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### Brief Insights

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#### IEA to Release 400 Million Oil Barrels to Cut Prices: Trump

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) said that the International Energy Agency (IEA) has agreed to coordinate the release of 400 million barrels of oil from national petroleum reserves worldwide...

## Centre Orders Security For LPG Supply

Officials reviewed LPG supply nationwide, ensuring uninterrupted availability for domestic consumers

### NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Union home secretary Govind Mohan on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all states and Union Territories to review the supply and distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) amid reports of possible shortages linked to developments in West Asia.

## KTR Alleges Congress Govt Acting Like "Real Estate Mafia": P2



## Modi: Kerala Ready To End LDF-UDF See-Saw

### KERALA Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the people of Kerala are ready to move past the traditional Left-UDF politics in the state. Sounding the political bugle in the election-bound state, Modi unveiled development projects worth over ₹10,800 crores, vowed to make Kerala an AI hub and slammed UDF-LDF politics.



elections in the state, Modi noted that the BJP has built political momentum in Kerala in recent years. He pointed to the party's win in the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat and the recent victory in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation as signs of

this shift. "These developments show a change in Kerala's political mood, and this trend will spread across the state," he said. The Prime Minister remarked that the Congress lacks faith in the talent of Kerala's youth and the nation as a whole. Without directly naming Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Modi said the "yuvraj" of the Congress is unaware of the impressive achievements of Indian youth in the drone manufacturing sector.

## Experts Red Flag Telangana Ignoring Wet Bulb Temperatures: P3

young entrepreneurs, are producing drones. According to Modi, the Congress yuvraj is stuck in his own small world and fails to see the development happening across the country, unable to appreciate the talent of Kerala's youth. The Prime Minister asserted that if the BJP-led NDA comes to power in the state, it promises to nurture the talent of youth, foster an environment for investment and eliminate obstacles like corruption, red tape, hartal mafias, and land mafias.

## Construct Ring Roads Around All Major District Headquarters, Says CM: P2



## Shukla Takes Oath In Telugu As Governor

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Shiv Pratap Shukla was sworn in as the fifth Governor of Telangana on Wednesday. Telangana High Court Chief Justice Apresh Kumar Singh administered the oath of office at a brief ceremony at Lok Bhavan. Shukla took the oath in Telugu, surprising everyone present at the ceremony. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy, MLAs, MPs, officials and other dignitaries attended the ceremony.



Governor since Telangana was formed after craving out from Andhra Pradesh in June 2014. He earlier served as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. In his message after assuming the office, Shukla said it was a great honour for him to serve the state and pledged to discharge his responsibilities with humility, integrity and commitment to the Constitution. He thanked the President of India and the Prime Minister for entrusting him with the responsibility and said he accepted the role with humility and respect. Shukla said Telangana reflects a rich cultural heritage, strong traditions and notable progress, and that the ex-

perience he gained while serving as Governor of Himachal Pradesh would help him in his new responsibilities. He also congratulated the state government led by Revanth Reddy and expressed confidence that stakeholders would work together to fulfil the aspirations of the people while upholding democratic values and constitutional objectives. "As Governor of Telangana, I remain committed to promoting harmony, unity and inclusive development," he said. Calling for collective efforts to build a prosperous Telangana, he concluded his message with the slogan, "Jai Telangana."

## No-confidence motion against Birla defeated

### NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

A no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was defeated by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday after nearly 10 hours of debate spread over two days. Birla, who had not been attending the House since the notice for the resolution moved by Congress MPs was accepted by his office, is expected to resume presiding over the House from Thursday. During the debate, Union home minister Amit Shah criticised the Opposition for



bringing the motion and said that in its attempt to oppose the government, it had questioned the integrity of the Speaker, who represents the dignity of parliamentary democracy. Shah also made personal remarks about Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, saying, "You come and hug the Prime Minister, you give flying kisses and wink at members sitting in the House. Is this how you

conduct yourself in Parliament?" The comments triggered strong protests from Opposition members. After the debate concluded with Shah's reply, Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, invited Congress MP Mohammad Jawed, who had moved the resolution, to speak. However, Jawed joined other Opposition members in demanding an apology from the home minister over his remarks against the Leader of the Opposition. As protests continued, Pal put the resolution to a voice vote, and it was rejected. The House was

then adjourned for the day. More than 42 Members of Parliament participated in the debate on the resolution moved by Congress MPs seeking the removal of the Speaker, alleging bias and "trampling the voice of the Opposition". Congress MP K.C. Venugopal, while speaking on the motion, said the issue was not merely about removing the Speaker but about restoring the dignity and independence of the Lok Sabha. Responding to the debate, Shah accused Gandhi of remaining absent from the House most

## CEC Can Only Be Removed By Parliament Like SC, HC Judges

### NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Opposition parties are preparing to submit notices in Parliament seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging "partisan and discriminatory conduct in office," sources said. The notices are likely to be submitted in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha within the next two days. According

to sources, the proposed motion lists seven charges against the CEC, including alleged partisan conduct, obstruction of investigations into electoral fraud and mass disenfranchisement. A senior MP said signatures for the notices had been collected and the documents were likely to be submitted on Thursday. Another opposition leader said the move could take place on Thursday or Fri-

day in both Houses. Sources said around 120 MPs had signed the notice to be submitted in the Lok Sabha, while about 60 MPs had signed the notice intended for the Rajya Sabha. Under parliamentary rules, a notice seeking the removal of the CEC requires signatures from at least 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha.

ASTORIA HOTEL ESTD-1960 Hyderabad Laziz Biryani ek baar khaoge baar baar aoge 5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## KTR Alleges Congress Govt Acting Like “Real Estate Mafia”

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday accused the Congress government in Telangana of functioning like a “real estate mafia,” alleging that large-scale demolitions of houses belonging to poor and middle-class families were being carried out across the State in the name of development. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, the BRS working president demanded that the government apologise to the affected families in Velugumatla village of Khammam district and provide compensation equivalent to the loss of their homes and land. Rama Rao alleged that demolitions were taking place in several areas including Hyderabad under projects such as HYDRAA and the Musi riverfront development. He said similar actions were carried out in Lagacherla under the Pharma Village project, in Mahabubnagar town, Ramagundam and most recently in Velugu-



matla, leaving hundreds of families homeless. According to him, nearly 1,000 families were displaced in Velugumatla. He alleged that the demolitions were linked to real estate interests of individuals close to three Ministers from Khammam district. Rama Rao named Vejella Suresh, Mulla Kishore and Damodar Rao as alleged benamis operating a land mafia under political protection. Questioning the government’s approach, the former Minister asked why houses were demolished first while rehabilitation was discussed later if the process was legitimate. He pointed out that the land in Velu-

gumatla was originally Bhoodan land and pattas had been issued to beneficiaries years ago, with many families living there for over a decade.

He further alleged that hundreds of police personnel were deployed during the eviction process and residents, including children, were forced out without being allowed to collect their belongings. Rama Rao questioned why the government was attempting to shift the affected families to other locations instead of regularising their homes in the Bhoodan lands they owned. He also asked why compensation was being considered for only 311 families when more than 1,000 houses were reportedly demolished. Demanding that houses be rebuilt for all the affected families in the same locality, he claimed that BRS leaders including Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar and MLC Thatha Madhu were prevented by police from distributing food to

displaced families at temporary shelters and that cases were registered against them.

The BRS leader said the party would continue raising the issue both inside and outside the Assembly until justice was served. He also warned that if BRS returned to power, a probe would be ordered into the demolitions and land allotments and those responsible, including officials allegedly involved, would face action. Rama Rao further alleged that illegal mining and land deals linked to ruling party supporters were taking place in areas such as Manasa Hills and Neopolis without action from authorities. Responding to remarks by Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu in the Lok Sabha describing the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act as a “Black Day,” Rama Rao said Telangana had been a separate State for more than a decade and leaders from Andhra Pradesh should focus on development rather than criticising its formation.

## Construct Ring Roads Around All Major District Headquarters: Revanth

The Chief Minister said the proposed ring roads would help prevent heavy vehicles from entering district headquarters while ensuring faster movement of goods transport vehicles.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday directed officials to prepare plans for construction of ring roads around all major district headquarters in the state to ease traffic congestion and improve movement of goods vehicles. At a review meeting on the roads and buildings department held at his residence, the Chief Minister said the proposed ring roads would help prevent heavy vehicles from entering district headquarters while ensuring faster movement of goods transport vehicles.



Revanth Reddy asked officials to examine the possibility of linking existing roads near district headquarters to form ring roads wherever feasible. He also directed that radial roads be constructed to connect district headquarters to the proposed ring roads. The Chief Minister further instructed officials to study the feasibility of linking these ring roads with national highways to strengthen the road network. The Chief Minister also asked officials to examine the feasibility of constructing a greenfield road to connect Nagarju-

nasagar from the proposed Hyderabad-Vijayawada Expressway. He directed that the construction of ongoing Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) be expedited and that proposals be prepared for new ROBs and RUBs wherever required. Revanth Reddy also instructed officials to ensure early completion of teaching hospitals and other major hospitals so that improved healthcare services can be provided to the public at the earliest. The review meeting was attended by minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Chief Minister’s principal secretary K.S. Srinivas Raju, R&B special chief secretary Vikas Raj and R&B engineer-in-chief Mohan Naik among others. In a separate review on the transport department, the Chief Minister directed officials to work towards achieving pollution-free transportation in the state. He made it clear that all government departments should hereafter procure only electric vehicles. Vehicles hired by government departments under the CURE framework should also be electric vehicles, he said. Revanth Reddy also directed the transport department to do away with manual systems and shift all services completely online. He instructed officials to prepare plans for construction of dedicated buildings for Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), stating that RTO offices should not function in rented buildings. He further called for increased awareness on road safety and suggested screening short films to educate the public about road accidents and safety measures. He also asked officials to prepare plans for establishing a modern bus terminal near Shamshabad in the area where the proposed high-speed rail corridor will begin. The review meeting was attended by transport minister Ponnambalam Prabhakar, principal secretary Srinivas Raju, transport commissioner Ilambarathi and Y. Nagi Reddy, among other officials.

