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**WEATHER**

MAX: 37.0°C  
MIN: 19.2°C  
RH: 23%  
RAINFALL: 0MM  
FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY  
MAX/MIN temp. 37/19°C

### Brief Insights

#### War in West Asia Remains a Concern for Auto Industry: SIAM

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers or Siam on Friday said the conflict in West Asia remains a concern for supply chains, which could impact the manufacturing processes and exports. "While the March has festive drivers in several parts of the country, the conflict in West Asia remains a concern, both from the perspective of supply chain, which could impact the manufacturing processes and exports," Rajesh Menon, Director General at Siam, said.

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#### Blast Rocks Tehran After Israeli Threat

A large explosion rocked a central square in Iran's capital where thousands were gathered Friday for an annual state-organized rally to support the Palestinians and call for Israel's demise. Israel had warned that it would target the area in central Tehran. There were no reports of casualties. But the decision to proceed with the mass demonstration that was attended by some senior government officials, and Israel's threat to target the area, underscored the fierce determination on both sides nearly two weeks into a war that has rattled the global economy and shows no sign of letting up.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official told The Associated Press that roughly 2,500 Marines and at least one amphibious assault ship were headed for the Middle East in a major addition of

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4



**KTR seeks Central probe into KLSR Infratech contracts: P2**

**Owaisi Questions Centre Over Iran Attack Silence: P8**

**Musi Riverfront Phase I to Cover 21 Km at ₹7,000 Cr: P3**



## Musi Riverfront Plan To Transform Hyderabad: Revanth

"I will inaugurate the first phase before next Assembly polls," Says CM Revanth Reddy



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy asserted that not a single poor family would face injustice when the government took up work on the Musi rejuvenation project. He said the Musi project would not only end man-made disasters — frequent flooding of many parts of the capital — but also elevate Hyderabad into the league of global cities thriving on riverfront economies. Addressing a gathering of environmental activists, industrialists, diplomats and Gandhians, the Chief Minister called upon people to join the mammoth task of restoring the Musi's glory and the

economy that the Nizams had developed alongside the river. He was speaking after a presentation of the government's plans for the riverfront development encompassing a range of features. The presentation was a milestone for the Revanth Reddy government which kept its promise of presenting a detailed project report (DPR) within the stipulated time. The report, prepared with scientific data by internationally reputed consultants consortium, established that the Musi could be turned into a perennially flowing pollution-free river centring on which a flourishing economy could be developed along the 55-km river-

front, the longest in the world. The DPR put to rest allegations of the Opposition parties that government had been going ahead with the project without finalising the crucial document. It also instilled confidence in the state machinery that the first

phase of the project, costing a maximum of ₹7,000 crore, was doable within the targeted timeframe of two years. "I will inaugurate the first phase before next Assembly polls," Revanth Reddy told mediapersons on the sidelines of the event.

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## Flood-Proofing Masterplan and Godavari River Linkage Unveiled

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The state government said on Friday that if the water flow in the Musi was not regulated, several areas would be flooded when the river was in full flow. The government presented maps showing how portions of Rajendranagar, Kismatpur, Budwel, Sun City, Upperpally, etc., could experience heavy flooding from the Himayatsagar side, and areas like Gandipet, Kokapet, Manchirevula, Bairagiguda could receive flooding from the Musi.

To allow the Musi to flow

normally without affecting areas outside its boundaries, the government said it had proposed designs for the river sections for both Himayatsagar and Osmansagar stretches which could sustain 'once in one hundred years' flood.

E.V. Narasimha Reddy, MD of the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation (MRDCL) said that for the Himayatsagar to Gandhi Sarovar stretch, the proposed design could accommodate a flow of nearly 1.53 lakh cusecs of water, while in the Osmansagar stretch the de-

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## USTR Probe to Delay India-US Trade Deal

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India is likely to delay signing the trade deal with the United States after the USTR ordered a new probe to ascertain "excess industrial capacity" in a few sectors. The probe can lead to imposing of fresh tariffs on India. According to sources, the Indian side will engage with its US counterpart on the fresh probe and this will further delay the signing of the trade deal. After the US Supreme Court scrapped the reciprocal and punitive tariffs, India is not in a hurry to sign the deal.

The United States Trade Representative has initiated investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, on excess capacity and production in certain manufacturing sectors in India. These sectors include textiles, health, construction goods, and automotive goods. However, the commerce ministry on Friday said that India and the US remain engaged in discussions for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. The ministry



has denied reports about a hold off on bilateral engagement in view of the USTR probe.

