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**Asaduddin Owaisi 'tears' Waqf Bill during debate: P8**

**Gujarat Titans halt Royal Challengers' progress, win by 8 wickets; Buttler, Siraj shines: P7**

**CM Revanth to convene a meeting regarding HCU issue: P8**



## Brief Insights

### 2 Pak soldiers killed in clash along LoC



Two Pakistani soldiers were killed and two others injured on Tuesday following a clash along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Krishna Ghati sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, according to the Indian Army. The Indian Army stated that the clash was triggered by a mine explosion caused by an intrusion of Pakistani troops across the LoC, which was followed by "unprovoked" firing from the Pakistani side. "Our troops responded effectively in a controlled and calibrated manner. The situation is under control and being closely monitored," an Army statement said. The Army reiterated its commitment to upholding the 2021 ceasefire understanding between the two countries aimed at maintaining peace along the LoC. Pakistani authorities have not yet officially commented on the incident.

## Revanth demands Centre to approve Telangana's 42% BC quota Bill

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 3

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday defended the Telangana Legislative Assembly's decision to increase reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in education, employment, and local bodies to 42 per cent as it was legitimate and necessary. Speaking at a protest rally organised by Backward Classes Welfare Associations at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy demanded the BJP-led government at the Centre to give Constitutional protection from judicial scrutiny to Telangana's two Bills providing 42 per



cent reservations for BCs by including them in the Ninth Schedule. "If they do not, BCs will bring the Congress to power at the Centre, and secure 42 per cent reservations for BCs ourselves," Revanth Reddy said. The Assembly passed two Bills on March 17 seeking to enhance BC reservations to

42 per cent. The protest witnessed strong participation from BC welfare associations and leaders from various political parties. Revanth Reddy said that the Telangana government has taken decisive steps toward increasing BC quotas, in line with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's promises during the Bharat Jodo

Yatra. "Within 100 days of assuming office, the Congress government in Telangana resolved to conduct a caste-based census. On February 4, 2024, we presented the caste census findings in the Assembly, declaring it as 'Social Justice Day,'" he said. Revanth Reddy accused the BJP of being fundamentally opposed to increasing reservations for weaker sections. He alleged that the BJP conspired against the Mandal Commission in late 1980s and launched the 'Kamandal' movement to counter it, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being its key representative.

## LS Passes Waqf Amendment Bill

Initiating the eight-hours-long debate on the Bill, Kiren Rijiju hit out at the Congress, saying that the Modi government helped save the Parliament which the UPA would have otherwise given off as Waqf land

New Delhi WUT | Apr. 3

The Lok Sabha has passed the Waqf Amendment Bill, receiving 288 votes in favour of the Bill, 232 votes against the Bill. The Amendment Bill was put to test on the floor of the House. Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking in the Lower House in support of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill stated, "Unknowingly or for political reasons, there are several misinformation is being spread by Opposition MPs. Waqf means 'donation for religious charities in the



name of Allah'. Waqf is one type of charitable endowment without any intention of taking it back. Donations can be done only of one's own property, not government property". He further clarified, "No provision to appoint any non-Muslim member to Waqf. We do not wish to do this. There

will be no interference in Muslims' religious matters. They are opposing this to appease their vote banks." The Lok Sabha session kicked off on a stormy note on Wednesday as Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju tabled the Waqf (Amendment) **CONTINUE:P4**

## Telangana HC Restrains Government from Cutting Trees in Kancha Gachibowli

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 3

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the state government to stop felling trees in the disputed 400-acre land in Survey Number 25 at Kancha Gachibowli in Hyderabad until Thurs-

day evening. The division bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara, issued oral directions to Advocate General A. Sudharshan Reddy, asking him to inform the government to halt felling of trees, which had been ongoing for three days, until

Thursday. The court issued the directive after hearing arguments in public interest litigations challenging GO 54, which authorised the alienation of 400 acres of land in Survey Number 25 of Kancha Gachibowli to TGIIC for the development of IT infrastruc-

ture. During the hearing, the Bench asked the Advocate General how the government could claim that the land in question had been designated as industrial land since 2003 when such a classification was not recorded in revenue records or in any previous judgments related to the land disputes. Senior counsel S. Niranjan Reddy, appearing for Vata Foundation, a reg-

istered environmental non-profit organisation, informed the court that the government had been razing trees for the past three days using massive machinery, despite the High Court's March 24 order directing the government to explain why the GO should not be

stayed by April 7. He stated that the government proceeded with felling trees even though the court had seized the matter, arguing that the government's actions amounted to contempt of Supreme Court orders in cases related to identifying forest-like lands.

## Trump imposes 26% tariff on India

WASHINGTON WUT | Apr. 3

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced a 26 per cent tariff on Indian products and services as part of wider policy to impose sweeping 10 per cent tariffs on all countries to boost manufacturing in his country. The aggressive rhetoric came as Trump showed a willingness to dismantle a global economic system that the United States helped to build after World War II. Trump held up a chart while speaking, showing the United States would charge a 34% tax on im-

ports from China, a 26 per cent from India, a 20% tax on imports from the European Union, 25% on South Korea, 24% on Japan and 32% on Taiwan. Cambodia will attract the highest US tariff at 49 per cent, followed by Vietnam at 46 per cent and Sri Lanka at 44 per cent — only three countries in 40-50 per cent bracket. Bangladesh will have to pay 37 per cent tariff, Thailand 36 per cent, China 34 per cent, Indonesia 32 per cent, Taiwan 32 per cent, Switzerland 31 per cent, and South Africa 30 per cent. In 20-29 per cent bracket, Pakistan will attract the highest tariff

at 29 per cent, followed by India 26 per cent, South Korea 25 per cent, Japan and Malaysia 24 per cent and European Union 20 per cent. Israel and the Philippines will attract 17 per cent tariff, while the United Kingdom, Australia, Chile, Turkey, Colombia, Brazil, Singapore will attract 10 per cent tariff. US financial markets have been unsettled in anticipation of Trumps tariff announcement. Trump insists the moves will strengthen the U.S. economy, even as many experts worry it could lead to higher prices for most American consumers.

## Centre gets back power to distinguish between pensioners

Chennai WUT | Apr. 3

A legislation passed by Parliament with the Finance Bill recently empowers the Centre to establish distinction between pensioners in terms of pension as recommended by Pay Commissions — a provision which was scrapped by the Supreme Court. The Centre, however, insisted that it will not use the newly-acquired powers to differentiate between pensioners. With this legislation, the government, from now on, can decide whether or not



retired before the Pay Commission's recommendations came into force or after. This practice, however, was struck down by the Supreme Court stating that the government lacks authority to make such a distinction between the Central government pensioners based on their data of retirement. The Central government appoints a Pay Commission every 10 years to review and recommend the structure of salary and pension for its serving employees and retired employees. According to the Pensioners Portal **CONTINUE:P4**

## Rs 25L ex gratia for families of 6 still missing workers: Ponguleti

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 3

The Telangana government moved one step closer to officially declaring that the six more missing workers in the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana as dead, with revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announcing that ex gratia of '25 lakh each would be paid to their families in the next day or two. It may be recalled that eight workers were buried when a section of the tunnel collapsed on February 22. While bodies of two of the workers have been



in the past 40 days, efforts to find the rest of the six have not met with success so far. The body of Gurpreet Singh, an erector operation working for Robbins, USA, that operated the tunnel boring machine was found on March 9 and that of Manoj Kumar, a project engineer with Jaiprakash Associates, the company contracted to build the tunnel, was found on **CONTINUE:P4**

## Modi heads for Bangkok for BIMSTEC summit

New Delhi WUT | Apr. 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Bangkok on Thursday to attend the sixth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit, scheduled for Friday. Ahead of the Summit, he is set to participate in an official dinner reception hosted by Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for visiting heads of state/government. Interim Bangladeshi leader Muhammad Yunus is also likely to attend, but no official bilateral meeting has been announced between him and Modi. It remains



to be seen whether the two leaders meet informally. New Delhi-Dhaka ties have deteriorated over the past eight months since Sheikh Hasina's ouster, with India voicing concern over the interim government's anti-India stance and recent attacks on the Hindu minority in Bangladesh. Yunus's remarks during a recent trip to China — claiming Bangladesh's

sole guardianship of the surrounding ocean and inviting Beijing for economic expansion — have further strained relations. During his visit, Modi will also hold talks with his Thai counterpart on Thursday before attending the BIMSTEC Summit on Friday. The summit agenda includes adopting the Bangkok Vision 2030 document, signing an agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, and issuing the declaration of the sixth BIMSTEC summit. Modi will later visit Bangkok's Wat Pho Temple and has been granted a royal audience with the Thai King before continuing his journey to Colombo.

## Waqf Amendment Bill being introduced in interest of country: Rijiju

New Delhi WUT | Apr. 3

As the Centre tabled the contentious Waqf bill in the Lok Sabha on Friday, the Opposition tore into the government, with Samajwadi Party chief and MP Akhilesh Yadav claiming that the new bill was going to be the BJP's "Waterloo". Congress member Gaurav Gogoi accused the government of setting a precedent that could lead to targeting of the minority communities. Opposing the bill, Trinamul Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee described the



move as the BJP's "evil design" and DMK MP A. Raja accused Union minority affairs minister Kiren Rijiju of concocting a "cock and bull story" while tabling the bill. The BJP allies like the TDP and the JD(U), however, supported the proposed law, claiming it is "not anti-Muslim". The SP chief said that the Waqf bill is aimed at polarisation and will send

a wrong message to the world, denting the country's secular image. He alleged that the bill has been introduced to manage the BJP's diminishing votebank and will prove to be a "Waterloo" for the saffron party, as some members might be claiming to support the bill, but inside they are not happy about the development. Mr Yadav also claimed that the bill is being brought to divert attention from the land capture by China. "Bringing the Waqf bill is the BJP's political game. It is a new form of their

communal politics. The BJP wants to appease those supporters who are now distancing themselves from the party because of its policies. As there has been a drop in the vote share, especially in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP has been trying to manage votes and this bill is being introduced for managing votes," the SP chief said, adding that the BJP wants the Muslim community to feel that their rights are being attacked and the party gets to indulge in the politics of polarisation because that is their agenda. **CONTINUE:P4**

## Centre Approves Rs.14,000 Cr Loan for TG from Apr-Jun

The Centre has granted permission to the Telangana government to raise Rs.14,000 crore through open market borrowings in the first quarter (April-June) of the new financial year 2025-26. However, this is Rs.2,000 crore less than the Rs.16,000 crore approved for the same period in the previous fiscal year 2024-25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct auctions of state government bonds to facilitate the borrowings. As per the approved schedule, Telangana will raise Rs.4,000 crore in April, **CONTINUE:P2**

## Rs 25L ex gratia for families of 6 still missing workers: Ponguleti

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

The Telangana government on Wednesday moved one step closer to officially declaring that the six more missing workers in the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana as dead, with revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announcing that ex gratia of '25 lakh each would be paid to their families in the next day or two. It may be recalled that eight workers were buried when a section of the tunnel collapsed on February 22. While bodies of two of the workers have been found in the past 40 days, efforts to find the

rest of the six have not met with success so far.