## Community Leaders Meet at Buddu Shah Dargah

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Secunderabad Cantonment Ward 4 witnessed a gathering of local community leaders at the historic Buddu Shah Wali Dargah and Masjid located near Marredpally Police Station on March 11.

The meeting highlighted community coordination and local leadership efforts in the area. Speaking on the occasion, President Mohammed Ajaz Ahmed said the Dargah is not only a



spiritual centre but also a place where residents come together to discuss local issues and welfare activities. He emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation among residents of Ward 4. Prominent community members including Anees Bhai, known for his work with the All

India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, along with Afsar Qurashi, Faeed Saab, Mohammed Khalid, Sheikh Mehboob Subhani, Mohammed Ibrahim and Mohammed Khaleel participated in the interaction. Leaders stated that they will continue working collectively to address civic concerns, protect the heritage of the Dargah, and strengthen communication between residents and the Secunderabad Cantonment administration.

## Phones worth Rs 3.04 Cr recovered

Cyberabad police handed over 1,016 recovered mobile phones, valued at about ₹3.04 crore, to victims during the 10th phase of the mobile phone distribution programme on Tuesday. Police commissioner M Ramesh distributed the phones, which had been traced through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. Of the recovered devices, 265 were traced by CCS Shamshabad, 255 by CCS Serilingampalli, 181 by CCS Qutbulpur, 160 by CCS Kukatpally and 155 by CCS Rajendranagar. Officials advised citizens to report lost phones immediately via the CEIR portal, block SIM cards.

## TGMFC Chairman Obedulla Kothwal attends review meeting for chief Minister’s Iftar arrangements

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal Chairman of Telangana State Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC), attended an important review meeting on Wednesday at L.B. Stadium, Nampally, regarding the arrangements for the Chief Minister’s Iftar Party-2026. The grand Iftar gathering is scheduled to be held on 15 March 2026 at L.B. Stadium, Nampally, Hyderabad, where elaborate arrangements are being planned for the occasion. The meeting was attended by several prominent dignitaries including Minister for Minorities Welfare Janab Mohammed Azharuddin, Shabbir Ali Adviser to the Government, Azmathullah Chairman of the Waqf Board, and Afzal Biabani Chairman of the State Hajj Committee. During the meeting, officials re-



viewed various arrangements related to the event to ensure its smooth and successful conduct. Heads of various government departments (HODs) also participated and discussed coordination and logistical preparations for the upcoming Iftar gathering. The review meeting focused on ensuring that all arrangements are made in a befitting manner for the prestigious event hosted by the Chief Minister.

## Man held for cheating 137 job seekers of Rs 50 lakh

The Bachupally police arrested a man for allegedly cheating around 137 unemployed youth by promising jobs in reputed multinational companies through a fake recommendation-based recruitment scheme.

The accused and his associates are suspected to have collected nearly Rs 50 lakh from the victims. Police said the case was registered on February 14 following a complaint from Kasula Jagadeesh (34), a resident of Nizampet. According to the complainant, three persons — Ajay Jakkula, Sravani Kondaji and Sadgun Sadhula had claimed they could arrange jobs in companies such as Cognizant, JPMC, Amazon, EPAM, Qualcomm and Wells Fargo. Police said the suspects had convinced job seekers that they could secure placements through a recommendation appointment scheme and demanded payments ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 90,000 depending on the post.

Police said about Rs 47.20 lakh was transferred through different accounts, while the total number of victims identified so far stands at 137.

To make the fraud appear genuine, one of the suspects allegedly issued fake offer letters in the name of a company.

## Ramzan Tohfa Distributed to Families in Cantonment

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a move aimed at supporting Muslim families during the holy month of Ramzan, Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh on Wednesday distributed government-sponsored “Ramzan Tohfa” gift packs at Tadu Bandhu Masjid. The initiative is intended to help underprivileged and middle-class families celebrate the festival with ease and dignity.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Ganesh said the programme reflects the state government’s commitment



to minority welfare and inclusive celebrations. He noted that the Ramzan Tohfa scheme has been designed to provide essential commodities to families who often face financial strain during festive seasons.

“The government’s intention is to ensure that every Muslim brother and sister can observe the holy month with happiness and without worry,” he said, adding that the administra-

tion is working to strengthen welfare initiatives for minority communities. The MLA also praised the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for prioritizing inclusive development and community welfare through targeted schemes. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap, along with local leaders Abid, Karan and Khaja, attended the programme and assisted in distributing the gift packs to beneficiaries.

## ZPP Sangareddy Celebrates International Women’s Day

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, celebrations were organized grandly by the ministerial staff at the Zilla Praja Parishad (ZPP) Sangareddy District office under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Janaki Reddy and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. The program was held in the ZPP Sangareddy meeting hall. Panchayat Raj ministerial women staff participated enthusiastically in the celebrations. Various games and activities were conducted for the participants by the ZPP Sangareddy District administration as part of the event. On this occasion, mementos and certificates were presented to those who



secured first place in different games. Addressing the gathering, CEO Janaki Reddy and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer spoke about the simplicity, strength, and success of women in their respective positions and encouraged everyone to continue striving for excellence. The program concluded successfully and was celebrated in a befitting and grand manner.

## DP Srinivas Rao Urges Paid Roadside Parking

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Ambedkar Sena Telangana Convenor DP Srinivas Rao on Wednesday praised the governance initiatives of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and urged the state government to introduce a structured paid roadside parking system in Hyderabad to address growing traffic congestion and improve urban management.

Speaking to the media, Srinivas Rao said the Chief Minister’s leader-



ship has brought renewed momentum to development and civic reforms across the state, particularly in Hyderabad. He noted that several initiatives undertaken by the government are improv-

ing infrastructure and administrative efficiency.

However, he pointed out that uncontrolled roadside parking remains a major issue in many parts of the city. Vehicles parked indiscriminately along roadsides, he said, are causing severe traffic congestion, blocking footpaths and creating inconvenience for commuters and pedestrians. Srinivas Rao urged the government to introduce a regulated paid roadside parking system in busy commercial and residential areas. He suggested

that the system could include digital payment kiosks, CCTV surveillance and mobile-based enforcement to ensure transparency and efficiency.

According to him, such a system would not only streamline traffic but also generate revenue for the government and create employment opportunities for unemployed youth as trained parking attendants. He expressed hope that the government would implement the policy soon to improve Hyderabad’s urban mobility.

**19-Km Tunnel To Take Water By Gravity To Sundilla From Pranahita-Chevella**

Private consultancy firm Aarvee Associates has submitted to the state government its Alignment Report of the Link Canal between the proposed Pranahita-Chevella barrage at Thummidihatti in Kautala mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district and Sundilla barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. As per the report, over 19 km of tunnel will be dug up to take the water to Sundilla by gravity from the Pranahita-Chevella barrage. Once the Alignment Report is approved by the state government, it is learnt that Aarvee Associates will prepare a detailed project report (DPR) after studying the geographical and hydrological conditions and making the flood calculations. B. Prabhakar, executive engineer of Irrigation department's Kagaznagar circle, told Deccan Chronicle that a survey has been conducted for 150 metres level height of the barrage. It will draw 122 TMC of water, permission for which will have to be taken from the Maharashtra government.

**Experts Red Flag Telangana Ignoring Wet Bulb Temperatures**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With a scorching summer predicted this year by the IMD, and scientists warning about potentially deadly wet bulb temperatures occurring on high humidity days in the country, Telangana could be walking into summer with blinders on. Though the state has a heat wave action plan, it takes into consideration only dry heat waves, and the Indian Meteorological Department does not offer alerts on wet bulb temperatures, which are also a leading cause of heat strokes. "Typically, records of heat stroke or heat stress related hospital admissions are available with individual hospitals. Only records pertaining to heat strokes resulting in deaths are maintained at the state level," according to director of public health Dr Ravindra Nayak. In the



last nine years — between 2012 and 2022 — for which official records are available, Telangana recorded 1,172 heatstroke deaths, but data on a much larger number of people suffering from heat strokes, but walking away alive from hospitals, is not captured in official records. The IMD provides information on relative humidity (RH) and dry temperatures which together are used to provide 'real feel' or the predicted 'heat index'. "When the temperature, let's say, is 35 degrees Celsius and

the 'real feel' is 40, then it is an indication of humidity adding to how hot it feels. This is a rough measure of discomfort felt on such days. But for instance, when the dry bulb temperature is say 35 degrees, and the wet bulb temperature is 25 degrees coupled with high RH levels, then more care is needed on such days," according to Y.V. Rama Rao, a former additional director general of IMD, and a consultant for the Telangana State Planning Development Society. The IMD, however, does measure both dry and wet bulb temperatures, with the former being the temperature recorded by a thermometer in a normal fashion, and the latter with a wet cloth placed on the bulb of the thermometer. The temperature at which the water evaporates from the cloth is the wet bulb temperature and it is now universally ac-

cepted that wet bulb temperatures starting from 25 degrees Celsius can begin setting in of discomfort and as it reaches 31 degrees, and climbs to 35 degrees, then conditions can get dangerous for those employed in work requiring any physical exertion. Even the 'real feel' or 'heat index' are not normally understood well by people. According to the state's Heatwave Action Plan (HAP), data from the US National Weather Service, shows that even when dry air temperature is just 34 degrees, and the RH is 75 per cent, the resulting heat index or real feel is a whopping 49 degrees. The same effect is reached when RH reaches 100 per cent, the state's HAP says. When "environmental temperature increases above 37 degree Celsius, the human body starts gaining heat from the atmosphere.

