case. His lawyer argued that Janwada was not a restricted area and that the case was politically motivated to target him. Accepting the argument, the court dismissed the case.

Congress Leader Fateh Affan Hosts Dawat-e-Iftar in Hyderabad



Former Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin offered dates to Congress leader Mohammad Fateh Affan during the Dawat-e-Iftar hosted by businessman and Congress leader Mohammad Affan at Astoria Restaurant near the Secretariat in Hyderabad. The event was attended by senior Congress leader Mohammed Khaleel ur Rahman and several other prominent leaders and dignitaries.

CPI MLA criticises Telangana Budget, calls it unrealistic



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CPI MLA K. Sambasiva Rao criticised the Telangana state budget, stating that it does not meet public expectations. Reacting to the budget, he said that both major parties made unrealistic promises during the elections to outdo each other, but after coming to power, the government has failed to fulfil them. He pointed out that compared to last year, the budget has increased by only Rs 9,000 crore,

which he claimed would not significantly benefit the people. He questioned how the government plans to complete 12 irrigation projects with an allocation of just Rs 23,000 crore for the irrigation department. Sambasiva Rao also alleged that Congress had announced several schemes but failed to allocate funds for them in the budget. The only positive aspect, he noted, was the allocation for the SC and ST Sub-Plan, while the rest of the budget lacked substance.

Bandi Sanjay slams Telangana budget, calls it a numbers game

Hyderabad
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Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay, sharply criticised the Telangana state budget, calling it a mere manipulation of figures. He alleged that, similar to the previous budget, the allocated funds would not be fully utilised, making the projections unrealistic. Bandi Sanjay accused the Congress government of mirroring the policies of the previous BRS regime by inflating budget figures while spending far less in reality. He claimed that this tactic was intended to mislead the public by creating a false impression of large-scale development. According to him, the budget offers no real so-



lutions to the state's financial issues. He further pointed out that the budget made no mention of the six guarantees Congress had promised before the elections. He criticised the government for failing to allocate sufficient funds to fulfil other key poll promises, such as the ₹2,500 monthly assistance for women, scooters for girls, and one tola of gold under the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme. He argued that these omissions exposed the

government's lack of commitment to its pre-election assurances. Bandi Sanjay also questioned the government's claim of a rise in per capita income, highlighting that it failed to address the state's mounting debt. He demanded transparency from the government regarding the actual expenditure from last year's budget. Additionally, he called for the disclosure of the current per capita debt burden on Telangana's citizens, accusing the ruling party of concealing the true financial situation. He urged the Congress government to stop misleading the public with inflated figures and instead focus on delivering genuine welfare and development initiatives.

McDonald's chooses Hyderabad to set up global capability centre with 2,000 people

Hyderabad
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Telangana has secured a significant investment and partnership deal with McDonald's, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. This agreement marks a milestone for the state, positioning it as a key global investment destination. The partnership involves establishing McDonald's Global Office for India in Hyderabad, chosen for its talent pool, infrastructure, and quality of living. The office will initially employ 2,000 people and serve as a Global Capability Center (GCC). Hyderabad was selected over competitors like Bangalore, highlighting Telangana's strategic advantages. McDonald's will also leverage Telangana as a Skilling



Zone, training human resources for its operations across India and overseas. This initiative aligns with the state's skilling programs, notably the Young India Skills University, which will provide trained personnel for McDonald's operations nationwide. The deal includes a commitment to source agricultural produce from local farmers, boosting the state's agricultural economy and support-

ing farmers' incomes. McDonald's plans to expand its presence in Telangana, adding 3-4 new outlets annually, including in tier-two and tier-three towns. Chief Minister Reddy emphasized Telangana's skilling initiatives and encouraged McDonald's to benefit from the state's resources. The partnership is expected to create thousands of jobs and indirect business opportunities for youth in the region.

RGIA Connects Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam through VietJet

Hyderabad
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GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) on Wednesday announced new direct flight services from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad to Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam through VietJet. The inaugural flight took off amid much excitement in the presence of senior officials from GHIAL, VietJet and key stakeholders. The new service will operate twice a week on Tuesday and Saturday, reinforcing



GHIAL's commitment to enhancing international connectivity for travellers. With a flight time of about four hours and 35 minutes, this new route marks a significant milestone in strengthening air connectivity between India and Vietnam, fostering tourism, business collaborations, and regional accessibility. Speaking on the occasion, Pradeep

Panicker, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited, said, "We are pleased to announce the launch of VietJet's direct service to Ho Chi Minh City, further strengthening Hyderabad's global presence. This new route will play a pivotal role in fostering tourism and trade between Hyderabad and international destinations."

"At RGIA, we are committed to transforming the airport into a world-class global hub by enhancing infrastructure, integrating cutting-edge technology, and fostering strategic partnerships. This development marks another step in our vision to position Hyderabad as a premier gateway for international travel, business and commerce," he explained. VietJet Vice President Do Xuan Quang stated, "India is a key market for Vietjet, and we are thrilled to launch this direct route between Hyderabad and Ho Chi Minh City. Hyderabad has been

recognized as India's most livable city for six consecutive years and is also the country's fastest-growing city. With RGIA serving as a major gateway to South India, this new route will enhance convenience for travelers while strengthening cultural, tourism, and economic ties between the two regions. Beyond offering affordable flights, Vietjet takes pride in its extensive international network, allowing Indian travelers seamless access to top destinations across the Asia-Pacific via Vietnam."

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In a commendable initiative, Mirza Riyaz Ul Hassan Effendi, under the guidance of AIMIM Chief Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi, has installed 500 lights on Moula Ali Mountain for a 5-day period. This illumination will aid devotees during the significant days of the 18th to the 22nd of Ramadan. During these days, devotees gather to mourn and honor Imam Ali (A.S.), the son-in-law of Prophet Mohammed Mustafa (SAWS). The mountain is expected to be filled with thousands of devo-



tees, including those from other states who come to participate in the majlis of Imam Ali (A.S.) on the night of the 20th of Ramadan. AIMIM Leader Shabbir Hussain, along with Kul Hind Tanzeem-e-Alawi Vice President Syed Shabbir Hussain, are

leading the preparations to ensure a memorable and spiritual experience for all attendees. Moula Ali Mountain, aglow with symbolism and spirituality, awaits pilgrims seeking solace and reflection during this sacred observance.