The body of Gurpreet Singh, an erector operation working for Robbins, USA, that operated the tunnel boring machine was found on March 9 and that of Manoj Kumar, a project engineer with Jai-prakash Associates, the company contracted to build the tunnel, was found on March 25 and the families were provided with '25 lakh as ex gratia. Srinivas Reddy, speaking to media persons at the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) inlet site in Domalapenta village after taking stock of the efforts to search for the missing bodies, said it was extremely unfortunate that lives were

lost in the accident and everything humanly possible was done to search for possible survivors in the immediate aftermath of the accident.

Expressing deep sympathies to the families of the workers who lost their lives, he said the Nagarkurnool district collector Badavath Santosh has been instructed to release the ex gratia to the families of the six workers whose bodies are yet to be found.

The minister also said that the government was committed to complete the SLBC tunnel project but would move forward with abundant caution after taking into account all aspects of safety.

## CM Revanth Demands Constitutional Protection for 42% BC Reservations

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday defended the state's decision to increase reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) to 42% in education, employment, and local bodies. Speaking at a protest rally organized by BC Welfare Associations at Jantar Mantar, he urged the BJP-led central government to provide Constitutional protection to Telangana's Bills by including them in the Ninth Schedule. "If

they fail, BCs will ensure Congress comes to power at the Centre and implements the reservations ourselves," Reddy declared. The Telangana Assembly had passed two Bills on March 17 seeking to enhance BC reservations, but they await central approval.

Revanth Reddy accused the BJP of being historically opposed to reservations for weaker sections, citing its resistance to the Mandal Commission in the late 1980s.

He claimed that Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi is continuing this opposition by delaying the national caste census, fearing it will expose socio-economic inequalities. Telangana, he noted, has already completed its caste-based enumeration, setting an example for the country.

The Chief Minister highlighted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's push for a caste census and criticized the BJP for postponing the 2021 Census. He emphasized Telangana's commitment to social justice, noting that the Congress govern-

ment conducted a caste survey within its first 100 days in power and declared February 4 as 'Social Justice Day.'

Drawing a parallel with Lord Krishna's peace mission in the Mahabharata, Revanth Reddy said Telangana had come to Delhi with a request. "If Parliament approves our Bills, we will organize a rally to honor Modi in Hyderabad. If not, we will intensify our agitation," he warned. Prominent leaders, including DMK MP Kanimozhi, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi,

TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud, CPI national secretary K. Narayana, and NCP MP Supriya Sule, joined the protest, reflecting broad support for the demand. Revanth Reddy challenged Modi, questioning why BJP-ruled states like Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have not conducted a caste census while opposing Telangana's move. He urged the Centre to approve the Bills, asserting Telangana's right to implement them independently.

## Centre Approves Rs. 14,000 Cr Loan for TG from Apr-Jun

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

The Centre has granted permission to the Telangana government to raise Rs. 14,000 crore through open market borrowings in the first quarter (April-June) of the new financial year 2025-26. However, this is Rs. 2,000 crore less than the Rs. 16,000 crore approved for the same period in the previous fiscal year 2024-25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct auctions of state government bonds to facilitate the borrowings.

As per the approved schedule, Telangana will raise Rs. 4,000 crore in April, Rs. 5,000 crore in May, and Rs. 5,000 crore in June. The borrowing schedule includes Rs. 2,000 crore on April 15, Rs. 2,000 crore on April 29, Rs. 2,000 crore on May 6, Rs. 2,000 crore on May 20, Rs. 1,000 crore on May 27, Rs. 2,000 crore on June 3, Rs. 2,000 crore on June 17 and Rs. 1,000 crore on June 24.

In its 2025-26 state budget presented in the Legislative Assembly on

March 19, the state government proposed to raise Rs. 64,539 crore through open market borrowings. This would require an average borrowing of Rs. 16,134 crore per quarter. However, the Centre's approval for only Rs. 14,000 crore in the first quarter raises questions about whether the state will be allowed to borrow its full projected amount or face further cuts.

During the recently concluded Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy revealed that Telangana's total debt currently stands at Rs. 7,38,707 crore. He attributed this high debt burden to the financial mismanagement of the previous BRS government, which he claimed had taken massive loans over a decade from June 2014 to December 2023. Revanth Reddy stated that at the time of Telangana's formation in June 2014, the state inherited a debt of Rs. 90,161 crore from undivided Andhra Pradesh. However, under the BRS government, the

debt escalated to Rs. 8,19,151 crore by December 7, 2023, when the Congress government assumed office. He explained that the Congress government borrowed Rs. 1.58 lakh crore in 15 months between December 2023 and February 2025, of which Rs. 1.53 lakh crore was utilised to repay principal and interest on loans taken by the previous BRS government. The actual new debt incurred by the Congress government stands at Rs. 4,682 crore, Revanth Reddy

## Absolutely govt failure 24 hours power cuts:: Saibaba nagar people

Hyderabad  
Prashanth reddy  
WUT | Apr . 3

From the inception of tenth class exams, electricity department creating hurdles through electricity disconnecting day and night electricity disconnecting if we complain to electric officers they are neglecting, besides that escaping with lame excuses with industries running. With this un-



timely electricity power cuts home appliances Like TV, cooler, fridge are burning. Saibaba nagar people are anguishing with huge agony urged that this power should be stop immediately. Moreover

bad impact on children studies and also people questioned is it 24 hours power supply providing by the Telangana government.. Absolutely it's govt failure.

## KCR holds preparatory meet ahead of BRS silver jubilee celebrations



Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

Ahead of the public meeting marking BRS party's silver jubilee celebrations, party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao held a preparatory meeting with leaders from the erstwhile Medak and

Nizamabad districts at his Erravelli residence on Wednesday. He discussed about the arrangements being made for mobilisation of crowds and ensure that they do not face any inconvenience.

BRS working pres-

ident KT Rama Rao, senior leaders T Harish Rao, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, and key district leaders, including MLAs, MLCs, and former elected representatives, attended the meeting to discuss strategies for the up-

coming event.

Meanwhile, BRS leaders from the erstwhile Warangal district conducted a Bhoomi Puja at the venue in Elkathurthy near Warangal, where the silver jubilee public meeting is set to take place on April 27. The party leaders recently attended a meeting chaired by Chandrashekhar Rao and explained about arrangements being made at the venue. The event is expected to be a major show of strength for the party as it rallies its cadre.

## BRS MLA Condemns Police Action on HCU Students

Hyderabad  
R santosh chowdary  
WUT | Apr . 3

Former Minister and BRS MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy has strongly criticized the police lathicharge on students of Hyderabad Central University (HCU) who were peacefully protesting. He accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of suppressing student voices and resorting to repression under the guise of public administration.

Reddy questioned the integrity of the government, highlighting the contradiction between their past promises and



current actions. He noted that Rahul Gandhi, who has been advocating for the protection of the Constitution, has remained silent on the land sales in HCU. Reddy also challenged Revanth Reddy's commitment to 'people's rule,' given the authoritarian crackdown on student protests.

The BRS MLA expressed deep concern over the environmental impact of selling HCU lands, emphasizing that the campus is a vital ecological zone housing diverse flora and fauna. He warned that such actions threaten both the academic atmosphere and the rich biodiversity of

the university.

Reddy pledged the BRS party's support for the students' movement against land encroachments and government oppression. He demanded accountability from the Revanth Reddy government for the violent lathicharge and vowed to continue opposing any actions that threaten the students' rights and the environment.

The BRS party stands firmly with the students, condemning the use of force against peaceful protesters and advocating for the protection of their democratic rights and the ecological integrity of the HCU campus.

## BJP Protests Sale of UoH Lands at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

In a strong show of opposition, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders gathered at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi to protest the Telangana government's decision to sell lands belonging to Hyderabad Central University (HCU). The protest drew participation from numerous MPs, MLAs, and other prominent party figures, all of whom condemned the move as

anti-people and detrimental to the future of students.

At the forefront of the protest was BJP MP Etala Rajender, who delivered a scathing critique of the government's actions. He recounted the historical significance of the university lands, noting that they were allocated following the 1969 student movement for a separate Telangana state. This movement, which saw the sacrifice of 369 stu-



dents, ultimately led to the establishment of Telangana and the allocation of 2,500 acres for the development of HCU.

Rajender expressed outrage at the government's plan to sell 400 acres of this land for Rs. 40,000 crores, questioning whether the

government had effectively become a real estate broker. He recalled Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's earlier statements, which suggested that selling lands was necessary to sustain the government financially. Rajender described this approach as shameful and accused the gov-

ernment of prioritizing financial gains over the educational future of students.

The protest also highlighted the alleged police brutality against students who have been protesting the land sale. Rajender condemned the government for inciting violence and allowing the police to attack protesting students mercilessly. He further accused the authorities of cutting down trees and destroying university premises

in front of the students, actions he described as despicable.

Students across Telangana have rallied in support of the protests, demanding that the HCU lands be protected. This widespread opposition has seen students from various universities in the state expressing their solidarity and concern over the issue. BJP leaders, including Legislative Party Leader Maheshwar Reddy, have taken the matter to the Union

Education and Environment Ministers, urging them to intervene and prevent the sale of the lands.

The BJP has pledged its support to the students and promised to stand by them in their fight to protect the university lands. Party leaders have warned of serious consequences if the government proceeds with the sale, emphasizing their commitment to resisting the move.

Analysts believe that

the decision to sell the HCU lands could have significant and far-reaching impacts on the future of students. The outcome of the protests remains uncertain, but the situation is tense as stakeholders await further developments. The BJP's protest in Delhi underscores the growing opposition to the land sale and the broader implications it holds for the educational landscape in Telangana.

# Kavitha Accuses CM Revanth Reddy of Stalling BC Reservations, Challenges Him on Land Allegations

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

A political storm is brewing in Telangana over BC reservations and land disputes, with key figures trading accusations and challenging each other's commitments. MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has accused CM Revanth Reddy of orchestrating a "screenplay" to sideline BC reservation bills passed by the assembly, alleging that the government intends to hide these resolutions, which aim to provide 42% reservation to BCs in education, jobs, and politics. Kavitha claims that Reddy's actions are a di-



version to protect the BJP-led central government, suggesting that Reddy fears political repercussions if an all-party delegation is sent to Delhi. Kavitha criticized Reddy for not following through on his promise to lead an all-party delegation to Delhi, instead attending a meeting with BC associations. She asserted that Reddy's move

was to avoid pressuring the Modi government, which she believes will not support increased BC reservations. Kavitha warned that the Telangana society and BCs are closely watching Reddy's political maneuvers. Adding to the controversy, Kavitha questioned the Congress leadership's commitment to Telangana, highlighting that Mallikarjun

Kharge and Rahul Gandhi did not attend a crucial BC groups meeting in Delhi. She saw this as an insult to BCs and questioned whether the Congress, which came to power with Telangana's votes, truly cares about the region's aspirations. Kavitha also challenged Revanth Reddy to send bulldozers to the My Home Group, alleging that the group has ties with the BJP and questioning why only the homes of the poor are targeted. Kavitha defended the BRS government's role in protecting 400 acres of Hyderabad Central University land from private interests, crediting

KCR's leadership for safeguarding the land through legal action. She criticized Reddy's alleged plan to sell the land to fund the government, arguing that such a move would be environmentally detrimental. Kavitha suggested that the land should be used for educational purposes rather than industrial development, emphasizing the need to consider environmental impacts. The political landscape in Telangana remains tense as these accusations and counter-accusations unfold, with BC reservations and land use emerging as critical issues shaping the narrative.