**Kavitha Continues Deeksha for Velugumatla Victims**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kalkavuntla Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi, has intensified her deeksha demanding justice for hundreds of landless families affected by recent demolitions in Velugumatla village of Khammam district. Leading the protest, Kavitha said nearly 600-750 poor families lost their huts and small homes after bulldozers cleared the settlement, leaving them homeless for weeks. Many families are reportedly struggling without basic necessities such as food, drinking water, and electricity. Kavitha asserted that the deeksha would continue until the government provides immediate relief, including land allotments, fair compensation, and minimum housing facilities for the displaced families. She stated that



the protest is aimed at ensuring justice and restoring dignity to the victims who have been living under distress since the demolitions. Meanwhile, Meena Chavan, Himayatnagar Division In-charge of Telangana Jagruthi, highlighted the severe hardships faced by the affected residents. She said many families have been spending sleepless nights without shelter and are struggling to survive under extremely difficult conditions. Chavan urged the govern-

ment to take swift action to rehabilitate the victims and provide them with secure housing and financial assistance. She stressed that the plight of the Velugumatla families must be addressed urgently and called on authorities to ensure justice and dignity for the displaced residents. The protest has drawn attention from activists and local leaders who are demanding immediate intervention and relief for the affected families in Velugumatla.

**Telangana sets up Rythu Discom, liabilities of Rs 71,964 crore shifted**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has issued orders establishing a third power distribution company, Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited (TGRPDCL), bringing agricultural and bulk water supply power connections under a separate entity. The new Discom will handle power supply to agriculture, lift irrigation schemes, Mission Bhagiratha, Hyderabad Metro Water Board and other government water connections. Meanwhile, the creation of the new Discom has triggered fears of the State government scrapping the free power scheme to the agriculture sector, if not immediately, in a phased manner. While the previous BRS government resisted the Centre's diktat to instal meters to agricultural connections to avail additional loans amounting to 0.5 per cent of GSDP, the Congress government has already given its con-



sent and raised loans. To shift the loans to the new Discom, the government must list out its revenue sources. Experts pointed out that as agricultural and water supply power connections are primary to this Discom, the possibility of scrapping free power supply and increased tariff cannot be ruled out. The new company will handle over 29.08 lakh power connections, mostly agricultural (29.05 lakh). Other connections include lift irrigation schemes, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), Mission Bhagiratha and special water connections. While officials claimed that the third

Discom would ensure more efficient management of electricity supply to the agricultural sector, sources said the move was mainly aimed to help improve the balance sheets of the existing Discoms, enabling them to restructure existing loans and raise fresh loans from financial institutions. Official sources said the move would enable the State government to deal with power connections for agriculture, irrigation and drinking water separately, enabling it to increase tariff, if needed. The order for the new Discom was issued by Special Chief Secretary for Energy Naveen Mittal on Wednesday. Accordingly, the office of the new company will function from the TGSPDCL premises at Mint Compound. IAS officer Musharraf Faruqui has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), while P Krishna Reddy, V Tirupati Reddy, V Mohan Rao and N Narasimhulu were named.

**Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy Temple 3rd Anniversary Celebrated**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The third annual celebrations of Sri Sri Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy Temple were held with devotion and enthusiasm at Mitta Kankal village in Pudur mandal of Vikarabad district. Telangana State BC Aikya Vedika President Bheri Ramachandra Yadav participated in the special pooja ceremonies and extended his blessings to the villagers. The temple, which was constructed three years



ago by Ramachandra Yadav in his native village, witnessed large participation from villagers, women, youth, and children. The celebrations were organised with the

support of village leaders including Sarpanch Ravula Gopal, former Sarpanch Morri Shyam Kumar, Deputy Sarpanch Morri Bandayya, ward members, and elders.

On the occasion, Ramachandra Yadav prayed for the prosperity of the village, good agricultural yields, and the well-being of all residents. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised that unity among villagers is the greatest strength and urged everyone to live together in harmony like brothers and sisters while sharing happiness and goodwill. Devotees performed special poojas, decorated the idol of Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy, and raised chants of "Jai Abhaya Anjaneya

Swamy" and "Jai Shri Ram," creating a spiritual atmosphere in the village. Several guests including BC Federation President RK Sayanna Mudiraj, film director Murali, and Sherilingampally Sai Baba Temple chief priest Raghavendra Sharma attended the event, performed poojas, and blessed the devotees. The programme concluded with felicitation of guests and distribution of annadanam and prasadam to all devotees.

**BJP Senior Leader Gudur Narayana Reddy Attends Maharashtra Governor's Swearing-in Ceremony in Mumbai**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy attended the prestigious swearing-in ceremony of Sri Jishnu Dev Varma as the Governor of Maharashtra at the historic Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The ceremony witnessed the presence of several prominent political leaders, dignitaries, and officials from across the country. Gudur Narayana Reddy's presence at the high-profile event reflected his growing prominence and active engagement within national political circles. Known for his dedication to public service and strong commitment to the Bharatiya Janata Party's vision, Reddy has been playing an increas-



ingly influential role in strengthening the party's outreach and leadership network. During the ceremony, leaders and dignitaries congratulated Sri Jishnu Dev Varma on assuming the constitutional responsibility of serving as the Governor of Maharashtra. The event highlighted the spirit of democratic tradition and constitutional values upheld by the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Gudur Narayana Reddy conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to the new Governor, expressing confidence that Sri Jishnu Dev Varma would contribute significantly to the development and governance of Maharashtra with his vast administrative and political experience. Reddy also interacted with several leaders present at the ceremony, reaffirming his commitment to strengthening coordination between party leadership and governance institutions. The ceremony at Raj Bhavan marked a significant moment in Maharashtra's political landscape, and the participation of leaders like Gudur Narayana Reddy added further prominence to the occasion, reflecting his stature and continued dedication to public life.

**MRM Announces Telangana Committee at Iftar Meet in Hyderabad**



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An Iftar gathering was organized by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) at Pista House Banquet Hall under the patronage of Dr. Indresh Kumar. During the event, the Telangana state organizational committee was announced. Ilyas Ahmed and M. A. Sattar distributed appointment letters to newly se-

lected office bearers, including Najaf Ali Shaukat, Dr. Waseem Mohammed, Dr. Zeeshan Abbas, Syed Sarwar Hussain, Shehbaz Fatima (State Mahila Convenor), and Zahid Ali Mirza (Hyderabad Convenor). Leaders expressed confidence that the newly appointed team would strengthen the organization and effectively serve the community.

**Aedla Pandarinath Leads Effort to Restore Sanctity of Shivaji Nagar Cremation Ground**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

After several days of complaints about garbage being dumped inside the Hindu cremation ground near Shivaji Nagar Bridge, municipal authorities finally initiated action on Tuesday following strong intervention from community leaders led by Aedla Pandarinath. Workers of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and garbage transport staff had allegedly been pushing waste into the cremation ground while claiming it was being shifted to other locations.



Over time, the area became filled with heaps of trash, creating serious concern among local residents and hurting the sanctity of the cremation ground. Responding to repeated representations from community leaders, GHMC officials along with Ramky staff

reached the site on Wednesday with JCB machines and vehicles and began clearing the accumulated waste. District General Secretary Aedla Pandarinath personally supervised the clean-up operation along with leaders Kandadi Suresh Kumar, SC Morcha State Executive Member, and Akhilamoni Venkatesh, former division president. The leaders demanded strict monitoring by municipal authorities to ensure such incidents are not repeated and that the dignity and sanctity of the cremation ground are protected in the future.

**MLA Dr. Bhoopathi Reddy stresses education for girls**

**NIZAMABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. R. Bhoopathi Reddy said that the Congress government is giving high priority to women's empowerment and welfare, emphasizing that educating girl children is the key to achieving true empowerment. He was speaking as the chief guest at the International Women's Day celebrations organized by the TNGOs District Association under the leadership of District President Nashetty Suman Kumar at the association



building on Wednesday. On the occasion, the MLA felicitated Nizamabad Mayor Uma Rani and her spouse with a shawl and also honored several women employees for their dedicated serv-

ices. TNGOs members expressed gratitude to the MLA for allocating one acre of land for the association in his constituency. Responding to requests regarding a Kalyana Mandapam for

employees and issues related to retirement benefits, Dr. Bhoopathi Reddy assured that he would take up the matters with the government and raise them in the Assembly if necessary. The MLA also noted that around 160 women's community buildings have been constructed in his constituency to support women's activities and development. Later, TNGOs members felicitated the MLA with a Gajamala. Several public representatives, TNGOs leaders, and women employees attended the program in large numbers.

# DMK Failed To Curb Crime; NDA Will Ensure Law And Order: Modi

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday read out a litany of serious charges against the DMK government in the state, alleging that it had failed to contain crimes against women and children and assured the people that the NDA, once voted to power, will ensure that women lived without fear. "We will provide good law and order. It's criminals who will live in fear, not the people," the Prime Minister said addressing a rally of the NDA here. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister launched a slew of infrastructure projects ahead of the scheduled Assembly elections in the state, and said the Union government was aiming at creating a developed Tamil

Nadu for a developed India. The projects he inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for, entailing an investment of about Rs 5,650 crore across the state, "would create thousands of jobs for the youth," the Prime Minister said. "These projects are about infrastructure, clean energy, petroleum-related manufacturing, highways, railways and rural roads. They will boost energy access, connectivity and create thousands of jobs for the youth of Tamil Nadu," he said. The NDA has big plans for the progress of Tamil Nadu, Modi said. "We have made the state a part of the rare earth corridor. We have proposed the Bengaluru-Chennai and Chennai-Hyderabad bullet train project," he said. He accused the DMK of "delaying" the



scheme to build houses for the rural poor because they were afraid that the people would credit the central government for it. Pointing out that farmers of the Cauvery delta districts were the backbone of Tamil Nadu's food security, the Prime Minister said they deserved fair prices, good facilities and modern storage infrastructure. He assured to create grain warehouses for farmers.