The USTR has initiated investigations under Section 301 against 16 countries and economic blocs, including India. The investigation pertains to the acts, policies, and practices of certain economies relating to structural excess capacity and production in certain manufacturing sectors. "Key trading partners have developed production capacity untethered from the incentives of domestic and global demand. This excess capacity leads to, among others, overproduction and large or persistent trade surpluses, as well as underutilized and unused

capacity, in manufacturing sectors," the USTR said. "For example, evidence suggests the solar module sector is plagued by excess capacity, including that India's current module manufacturing is nearly triple the annual domestic demand. India also has created significant excess capacity in petrochemicals, steel, and other industries," it added. According to Ajay Sahai, director general, FIEO, the USTR's Section 301 investigation should not have any immediate impact on Indian exports. "India and the United States are also engaged in discussions towards a Bilateral Trade Agreement, which provides an appropriate platform to address any emerging concerns.

## Sunburn: Fans Blow Hot At Sunrisers After Pak Player Picked

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Sunrisers are in a social soup after their decision to pick Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed at Thursday's auction in London for The Hundred — England's fast-paced cricket tournament to be held in July-August — for the Sunrisers Leeds squad. Abrar is the only Pakistan player from five franchises (four with affiliations in the IPL) that are owned by Indians in the eight-team league in England. Sunrisers — whose sister franchises are Sun-



risers Hyderabad (IPL) and Sunrisers Eastern Cape (South African T20 league) — won a bidding war with Trent Rockets to secure Abrar's services for £1,90,000 (₹2.34 crore, 7.11 Pakistani rupees). Head coach Daniel Vettori, who was at the auction table alongside Sunrisers CEO Kavya

Maran who raised the paddle during the bidding, stated there had been no discussions internally that the franchise would not select Pakistanis. "There were four or five guys that we were looking at and Abrar was one of them," he told ESPNcricinfo. The decision did not go down well with supporters who berated the franchise on social media. "Any brands associated with these franchisees will also face a boycott. I urge everyone to do the same. Let our voices and actions be heard," an angry fan vented on X.

## Centre Approves Rs 341.48 Crore Disaster Aid for Andhra Pradesh

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Centre has approved Rs 1,912.99 crore in additional financial assistance to five states and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir affected by floods, flash floods, cloudbursts, landslides and cyclone 'Monhath' in 2025, an official statement said on Friday. The decision was taken by a high-level committee (HLC) chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, it said. According to the statement, the five states are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Nagaland.

"Of the total amount, Rs 341.48 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh,

Rs 15.70 crore for Chhattisgarh, Rs 778.67 crore for Gujarat, Rs 288.39 crore for Himachal Pradesh, Rs 158.41 crore for Nagaland and Rs 330.34 crore for Jammu and Kashmir," it said. This assistance is over and above the funds already released to states under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), it said. During the Financial Year 2025-26, the Centre has released Rs 20,735 crore to 28 states under the SDRF and Rs 3,628.18 crore to 21 states under the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), it said. In addition, Rs 5,373.20 crore has been released to 23 states from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF), while Rs 1,189.56 crore has been provided.

## Bill to Provide Precise Definition of 'Transgender' Introduced in LS

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A bill seeking to provide a precise definition of the term "transgender" and provide graded punishments that reflect the gravity of the harm inflicted upon such persons was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill was introduced by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar. It notes that it is imperative to



give a precise definition for proper and definitive identification and protection of transgender persons, to whom the benefits of the present law must reach.

The protection and benefits that are provided under the present law are

vast in nature, and therefore, care has to be taken that "such identification cannot be extended based on any acquirable characteristics or personal choice or claimed self-perceived identity of an individual". The Bill also contains provisions for "designation of an authority" which will have the option to seek "expert advice" if required. The draft law also seeks to empower transgender persons to make consequential changes in official documents.

## PM Modi Calls Congress 'Jhooth Ka Dukan'

Nehru attributed inflation to N. Korea war, Says Prime minister Modi



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Opposition Indian National Congress, describing the party as a "jhooth ka dukan" — a shop of false promises and propaganda — during two public meetings in the state. Addressing a large gathering in Guwahati, the Prime Minister accused Congress leaders of misleading the public and urged them to revisit the speeches of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru delivered from the Red Fort. Modi said Nehru had once attributed inflation during his tenure to the war in North Korea, suggesting that external factors have historically influenced economic conditions in

India. Modi also compared the performance of his government with that of the Congress, particularly in supporting farmers. According to him, the current government has paid nearly ₹20 lakh crore to farmers as Minimum Support Price (MSP) over the past ten years. In contrast, he said the Congress government had spent about ₹6 lakh crore on MSP during its decade

in power. Highlighting subsidies for fertilisers, the Prime Minister said a bag of urea fertiliser that costs about ₹3,000 in the international market is being provided to Indian farmers for around ₹300 through government support. He further stated that five major fertiliser factories that had shut down during the Congress regime had been re-

opened. He further stated that five major fertiliser factories that had shut down during the Congress regime had been re-