# Max Fashion Reopens at Hari Om Arjun Towers in Himayat Nagar

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Max Fashion has announced the relaunch of its store at Hari Om Arjun Towers in Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad. The reopening celebration invites customers to explore and enjoy the brand's latest offerings. Max Fashion is renowned for catering to the fashion needs of families, offering a blend of trendy styles at affordable prices. Known for its 'everyday fashion' collection, Max Fashion has established itself as one of India's largest fashion brands. With a strong presence in over 19 countries, Max Fashion operates more than 520 stores ac-



ross 210 cities in India. The brand's vision is to democratize fashion, making global trends accessible to the contemporary middle class at affordable prices. Max Fashion appeals to both young families and millennials, offering a well-balanced portfolio of apparel, footwear, and accessories for men, women, and kids. Max Fashion has also

embraced the digital age, providing an outstanding online shopping experience through its website and engaging app, enjoyed by millions of consumers. The brand's omni-channel approach ensures a seamless shopping experience, combining the convenience of online shopping with the tangible experience of in-store visits.

# KVK Jammikunta Hosts Training on Soil Enrichment for Sustainable Farming

Hyderabad Dp srinivas rao WUT | Apr . 3

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jammikunta held an intensive training program on biochar application in natural farming, emphasizing sustainable agricultural practices. Led by biochar specialist Dr. N. Sai Bhaskar Reddy, the workshop at KVK farm gathered natural farming practitioners and field extension officers. Dr. Reddy highlighted biochar's benefits, including improved soil fertility, better water conservation, carbon sequestration, enhanced microbial activity, and reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers. These advantages support sustainable and organic



farming, crucial for drought-prone areas and climate change mitigation. Dr. N. Venkateswara Rao, Head of KVK Jammikunta, discussed plans to integrate biochar production with high-density planting systems in cotton cultivation. This approach aims to produce biochar from cotton stalks post-harvest, enhancing yield and providing a

sustainable biochar source. Nuziveedu Seeds supported the initiative by providing biochar free of cost, appreciated by Shri P. Vijay Gopal Reddy, General Secretary of KVK. The program concluded with a field demonstration, allowing participants to observe application techniques and discuss biochar integration into their farming systems.

# BRS files complaint with Forest Department against destruction of greenery

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Senior BRS leaders, led by former IPS officer RS Praveen Kumar, lodged a formal complaint with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-Telangana, demanding legal action against officials responsible for the large-scale environmental damage in Kancha Gachibowli, a biodiversity-rich area within the University of Hyderabad (UoH) lands. In their complaint at Aranya Bhavan on Wednesday, the BRS



leaders accused the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) of violating environmental laws to facilitate real estate enterprise, leading to massive deforestation, displacement of wildlife and ecological degradation. They cited violations of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The BRS delegation raised concerns over the impact on endangered species, soil erosion, water pollu-

tion, and biodiversity loss. They stated that the State government was attempting to convert a pristine natural habitat into commercial real estate venture, ignoring the critical environmental role of the land. Speaking on the occasion, Praveen Kumar said decisive action was crucial to uphold environmental laws and protect Telangana's rapidly vanishing green spaces. He demanded for immediate cessation of all encroachment and destruction in the affected 400 acres, as well as a

thorough investigation into those responsible for the illegal encroachment. "We also demand for strict enforcement of environmental laws, including criminal action against violators and seizure of vehicles and equipment used in the destruction. We want restoration of the damaged ecosystem and strengthening of protection measures to prevent future encroachments, besides public disclosure of actions taken by the Forest department," he said.

# Telangana Office of National Human Rights and Social Justice Association Inaugurated

Hyderabad Dp srinivas rao WUT | Apr . 3

The Telangana office of the National Human Rights and Social Justice Association was inaugurated at Cantonment New Bowenpally, Chinmathokatta, marking a significant step towards promoting human rights and social justice in the state. The ceremony was attended by notable figures, including former Vice President of the Cantonment Board and senior Congress Party leader, Jampana Pratap, who served as the chief guest. Pratap emphasized the association's role in advocating for the underprivileged and urged its representatives to work diligently to ensure justice reaches all corners of the community. "Human rights are fundamental to a just society," Pratap stated. "This association must provide assistance to the poor and fight for the



rights of the downtrodden. Social justice is not just a concept but a duty." Key dignitaries present included the association's state vice chairman, N. Ashok Kumar, along with Pitla Nagesh, Arun Yadav, Prabhugupta, and Kondal Yadav. These leaders pledged their support to the association's vision and committed to collective efforts for societal betterment. The National Human Rights and Social Justice Association has been instrumental in advocating for marginalized communities across India.

The Telangana office aims to amplify these efforts by addressing poverty, discrimination, and human rights violations in the state. The association will provide legal assistance, awareness programs, and aid to those in need. Speakers at the event highlighted the importance of human rights awareness and the role of civil society in bridging governance gaps. They stressed the need for collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and social justice advocates to create a more inclusive society. The association plans to conduct outreach programs, legal aid camps, and awareness campaigns to empower local communities. With the new office, the association aims to become a beacon of hope for the marginalized and a strong voice against human rights violations in Telangana.

# Revanth governance is not a people governance it's cruel governance: Patha Sunil Kumar

Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Apr . 3

BJP's Telangana state youth leader Patha Sunil Kumar Stated in his Media statement on APR 2 Wednesday in regard to kancha Gachibowli lands. He severely alleged that.However, after the Congress government came to power in Telangana, turmoil prevailed in the state with uncertainty decisions of CM Revanth Reddy. And also termed that this is not a people governance, it's cruel governance to doing this mischievous on dumb



animals.one burning decision It is known that 400 acres of land is currently being completely flattened in Hyderabad Central University. Flattening 400 acres of land like this means that many wildlife will lose their habitat. If big trees are razed to the ground at once, the temperature will also increase and have a serious impact on the environment.The BJP's

youth leader said In this context, students of Hyderabad Central University are staging large-scale protests saying that these 400 acres should not be flattened. However, film celebrities are also standing in support of this dharma. While protests are taking place, Sunil stated that trees are being removed in the forest area with 40 bulldozers. He expressed his concern that if the forests are neglected, the temperatures will increase by four degrees Celsius. He also called for the protection of this forest area, which is home to many wildlife.

# Jagadish Reddy Condemns Lathi Charge on HCU Students

Former Minister Alleges Illegal Land Deals and Political Drama, Calls for Transparency and Support for Students



Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Apr . 3

Former Minister G. Jagadish Reddy held a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, strongly condemning the lathi charge on students protesting to save Hyderabad Central University (HCU). He accused the state government of misbehaving towards students and filing illegal cases against social media, media, and farmers. Reddy highlighted that the Congress party, which came to power with the support of students and youth, is now allegedly involved in corruption and mismanagement. He mentioned that after the Telangana movement in 1969, HCU was established, and students are now fighting to save it. He criticized the Congress party, stating that its leaders and ministers obtained their positions through payments, not through genuine public support. He questioned the sincerity of Congress

leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, in supporting the students' struggle. Reddy also targeted Revanth Reddy, accusing him of colluding with the BJP to acquire 400 acres of HCU land. He questioned the legitimacy of this acquisition and the government's intentions, suggesting a "dark deal" involving government officials. The press meet emphasized the need for transparency and genuine support for the students' cause. Reddy called for an end to the alleged dramatics between political parties and urged sincere efforts to protect HCU and its students. He also highlighted the environmental concerns, mentioning the torture of animals and the destruction of green spaces within the university. The event underscored the political tensions and allegations surrounding the management of HCU and the broader issues of corruption and misuse of power.

# BRS Leader Condemns Lathi Charge on Central University Students

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Apr . 3

Dr. Errolla Srinivas, a leader of the BRS party, strongly condemned the lathi charge on students at Central University, comparing it to similar incidents during the Telangana movement. He accused the government of deliberately hurting student sentiments and demanded the withdrawal of cases filed

against the students. Srinivas emphasized that Central University hosts students from across the country, not just Telangana, and criticized the government for locking students in their rooms and beating them. He pledged support for the students' struggle and expressed disappointment that alumni like Bhatti and Sridhar Babu did not stand with the students. The BRS leader also at-



tacked the Congress government, accusing it of having no agenda beyond criticizing KCR and the BRS party. He

alleged that the Congress party is selling lands to fill the pockets of Delhi bosses and that positions within the

party are awarded based on payments. Srinivas highlighted the historical significance of Central University, established during Indira Gandhi's tenure, and accused the current government of attempting to sell the land for personal gain. He claimed that the BRS government had saved 400 acres of land by mortgaging it to TGIIC for 30,000 crores and made an

agreement to auction it. He further accused Revanth Reddy and the Congress party of destroying land in 16 months and provoking students at Osmania University and Central University. Srinivas warned that such actions could lead to the downfall of governments and asserted that the Congress government is running on the hopes of selling lands.

## Trump imposes 26% tariff on India

Washington WUT | Apr. 3

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced a 26 per cent tariff on Indian products and services as part of wider policy to impose sweeping 10 per cent tariffs on all countries to boost manufacturing in his country. The aggressive rhetoric came as Trump showed a willingness to dismantle a global economic system that the United States helped to build after World War II. Trump held up a chart while speaking, showing the United States would charge a 34% tax on imports from China, a 26 per cent from India, a 20% tax on imports from the European Union, 25% on South Korea, 24% on Japan and 32% on Taiwan.

Cambodia will attract the highest US tariff at 49 per cent, followed by Vietnam at 46 per cent and Sri Lanka at 44 per cent — only three countries in 40-50 per cent bracket. Bangladesh will have to pay 37 per cent tariff, Thailand 36 per cent, China 34 per cent, Indonesia 32 per cent, Taiwan 32 per cent, Switzerland 31 per cent, and South Africa 30 per cent. In 20-29 per cent bracket, Pakistan will attract the highest tariff at 29 per cent, followed by

India 26 per cent, South Korea 25 per cent, Japan and Malaysia 24 per cent and European Union 20 per cent.

Israel and the Philippines will attract 17 per cent tariff, while the United Kingdom, Australia, Chile, Turkey, Colombia, Brazil, Singapore will attract 10 per cent tariff. US financial markets have been unsettled in anticipation of Trumps tariff announcement. Trump insists the moves will strengthen the U.S. economy, even as many experts worry it could lead to higher prices for most American consumers.