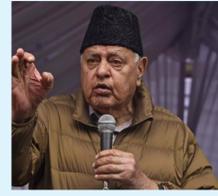
Responding to Chief Minister M K Stalin's charge that the Union government denied funds to the state, Modi said since 2014, the central government disbursed about Rs 3 lakh crore through devolution alone. "This is many times more than the amount given during the earlier Congress regime," he added. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for Bharat Petroleum Corpo-

ration Limited's city gas distribution network in Nilgiris and Erode districts at an investment of more than Rs 3,680 crore. The project will provide PNG connections to over 8.8 lakh households, supply gas to more than 200 commercial establishments and establish over 201 CNG stations. Modi also dedicated to the nation the Rs 1,490 crore IOCL lube plant in Chennai. "You would be proud to know that this is one of the world's largest facilities of its kind. This plant will fulfill the demand of many important industries both in Tamil Nadu and outside. The increase in local production of lubricants also reduces imports and saves money for the nation," he said.

## Farooq Abdullah, J-K Deputy CM Escaped Unhurt In Attack By Gunman In Jammu; Accused Held

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Farooq Abdullah, president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, and Surinder Choudhary escaped unhurt after a gunman opened fire outside a marriage hall on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night, officials said. The accused, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi area of Jammu, was immediately overpowered by security personnel present at the venue and later taken into custody for questioning. According to officials, the incident occurred in the posh Greater Kailash locality when Abdullah and Choudhary were leaving a marriage function. The leaders



had attended the event to greet party leader B. S. Chouhan on the occasion of his son's wedding. Police said the accused, who is in his seventies, was waiting outside the marriage hall and allegedly attempted to fire at Abdullah as the leaders stepped out of the venue. However, alert security personnel quickly intervened. Two police officers — an inspector and a sub-inspector — managed to overpower the gunman before he could cause any harm. During the scuffle, Jamwal fired a

single shot, but no one was injured in the incident. The officers immediately disarmed him and secured the weapon. Officials added that the accused appeared to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. He was taken away by police for interrogation to determine the motive behind the attack. The swift action by the security personnel prevented what could have been a serious security breach. Authorities have launched an investigation into the matter, and further details are awaited. Senior officials confirmed that both Abdullah and Choudhary are safe and left the venue shortly after the incident under tight security arrangements.

## Panic LPG Bookings Reported in Vizag After Rumours of Supply Halt

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Rumours on social media about a halt in commercial LPG supply triggered panic bookings at gas agencies across Visakhapatnam, with several consumers rushing to secure cylinders fearing a possible shortage. Gas agency operators said many customers attempted to place multiple bookings after hearing that commercial LPG

supplies had been stopped. "As soon as the news spread, people rushed to book cylinders. Some even tried to make double bookings fearing a shortage," said a gas agency owner, speaking on condition of anonymity. However, agencies clarified that commercial LPG supply has not been stopped entirely. Officials said the temporary restriction applies only to large hotels that use

bigger cylinders and that normal supply is expected to resume within a few days. Meanwhile, the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Andhra Pradesh (HRAAP) stated that the supply of commercial LPG cylinders to hotels and restaurants remains normal and under control. The association said bottling plants have been functioning normally in recent days, with cylinders being filled and sup-

plied regularly. HRAAP noted that in some instances hotels requesting 10 cylinders may receive six or seven as a temporary adjustment rather than due to any shortage. "Hotels and restaurants across the region are continuing operations normally, and the overall situation remains stable and manageable for the hospitality sector," the association said.

## Govt Seeks Parliament Nod for Rs 2.01L Cr Additional Spending in FY26

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The central government on Tuesday sought Parliament's approval to spend a net additional Rs 2.01 lakh crore in the current financial year ending March 31, with a hefty chunk of the expenditure going towards food and fertiliser subsidy. As per the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants tabled in the Lok Sabha by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the government has sought permission for gross additional spending of Rs 2.81 lakh crore. Out of this, Rs 80,146 crore will



be met from enhanced receipts or recoveries of the ministries and departments, and the net cash expenditure would be over Rs 2.01 lakh crore. In December 2025, the government had brought the first supplementary demands for grants seeking Parliament nod for gross extra spending of Rs 1.32 lakh crore, and net additional

spending of Rs 41,455 crore. The government sought Rs 19,230 crore for the fertilisers department and Rs 23,641 crore for subsidies under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Other major expenditure heads include Rs 41,822 crore for the defence ministry. In the Revised Estimates for current fiscal, the government has cut total expenditure to Rs 49.65 lakh crore, from Rs 50.65 lakh crore. Till January, the government had spent Rs 36.90 lakh crore, according to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data. ICRA chief economist Aditi

Nayar, however, said that although the net cash outgo under the second supplementary demand for grants has been pegged at a sizable Rs 2 lakh crore, this is likely to be offset to a large extent by expenditure savings across ministries. "For instance, Government of India's revenue expenditure needs to expand by a steep 30 per cent YoY during February-March 2026 to meet the FY2026 RE, entailing an incremental amount of Rs 2.3 lakh crore. Consequently, we do not expect a material fiscal slippage on this account," Nayar said.

## Govt Plans Insurance Support for Exporters Amid West Asia Crisis

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Union government is considering extending insurance support to Indian exporters as the ongoing tensions in West Asia continue to disrupt global trade routes and increase logistics costs. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the Centre is actively working on measures to help exporters manage risks caused by the crisis, including exploring new insurance-related schemes. Speaking to reporters, Goyal said an inter-ministerial group has been closely monitoring developments in the region and is in regular contact with exporters to understand the challenges they are facing. The group is reviewing the situation on a daily basis to ensure that necessary policy responses are implemented quickly. One of the key areas under consideration is providing insurance support to exporters whose shipments are affected by the current instability. The government is consulting the Export Credit Guarantee Corpo-



ration of India (ECGC) and other departments to design mechanisms that can reduce financial risks for businesses sending goods overseas. "We are looking to develop some new schemes, including insurance support, and consultations are underway with ECGC and other stakeholders," Goyal said. The minister added that the government is also exploring ways to assist exporters whose goods have already been shipped but are now facing delays or disruptions due to the crisis. The customs department has already issued guidelines to address a growing concern — export cargo returning to Indian ports. The situation has arisen due to the closure of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz and disruptions in maritime shipping routes linked to

escalating tensions in the region. These disruptions have forced some vessels to change routes or suspend services altogether, leading to cargo delays and higher operational costs. The crisis in West Asia has also triggered a sharp rise in ocean freight charges, air cargo rates, and insurance premiums. Exporters say the uncertainty surrounding shipping lanes and energy supplies has significantly increased the cost of doing business with markets in the region. West Asia remains one of India's major export destinations, making the disruptions particularly concerning for sectors that depend heavily on the region for trade. The situation intensified following a joint attack by the United States and Israel on Iran, which has escalated geopolitical tensions and affected the movement of oil and gas shipments. Goyal assured that the government is keeping a constant watch on the evolving developments. "The government is monitoring the situation round the clock and will take necessary steps to support exporters," he said.

### No Confidence.....

Responding to the debate, Shah accused Gandhi of remaining absent from the House most of the time and not participating in discussions on several major legislations. Many BJP speakers also criticised the Congress and the Leader of the Opposition, prompting Venugopal to question whether the debate was about the Speaker or about Gandhi. Shah said the Speaker serves as a neutral custodian of the House and warned that questioning the Speaker's integrity undermines parliamentary traditions. He added that although the BJP had spent years in the Opposition, neither the party nor the NDA had ever brought a motion seeking the removal of the Speaker. "According to established parliamentary practice, proceedings of the House are conducted on the basis of mutual trust. The Speaker functions as a neutral custodian representing both the ruling party and the Opposition. It is unfortunate that a resolution seeking the removal of the Speaker has been brought," Shah said. Earlier, Congress leader Venugopal alleged that Speaker Om Birla's actions were influenced by the Narendra Modi-led government. He also criticised remarks attributed to the Speaker regarding Congress

### UAE Envoy.....

MPs allegedly planning an "unexpected act" near the Prime Minister's seat in the House. Calling the remarks derogatory and irresponsible, Venugopal ques-

tioned why the matter was not reported to the police if such information existed. His comments triggered sharp reactions from Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who warned him to choose his words carefully as the Speaker was not present to defend himself. Rijiju said that if CCTV footage of the incident were released, it would expose the behaviour of certain MPs.

### IEA to Release.....

Addressing a gathering in Kentucky, Trump said the record release of oil would help stabilise global energy supplies and bring down prices. "I'm pleased to report that earlier today, the International Energy Agency agreed to coordinate the release of a record 400 million barrels of oil from various national petroleum reserves around the world, which will substantially reduce the oil prices, as we end this threat to America and this threat to the world," he said. He added that the coordinated move was aimed at maintaining steady energy supplies while the United States continues military operations linked to the ongoing conflict. "My administration is also working to keep the oil flowing all over," Trump said. Trump also claimed that US forces had targeted Iranian naval capabilities in the Gulf region to prevent disruptions to maritime shipping routes. "We have knocked out 58 naval ships. We knocked out their navy," he said. He further said that US forces destroyed multiple Iranian mine-laying vessels allegedly intended

to threaten commercial shipping. "They also knocked out the mine layers. They put mines in the water. Lovely job. We knocked out 31 of them," he added. Trump stated that the US military used weapons systems previously deployed against maritime drug trafficking networks. "I said, 'Why did you use the weapon that we use on the drugs that come in by sea?' Do you know that drug shipments by sea are down by 98 per cent? I said, 'That's a hell of a weapon.' They said, 'We'll give it a shot.' It worked very well," he said.

### Modi: Kerala.....

The Prime Minister remarked that in Kerala, while the UDF and the LDF differ in name, their actions are the same. He accused both of spreading communalism, hindering development and damaging the industrial sector. He pointed out that the solar scam was a major issue during the UDF's tenure, and now under the LDF, the CMRL corruption case has emerged. Speaking on Sabarimala, Modi alleged that the LDF was involved in gold theft and that UDF leaders faced charges of selling the stolen gold. In his address, Modi repeated his claim that the Congress, which led the UDF, had now turned into MMC (Muslim League, Maoist Congress). He said the massive crowd in Kochi showed the momentum was shifting in favour of the BJP-NDA in Kerala. Earlier, hundreds of BJP workers welcomed Modi during his roadshow at Kaloor in Kochi. The Prime Minister waved to party members

and supporters as he travelled in an open vehicle from near the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to the venue for the inauguration of various development projects. The roadshow energised party workers ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in the state.