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ESTD-1960

### ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## KTR seeks Central probe into KLSR Infratech contracts

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of misusing official position to protect a be-nami company, KLSR Infratech Private Limited, which allegedly received government contracts worth over Rs 2,500 crore despite being under insolvency proceedings. He wrote to union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking his intervention and order for a Central probe into the alleged evidence tampering in KLSR case. In his letter, Rama Rao said the law and order in Telangana was deteriorating, with situation reaching a disturbing level after the government officials informed the Telangana High Court that crucial evidence related to the KLSR case had gone missing from official custody. He termed the development alarming and stated that the disappearance of documents indicated pressure on



investigative agencies and deliberate attempts to shield those in power. He accused the Chief Minister of influencing officials to tamper with evidence to protect the company, which he was being linked to Revanth Reddy through be-nami dealings. He said public confidence in the police and investigation machinery had been severely eroded due to repeated incidents that suggested political interference. The BRS working president explained that contracts

related to irrigation works, drinking water supply, road construction and Young India Integrated School projects were awarded to KLSR Infratech even while the company's insolvency proceedings were pending before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). He said such allocations raised serious questions about adherence to tender norms, financial eligibility criteria and transparency in the procurement process. He also referred to earlier Income Tax investigations in which a Toyota Land Cruiser allegedly used by the Chief Minister was found registered in the name of KLSR Infratech, claiming the association between the company and Revanth Reddy was widely known. Rama Rao cited reports that a tribunal member recused himself from hearing the insolvency case of KLSR Infratech in August last year citing attempts to influence the proceedings. He informed that enforcement actions were

taken against entities connected to the case soon after the change of government in December 2023. However, he pointed to concerns raised in the High Court during the hearing of a writ petition in 2025 over missing documents. "The recent fire incident at the Telangana State Forensic Science Laboratory had added to fears about the safety of crucial evidence," he remarked. The BRS leader urged the union government to order a thorough and impartial investigation and requested that agencies including the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and Serious Fraud Investigation Office examine the financial transactions, contract allotments and possible money laundering linked to the company. He also addressed copy of the letter to union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, union Minister Piyush Goyal and union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, he said.

## Harish Targets Rahul Over Defection Row

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

T. Harish Rao, deputy leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi Legislature Party (BRS), has strongly criticized Rahul Gandhi over what he described as the Congress party's "double standards" in protecting the Constitution and implementing the anti-defection law. In an open letter addressed to the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Friday, Harish Rao said the dismissal of disqualification petitions against 10 defected MLAs in Telangana highlighted a stark contradiction between the Congress party's national rhetoric and its actions in states where it holds power. Harish Rao pointed out that Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly asserted at the national level that the Congress is committed to



safeguarding the Constitution and strengthening democratic institutions. He noted that the party's 2024 election manifesto also promised to uphold the anti-defection framework to protect the mandate of voters. However, he argued that the developments in Telangana tell a different story. Referring specifically to Danam Nagender, Harish Rao stated that the MLA, who was elected on a BRS ticket, openly contested the Lok Sabha elections using an official Congress B-Form issued by the party. He said this fact was publicly documented and could not be

dismissed as a matter of political interpretation. Despite this, the Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly reportedly stated there was no evidence of defection. Harish Rao questioned how contesting elections on another party's B-Form could not qualify as defection under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India. He added that he had earlier written to the Speaker requesting action under anti-defection provisions but alleged the state government was shielding defected legislators. Warning that such actions weaken democratic institutions, Harish Rao urged Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether he would advise the Telangana government to enforce the law or continue what he called "constitutional commitments limited to speeches."

## T'gana Govt Distributes Ramzan Gift to muslim

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a festive gesture ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, the Government of Telangana distributed new clothes to members of the Muslim community as part of its annual celebrations. The initiative reflects the state government's commitment to promoting harmony and supporting communities during important religious occasions. As part of the celebrations, the government has also planned a grand Iftar gathering at Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in Hyderabad, where elaborate arrangements are being made to host a large number of attendees. The event is expected to bring together community members, public representatives, and officials to celebrate



the spirit of unity and brotherhood that the festival represents. Meanwhile, in Pothireddy Village of Kohir Mandal in Sangareddy District, a special program was organized to distribute the clothes among local residents. The event was presided over by the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, who conveyed heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community in advance of the festival and

wished them peace, prosperity, and happiness. Ramlinga Reddy attended the program as the Chief Guest and appreciated the efforts made to ensure that the celebrations reach people at the grassroots level. During the event, Dr. Begari Vishnu emerged as the center of attraction, drawing appreciation from attendees for his active participation in the celebrations. On the occasion, the newly elected Sarpanch was also felicitated by local leaders and community members. The program concluded with messages of communal harmony and unity, highlighting the Telangana government's ongoing efforts to support and celebrate the cultural and religious traditions of all communities across the state.