His advisers say the tariffs will return strategically vital manufacturing capabilities to the United States. Outside economists have warned that tariffs could slow the global economy, raise the risk of recession, and increase living costs for the average US family by thousands of dollars. Businesses have complained that Trump's barrage of threats has made it difficult to plan their operations. Tariff concerns have already slowed manufacturing activity across the globe, while also spurring sales of autos and other imported products as consumers rush to make purchases before prices rise.

# Waqf Bill Clears Lok Sabha With 288 Votes In Favour, 232 Against

New delhi WUT | Apr. 3

The Waqf Amendment Bill sailed through the Lok Sabha early on Thursday after a marathon 12-hour debate that saw the government and the Opposition go toe-to-toe on the contentious bill well-past midnight. The debate was intense but the numerical strength of the government had the last word. Around 2 am, the bill was passed by 288-232 votes.

The proposed legislation -- which will be tabled in Rajya Sabha later today -- aims to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf properties.

But the contentious provisions in the amended bill include mandatory inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards. There is also the stipulation that individuals who practiced Islam for at least five years only can donate properties to Waqf. Also, under the proposed law, government property identified as Waqf will cease to belong to it and the local Collector will determine its ownership. The Opposition -- which contended that the Joint

Parliamentary Committee set up to examine the Bill did not consider their suggestions -- argued that the bill was unconstitutional. The Congress declared that the government was trying to "defame (and) disenfranchise minorities" and staging an "4D assault on the Constitution". AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, in a symbolic protest, said he was "tearing up the law like Mahatma Gandhi did" with British law in South Africa.

The government contended that the bill was about property and its management, not religion. Huge lands and properties have been taken over by Waqf -- aided by the Congress's appeasement politics. There were largescale irregularities that did not allow Waqf property to benefit women and children, which the amended law would do. Also, the Waqf bill, the BJP said, was developed after consulting a large section of people and it has received the support of non-Muslim minorities. Speaking in favour of the bill, Union minister Amit Shah presented a long list of properties that he said were given for Waqf. The list

included land belonging to temples, other religions, the government and others.

"Properties in (Delhi's) Lutyens zone went to Waqf, and they started taking over government land... In Tamil Nadu, a 400-year-old temple property was declared as Waqf's. Land for a five-star establishment was given to Waqf for 12,000 a month... Several properties belonging to different religions were declared as Waqf property, including Chandra Shekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj," he said.

"You cannot donate someone else's property. You donate something which is yours," he said. While introducing the bill, Union minister Kiren Rijiju cited a case going on since 1970 in Delhi involving several properties, including the old Parliament building.

"If we had not introduced this amendment today, even the building we are sitting in could have been claimed as Waqf property," he said.

Pointing fingers at the Congress, Mr Shah said if there had not been an amendment in the Waqf Act in 2013, there would have been no need to

bring this legislation.

"In 2013, the extreme Waqf law was made overnight for the purpose of appeasement. As a result, 123 properties in Delhi's Lutyens zone were handed over to the Waqf just 25 days before the elections," he said.

He also denied that non-Muslims will be included in the Waqf board, saying "Those who take care of the religious property, in that board, non-Muslims won't be in that. We don't want to even interfere there.

The Opposition is trying to scare the minority and build their vote banks".Congress's Gaurav Gogoi, who delivered a lengthy rebuttal to Mr Rijiju, said the bill is an "assault on the Constitution... The aim is to dilute the Constitution, defame and disenfranchise minorities... divide Indian society".

"In 2023, four meetings of the Minority Commission were held, and yet, there was no mention of the need for a Waqf amendment bill. I ask the government - was this bill drafted by the Minority Affairs Ministry or some other department?" he added.

Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched a fierce attack

on the Centre, accusing it of trying to split the minorities.

"The party which does not have a single Muslim member (in Parliament), how is it that are remembering the Muslims today? The party which relies on polarisation, how did they remember the Muslims today?" she said, taking a swipe at the BJP.

"Twenty seven percent of the (Waqf) properties are in Uttar Pradesh, which will vote after 1.5 years. You have demolished our historic gurdwara and developed Ayodhya. Had your intention been good then you would have included a Muslim member in the Ayodhya committee. You are breaking every minority. You are the Tukde Tukde gang," added the MP, whose party parted company with the BJP during the farmers' protest

According to the Waqf Amendment Bill, trusts created by Muslims under any law will no longer be considered Waqf. Only practicing Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to Waqf, it says, restoring pre-2013 rules. Also, women must receive their inheritance before Waqf declaration, with special

provisions for widows, divorced women and orphans.

The bill also proposes that an officer above the rank of collector will investigate government properties claimed as Waqf.

In case of disputes, the senior government official will have the final say on whether a property belongs to Waqf or the government. This replaces the existing system where such decisions are made by Waqf tribunals.

Also, the bill proposes that non-Muslim members will be included in the central and state Waqf boards for inclusivity.

Women must receive their inheritance before Waqf declaration, with special provisions for widows, divorced women and orphans.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has said it will challenge the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in court. "We will organise programmes across the country just like farmers did. If needed, we will block roads and take all peaceful measures to oppose the bill," said the law board spokesperson Mohammad Mohsin.

## Naidu Calls for Total

### Revamp of Services at TTD

Vijayawada WUT | Apr. 3

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu called for a total revamp of services and amenities for devotees, keeping in mind their interests and to protect the sanctity of the Lord Venkateswara temple of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. Naidu held a review on TTD with Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy, TTD chairman B.R. Naidu and executive officer Samala Rao at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

The CM said, "If the services at Tirumala temple are good, it will bring a good name to the government. The services are better at present, compared with the previous years, but the change should be 100 per cent, so that we can reach the expectations

of the devotees and the people." "There is a need to overhaul services at TTD, keeping in mind the needs of devotees in the next 50 years. Offerings to the lord should not be spent at will, and we are only Dharmakartas to the temple and facilitators. Nobody has the right to misuse the offerings from the devotees, and not even a single rupee of lord of Seven Hills should be abused," he said.

Referring to the spend of hundreds of crores for various programmes at TTD, the chief minister underscored the need for taking up an internal audit and also auditing of the accounts of such money by CAG. The offerings from devotees should be spent in an appropriate manner and there should be full accountability.

## Lok Sabha Confirms Imposition Of President's Rule In Manipur

New delhi WUT | Apr. 3

The Lok Sabha early Thursday adopted a Statutory Resolution confirming the imposition of President's rule in Manipur with members across party lines supporting the decision but slamming the Centre for the situation in the state.

Replying to a short debate, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the government has taken all possible steps to bring back normalcy in the restive Northeastern state. He said there has

been no violence in Manipur in the last four months. He said talks were on with both Meitei and Kuki communities for a peaceful solution.

"By and large the situation is peaceful. As long as people are in camps, I would not say the situation is satisfactory. The government is taking all possible steps to restore peace in Manipur," he said.

The home minister said the ethnic violence in Manipur had started following an order of the state's high court. "The day the order

came, we sent the central forces by air. There was no delay on our part (in taking action)," he said.

He said, so far, 260 people have died in the violence that started in May 2023 and 80 per cent of them lost their lives within the first month. Mr Shah said he did not want to compare the violence that had taken place during the tenure of the previous governments but wanted to tell the House about the clashes between the Naga and Kuki communities that took place

in the 1990s over five years.

"Sporadic violence continued for a decade where 750 people lost their lives. There were Kuki-Paite clashes in 1997-98 when 352 people were killed. In the Meitei-Pangal clashes in the 1990s, over 100 people died. Neither the then prime minister nor the then home minister visited Manipur," he said. The home minister said an impression has been given that violence erupted only during the BJP rule, which is not correct.

## Govt Gains Power to Decide Pension Benefits for Existing Pensioners

Chennai WUT | Apr. 3

A recent legislation passed as part of the Finance Bill 2025 grants the Central government the authority to distinguish pensioners when implementing recommendations of future Pay Commissions. This move overrides a Supreme Court ruling that had struck down such distinctions, stating that pensioners cannot be classified based on their retirement dates. Until the Sixth Pay Commission (2006), different pay hikes were granted to employees and pensioners, resulting in disparities in pension amounts for retirees of the same grade, depending on whether they retired before or after the Pay Commission's implementation. This practice was invalidated by the Supreme Court, ruling that the government lacked authority to differentiate among pensioners. However, the new law reinstates this power, raising concerns about potential exclusion of existing pensioners from future pay commission benefits. The law, which applies only to non-defence pensioners, validates past pension rules framed in 1972, 2021, and 2023. Experts believe it could be used to restrict or deny future pension hikes for existing retirees. MP N.K. Premachandran argued that the amendment creates an unfair distinction between old and new retirees, potentially depriving earlier pensioners of revised benefits. Legal experts, including senior Supreme Court lawyer Jamsheer P. Cama, warned that this move allows the

government to bypass legal challenges and reduce pension liabilities. Sanchar Nigam Pensioners Welfare Association general secretary G.L. Jogi highlighted that the law strengthens the government's authority to amend pension rules at will, potentially overriding past Supreme Court judgments. Pension activist D.S. Murti emphasized that creating divisions among equals is unacceptable and will likely face legal challenges. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman defended the amendment in Rajya Sabha, stating that it does not alter existing pension amounts but merely reaffirms past pension rules dating back to 1972. She pointed out that the Sixth Pay Commission had already distinguished between pre-2006 and post-2006 retirees, leading to pension discrepancies. Government officials reassured pensioners that the parity established by the Seventh Pay Commission would continue under the Eighth Pay Commission. Following concerns from pensioners, the National Council for Joint Consultative Machinery (NCJCM) discussed the issue with pension secretary V. Srinivas, who assured that pension parity would be maintained. However, pensioner associations have urged the government to issue a formal clarification in the Eighth Pay Commission's Terms of Reference. While the government insists the amendment does not threaten existing pensions, concerns remain over its long-term implications for pensioners' financial secu-

## 'PM Is My Friend But...': What Trump Said While Announcing India Tariff

Washington WUT | Apr. 3

While announcing his country's "reciprocal tariffs" on those who tariff the United States, Donald Trump recalled his brief remark to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding trade ties with India, when the two leaders met in Washington recently.

"You've not been treating us right," he recalled as saying to PM Modi, when he spoke about India's high import duties. The US has now decided to reciprocate India's "52 per cent" tariffs by charging Indian goods half of that - 26 per cent, when they are

imported to the United States. Describing tariffs by New Delhi as "very very tough", President Trump said, "Their Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) just left (US recently)...he is a great friend of mine, but I said to him that 'you're a friend of mine, but you've not been treating us right'. India charges us 52 per cent, so we will charge them half of that - 26 per cent."

He however, did not specify how these will be levied, or which industries would be impacted how much. The White House later said that country-specific tariffs will be over and above a "baseline tariff"



of 10 per cent that the US has decided to charge on all goods that are imported into the United States.