### Over 52,000 Indians.

A senior MP said signatures for the notices had been collected and the documents were likely to be submitted on Thursday. Another opposition leader said the move could take place on Thursday or Friday in both Houses. Sources said around 120 MPs had signed the notice to be submitted in the Lok Sabha, while about 60 MPs had signed the notice intended for the Rajya Sabha. Under parliamentary rules, a notice seeking the removal of the CEC requires signatures from at least 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. The notice has reportedly been signed by members from parties in the INDIA bloc, with some MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party also supporting the move. Opposition parties have previously accused the Election Commission of favouring the ruling BJP, particularly over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Concerns have also been raised regarding the conduct of the exercise in West Bengal. A removal motion can be introduced in either House of Parliament and must be passed by a special majority — a majority of the total membership of the House.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

# Syed Waheed Ali Files THCAA Executive Member Nomination

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Advocate Syed Waheed Ali, practicing at the High Court of Telangana, has formally filed his nomination for the post of Executive Member in the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association (THCAA) Elections 2026-27.

The nomination was filed in the presence of his seniors and well-wishers, including Dr. Sofia Begum, Designated Senior Counsel and Bar Council Member, and Senior Advocate S. Kamalak. Several colleagues and members of the Bar also extended their support, including Md. Abdul Rahman Hyder, L. Akshay, Ruma Riyaz, and



Nayeemuddin, along with other esteemed advocates of the High Court. Advocate Syed Waheed Ali is known among the legal fraternity for his active participation in bar activities and his commitment to the welfare of advocates.

Supporters expressed confidence that his dedication, professional integrity, and approachable nature make him a strong and deserving candidate for the Executive Member position. Senior members of the Bar who were present on the occasion conveyed their best wishes and expressed hope that his candidature would contribute positively to the strengthening of the advocates' association and

the interests of the legal community. The THCAA elections for the term 2026-27 are expected to witness active participation from members of the Bar, with several candidates stepping forward to represent the interests of advocates practicing at the High Court of Telangana.

Laxman's body in the balcony with ligature marks on his neck, raising suspicion of foul play. Police initially registered a suspicious death case, later altering it to charges of murder and destruction of evidence. Khusbu Devi and Lal Babu were arrested on January 18, 2021, and the case was transferred to Lake police station. Laxman, 30, had married Khusbu Devi in 2009. The couple had two children and lived in Rajnagar Maqtha, Khairatabad. The accused were charged under relevant sections of the IPC and have now been remanded in judicial custody.

## Student killed in Chevella crash

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A 20-year-old student was killed and his pillion rider injured when their bike was struck by a car near Pamena village gate in Chevella at around 1.30 pm on Saturday.

Police said the deceased, Vinil, was attempting a U-turn towards Chanvelli when the collision occurred. Vinil, a resident of Vikarabad district, was heading towards Shadnagar. The car allegedly hit the front of the bike, leaving it badly damaged. Locals rushed Vinil to hospital, where he was

declared dead at about 2.30 pm. The pillion rider, Abhilash, 18, also a student, sustained multiple injuries including bleeding inside the left ear, a fracture near the left ankle, an injury to the right shoulder and bleeding wounds on the back of the head.

He is undergoing treatment at a nearby private hospital. Vinil's body was moved to the mortuary for postmortem examination. Based on a complaint filed by his relative Satyanarayana, a businessman, police registered a case. Further investigation is underway.

## Two get life for security guard's murder

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A sessions court in the city has sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for the 2021 murder of security guard Laxman Jha, allegedly linked to an extra-marital affair. The court also imposed a fine of ₹3,000 on each convict. The convicted are Khusbu Devi (26), wife of the deceased, and Lal Babu (30), a kitchen steward, both residents of Khairatabad. The case came to light on January 15, 2021 when Laxman's brother, Bihari Jha (28), lodged a complaint after Khusbu Devi informed him of Laxman's death. On reaching the house, he found

Laxman's body in the balcony with ligature marks on his neck, raising suspicion of foul play. Police initially registered a suspicious death case, later altering it to charges of murder and destruction of evidence. Khusbu Devi and Lal Babu were arrested on January 18, 2021, and the case was transferred to Lake police station. Laxman, 30, had married Khusbu Devi in 2009. The couple had two children and lived in Rajnagar Maqtha, Khairatabad. The accused were charged under relevant sections of the IPC and have now been remanded in judicial custody.

## ACB Nabs Moosapet Community Organiser for Demanding Bribe from Women's Group

The ACB arrested K. Murali, community organiser in Moosapet Circle-53 of the Kukatapally zone, red-handed while accepting a bribe on Tuesday. He had demanded the money from a complainant for processing a loan sanctioned to a Mahila Podupu Sangham. The ACB said the group was sanctioned a loan of ₹20 lakh and Murali allegedly demanded a bribe at the rate of ₹1,000 per ₹1 lakh rupees for processing the papers. Acting on a complaint, the ACB laid a trap and caught Murali while he was accepting the bribe amount.

## Three burglars held; ₹13 lakh recovered

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Three habitual house burglars and a receiver of stolen property were arrested in a joint operation by the commissioner's task force (Charminar zone) and Keesara police on Tuesday. Stolen ornaments and vehicles worth ₹13 lakh were recovered. The accused were identified as Munithani Amar Raj Kumar Reddy alias Doll (28) of KCR Nagar, Amberpet; Abdul Lateef Khan alias Salman alias Gujja (32) of Shaheen Nagar; Gulam Hussain Khan alias Rehan Khan alias Rabbani (32) of Bandlaguda; and Gopalapuram Praneeth Chary alias Laddu (24), a gold-

smith from Uppuguda. Police said the trio were involved in night house burglaries and two-wheeler thefts in Uppal and Keesara limits. During the operation, 65 grams of gold ornaments, 400 grams of silver ornaments, three two-wheelers and seven mobile phones were seized. Two cases — one at Uppal and another at Keesara — were detected. Amar, a habitual offender involved in about 88 property offences since 2010, had earlier been detained twice under the PD Act. Police also executed four long-pending non-bailable warrants against him. The accused were remanded to judicial custody.

## Two Pedestrians Killed in Separate Road Accidents in Choutuppal

Two pedestrians were killed in separate road accidents in the Choutuppal police station limits. In one incident, Shankar Sahni, a 25-year-old worker from Bihar, died after being hit by an unidentified car near Thooranpet. The car drove away after the accident. Sahni was crossing the road after picking up essentials at a local grocery shop when the car hit him at high speed. Elsewhere, Esam Sattaiah, 43, a mason died after being hit by a lorry near Thangadapalli crossroads. A resident of Ramnagar Colony in Choutuppal, he was returning home from work. He had alighted from an autorickshaw and was crossing the road when the lorry hit him.

## Speeding car hits three GHMC workers

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Three sanitation workers of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) were injured after a speeding car rammed into them while they were on duty in Ambedkar Nagar under Kapra limits on Tuesday morning. According to police, the accident occurred at around 6.48 am near Millennium School when the workers were carrying out routine sanitation work along the roadside. The injured workers were identified as Giraveni Ravi (42), Nagunooru

Pradeep and Manda Pentayya. In a complaint lodged with the police, Ravi, a resident of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Jawahar Nagar, stated that the trio was engaged in cleaning duties when a car bearing registration number TS08FL9625 came at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner. The vehicle first lost control and crashed into a roadside tree before hitting the workers who were standing nearby. Local residents who witnessed the accident rushed to the spot and immediately alerted emergency services. The

injured sanitation workers were shifted to a nearby hospital in an ambulance for treatment. Hospital authorities said the workers suffered multiple injuries but were out of immediate danger. Police officials said a case has been registered against the driver and an investigation has been launched to determine the exact cause of the accident. Authorities are also examining whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol or driving recklessly at the time of the incident. Officials further revealed that the vehicle is registered in the

name of Mohammad Abdul Javid Pasha. Traffic records indicate that the car owner has a history of traffic violations. Between February 2023 and July 2025, at least seven challans were issued against the vehicle by traffic police in Bhongir, Charminar, Malkajgiri and Mahankali. The violations include driving without wearing a seat belt, disobeying traffic police orders, crossing the stop line, overspeeding and unauthorised parking. Authorities said the past violations are being examined as part of the investigation.

EDITORIAL

# SAFETY FIRST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Two devastating industrial explosions within two days — February 28 and March 1 — in two of India's most industrially advanced States have once again exposed the alarming gaps in safety regulation governing hazardous manufacturing units. The twin tragedies, which together claimed more than 40 lives, underline a persistent pattern of negligence, weak enforcement and systemic complacency in industries dealing with explosive and chemical materials.

The first incident occurred at the Suryashree Fire Works factory in Vetlapalem, Andhra Pradesh, where a powerful blast reportedly took place while workers were manually mixing chemicals used in fireworks production. Such processes, known to be highly volatile, demand strict adherence to safety standards, specialised equipment and trained personnel. Preliminary reports suggest that basic precautions may not have been adequately followed, raising serious questions about monitoring mechanisms and compliance checks.

Barely a day later, another deadly explosion struck the SBL Energy Limited facility at Raulgaon in Maharashtra's Nagpur district. The company manufactures mining and industrial explosives, making it a high-risk operation requiring rigorous oversight. While the exact cause of the blast is yet to be determined, the recurrence of such

accidents points less to coincidence and more to deep-rooted structural failures in safety governance across the sector.

Data from the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) paints a disturbing picture. Between 2017 and 2020, industrial accidents resulted in an average of three deaths and eleven injuries every single day across the country. The situation appears to have worsened in recent years, with over 250 major explosions reported between 2023 and 2025. States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana — home to a large concentration of chemical and explosive manufacturing units — account for a significant share of these incidents.