## SSC 2026 Hall Tickets Issued and Exam Guidance at ZPHS Kurumarthi

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Board of Secondary Education will conduct the TS SSC 2026 examinations from 14th March to 16th April 2026 in pen-and-paper mode. Approximately 5,28,239 students will appear for the exams, which will be held at 2,676 centers across the state. All exams will be conducted in a single shift from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The TS SSC admit cards have been issued to all candidates, and the timetable is available in PDF format on the official website bse.telangana.gov.in. In this context, ZPHS Kurumarthi, Kattangur Mandal, Nalgonda District, under the supervision of Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA), has



successfully issued SSC 2025-26 exam hall tickets to its students. The Head Master, Mrs. Kavitha, personally downloaded the hall tickets, with support from teachers Ravi Kumar, Ch. Venkat Reddy, R. Kamalaja Naidu, Yadaiah, B.R. Raju, and Sreedevi. A total of 8 students from the school will be appearing for the SSC Board Examinations, comprising 3 girl students and 5 boy students. The school administration extended their best wishes

to all students for success in the upcoming exams starting on 14th March. Mr. B.R. Raju, a senior teacher, union leader, and social activist known for his dedication to helping poor students, provided valuable guidance to the Kurumarthi ZPHS students. He advised them on how to answer questions in the exam hall, sharing several exam tips and techniques to improve performance. He advised don't panic if answers are not known think a while about your class room and recollect the teachers face only. All students and parents expressed their gratitude to the teachers, recognizing the great opportunity to learn from such dedicated educators. The students also promised to strive for excellent results in the forthcoming examinations.

## Traditional Day Celebrated at Padala Rama Reddy Law College

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Traditional Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Padala Rama Reddy Law College in Ameerpet, where students highlighted India's rich cultural heritage through vibrant traditional attire and cultural performances. President of Kukatpally Joint Press Club, Erra Yakkanna, attended the event as the chief guest and appreciated the students for actively participating in preserving and promoting Indian traditions. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that the responsibility of protecting and carrying forward the country's customs and cultural values lies with the younger generation. The college campus witnessed a lively atmosphere as students dressed in various regional traditional outfits, reflecting the diversity and



beauty of Indian culture. Cultural performances and presentations by the students added color and excitement to the celebration, drawing appreciation from the guests and faculty members. Several dignitaries and participants including Dr. Nageswara Rao, Shreya, Sneha Reddy, Jahnavi, Srinivas Nayak, and Venkatapathi Rao were present on the occasion and encouraged the students for their enthusiastic involvement. Monitoring and timely completion of development works.

## Leaders Pay Tribute to Former MLA Jayapal Yadav's Mother

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Leaders and community representatives paid heartfelt tributes to Gurka Mangamma, the mother of former Kalwakurthy MLA Jayapal Yadav, during her Dashadina Karma ceremony. The programme witnessed the presence of several BC leaders, public representatives and members of the Yadav community who gathered to offer their condolences and pray for the peace of her departed soul.



BC United Forum Telangana State President Beri Ramachandra Yadav attended the ceremony and paid homage to the late Mangamma. He prayed that her noble soul rest in eternal peace and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family during their time of grief.

Among those who participated in the programme were Sirisha State MD Maraboyina Raju Yadav, former Market Committee Chairman Ambayya Yadav, Sangareddy District Yadav Association President Perugu Ailesh Yadav, and Ward Member Sailu Yadav. Several BC association leaders, public representatives, well-wishers, and family members of Jayapal Yadav attended the ceremony in large numbers and paid their respects.

## MLC Teenmaar Mallanna Stands Up to Toll Officials, Defends Livelihood of Poor Vendors on Bhuvanagiri Highway

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



In a strong show of support for roadside vendors, Teenmaar Mallanna intervened to stop what he termed as "unjust actions" by toll gate authorities who allegedly demolished small tiffin centers that served as the primary livelihood for several poor families along the Bhuvanagiri Highway. The incident took place near the Guduru Toll Gate where toll officials reportedly removed makeshift tiffin stalls that had been operating for years. These small food outlets were run by local families who depended entirely on them to sustain their daily livelihood. Upon learning about the situation, Mallanna immediately rushed to the spot and personally assessed the ground situation. Interacting with the affected vendors, he expressed strong condemnation of the toll authorities' actions and questioned the legality and humanity behind demolishing the small establishments without providing any alternative.