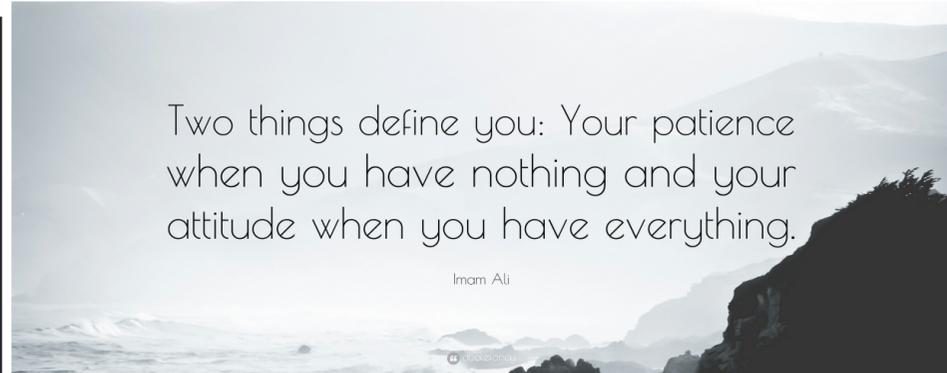
"Due to a national emergency which has stemmed from security concerns due to persistent trade deficits, the US is imposing a baseline 10

per cent tariff that would start at 12:01am local time (9:30 am IST) on April 5, while the higher country-specific tariffs would begin from 12:01 am local time (9:30 am IST) on April 9," the White House said. Calling himself "kind", President Trump said,

"America will charge other countries only half of what they charge us". This, he said, is "fair". Making his reciprocal tariff announcement from the White House Rose Garden as attendees cheered him, President Trump said, "For far too long, other countries have looted and plundered us, while taking advantage of our policies. But no longer. April 2nd will forever be known as Liberation Day - when America reclaimed its industries. We will now impose reciprocal tariffs on countries that tariff us - Reciprocal means we do to them, what they do to us, as simple as that."

"By doing this we will reclaim our jobs, we will reclaim our industry, we will reclaim our small and medium scale businesses...and we will make America wealthy again. Jobs will come roaring into America now," he added.

Some of the country-specific "discounted reciprocal tariffs" include - China (34 per cent), European Union (20 per cent), Vietnam (46 per cent), Taiwan (32 per cent), Japan (24 per cent), India (26 per cent), United Kingdom (10 per cent), Bangladesh (37 per cent), Pakistan (29 per cent), Sri Lanka (44 per cent), Israel (17 per cent).



Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything.

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### MICRO-RETIREMENT IS RESHAPING WORK AND WELL-BEING

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Micro-retirement is rising as a defining career pattern among Gen Z, redefining conventional concepts of labour, accomplishment and welfare. Instead of waiting until their 60-somethings to take a prolonged break from the workplace, young professionals are opting to take sporadic sabbaticals during their careers, valuing mental health, self-actualisation, and activity beyond the corporate routine.

This change is not a temporary fad but a reaction to the long-standing frustration with strict work arrangements, burn-out and a changing realisation of what constitutes a healthy balance in life (Robinson, 2025). Gen Z has come of age with a world that reminds them

continuously of the value of self-care and work-life balance, but has also inherited a working model that frequently disregards these values.

The pandemic-fueled growth of hustle culture left its share of disillusioned young workers, who no longer wanted to spend decades of continuous work in one line of occupation. Micro-retirement is a solution to this problem — brief, purposeful breaks that enable one to refresh, explore the world, acquire new skills, or take a break from work-related anxiety without relinquishing their jobs forever. Most Gen Z employees view this as an opportunity to sidestep the pitfalls of burnout and maintain long-term productivity, citing that the classic career path of working diligently until

retirement is archaic and impractical (Robinson, 2025).

Micro-retirement is also boosted by a shift in values. In contrast to earlier generations that tended to associate stability with prosperity, today's young professionals consider stability to be the power to master their time and emotional health.

Others are more than happy to sacrifice a few years of fast-track professional progress for the freedom to step back and re-evaluate what is truly important. Employees who have embraced micro-retirement report that such breaks enable them to indulge in personal development, spend quality time with family, or merely be without the pressures of productivity (India Today, 2025).



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The Editor



## SC faults Revanth's comments on bypolls in Assembly

The Supreme Court on Wednesday faulted the comments made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the floor of Assembly assuring the House that no bypolls will be held in the constituencies of BRS MLAs who joined the Congress. The division bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih observed that the comments of the Telangana Chief Minister is nothing but the "mockery of the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution".

When senior counsel Aryama Sundaram, appearing for BRS MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and others in the SLP on disqualification of defected BRS MLAs, brought to the notice of the court, the Bench took strong exception. The senior counsel said that the Chief Minister had made the statement particularly on the floor of the Assembly in the presence of the Speaker. Justice Gavai faulted the attitude and observed that a political statement being made in "Ramleela Maidan" is different from something said on the Floor of the House. "When politicians say something in the Assembly, it has some sanctity."

The Bench also asked senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi that you should have warned the Chief Minister against uttering such words. Earlier also he made such comments on bail to Kalvakuntla Kavitha. Rohatgi had earlier represented Revanth Reddy in a petition filed seeking transfer of cash-for-vote case to Madhya Pradesh from Telangana, and now represents the secretary of the Legislative Assembly in the disqualification case.

The Supreme Court had taken exception to the comments of Revanth Reddy, who in the chit-chat with media persons, commented that Kavitha would get a bail in the Delhi liquor scam because of an understanding between the BJP and the BRS. When the Supreme Court expressed its displeasure, Rohatgi tendered an apology on behalf of Revanth Reddy.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/southern-states/telangana>

## 69-yr-old woman held digitally, duped Rs 38 lakh

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

A retired woman from Himayatnagar lost Rs 38.7 lakh to fraudsters who posed as officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Mumbai police. The Hyderabad cyber crime wing has launched a probe into the case. According to the complaint, the victim received a call from individuals claiming to be TRAI officials, who

falsely informed her that her mobile number would be disconnected within three hours. They alleged that her Aadhaar number was linked to a money laundering case. She was then introduced to a man who claimed himself as Pradip Sawant, an inspector from the Andheri police. During a video call, he displayed a fake identification card and said that one Naresh Goyal, a key figure in money laundering and human traffick-

ing cases, had transferred money into her bank account. He told her that a case had been registered against her at the Andheri police station, which was a non-bailable offence. The fraudsters threatened her with arrest, asset seizure and constant monitoring, warning that she would have to report to them every two hours. They also intimidated her into keeping the matter secret and made her show her flat over a video call to

ensure she was alone. Pretending to offer a solution, they convinced her to transfer her bank balance to the "Reserve Bank of India (RBI)". They told her that the RBI would verify her funds and return the money once it was confirmed that it was black money. Believing their claims, she transferred ₹38,70,000 but never received the money back. After realising she had been scammed she approached the police.

## Fraudsters pose as CIA officers, dupe woman of ₹1.48 lakh

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Hyderabad cybercrime unit officials are investigating a case where fraudsters posing as Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials duped a 29-year-old woman from Bowenpally into transferring ₹1.48 lakh. The scammers initially introduced themselves as Aadhaar officials before escalating their ruse to claim they were CIA agents. They even forced the victim to take a loan under the pretext

of verifying her financial records. According to the complaint, the victim received a call from a person claiming to be working with the Aadhaar office. The caller informed her that multiple hotel bookings had been made in Delhi and Karnataka using her Aadhaar details and that she needed to report the matter to the CIA to prevent her Aadhaar from being frozen. She was then connected to another fraudster, who introduced himself as Sadanand Vasant from

the CIA and even issued a fake complaint register number to gain her trust. During a WhatsApp video call, the fraudsters alleged that a staggering ₹280 crore had been transferred to an NCP MLA's account using multiple bank accounts, including her Aadhaar-linked accounts with three banks. They questioned her about her finances, and when she disclosed that she had ₹80,000 in her bank accounts, they pressured her into breaking her fixed deposit and trans-

ferring the money for "verification." They "assured" her that the amount would be returned after confirming it was not linked to illegal activities. Under pressure, the victim not only transferred the ₹80,000 but also took a loan to send an additional amount, bringing the total to ₹1,48,500. However, when she did not receive the promised refund, she realised she had been tricked and approached the police. Cybercrime unit officials have taken up the case.

## HC to hear PIL against radar project in Damagundam

The Telangana High Court will continue to hear a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the proposed ELF Radar Project in the Damagundam Reserve Forest. A two-judge panel comprising Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara were dealing with a PIL filed by Damagundam Forest Protection JAC — Save Damagundam. The petitioner argued that the project is arbitrary, illegal, and harmful to the fragile ecosystem, threatening biodiversity and local livelihoods.

The PIL sought the cancellation of a GO of 2014, a thorough environmental impact assessment (EIA), and a public hearing with affected communities. The petitioner also sought the preparation of a People's Biodiversity Register, patent rights for local gram panchayats over medicinal plants, and protection of religious sites within the forest. The panel directed the Telangana Pollution Control Board and other authorities to file their response in the PIL and posted the matter for further hearing in two weeks.

## Writ seeks transfer of FIRs against chit fund to CID

The Telangana High Court will continue to hear a writ petition seeking transfer of all 56 FIRs registered against Akshara Chit Fund Pvt. Ltd and its directors, to the Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID). The writ petition was filed by Akshara Chit Funds in relation to allegations of criminal breach of trust and cheating, following complaints from investors regarding non-payment of matured chits. Justice T. Vinod admitted the writ petition filed by the petitioners, who contended that in February 2024, Karimnagar police arrested the company's chairman and four directors on charges of misusing investors' funds. Furthermore, in February 2025, the state government ordered the attachment of properties worth Rs 14.2 crore belonging to Akshara Chit Funds Pvt. Ltd and Akshara Township Pvt. Ltd under the Telangana Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments Act, 1999. The petitioners said that the company holds security deposits with the relevant chit registrars that exceed its liabilities. The petitioners claimed that their total liability of Rs 94.12 crore towards 3,721 chit subscribers is backed.

# Samsung Unveils Bespoke AI Laundry Line with AI Home Integration

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

Samsung Electronics has launched its new Bespoke AI Laundry line, featuring advanced AI capabilities and integrated screens to enhance the laundry experience. The products, which include washers and dryers in various sizes and heating methods, are designed to meet diverse customer needs globally. The Bespoke AI Laundry line incorporates 7" AI Home screens, extending Samsung's "Screens Everywhere" vision. These screens provide intuitive control and monitoring of laundry cycles, detergent levels, and user habits, suggesting appropriate



cycles based on periodic and seasonal needs. The AI Home also serves as a central hub for connected appliances and offers en-

tertainment options like online videos and music. Key features of the Bespoke AI Laundry line include AI Wash+ and AI

Dry+, upgraded AI algorithms that detect fabric types, soil levels, and weight to optimize washing and drying performance. The AI Dry+ feature now includes detection for outdoor fabrics and denim, ensuring efficient and high-quality results. The 27-inch large capacity washer and dryer set offers a sleek Bespoke design with flexible installation and substantial capacity for large items. The washer features a Bedding cycle and Auto Open Door, while the dryer comes in vent and heat pump types, with AI Dry+ for thorough drying.