Investigations into previous explosions reveal recurring causes that are both predictable and preventable. Manual mixing of hazardous chemicals remains common despite safer automated alternatives. The use of cheap and highly reactive aluminium powder increases volatility, while poorly ventilated workspaces allow combustible dust to accumulate, turning factories into potential death traps. Compounding these risks are inadequately trained workers and the illegal storage of explosive materials beyond permissible limits, often driven by cost-cutting measures or production pressures.

What makes these tragedies particularly distressing is that most of the triggers are well

known to regulators and manufacturers alike. Lives could have been saved if due safety processes were strictly implemented or if regulatory authorities had conducted frequent and meaningful inspections. Instead, the familiar cycle repeats itself: outrage follows an accident, governments announce compensation for victims, inquiries are ordered, and public attention gradually fades without structural reform.

The consequences extend beyond immediate loss of life. Unsafe working conditions contribute to a growing perception that manufacturing jobs are dangerous and undesirable compared to employment in the service sector. This perception undermines India's broader economic ambitions. Initiatives aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing and creating large-scale employment cannot succeed if workers fear for their safety.

For India's manufacturing sector to truly thrive, safety must become a non-negotiable priority rather than an afterthought. Stronger enforcement of regulations, adoption of modern safety technologies, mandatory worker training, and strict penalties for violations are essential. Without transforming factory floors into secure workplaces, policy slogans and investment drives alone will not attract skilled talent or sustain industrial growth. The recent explosions serve as a tragic reminder that economic progress cannot come at the cost of human lives.



## M.P. Ahammad Receives Business Bhushan at Lokmat Awards 2026

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

M. P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, has been conferred the prestigious Business Bhushan Award at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards 2026 for his exceptional leadership and significant contribution to the global jewellery retail industry.

The award was presented by Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during a grand ceremony held at the iconic Gateway of India. Organised by the Lokmat Media Group, the event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, bureaucrats, and personalities from business and entertainment.



From right to left: Rajendra Darda, Editor-in-Chief, Lokmat Media Group; Vijay Darda, Chairman, Lokmat Media Group; Asher O, MD-India, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra; M. P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group; and Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards 2026 ceremony held at the Gateway of India.

Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat, also attended the ceremony.

The Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards honour individuals whose leadership and achievements have made a meaningful impact in their

respective fields while contributing positively to society. Ahammad's recognition reflects his remarkable entrepreneurial journey and his role in building Malabar Gold & Diamonds into one of the world's leading jewellery

retail chains. Expressing gratitude after receiving the award, Ahammad said the honour represents the collective dedication of the Malabar family and the trust customers have placed in the brand over the years. He added that the company's growth has been guided by integrity, responsibility, and a commitment to creating long-term value for society. Established in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has grown into the 5th largest jewellery retailer globally and the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin. The brand operates more than 425 showrooms across 14 countries, supported by design centres, manufacturing units, and offices across India, the Middle East, the Far East, the

United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Maharashtra remains a key market for the company, with 34 showrooms currently operating across the state. The group aims to expand further with a target of 64 stores in Maharashtra by 2029, expected to boost employment and strengthen the organised jewellery retail sector. Beyond business growth, Ahammad has championed a purpose-driven model by integrating CSR and ESG initiatives, dedicating 5% of profits to programmes in education, healthcare, housing support, environmental sustainability, hunger eradication, and women's empowerment across regions where the group operates

## CBIT Hosts Expert Lecture on Staff Role in Institutional

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, organized an expert lecture titled "Role of Staff in Institutional Branding and Perception" on March 10 at the SMS Seminar Hall to highlight how faculty and staff contribute to building the reputation of educational institutions. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Sudhakar Rao, Director of the ICFAI Group and an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He emphasized that institutional branding goes beyond marketing and publicity, noting that it is built through academic excellence, quality teaching, research output, student engagement, and responsible professional conduct by staff



members. Using real-time case studies from the education and corporate sectors, he explained how collective efforts, communication practices, and the professional behavior of faculty and staff significantly influence public perception and credibility of institutions. CBIT Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu appreciated the initiative, stating that every staff member plays an important role in strengthening the institution's credibility through dedication,

professionalism, and constructive engagement with stakeholders. The chief guest was introduced by Dr. Mamta Thakur, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. The program was convened by Dr. Venkat Barla and Dr. G. N. R. Prasad, while Dr. N. L. N. Reddy, Advisor-CDC, delivered the vote of thanks. Faculty and staff actively participated in the interactive session that followed the lecture.

## Pulka's 15th Phase Social Audit Forum Empowers Citizens and Strengthens Transparency

Community members and officials come together at Rythu Vedika to review government programs and ensure accountability.



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step toward transparent governance, the 15th phase of the Social Audit Public Forum was successfully conducted at the Rythu Vedika Office in Pulka Mandal on 11th March. The event brought together local residents, elected representatives, and government officials to evaluate ongoing development programs, share concerns, and reinforce the principles

of citizen-driven accountability. Presiding over the event, G. Balaraju, Additional District Rural Development Officer, stressed the importance of active community participation in monitoring the implementation of government schemes. "When citizens actively engage in social audits, it strengthens transparency and ensures that development reaches those who need it most," he said. The forum saw participation from several key officials, includ-

ing: S. Nageshwar Rao, Assistant Vigilance Officer, who shared insights on maintaining compliance and integrity in government projects. MPDO Mary Madam, who highlighted the role of local administration in facilitating citizen engagement. Santosh, Additional Program Officer for Mandal Employment Guarantee, who explained the latest initiatives under employment guarantee schemes. Panchayat Secretaries, ICI and T.L. of-

ficers, EGS staff, and Social Audit YSRP Kumar and DRP staff, among others, also actively participated. The discussion centered on the progress and challenges of various development projects, enabling participants to raise issues, clarify doubts, and suggest improvements. Residents lauded the initiative, expressing that forums like these provide a vital platform for community voices to be heard and for accountability to be

strengthened at the grassroots level. The 15th phase forum exemplifies the collaborative effort between citizens and government authorities to ensure development programs are implemented efficiently, fairly, and transparently. Officials concluded the event by urging continued citizen participation in future audits to further strengthen governance and accountability in the region.

## Silver, gold prices drop further over profit booking

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices eased on Wednesday as investors booked profits, though a softer US dollar and lingering geopolitical uncertainty capped the decline. MCX gold April futures lost 0.52 per cent to Rs 1,62,452 per 10 grams around 11.15 am on an intraday basis. Meanwhile, MCX silver May futures declined 1.69 per cent to Rs 2,73,150 per kg. The profit booking followed the MCX gold



April futures contract rising almost 2 per cent and the silver May futures surging 4 per cent in the previous session. The US dollar weakened 0.07 per cent on an intraday basis to 98.75 cent, making dol-

lar-priced bullion cheaper for holders of other currencies. Meanwhile, crude oil fell below \$90 a barrel, cooling off inflation concerns of traders that had earlier bolstered demand for gold

as an inflation hedge. Brent crude oil price fell 0.99 per cent to \$86.93 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures dropped 0.75 per cent to \$82.82. Overnight, both futures had settled down more than 11 per cent, marking the steepest single-day decline in four years after the International Energy Agency proposed the largest release of emergency reserves in its history. Investors booked profits amid uncertainty over the trajectory of the war after

confusing signals from US President Donald Trump, who earlier suggested war could be nearing its end, followed by US and Israel subjecting Iran to an intense air strike overnight. Investors remain keen on cues from the Personal Consumption Expenditures index, due on Friday to gauge US inflation and chances of Fed rate cuts. The medium to long-term outlook of COMEX Silver remains constructive despite short-term volatility, a market participant said.

## India allows FDI under automatic route for firms with less than 10 per cent Chinese stake

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Overseas companies with Chinese shareholding of up to 10 per cent will be eligible to invest in India under the automatic route across sectors; however, the relaxed FDI norms will not apply to entities registered in China, Hong Kong, or other countries sharing land borders with India, a senior official said on Wednesday. The government, however, also announced an expedited mechanism for clearance of foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals of companies from China and other countries sharing land borders with India across a wide range of sectors. Earlier, foreign firms with shareholders from these land-border nations owning even a single share had to seek mandatory approval to invest in India in any sector. The Union Cabinet on March 10 made changes to Press Note 3 of 2020 in this regard. Under the press note, investors from countries sharing land borders with India had to seek mandatory approval to invest in any sector. "All the restrictions for investors from land-bor-



dering countries (LBCs) are still applicable. There is no relaxation so far as entities or investors in LBCs are concerned. This relaxation is only for entities in non-LBCs and having beneficial owners from LBCs below 10 per cent and non-controlling stake... so there are no relaxations for investments from LBCs," Joint Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Jai Prakash Shivahare told reporters here. He further explained that if a firm from a country sharing a land border with India provides technology and holds even one per cent stake, through which it may exercise some form of control, the investment will still require approval through the government route. As per the amended press note, investors with non-controlling LBC beneficial ownership of up to 10 per cent shall be permitted under the automatic route

as per the applicable sectoral caps, entry routes, and other conditions. Such investments will be subject only to the reporting of relevant information or details by the investee entity to the DPIIT. For clearance of FDI proposals, there is a standard operating procedure laid out by the government. Proposals for LBC investments in specified sectors and activities of manufacturing in capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer, advanced battery components, rare earth permanent magnets, and rare earth processing shall be processed and decided within 60 days. DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said that this list can be expanded or reduced by a committee of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary. At present, about 600 applications are under Press Note 3. When asked what would happen to those applications, the secretary said many would fall under either of the two categories — below the 10 per cent threshold and the expedited mechanism.