## 16th Round Social Audit of MGNREGS

**SANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana

The 16th round of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) Social Audit public hearing was conducted in Sangareddy Mandal of Sangareddy District on Friday. The programme was presided over by Additional Project Director (DRDO) Golla Balraj. Officials who attended the programme included Cluster APD Madhulatha, Assistant Vigilance Officer S. Nageshwar Rao, APO Madhu, and other officials from the Mandal administration. The programme was organised under the



supervision of In-charge MPDO Srikanth, along with all MPDO staff members. As part of the social audit process, the audit team inspected works carried out under MGNREGS in 11 Gram Panchayats of the mandal. Villagers and beneficiaries participated in the public hearing and shared their views and grievances regarding the execution and quality of the works. Following detailed

verification and enquiry, the social audit team identified certain irregularities related to the quality of works. Based on these findings, the team proposed a recovery amount of ₹5,170 in accordance with MGNREGS guidelines. Officials stated that necessary follow-up action will be taken to ensure transparency, accountability, and quality in the implementation of works under the scheme.

## One injured as speeding car rams into truck, bursts into flames in Hyderabad

A speeding car created panic on the Bairamalguda flyover in LB Nagar after crashing into a goods vehicle and catching fire on Sunday midnight. No casualties were reported. The incident occurred when the car reportedly travelled at high speed and rammed into the rear of a DCM truck. Following the impact, the vehicle lost control and hit the road divider, triggering a sudden blaze that engulfed the car within minutes. Locals who witnessed the accident immediately alerted the police and the fire department.

## Ramulu Thalka Meets Telangana SC/ST Commission Chairman

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a proactive step toward the welfare of marginalized communities, Ramulu Thalka, member of the Ghatkesar Division Vigilance Committee, met with Bakkai Venkataiah, Chairman of the Telangana State SC/ST Commission, at the Commission's Hyderabad office on Friday. Accompanying Talk was Bitla Venkatesh, member of the PCR-PO Act committee, who also participated in the discussions. The delegation extended warm greetings to the Chairman and other Commission officials before diving into discussions on issues affecting Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Telangana. The meeting focused on several key areas: safeguarding the rights of SC/ST communities, addressing so-



cial and economic challenges they face, and enhancing awareness about government welfare schemes. Chairman Venkataiah shared insights on the Commission's ongoing initiatives aimed at improving access to justice, curbing discrimination, and promoting inclusive development for marginalized

groups. The Vigilance Committee members commended the Commission's efforts and stressed the need for continued collaboration to ensure that developmental programmes reach the most vulnerable. Ramulu Thalka emphasized the importance of proactive engagement to resolve the issues confronting SC and ST communities and called for intensified efforts to strengthen their welfare. Several other committee members and representatives participated in the meeting, underlining a shared commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of disadvantaged groups while promoting their social and economic advancement. The interaction marks a renewed focus on bridging the gap between community concerns and state-level initiatives, ensuring that the voices of marginalized populations are heard and acted upon.

### TGGDA Condemns Suspension of Doctors in Jadcherla Incident

The Telangana Government Doctors Association (TGGDA) has condemned the suspension of doctors in connection with the Jadcherla hospital incident where a dog was seen nibbling at a body in the mortuary. It said the maintenance and management of a hospital mortuary was not responsibility of doctors who were accountable only for conducting postmortem examinations. The management, security and supervision of the mortuary fall under the jurisdiction of designated mortuary supervisors and supporting personnel, the statement by TGGDA state president Dr Narahari, general secretary Dr Lalu Prasad Rathod and treasurer Dr M.K. Raouf said. The association demanded immediate revocation of the suspension orders issued against the Jadcherla doctors. According to TGGDA, the mortuary was located in the old building and was in a dilapidated condition, allowing animals such as dogs and rodents to enter easily. The association believes that similar circumstances led to the present incident.

## Panic buying cripples LPG booking system in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A massive surge in panic buying has led to the collapse of LPG booking system at several distribution points across Telangana.

According to Telangana LPG Distributors Association president Kalluri Jagan Mohan Reddy, the sudden spike in orders has paralysed the distribution network, disrupting operations at many LPG distribution centres in the state.

He said the unexpected rush of consumers to book cylinders has strained the system, triggering both technical and operational difficulties at multiple locations on Thursday.