The 24-inch small capacity washer and dryer set is

designed for efficiency, consuming up to 55% less energy than Class A requirements. It includes AI Wash, AI Ecobubble™ for gentle washing, and QuickDrive™ for reduced wash and dry times. Additionally, a compact washer-dryer combo incorporates AI Home, AI Wash+, and AI Ecobubble™, suitable for users with limited space. Samsung's new Bespoke AI Laundry line aims to simplify laundry routines with advanced technology, offering users enhanced convenience and efficiency. The products are set to launch in various regions, catering to different living environments and preferences.

# Kajol thanks Ajay Devgn for always 'being older'

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

In a delightful and whimsical birthday post, the beloved Bollywood actress Kajol extended her heartfelt wishes to her husband, the renowned actor Ajay Devgn, playfully thanking him for always "being older" than her. This charming message quickly captured the attention of fans and media alike, as Kajol celebrated Ajay's special day with her signature wit and affection. On Wednesday, the 'Dilwale' actress took to her Instagram handle to share a candid photo of the couple, accompanied by a sweet and humorous caption. The image beautifully captured a moment of joy between Kajol and Ajay, with Kajol's radiant smile and Ajay's affectionate gaze speaking volumes about the strong bond they share. In her post, Kajol wrote, "All the cool people were born in August, but we don't mind wishing u a happy birthday ;). thank u for always being older than me." This lighthearted remark added a touch of playfulness to her heartfelt birthday wish, showcasing the couple's endearing chemistry and the love they have for each other. Ajay Devgn, the esteemed 'Singham' actor, celebrated his 56th birthday on March 2, surrounded by his loved



ones. The occasion was marked by an outpouring of love and well-wishes from numerous Bollywood celebrities and Ajay's close friends from the industry. Among them, Sidharth Malhotra shared a photo with Ajay, captioning it, "Happy Birthday Sir, here's to an amazing year ahead. Big love and hug!" This heartfelt message reflected the admiration and respect that Sidharth holds for Ajay.

Sanjay Dutt also took to social media to share a heartwarming photo featuring him and the 'Golmaal' actor. In his caption, Sanjay wrote, "Happy Birthday Raju, Wishing you another year of success and happiness. Keep shining, brother." This warm and affectionate message highlighted the strong bond of friendship between the two actors, who have shared the screen in numerous films over the years.

On the professional front, Ajay Devgn is eagerly anticipating the release of his upcoming film, 'Raid 2.' The makers of the film recently unveiled its teaser, which showcased

Ajay reprising his role as the intrepid IRS officer Amay Patnaik. In this sequel, Amay Patnaik is determined to expose a massive Rs 4,200 crore scam through a daring new raid. The teaser also introduced Riteish Deshmukh as a formidable politician, hinting at a high-stakes confrontation between his character and Ajay's Amay Patnaik.

'Raid 2' is produced by a talented team comprising Bhushan Kumar, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak, and Krishan Kumar. The film is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series and is a Panorama Studios production. Directed by the acclaimed Raj Kumar Gupta, the upcoming action-packed film features an ensemble cast, including Vaani Kapoor, Rajat Kapoor, Saurabh Shukla, Supriya Pathak, and Amit Sial, among others.

With its gripping storyline and stellar performances, 'Raid 2' is set to hit the theaters on May 1, 2025, promising an exhilarating cinematic experience for audiences.

## Avoid vulgar and ear-splitting songs

Hyderabad  
Dr. Satyawan Saurabh  
WUT | Apr . 3

A wedding is a sacred and emotional occasion in which two families come together. The choice of music on this occasion should not be limited to entertainment only; it should also respect our values, relationships, and emotions. The songs played at the wedding also reflect the dignity of the relationship, the emotions of the family, and the culture.

A wedding is a special occasion that connects the cultural, familial, and emotional worlds of two families. It is not just a union of two people but a union of two families, in which emotions, rituals, and traditions are exchanged. Music is an integral part of this event, but it should be chosen very carefully. Music should not be limited to just fun and dance but should respect our values, relationships, and emotions.

The connection of songs with our emotions and values

Wedding songs share the dignity of relationships, emotions, and culture of the family. The lyrics and tunes of the songs have a great impact on our morale and the overall wedding experience. Weddings are a family affair, with people from different age groups in attendance. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and even young children are present at the ceremony. The lyrics of the

songs should be decent and modest so as not to hurt anyone's feelings. For instance, when we attend simple and solemn wedding ceremonies, we must remember that it is a symbol of a deep bond, and the music played during this time should be one that honors this fact. The wedding vows are for a lifetime. It is a vow that involves love, trust, and dedication from both parties. The songs should also be such that they express the feelings of love, relationship, and mutual respect. Songs based on breakups or betrayal, such as "Channa Mereya" or "Bhula Dunga," are not suitable for this occasion. These songs do not match the wedding vows.

Every wedding has its own culture, traditions, and customs. Traditional music and religious rituals are especially important in Indian weddings. In such a situation, while selecting the songs, we should ensure that they do not hurt any religious or cultural beliefs. For example, if the wedding is taking place in a particular religious custom, then we should take care that the music is in accordance with this tradition. Weddings are a celebration, and the main purpose of music is to enhance this happiness. Songs that are full of enthusiasm and joy can make the occasion more special. On the contrary, sad or negative songs like "Tu jo nahi," "Tum hi ho," etc., can make the atmosphere dull.

While selecting the music, we should keep in mind that it brings happiness and positivity to everyone's mind.

While selecting wedding music, it is very important to ensure that we avoid songs that are vulgar, double-meaning, or insensitive. The atmosphere of a wedding is sacred and familial, and hence we should avoid songs that cross the line in language or emotions. For example, songs like "Munni Badnaam" and "Sheila Ki Jawani" are not suitable for the occasion. Weddings are a celebration of love and commitment, and songs that are based on breakups, betrayal, or unstable relationships, such as "Channa Mereya" or "Bhula Dunga," do not suit the wedding atmosphere. Songs that promote intoxication or other negative tendencies during a wedding do not suit the atmosphere. Songs like "Daru Desi," "Lungi Dance," and "My Drinking" can affect the dignified atmosphere of the wedding. Some songs that are simply loud and noisy, such as songs with excessive bass or DJ tracks, can sometimes make the atmosphere unpleasant. To avoid these, music should be selected in such a way that everyone can easily listen to it and enjoy it. People from all classes and communities attend our weddings. In such a situation, songs that hurt any religious or caste sentiments should be avoided.

## Niharika Konidela's next production venture: Deeds Inside



Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

After the huge success of Committee Kurrollu, actress-producer Niharika Konidela is all set for her next big project. Her second feature film under Pink Elephant Pictures will be directed by Manasa Sharma and will have Sangeeth Shoban in the lead role.

Sangeeth, who impressed audiences with MAD and MAD Square, will be playing a solo lead hero in a theatrical

film for the first time. More details about the cast and crew will be revealed soon.

Director Manasa Sharma has worked with Niharika before as a writer for Oka Chinna Family Story and as a director for Bench Life. Now, she is making her debut as a feature film director with this project. She has also written the story, while Mahesh Uppala has co-written the screenplay and dialogues. Manyam Ramesh is producing the film.

## Rashmika can't keep calm as her birthday month begins

Hyderabad  
WUT | Apr . 3

Actress Rashmika Mandanna is all set to celebrate her birthday on 5th April, and she can't contain her excitement.

The actress took to social media, sharing her joy in a lively post where she said she can't believe she's turning 29. On Wednesday, the Pushpa actress took to her Instagram stories and shared an adorable post, expressing her excitement for

her upcoming birthday. Rashmika wrote, "It's my birthdaaaaay monthhhhh and I am so excitedddddd. I have always heard that the older you get..you start losing interest in celebrating your birthday... but clearly it's not the same in my case.. the older I am getting the more excited I am to celebrating my birthdaaaaay! I can't believe I am already turning 29...I made it one more year healthier and happier and safely! Now that's worth



celebrating!." In the candid click, Mandanna is seen smiling as she looks at the camera, capturing a joyful moment. Meanwhile, the 'Animal' actress recently made headlines after being spotted on a lunch date with Vijay Deverakonda in Mumbai. Their outing comes months after rumors about their relationship have been circulating.

While Rashmika greeted the paparazzi and posed for pictures with fans, Vijay en-

tered the restaurant through the back. A video of their lunch date has since gone viral on social media.

For the unversed, Rashmika and Vijay have been speculated to be romantically involved ever since the release of their film "Geetha Govindam." The duo is often spotted together at public events and vacations. Despite the many signs suggesting a relationship, neither Rashmika nor Vijay has publicly confirmed anything.

# The plight of HKRNL employees: Another fraud of the government system

Hyderabad  
Priyanka Saurabh  
WUT | Apr . 3

Whenever the demand for filling up the vacant government posts is raised in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, the government uses these employees only for juggling figures. The government tries to show that it has provided employment, but in reality these employees are kept only on short-term contracts. The government should withdraw the Tughlaqi Farman and ensure job security for these employees. If the government does not take steps in this direction, it will have a deep impact on the economic condition of thousands of families. HKRNL employees should also get the benefits of insurance, pension, and other government schemes like other government employees so that

their future can be secured. The condition of the employees working under Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited (HKRNL) is getting worse day by day. These employees are recruited on the basis of merit, but they neither get a proper salary nor job security. The government is using them as a temporary solution, but no care is being taken about their rights. The employees working under HKRNL have become just a "temporary solution" for the government. The government is garnering accolades by using them but is not taking any concrete steps towards giving them permanent jobs. When it comes to filling vacant posts in government departments, the government is busy polishing the figures by showing these employees. Recently, the government has issued such a decree,

which has put the jobs of HKRNL employees in danger. The government is not only shying away from regularizing these employees but is now also taking steps towards removing them. This decision can push thousands of families towards unemployment. The government had earlier guaranteed security till 58 years, but in the month of January, hundreds of HKRNL employees working in various departments were removed. When the removed employees protested, even then the government did not listen to them. Now, the employees working in the Forest Department were removed from their jobs by Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, giving a big shock on the holy festival of Eid. The additional principal chief conservator of forests, Panchkula Headquarters, has issued an order to terminate

the services of these employees with immediate effect. Additionally, the government has also decided to remove hundreds of surplus teachers working in the education department. This decision is not only a big blow to teachers but can also have a negative impact on the education system. Teachers were dedicated to providing quality education to students for a long time, but now their jobs are in danger. HKRNL employees work like regular government employees, but they get only one-third of the salary. This situation is not only weakening these employees financially but also lowering their morale. The problem of employees not getting salary on time is persistent. Many times the salary is stuck for months, forcing them to face a financial crisis. These employees are given more work

than regular employees, but they are not given any stability. As a result, they are always forced to work in an environment of insecurity. Whenever the demand for filling vacant government posts arises in the Haryana Assembly, the government uses these employees only for juggling figures. The government tries to show that it has provided employment, but in reality these employees are kept only on short-term contracts. While regular employees get all kinds of leaves, HKRNL employees are not even given the facility of leaves. This affects their mental and physical health. As per the new order of the government, the process of removal of HKRNL employees has been expedited. This decision is a big blow to thousands of employees who have worked hard for years

on cheap wages. Exclusion from other government schemes These employees have not been given the right to any government benefits, insurance, pension or other facilities, due to which their future remains completely insecure. Due to job instability and uncertainty about the future, there is a lot of mental stress among the employees. This situation is not only affecting their standard of living but is also having a negative impact on their families. HKRNL employees should be paid wages commensurate with their work. It is unjust that they receive much lower wages than regular employees for the same work. The government should ensure that these employees receive their wages on time so that they can avoid a financial crisis. There should be a policy to make permanent em-

ployees who have been working for a long time. This will make them feel more secure and bring more efficiency to their work. Instead of putting an excessive workload on the employees, their work should be balanced with the work of regular government employees. The government should stop juggling figures and accept the reality and take concrete steps to protect the interests of HKRNL employees. The government should withdraw the Tughlaqi decree and ensure job security for these employees. If the government does not take steps in this direction, it will have a profound impact on the financial condition of thousands of families. HKRNL employees should also get the benefits of insurance, pension, and other government schemes like other government employees so that

their future is secure. If the government ignores their demands, these employees should take legal recourse and raise their voice in the court. It is a constitutional right that they get a fair price for their labor. HKRNL employees have become only a temporary solution for the government. They are promised full-time jobs, but in reality they are being pushed towards an uncertain future. If the government does not take this issue seriously soon, these employees may be forced to protest. Demands like fair wages, timely payment, permanentization, and job security should be given priority by the government so that these employees can get their rights. Apart from this, employees also need to take legal steps and fight for their rights.