## Kamareddy collector participates in awareness programme on Nano Urea Usage

**KAMAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana

As part of the Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika programme, District Collector Ashish Sangwan attended an awareness programme on the usage of Nano Urea organized by the Agriculture Department on Wednesday at an agricultural field in Sadashivnagar Mandal of Kamareddy district. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector stated that



farmers can spray Nano Urea on crops with the help of drone technology, which enables fertilizer application over a larger area in a shorter

period of time. He explained that this modern method

helps in reducing cultivation costs while also improving crop yield. The Collector advised farmers to adopt modern agricultural practices and make effective use of drone

technology to enhance productivity. He also urged them to take advantage of the various agricultural development initiatives being implemented by the government. Officials from the Agriculture Department explained the benefits of Nano Urea and demonstrated the method of spraying fertilizers using drones. The programme was attended by Agriculture Officer Mohan Reddy, department staff, and a number of farmers.

# Viral 'Kumbh beauty' Monalisa Bhosle marries boyfriend Farman Khan

In a dramatic culmination to a day of high tension and public attention, viral 'Kumbh beauty' Monalisa Bhosle on Wednesday evening married her boyfriend Farman Khan at a local temple in Poovar, a coastal suburb of Thiruvananthapuram.

The simple ceremony took place around 5.45 p.m., only hours after the couple had approached the Thampoor Police Station seeking protection following opposition from the woman's family.

Present on the occasion was M. V. Govindan, the state secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Just before the wedding, Kerala's Education Minister V. Sivankutty, who hails from the locality near the temple, remarked that the development reflected the true spirit of the state.

"This is the real Kerala story where people of dif-



ferent backgrounds can live happily and peacefully," he said.

Monalisa, who shot to social media fame during the Maha Kumbh Mela, had been in Kerala for the shooting of a film marking her entry into cinema.

The shoot was underway in coastal locations around Vizhinjam and Poovar

when the dispute involving her family surfaced.

According to police sources, the couple reached the police station earlier in the day after Monalisa alleged that her family was trying to forcibly take her back home and pressure her into marrying another relative.

Her relationship with Far-

man reportedly began about 18 months back through Facebook, but the interfaith relationship met with strong resistance from her family.

Monalisa, a native of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, and Farman Khan, who hails from Maharashtra, told police that they had chosen Kerala partly because they anticipated facing serious opposition elsewhere in the country.

Following her complaint, police summoned her father, Jai Singh Bhosle, and explained that since Monalisa had attained the age of 18, she had the legal right to decide whom she wished to live with.

By evening, what began as a plea for protection ended with a quiet temple wedding by the sea, turning a tense family dispute into a story of personal choice and a new beginning.

# Actor Vijay Begins TVK Candidate Interviews for Maiden Assembly Poll

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Actor-politician Vijay on Tuesday began interviewing candidates for the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, marking the party's debut in state politics. TVK plans to field candidates for all 234 Assembly seats, with key constituencies earmarked for senior leaders, according to party sources. Vijay arrived at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur to personally meet about 60 aspirants on Tuesday. The party has reportedly received over 4,200 applications from individuals seeking to contest on its ticket, reflecting a significant interest despite TVK being a newcomer. Party insiders indicated that leaders Bussy Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, and Arun



Raj are likely to contest from T Nagar, Villivakkam, and Tiruchengode, respectively. Launched on February 2, 2024, TVK is positioning itself as a credible alternative to the ruling DMK, with Vijay at the forefront of its campaign strategy. While the party has proposed power-sharing arrangements to potential allies, no other political party has formally joined TVK so far. Analysts suggest the absence of alliances could make the contest challenging, but Vijay's per-

sonal popularity and grassroots outreach could sway voter sentiment, especially in urban and semi-urban constituencies. The candidate selection process is expected to conclude soon, with the party aiming to announce a full list ahead of the campaign season. Observers note that TVK's strategy combines the appeal of a fresh political alternative with Vijay's strong fan base, hoping to attract voters seeking change. The party plans to run an aggressive campaign focusing on local development, governance reforms, and youth empowerment, signaling its ambition to become a significant force in Tamil Nadu politics despite being in its infancy. With the first Assembly elections approaching, all eyes will be on TVK's candidates and Vijay's.

# Shah Rukh Khan to don police uniform in Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2'?



VISAKHAPATNAM  
Wakeup telangana

If sources in the industry are to be believed, Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan is to play a cop in Superstar Rajinikanth's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Jailer 2'. Thriller, Crime & Mystery Films

It may be recalled that IANS had reported earlier that sources in the unit had said that only Shah Rukh Khan's portions remained to be shot and that the Bollywood star would begin shooting for his

portions in the film in March this year. They had also said that once Shah Rukh's portions, which will be shot over a period of seven to eight days, were shot, the film would be wrapped. Sources had also informed that Shah Rukh Khan's role in the film would be like an extended cameo.

Now, sources claim that the actor will be seen playing the role of a cop in the film. Movies

Director Nelson Dilipkumar's 'Jailer 2' has triggered huge anticipation among fans and film buffs for several reasons.

One of the prime reasons is that 'Jailer 2' promises to have loads of action and entertainment just like the first part which went on to emerge a blockbuster, raking in a whopping 650 crores worldwide.

'Jailer 1', which opened to positive reviews, took a strong opening. In fact, the film's overseas distributor Ayngaran International confirmed that the film had made a whopping 33 crores on its very first day, the highest in Superstar Rajinikanth's career!

Sources close to the unit say that 'Jailer 2' is shaping up well on the lines of 'Jailer 1'. Comedy Films

It may be recalled that Superstar Rajinikanth had celebrated his 75th birthday on the sets of 'Jailer 2' last year.

Shooting of the second part of 'Jailer' began in Chennai first. Sun Pictures, the production house producing the action entertainer, had announced that shooting for the film had commenced on March 10 last year.

Interest in the film peaked when Sun Pictures released an exceptionally interesting teaser that was both funny and thrilling.

Not long after this, actress Ramya Krishnan shared a story on her first day of shooting for the second part of the

film which was going on at Attapaadi in Kerala.

She said, "26 years of Padayappa and the first day shoot of Jailer 2." Thriller, Crime & Mystery Films

Ramya Krishnan plays the character of Vijaya Pandian a.k.a Viji, the wife of Rajinikanth's character Muthuvel Pandian, in the film.

Sources say that actress Mirnaa, who plays Swetha Pandian, Rajinikanth's daughter-in-law in the film, too will have a pivotal role in the sequel. Malayalam superstar Mohanlal and Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi too have shot for 'Jailer 2'.

# BCCI announces IPL 2026 first phase schedule from March 28

Match No.	Date	Time	Venue	Home	Away
1	28/03/26	7:30 PM	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Bangalore
2	29/03/26	7:30 PM	Mumbai Indians	Kolkata Knight Riders	Mumbai
3	30/03/26	7:30 PM	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings	Jaipur
4	31/03/26	7:30 PM	Punjab Kings	Delhi Capitals	Chandigarh
5	01/04/26	7:30 PM	Lucknow Super Giants	Bengaluru Kings	Lucknow
6	02/04/26	7:30 PM	Hyderabad Knight Riders	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Hyderabad
7	03/04/26	7:30 PM	Chennai Super Kings	Punjab Kings	Chennai
8	04/04/26	7:30 PM	Delhi Capitals	Rajasthan Royals	Delhi
9	05/04/26	7:30 PM	Gujarat Titans	Rajasthan Royals	Ahmedabad
10	06/04/26	7:30 PM	Gujarat Titans	Delhi Capitals	Ahmedabad
11	07/04/26	7:30 PM	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Chennai Super Kings	Bangalore
12	08/04/26	7:30 PM	Hyderabad Knight Riders	Punjab Kings	Hyderabad
13	09/04/26	7:30 PM	Rajasthan Royals	Mumbai Indians	Jaipur
14	10/04/26	7:30 PM	Delhi Capitals	Gujarat Titans	Delhi
15	11/04/26	7:30 PM	Delhi Capitals	Gujarat Titans	Delhi
16	12/04/26	7:30 PM	Kolkata Knight Riders	Lucknow Super Giants	Kolkata
17	13/04/26	7:30 PM	Hyderabad Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Hyderabad
18	14/04/26	7:30 PM	Punjab Kings	Bengaluru Kings	Chandigarh
19	15/04/26	7:30 PM	Chennai Super Kings	Delhi Capitals	Chennai
20	16/04/26	7:30 PM	Lucknow Super Giants	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Lucknow
21	17/04/26	7:30 PM	Mumbai Indians	Rajasthan Royals	Mumbai

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the schedule for the first phase of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, which will be played from March 28 to April 12. The remaining fixtures of the tournament will be released later, as several states are scheduled to hold Assembly elections during this period and the full schedule will depend on the final polling dates.

The 19th edition of the world's biggest T20 cricket league will begin with defending champions Royal Challengers Bangalore taking on Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. A total of 20



matches will be played during this phase across 10 venues — Bengaluru, Mumbai, Guwahati, New Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. The tournament will feature four double-header match days during this phase. Afternoon matches will start at 3:30 PM IST, while

evening games will begin at 7:30 PM IST. Following the opening match, Mumbai Indians will face Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. The first double-header of the season is scheduled for April 4, when Delhi Capitals will take on Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in

Delhi in the afternoon match. Later that evening, Gujarat Titans will clash with Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Rajasthan Royals will begin their home campaign in Guwahati, hosting Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians. Meanwhile, Punjab Kings will play their

early home matches at the PCA Stadium. During the season, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will play five home matches in Bengaluru and two in Raipur.

Punjab Kings will host four matches in New Chandigarh and three in Dharamshala, while Rajasthan Royals will play three home games in Guwahati and four in Jaipur. The BCCI also noted that matches scheduled in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from an expert committee formed by the Government of Karnataka. The committee is expected to inspect the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 13, 2026, including a full-scale mock demonstration of match-day arrangements to evaluate the venue's readiness for hosting IPL fixtures.

## Medha Patkar urges Telangana CM to halt Musi Project's DPR unveiling



With two days to go before the Telangana government formally unveils the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Phase 1 of the Musi Riverfront Development Project, social activist Medha Patkar has fired off a sharp letter to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, demanding the March 13 event at Hotel Taj Krishna be called off.