“There is no problem with respect to domestic



cylinders. There is a regular supply also. But there is panic booking among the consumers, so pendency is increasing. Since there is a sudden surge in business by 50 per cent, there is a delay in supplying. It is because of panic buying,” Reddy said.

Since the delivery of LPG cylinders is based on OTP system, which is an all India based net-

work for authentication across the country, there is tremendous pressure at the distribution points.

There are 810 LPG distributors in Telangana with 1.30 crore consumers and about 60 lakh LPG domestic cylinders are supplied every month. Reddy said 82 per cent of consumers are domestic, while the remaining 18 per cent belong to the commercial

category.

“For the past three or four days, there has been almost no supply of commercial cylinders. Some people must have some old stock and may try to sell it at a premium price,” he said in response to a question about black marketing of LPG cylinders.

There are five cooking gas bottling plants in Telangana- Three in Charlapalli near here, and one each in Kamalapur (Warangal) and Timmapur (Balanagar).

Telangana Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy had called for a meeting with oil company representatives on Friday to examine if there is a shortage in supply and how to move forward.

## Sewerage Control Plan for Musi Rejuvenation Project

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has proposed a comprehensive plan for rejuvenation and riverfront development of the Musi River, aiming to restore the 55-km river corridor in Hyderabad through pollution control, ecological restoration and urban development. The project seeks to stop sewage inflow into the river by upgrading sewerage infrastructure and establishing new treatment facilities along major nalas feeding into the Musi. Key drains identified for intervention include Bapughat nala, Mughalka nala, Puranapula nala (north and south), Afzalsagar nala, Golnaka nala, Patelnagar nala, Ramanthapur nala, Bahadurpura nala, the nala running past the High Court, Muslinganj nala,



Murki nala and Saroornagar nala.

Officials said the initiative would combine environmental restoration with riverfront development featuring parks, bridges and public spaces. The proposal has, however, drawn scrutiny over the possible displacement of families living along the river corridor. According to the presentation made by officials, the city currently has 25 sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a capacity of 772 million litres per day (MLD). A total of 27 STPs with a capacity of 1,106 MLD have been

commissioned, while additional facilities include the 972-MLD STP at Narsingi and the 551.5-MLD plant at Amberpet. Another 39 STPs are being developed under the AMRUT scheme.

The proposed sewerage infrastructure will cover the stretch between Osmansagar and Himayatsagar up to Gandhi Sarovar. Key components include construction of interception and diversion systems, sewage pumping stations, additional STPs and trunk sewer mains along both banks of the river.

## SAP Code Innovation 2025–26 Inaugurated at KPR Engineering College

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The “SAP Code Innovation 2025–26” program was inaugurated with great enthusiasm at the Kommuri Pratap Reddy Institute of Engineering and Technology in Ghatkesar, Medchal–Malakajiri district. The event was formally launched by Vivek Venkataswamy, Minister for Labour, Employment, Training & Factories, and Mines & Geology, who lit the ceremonial lamp to mark the beginning of the initiative. On the occasion, the minister also inaugurated the SAP Code Innovation Lab established at the college by cutting the ribbon. Addressing the gathering, he encouraged students to stay focused on their studies and make the best use of the opportunities available to them. Speaking at the event, college chairman Kommuri Pratap Reddy said the program aims to strengthen students’ technical knowledge and prepare them to face future industry challenges. He



expressed gratitude to the minister for attending the event and motivating the students. He also recalled his earlier association with the minister during his tenure in government service. Minister Vivek Venkataswamy praised the college management for providing modern facilities and quality learning opportunities to students. He advised students to remain dedicated to their education if they wish to succeed in life, noting that there is a time for recreation and a time for serious study. Sharing a personal experience from his student days, the minister told students how his father once encouraged him to work in a private organization while he was pursuing medical studies. Quoting the proverb, “You can

take a horse to the water, but you cannot make it drink,” he reminded students that opportunities must be utilized with dedication and self-initiative. He further urged students not to fear the rapid growth of new technologies but instead to learn and adapt to them, stating that such skills would help shape a brighter future. During the program, the minister also presented certificates of appreciation to students from various colleges who participated in the event. Several local leaders and dignitaries attended the function, including former municipal chairperson Pavani Jangaiah and district Congress leader Mahesh Goud, along with the college management, faculty members, and students.

## Musi Riverfront Phase I to Cover 21 Km at ₹7,000 Cr

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Out of the 55-km stretch of the Musi river flowing within the city — from Gandipet in West Hyderabad to Gowrelly village in Hayathnagar towards the East — 21 km will be developed in the first phase of the Musi Riverfront Development Project.