## CITY CLICKS

## Bengaluru FC beat Goa FC 2-0 in ISL first leg semifinals



Bengaluru FC scored a 2-0 win against FC Goa in the first leg of their semi-final tie of the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday night.

The Blues will thus head into the second game of this fixture with a 2-0 aggregate in their favour, as they marshalled proceedings in this match with five on-target shots despite holding only 42.2% of the ball possession.

Odeji Onaibia brought down a free kick deep inside the Bengaluru FC box and delivered a headed pass in the path of Udanta Singh on the right to produce the first reasonable attacking move of the match in the 27th minute. The attacker unleashed a dinked shot that was blocked near the goal, though.

Just after the half-hour mark, Bengaluru FC's Ryan Williams responded with a similar effort from the exact angle, albeit at the opposite end of the field. Williams had the chance to go for a cross from the wider position, but in the absence of a figure at the centre, he went for an ambitious dipping effort that was unable to find its way to the back of the net.

The Blues bagged the breakthrough in the 42nd minute with Edgar Mendez leading the charge for them through his consistent lateral deliveries.

One such incisive cross, directed for the onrushing Williams at the centre, was instead met and hammered in by FC Goa defender Sandesh Jhingan, resulting in an own goal adjudged to his name.

Williams returned the favour in the 51st minute as he added dynamism to a Bengaluru FC offensive move through a slick pass that pierced the Gaurs' backline in one go and landed at the feet of Namgyal Bhutia.

The latter squared in a low cross for Mendez and the attacker made light work of that with a straightforward tap-in to the bottom right corner, resulting in the home side doubling their lead.

## Bravo backs Knight Riders to do well against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Eden Gardens



Kolkata Knight Riders mentor Dwayne Bravo is backing his match-winners to deliver with the bat for his side when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday.

"There are so many match-winners in the team, and there will be occasions when Rinku will win games by himself, and Russell will win games by himself. Ramandeep can also contribute to the team, and even Venkatesh Iyer will come into his own and will also win a couple of games by himself," he said.

"So, for me as a mentor and the coaching staff, we continue to remind these guys how great they are already. You don't expect any player to be consistent for fourteen games in the IPL, but it's important to keep encouraging them and reminding them of how great they are", Bravo said.

"Batting is not a main concern. We're not the only team to be in this position after three matches, but we're working on being smarter in certain situations. Once we get that right, we will be fine," the former West Indies allrounder said.

"We bat fairly deep, like most teams in the IPL. It's just the key moments that we're letting ourselves down as a batting group", he reckoned.

Kolkata Knight Riders will play back-to-back home games at the Eden Gardens against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 3 and Lucknow Super Giants on April 8.

## Gujarat Titans halt Royal Challengers' progress, win by 8 wickets; Buttler, Siraj shines

Bengaluru WUT | Apr . 3

Jos Buttler made a fifty marked by creativity and sustained aggression to support the impeccable spell of Mohammed Siraj as Gujarat Titans carved a smooth eight-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their IPL match here on Wednesday.

Buttler (73 not out, 39b, 5×4, 6×6) and B Sai Sudharsan (49, 36b) added 75 runs off 45 balls for the second wicket, as the Titans ended up at 170 for two in 17.5 overs, while chasing RCB's 169 for eight.

However, the Gujarat side's chase did not start as they would have liked, losing skipper Shubman Gill for a laboured 14.

The Titans' skipper clobbered Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a six but fell in the very next ball to the pacer, lobbing him to Liam Livingstone in the deep.

But it brought together Sudharsan and Buttler, who extracted runs off the RCB bowlers in contrasting style.

Sudharsan's innings was an antithesis to the modern T20 ethos, as it was all about elegantly timed shots such as a wristy flick for a boundary off Yash



Dayal or a square cut for four off the same bowler.

There was a touch of impishness too to the innings when he moved across and scooped pacer Josh Hazlewood for a six over the stumper's head.

However, a second attempt to play a similar shot off the Australian ended his stay, giving a simple catch to Jitesh Sharma.

But Sudharsan's dismissal, which came in the immediate aftermath of RCB taking the second ball in the 13th over, was a minor jitter in Gujarat's

chase, which was marshalled so effectively by Buttler.

The Englishman was slightly jittery to begin with but once he found the right gears, he was unstoppable, fetching those thunderous shots off the shelf regularly.

Buttler reached his fifty with a sumptuous six off spinner Livingstone over long-on off 31 balls and his imperious touch was evident in the three sixes he hammered off Hazlewood to finish the match.

Buttler and Impact Sub Sherfane Rutherford (30 not out, 18b) added 63 runs for the

third wicket as Gujarat strolled home.

Earlier, Siraj led a group of fired-up GT bowlers as they limited the vaunted RCB batting unit to 169 for eight despite a providential 54 by Livingstone.

Once the Titans decided to bowl first, they would not have envisioned such a domination over a potent batting line-up even considering a rather unexpectedly slow and grippy pitch.

The slip-down started with the wicket of Virat Kohli (7), who began with a lovely cover-driven four off

Siraj (4-0-19-3).

But the ace batter fell to left-arm seamer Arshad Khan, who came in for Kagiso Rabada, attempting a pull that ended in the hands of Prasidh Krishna at fine leg.

Thereafter, the RCB top-order was poleaxed by GT bowlers led by Siraj, who joined the side after a seven-season stint in the red and gold jersey ahead of IPL 2025.

Phil Salt, who was dropped on zero by Buttler off Siraj, skipper Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal paraded back to the hut as RCB slumped to 42

for four in 6.2 overs.

However, Salt, who slammed Siraj for a 105 metre six, and Devdutt might feel a tinge of regret because both of them tried to give space to themselves for big shots only to get castled by Siraj.

However, the Royal Challengers found some stability through Jitesh Sharma (33, 21b) and Livingstone (54, 40b, 1×4, 5×6) as they added 52 runs off 38 balls for the fifth wicket.

The impressive left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (2/22), who varied his line and pace exemplarily, broke the alliance, dismissing Jitesh, who skied him to Rahul Tewatia.

It was a redemption point for Tewatia as well because he had earlier dropped Livingstone on 9 off Sai Kishore.

It proved costly for GT as the English batter hammered an off-colour Rashid Khan for three sixes in an over, two in a row, to reach his fifty in 39 balls.

Livingstone milked 46 precious runs for the seventh wicket with Tim David to take RCB past the 150-run mark.

## Sunrisers Hyderabad, Kolkata Knight Riders look for victory in Eden Gardens

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders and last season's finalists Sunrisers Hyderabad find themselves in troubled waters, having lost two of their last three games, and both teams will be desperate to revive their campaigns when they lock horns in the IPL here on Thursday.

KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane had initially downplayed concerns surrounding his team following a heavy defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the season opener, insisting there was "no need to panic".

However, with two losses in three matches — considering KKR lost just three games across both home and away legs in their triumphant campaign in IPL 2024 — the mood in the camp is slightly muted.

The focus has now shifted to the Eden Gardens pitch, which has come under scrutiny after KKR's seven-wicket defeat to RCB. Former KKR opener Phil Salt and Virat Kohli took the home attack to the cleaners, stitching a 95-run stand off just 51 balls in a one-sided chase of 175.

The Cricket Association of Bengal has been under pressure to produce a track that aids KKR's spin-heavy attack,

comprising Sunil Narine, Moeen Ali and Varun Chakravarthy.

Chakravarthy, fresh from his exploits in the Champions Trophy triumph last month, struggled on a flat deck against RCB, leaking 10.75 runs per over.

Indian great and Lucknow Super Giants mentor Zaheer Khan has also called for home advantage after Punjab Kings outplayed them at the Ekana stadium, criticising the pitch by saying, "It seemed PBKS' curator was out here."

Reports suggest the Eden Gardens pitch curator Sujay Mukherjee had declined KKR's request for a spin-friendly track in their opening match, a decision that seemingly backfired.

Chakravarthy, one of their key spinners, leaked 45 runs in that match. While Mukherjee defended his stance, CAB president Snehasish Ganguly has since been closely inspecting the pitch alongside the curator, hinting at a possible shift in approach for KKR's upcoming home matches.

Team strategy Beyond the pitch, KKR's squad composition has raised questions following the mega auction.

Their batting and bowling units have looked out of sync,



with key players failing to deliver.

Notably, four players KKR released before the auction — former skipper Shreyas Iyer (PBKS), his deputy Nitish Rana (RR), Phil Salt (RCB), and pace spearhead Mitchell Starc (DC) — have all excelled in the first 10 days of the IPL. Starc's departure has particularly hurt KKR, as their pace attack appears toothless in his absence.

To compound the frustration, Starc registered a match-winning 5/35 for DC against SRH in their last outing — the Aussie's first T20 five-wicket haul and the best bowling figures of the season so far. Aus-

tralian pacer Spencer Johnson, brought in to replace Starc, has failed to impress, while Anrich Nortje remains sidelined with a back injury.

Meanwhile, KKR's big-money re-signing, Venkatesh Iyer, has managed just nine runs from two innings, adding to the team's woes.

Among retained players, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Harshit Rana, and Ramandeep Singh have struggled to find their touch.

The team's aggressive batting approach — assuming 200 is the par score on all pitches — has also backfired as a tactical re-evaluation is also the need of the hour before it's too late.

SRH woes Sunrisers Hyderabad, after a record-breaking 286/6 in their season opener, have struggled to breach the 200-run mark in their last two games.