Patkar, in her letter dated Wednesday, March 11, called for a structured dialogue, led by the Chief Minister himself, bringing together representatives of displaced families, people's organisations and concerned officials. She also demanded public hearings to be held in the Musi eviction-affected areas.

The social activist pushed for an independent committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the project, one that looks at it through a river-basin lens, examines alleged violations of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act of 2013 and addresses the "serious gaps" in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Patkar's letter points out that demolitions have already affected about 375 homes under this project, which the present administration has revived as a "flagship programme." She flagged the fresh notifications, including the Gandhi Sarovar Project requiring acquisition of 10.34 acre in Bandlaguda Jagir village.

## TG creates third power distribution company for agriculture sector

The Telangana government on Wednesday, March 11, issued orders establishing a dedicated power distribution company for the agricultural sector, making it the state's third electricity distributor. The new entity, Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited (TGRPDCL), will take over all agricultural electricity connections in the state, along with lift irrigation schemes, Central Public Water Supply (CPWS)/Mission Bhagiratha water supply systems, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) connections and municipal water supply connections under the Low Tension VI-B category.

The state currently has two distribution companies, the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) and the Telangana Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGNPDCL). TGRPDCL will function as the third, with its registered office in the B Block of TGSPDCL's corporate office premises. The new company will be responsible for expanding power supply to agriculture and allied schemes, procuring power under its allocated Power Purchase Agreement share, onboarding new agricultural connections, operating and maintaining distribution.

## Telangana SSC exams to continue with OMR sheets this year too

Students appearing for the Telangana SSC examinations this year will find a familiar format waiting for them. The Directorate of Government Examinations confirmed on Wednesday, March 11, that the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheet system, attached to answer booklets as in previous years, will continue for the examinations scheduled from March 14 to April 16. OMR is a system used to electronically read answers marked on exam sheets.

Candidates will be required to use the OMR sheet attached to their answer booklet during the examinations. To help them familiarise themselves with the format in advance, sample copies of both the OMR sheet and the answer booklet have been uploaded on the official websites bse.telangana.gov.in and schooledu.telangana.gov.in.

# Autos and Cabs Queue for LPG Refill

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Panic buying of LPG cylinders has been reported across Hyderabad as residents rush to book refills fearing a possible shortage and price hike due to the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran. Many families are booking cylinders as a precautionary measure, leading to a sudden surge in demand across the city.

According to consumers, the delivery time for LPG cylinders has increased significantly. While cylinders are usually delivered within two to three days, customers are now receiving messages indicating delivery may take 20 to 25 days. Residents say the long waiting period has increased anxiety among households that depend on LPG for daily cooking.

The shortage has also affected auto-rickshaw and cab drivers who operate vehicles on LPG and CNG. Long queues have been seen at several filling stations in Hyderabad, where drivers are waiting for hours to refill gas. Earlier, LPG for vehicles cost around ₹70 per unit, but prices have now increased to ₹92 per unit, with rates varying at different filling stations.

Shaik Salauddin, founder president of the Telangana Gig and Plat-



People are waiting for hours to get a gas cylinder at Baghlingampally due to a shortage of cooking gas following the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict.

form Workers Union, said the rising gas prices are severely affecting the livelihoods of auto-rickshaw and cab drivers. Despite the price hike, passenger fares remain unchanged, making it difficult for drivers to earn enough even after working long hours. However, petroleum dealers in Telangana have clarified that the supply of petrol and die-

sel remains normal across the state. Gas agencies said LPG arrivals have slightly reduced from three loads to two loads, while bookings have increased sharply in recent days. Kasula Srinivasulu, president of the Rangareddy LPG Dealers Association, said the currently available cylinder stock is being prioritised for domestic use.

He added that supply may remain stable for about 15 days, as the Central government has started importing gas from Russia to ease the situation. Meanwhile, LPG transport drivers at Cherlapally said they are being forced to wait 7 to 8 hours to collect loads, compared to the earlier waiting time of one to two hours.

## Hyderabad court jails 3 people for public nuisance offences

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A city court on Wednesday, March 11, sentenced three people to two days' imprisonment each in separate public nuisance cases filed by the Kulsumpura police, officials said. The IV Special Judicial Magistrate at Manoranjan Complex, Nampally, delivered judgments in two cases registered by the Kulsumpura Police Station under the City Police Act.

In the first case, Mohammed Ibrahim, 22, and Mohammed Abdul Gaffar,

23, both drivers and residents of Jirra, were convicted under Section 61(B) of the City Police Act for violating public peace and sentenced to two days' imprisonment. In the second case, Raviteja, 23, a labourer from Jirra, was convicted under Section 70(C) of the City Police Act for illegal activities and sentenced to two days' imprisonment. The Station House Officer, Kulsumpura, said the police would continue to use e-petty filings and technology to ensure petty offenders were brought to justice promptly.

## Hi-Life Exhibition Set for March 21-23 in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The renowned fashion and lifestyle exhibition brand Hi-Life Exhibition has announced its upcoming festive and wedding season special showcase in Hyderabad. The exhibition will take place from March 21 to 23, 2026 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), located within Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre in Hi-tech City.

Recognized as one of India's largest fashion, luxury, and lifestyle exhibitions, the event will feature an extensive range of festive and bridal collec-

tions, designer wear, jewellery, accessories, and lifestyle products from leading fashion labels and designers.

The exhibition aims to present the latest fashion trends and exclusive designer creations for the upcoming festive and wedding season, making it a key destination for shoppers seeking premium fashion and luxury lifestyle products. With its curated selection of top designers and creative collections, the Hi-Life Exhibition continues to attract fashion enthusiasts and shoppers looking for unique and high-end styles under one roof.

## 7 held for forging documents to cheat man of 400-sq-yard plot in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Seven people were arrested for allegedly forging property documents and cheating a man out of a plot in Ranga Reddy district, police said on Wednesday, March 11.

The three key accused - Vallala Prem Kumar of PSR Nagar, Meerpet; Kotla Nagendra Prasad of Raghavendra Nagar, Jillelaguda, Balapur; and Yelamati Sukumar Reddy of

Prashanthi Hills, Meerpet - forged a death certificate, family certificate and legal heir certificate by impersonating women, luring them with money. They also prepared a fake sale deed at the Sub-Registrar's Office, Hayathnagar.

Using these documents, the trio cheated the complainant, Garimella Kameshwar Rao, of his 400-square-yard plot at Munuganoor village, Abdullapurmet mandal, Ranga Reddy district.

Four others assisted them - Indurthi Krishna Reddy of Green Park Colony, Karmanghat, a native of Thimmapuram village, Jajireddygudem mandal, Suryapet district; Muppalla Sujatha of Kethanakonda, Krishna district; Nalavalli Balamani of Muthangi, Patanchervu, Medak; and Talari Sulochana of Ramachandrapuram, Bandlaguda, Patanchervu, Medak. An eighth accused, Surya, remains absconding.

## Two held for selling adulterated ginger paste

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Police in Hyderabad arrested two men on Wednesday, March 11, for manufacturing and selling adulterated ginger paste using chemicals in unhygienic conditions, officials said.

The accused, Mohammed Ziauddin, 45, owner of a food unit called Seven Cooks, and Mohammed Mazhar Ali, 47, owner of Arjun Enterprises, were operating out of a house in Subhan Colony, Ali Nagar, within the limits of Mailardevpally Police



Station. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the premises and found the duo mixing chemicals into spoiled ginger and packaging the paste for sale to local shops across Hyderabad, a senior official said. Two separate cases were

registered against them under section 318(4) (cheating) and section 274 (adulteration of food or drink intended for sale) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Police seized 675 kg of adulterated ginger paste from the site, including 16 drums of ginger paste, five cartons of half-kg cans, one carton of 5-kg cans, 200 labels in the name of Seven Cooks, 2 kg of Block Gold Spices labelling material and 1.5 kg of xanthan gum powder. The total value of seized goods was estimated at Rs 90,000.

## Telangana ranks 7th in NITI's Fiscal Health Index for 2023-24

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana has secured the seventh rank in the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 for financial year of 2023-24 released by NITI Aayog, with a score of 44.3. The State was placed among the frontrunner States, which widely reflected the fiscal policies and development-driven spending pursued during the previous BRS government.

The NITI Aayog listed Telangana alongside Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the frontrunner category, while noting that the State recorded the highest FHI score among the five major southern States. Significantly, Telangana has held the seventh position almost consistently since its formation in 2014, barring the pandemic years, and returned to that rank in 2023-24. The latest report credited

the State's stable fiscal condition to sustained investment in welfare, infrastructure creation and strong revenue mobilisation during the BRS regime, which was in power for about eight months of 2023-24 before the Congress took over the reins of the State.

Telangana was placed among the achievers in Quality of Expenditure and ranked third in Revenue Mobilisation, indicating efficient spending and a robust tax base built

over the past decade. Though the Fiscal Prudence score remained marginally low with the State listed among performers, the report said Telangana improved its prudence scores since 2017-20, supported by better capital management and buoyant tax revenues. The State was ranked tenth in State-wise Debt Index score and remained among frontrunners. According to the report, developmental capital expenditure rose sharply

from Rs.16,860 crore in 2019-20 to Rs.43,918 crore in 2023-24, an increase of over 160 per cent, reflecting the aggressive infrastructure push taken up during the previous government. Spending on economic services more than doubled, while social sector expenditure maintained a high share of 38-39 per cent, signalling continued focus on welfare and human capital. Revenue receipts also grew steadily from Rs.1.02 lakh crore in

2019-20 to Rs.1.69 lakh crore in 2023-24, with nearly 80 percent coming from the State's own tax revenues, showing reduced dependence on Central grants. Non-tax revenues recorded strong growth, further strengthening fiscal stability. The report noted that Telangana maintained a revenue surplus and kept the fiscal deficit broadly within statutory limits, even while expanding development expenditure.

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