This stretch runs from the Outer Ring Road (ORR) West to Gandhi Sarovar at Babu Ghat, Langar Houz, covering Gandipet, Rajendranagar, Sun City, Kis-



matpur, and Narsingi. According to the detailed project report released by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL), the tentative cost of Phase I is estimated at ₹6,500–7,000 crore, countering opposi-

tion claims of ₹1 lakh crore. The first phase will cover two river stretches — Musa and Esa — converging at Gandhi Sarovar. Seven major components are planned, including river cleaning through removal of silt

and debris, riverbed profiling based on hydrology, flood-mitigation walls, slope stabilisation, and construction of roads along the banks. Other works include laying trunk sewer mains and stormwater drains on both sides, building water-retention structures such as weirs and barrages, and riverfront development. A consortium of M/s Meinhardt Singapore, M/s RIOS, and M/s Cushman & Wakefield has been appointed as Aggregate Master Planner. Phase I

will also feature 14 bridges — nine newly proposed and five existing, which will be upgraded. The Godavari Linkage Project, taken up by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), is part of Phase I. It will augment Hyderabad’s drinking water supply and support Musi’s rejuvenation, with a total augmentation of 20 tmc ft. Of this, 17.5 tmc ft is earmarked for drinking water and 2.5 tmc ft exclusively for the Musi.

## MLA Manik Rao Hosts Iftar in Zaheerabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, an Iftar dinner was organized for Muslims observing Roza at Ghori Palace Function Hall in Zaheerabad.

The Iftar gathering was hosted by Koninti Manik Rao, MLA of the Zaheerabad Assembly Constituency, on behalf of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). T. Harish Rao, MLA representing Siddipet constituency and former minister of Telan-



gana state, attended the program and extended Ramzan greetings to the Muslim community. Sangareddy District BRS Party President and MLA Chinta Prabhakar also participated in the event. Several local Muslim

leaders and community members were present at the Iftar gathering. The event was held in a cordial atmosphere, and participants expressed happiness over the successful organization of the program.

## BJP State President Congratulates Shankar Reddy on New Role

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Senior BJP leader and Balapur Ganesh laddu winner Kolan Shankar Reddy met BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao at his residence on Friday after being appointed as the Convener of the BJP State Cooperative Cell. During the meeting, Shankar Reddy expressed gratitude to the party leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility. As a gesture of respect, he felicitated Ramchander Rao with a traditional shawl and presented sweets. Congratulating him on the appointment, Ramchander Rao advised Shankar Reddy to tour districts across the state and interact with farmers and cooperative societies to un-



derstand the issues they face. He stressed the importance of strengthening cooperative institutions and ensuring that farmers and the public receive effective services through the cooperative sector. The state president expressed confidence that Shankar Reddy would play a key role in expanding the BJP’s presence in the cooperative sector. Former corporator Gouri Shankar, C.N. Reddy, Suresh Kumar, and other party leaders attended the meeting and conveyed their congratulations.

## New Executive Committee Elected for Rudramadevi Old Age Home in Jangaon

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A new executive committee has been elected for the Rudramadevi Old Age Home at a meeting held on Friday at Komatireddy Susheelamma Bhavan in Shamirpet of Jangaon District. The election marks a new chapter in the organization’s mission to support and care for destitute elderly people. According to the organizers, the previous committee, which had been serving for the past year, was formally dissolved, and a new governing body was selected to lead the institution’s activities and welfare programs. Mrs. Neelam

Kavitha was elected as the President of the new committee. Mrs. Nookala Lakshmi was chosen as the Vice-President, while Punnam Manasa was elected as the Secretary. The committee also includes several active members who will support the organization’s operations and service initiatives.

The newly elected executive members are Gudise Swathi, Dubbaka Swapna, Gardasu Lakshmi, Kalakuntla Usha, Lingala Saritha, and Gada Rajitha. The members expressed their commitment to strengthening the services offered by the home and ensuring better care for

elderly residents who are in need of support. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers highlighted the guiding motto of the institution — “Avva-Tatha Mee Kosam Memunnam” (We Are Here for You, Grandparents).

They said the Rudramadevi Old Age Home has been playing a vital role in providing shelter, care, and emotional support to elderly people who have been left without family support. The newly elected committee stated that the organization will continue to stand as a pillar of support for senior citizens facing neglect and hardship in their old age. They emphasized their

commitment to expanding welfare activities, improving facilities, and ensuring that the elderly residents live with dignity, care, and security. The members also announced that all upcoming programs and welfare activities of the Rudramadevi Old Age Home will be carried out under the leadership of the newly formed executive committee. They expressed hope that the community would continue to extend support to the noble cause of caring for the elderly. The announcement was made through a press statement issued by the organizers following the committee’s formation.