Their ultra-attacking batting approach has led to collapses against Lucknow Super Giants (190/9) and Delhi Capitals (163 all out), resulting in consecutive defeats.

Pat Cummins' side will also need to reassess the strategy as they look to avenge their loss in last season's IPL final.

The pace duo of Cummins and Mohammed Shami could pose a significant threat at Eden Gardens, where the

India senior pacer, who represents Bengal at the domestic level, will be keen to make an impact in familiar conditions.

With both teams looking to turn their campaigns around, it promises to be a high-stakes battle where adaptability to conditions could be the deciding factor.

Teams (from) Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rinku Singh, Quinton de Kock (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Luvnith Sisodia, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Moeen Ali, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Anrich Nortje, Vaibhav Arora, Mayank Markande, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Chetan Sakariya.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins (c), Ishan Kishan (wk), Atharva Taide, Abhinav Manohar, Aniket Verma, Sachin Baby, Heinrich Klaasen, Travis Head, Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Rahul Chahar, Adam Zampa, Simarjeet Singh, Zeeshan Ansari, Jaydev Unadkat and Eshan Malinga.

Match starts at 7:30 pm IST

# Asaduddin Owaisi 'tears' Waqf Bill during debate

My mosques, my Dargahs, my Madrasas are on target, The AIMIM chief alleged that Muslims would be treated unfairly through the Waqf Bill.

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Asaduddin Owaisi, the prominent leader of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), delivered a passionate and fiery speech in the Lok Sabha, directing his criticism towards the BJP-led Central government over the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill. In a dramatic and symbolic act, Owaisi unstapled and tore a copy of the bill during the debate, visually demonstrating his staunch opposition to the amendment.

As Owaisi participated in the debate over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, he articulated his concerns with fervor and conviction. He asserted that the bill was not merely a



legislative proposal but a direct attack on the Muslim community in India. Owaisi argued that the bill would lead to unfair and discriminatory treatment of Muslims, undermining their rights and freedoms. He emphasized that the bill targeted the very foundations of Muslim cultural and religious institutions, including mosques, dargahs, and madrasas, which hold

deep significance for the community. Owaisi accused the Modi government of concealing the true motives behind the bill and claimed that it violated Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Article 14 guarantees the right to equality and equal protection under the law, and Owaisi argued that the bill would impose limitations that could potentially allow encroachers to

become owners of Waqf properties. Furthermore, he expressed concern that the bill would enable non-Muslims to administer the Waqf Board, thereby undermining the autonomy and integrity of Muslim religious institutions. The Hyderabad MP went on to reject the legislation outright, stating that the BJP's intention was to create conflicts and divisions within society. He believed that the bill was designed to pit temples against mosques, fostering an environment of religious tension and discord. Owaisi condemned the bill as unconstitutional and, in a powerful act of protest, tore it up, declaring his opposition to what he saw as an attempt to undermine the principles of equality and justice.

Owaisi's actions were not just a display of political theater but a reflection of his deep-seated belief that the bill was morally and legally flawed. He saw it as an attempt to stir up religious tensions rather than promote harmony and justice. His passionate opposition highlighted the broader concerns of the Muslim community regarding the preservation of their religious and cultural heritage in the face of legislative changes. Owaisi's speech and actions served as a call to action, urging others to recognize the potential implications of the bill and to stand against what he perceived as an assault on the rights and freedoms of the Muslim community.

## Minister Krishna Rao clarifies no land taken from Hyderabad Central University

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao clarified that the government has not taken even an inch of land belonging to Hyderabad Central University (HCU). Speaking to the media today, he stated that the 400 acres of land located in Gachibowli do not belong to the university. He explained that the land in question had been



under the control of a private company, and the government had only reclaimed it after a legal battle. He alleged that certain elements were trying to create confusion among students and incite unrest

by spreading misinformation. The minister further stated that the government has been engaged for decades in reclaiming encroached lakes and water bodies in Hyderabad, and therefore, the question of encroaching on HCU land does not arise. He accused opposition parties of spreading false propaganda solely to provoke students.

## LRS fee payment deadline extended till 30 April

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

The Telangana government has extended the deadline for availing a 25% concession under the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) until 30 April. Initially set to expire on 31 March, this extension aims to boost participation in the scheme, which was introduced to facilitate the reg-

istration of plots that have been pending for the past four years.

The concession was designed to incentivize citizens to regularize their plots by offering a reduced fee structure. However, the response from the public has been underwhelming, with fewer applications received than anticipated. This lukewarm response prompted the government to extend

the benefit for an additional month. Officials hope that this extension will encourage more citizens to take advantage of the scheme and regularize their plots. The LRS is a crucial initiative aimed at bringing unauthorized layouts into the fold of approved layouts, thereby promoting organized urban development and ensuring better civic amenities for residents.

## Bird flu precautions: Doctors call for early detection and surveillance

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Doctors and public health experts have raised concerns over poultry handling practices in the state following the death of a two-year-old girl from Andhra Pradesh, allegedly after consuming raw chicken a few weeks ago. Telangana's public health department has confirmed that no human cases of H5N1 (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) have been reported in the state. "We are conducting surveillance as per Centre's guidelines. Active surveillance is being carried out within a three-km radius of an outbreak,

while passive surveillance covers up to seven km. Testing for poultry farmers is being conducted in outbreak zones," said Dr. Ravindra Naik, director of public health.

The animal husbandry department has reported that approximately two lakh birds have been culled. "We have identified four affected areas — two in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, and one each in Nalgonda and Ranga-Reddy districts. All birds within a km radius of these locations are being culled. Additionally, we are closely monitoring unusual bird mortality. Samples have been sent to Bhopal and the reports are likely to be re-



ceived within 48 hours," said a senior department official.

The official further advised people against consuming raw meat and eggs. "Despite thousands of birds being culled, people living in close proximity have remained asymptomatic. We have tested and isolated individuals wherever necessary. Poultry farmers have been educated about safety

measures, including biosecurity protocols such as restricting access to farms, preventing contact with wild or stray animals, vaccinating livestock, and ensuring adequate nutrition. District-level meetings with farmers have also been conducted. Additionally, movement of poultry from other states, particularly from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, remains restricted," the official added. Choutuppal, Chityal, and Abdullahpurmet have been identified as hotspots, but officials have assured that preventive measures have contained any further spread. These areas are

along the Vijayawada route. Dr. Suneetha Nareddy, an infectious disease expert, emphasised the importance of early detection and surveillance in managing bird flu. "Testing is straightforward — genotypic tests like viral panels can confirm infections, and treatment with oseltamivir usually yields positive outcomes. While bird flu vaccines are not widely available, culling infected poultry remains the primary control measure. The virus primarily spreads from birds to humans through inhalation or direct contact, with human-to-human transmission being rare," she said.

## Shilpa Layout Flyover Construction to Be Completed by May 15

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

The construction of the Shilpa Layout Flyover, connecting Gachibowli and Kondapur, is set to be completed by May 15, as per the instructions of chief engineer Bhaskar Reddy. On Wednesday, Reddy, along with officials including the superintendent engineer, executive engineer, project consultants, and representatives of the construction agency, conducted an inspection of

the ongoing work. During the site visit, the Chief Engineer directed officials to fast-track the land acquisition process and instructed the construction agency to expedite the completion of the service road on the left side from Gachibowli to Kondapur. Officials reported that delays in shifting electrical equipment were hindering progress. In response, Reddy directed the E.E. to take immediate measures to resolve the issue. He also pointed out that the

lack of space for storm-water drain installation was causing further delays. Officials were instructed to acquire properties for the Old Bombay Highway junction and expedite work on the O.R.R. stretch, P.S.O. median, and related projects. C.E. Bhaskar Reddy stressed adherence to design standards for expansion joints and urged swift completion of the remaining deck slabs. He stressed the proper surface rounding before applying the PMB layer.

# UoH Protests Turn Violent

University of Hyderabad Students Clash with Police Over Land auction

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

Tensions escalated into violence at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) on Wednesday as students and faculty clashed with police over the Telangana government's controversial land development plan. The confrontation left at least 20 students injured, with some requiring medical attention.

The protest, initiated by the UoH Students' Union, aimed to oppose the development of 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli, which students claim includes parts of university departments. The peaceful march from Ambedkar Auditorium to the East Campus turned chaotic when students attempted to breach police barricades to inspect the disputed land.

Videos shared on social media show police using force, including batons, against the protesters. A student protester described the scene, stating, "We were marching peacefully when the police suddenly started hitting us. Around 20-30 students were injured, with two in critical con-



dition." Police officials defended their actions, asserting that they were merely preventing the rally from proceeding. The land, known for its rich biodiversity, has been a contentious issue, with students and environmental activists arguing that its clearing would cause irreversible ecological

damage. "This isn't just about university land; it's about preserving Hyderabad's greenery," an environmental activist commented. Students reported seeing heavy machinery clearing the land, describing it as a "blatant disregard for the environment." In response, student

unions have called for an indefinite boycott of classes and an overnight sit-in at the administration block until police and construction equipment are removed from the campus. The protests have gained traction online, with supporters using hashtags like #SaveHCU and #AllEyesOnHCU to raise awareness.

## CM Revanth to convene a meeting regarding HCU issue

Tensions have escalated at Hyderabad Central University (HCU) as student unions continue their protests against the alleged sale of university land. The protests, which have drawn significant attention, are being led by student leaders who are demanding clarity and justice on the issue.

At the heart of the unrest, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists were seen staging a demonstration near the main gate of the university, further intensifying the already volatile situation. The presence of these activists has added to the growing anxiety among students, as they stand firm in their opposition to the land sale.

In response to the escalating situation, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy convened a meeting with key ministers to discuss the ongoing issue concerning the HCU land. The Chief Minister arrived at the Command Control Centre, where he met with several prominent ministers, including Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy, Tummala, Damodara, and Ponguleti, to deliberate on the matter.

The meeting, focused on the land dispute, is expected to play a crucial role in determining the next steps. As protests continue, all eyes are now on the government's response to the student demands and the future of HCU's land.



## Centre wants TG forest dept action for axing trees

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 3

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on Wednesday ordered the Telangana forest department to take legal action on those responsible for cutting down of trees, and levelling of land in the 400 acres Kancha Gachibowli land as per provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980

(Forest Conservation Act), Wildlife Protection Act, and other relevant laws.

The ministry also directed the Telangana government, and the forest department, to submit a factual report, as well as an action taken report, on violations of forest and wildlife protection Acts in Kancha Gachibowli land, placing the state forest department and its top officials in the cross hairs in the ongoing battle on this

issue. In a letter to the Telangana government, marked to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state, assistant inspector general of forests S. Sundar, said the ministry was in receipt of reports of illegal felling and removal of vegetation in Kancha Gachibowli by the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, and ordered the Telangana government to "provide a

factual report on the issue immediately."

Sundar also directed the Telangana government and the state forest department to "ensure there is no violation of any other Acts or orders of courts and tribunals," in the 400 acres of Kancha Gachibowli land. This direction raises the prospect of the trees, and vegetation in the 400 acres under question, coming under the ambit of deemed forest status.