## Pratap Inspects Pension Lines Eidgah Ahead of Ramadan Peak

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As the holy month of Ramadan approaches its final days, former Cantonment Board Vice-President Jampana Pratap inspected preparations at the Pension Lines Eidgah in New Bowenpally to ensure smooth arrangements for the large gathering expected during Eid al-Fitr prayers.

During the visit, Pratap reviewed the ongoing works at the Eidgah premises and interacted with residents and community representatives about facilities required for the



congregational prayers. Thousands of worshippers are expected to assemble at the venue for the special Eid prayers, making advance arrangements essential.

A major focus of the inspection was sanitation and hygiene. Pratap assessed the work being carried out by the Cantonment Board’s sani-

tation staff and stressed that maintaining cleanliness must be a priority to ensure a comfortable and dignified environment for worshippers.

He noted that the Pension Lines Eidgah serves as an important spiritual centre for the local Muslim community, especially during the conclusion of Ramadan. With large crowds

anticipated, he urged officials to complete the remaining works at the earliest. Pratap also highlighted three key areas that require immediate attention from the authorities. He called for proper drinking water facilities to be arranged at the venue so that people attending the prayers have access to adequate hydration. He further stressed the need for adequate lighting around the Eidgah premises and approach roads, particularly for devotees arriving during the early morning hours.

# Trump Told G7 Leaders Iran Was About To Surrender: Axios Report

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Trump has told the Group of Seven countries on a call on Wednesday (local time) that Iran was about to surrender, reported Axios, citing officials of three G7 countries who were on the call. The call came before Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khomeini vowed vengeance and urged citizens to continue their fight against the attacks by US and Israel. The Axios report said that President Trump was as confident about the war's outcome in private as he is in public. However, today, Trump signalled US' intention of going all out in its campaign against Iran's Islamic regime, warning Iran to watch out for what would happen today and saying that the US was winning

the conflict despite what reports claimed. "We are totally destroying the terrorist regime of Iran, militarily, economically, and otherwise, yet, if you read the Failing New York Times, you would incorrectly think that we are not winning. Iran's Navy is gone, their Air Force is no longer, missiles, drones and everything else are being decimated, and their leaders have been wiped from the face of the earth. We have unparalleled firepower, unlimited ammunition, and plenty of time - Watch what happens to these deranged scumbags today. They've been killing innocent people all over the world for 47 years, and now I, as the 47th President of the United States of America, am killing them. What a great honour it is to do so," Trump said in a post



on Truth Social. Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said it had launched the 44th phase of its Operation True Promise 4, targeting a series of key military sites in Israeli-occupied lands and US bases across West Asia. IRGC said the operation began with a heavy barrage of Kheibar Shekan missiles, each carrying a one-ton warhead, which hit multiple strategic locations, including Israeli military positions

in the Palestinian territories, Tel Aviv, Eilat, and West Al-Quds. The commander of Iran's Khatam al Anbiya headquarters Major General Ali Abdollahi said in a statement that Iranian armed forces will stand to the "last breath" against enemies. The enemy, he added, will be "forced to pay the price for its crimes." Earlier, a CNN report said that the administration of US President Donald Trump reportedly underestimated the likeli-

hood that Iran would close the strategic Strait of Hormuz in response to US military strikes. CNN sources revealed that while planning for the ongoing military operation, the Pentagon and the National Security Council did not fully anticipate that Iran would attempt to close the waterway, despite long-standing contingency plans developed by the US military for such a scenario. Officials from the US Departments of Energy and Treasury were present at some planning meetings before the operation began, but CNN sources said the detailed economic forecasts and interagency analysis that typically shape major decisions were not central to the discussions. The conflict has already entered Day 13 and neither side is showing any side of moving back.

## Centre Seeks Bengal Officers After President Protocol Breach, State Refuses

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In what appears to be a fresh tussle ahead of the Assembly Election in West Bengal, the union government sought the state government to release Darjeeling district magistrate (DM) Manish Mishra and Siliguri police commissioner C Sudhakar for their central deputation, within a week of the protocol breach during President Droupadi Murmu's visit in their jurisdiction. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee however rejected the Centre's requisition, transferred Mr Mishra from the post of Darjeeling DM and brought him into her fold. The 2015-batch IAS officer has been appointed as the special secretary at the state home and hill affairs department headed by the



CM. Sunil Agarwal replaced Mr Mishra as Darjeeling DM in a reshuffle. No decision has been taken for Mr Sudhakar, a 2006-batch IPS officer serving in the rank of Inspector General. Speculation is rife that he would not also be released by the state government but he may face transfer like Mr Mishra. According to sources, the ministry of home affairs (MHA) sent a letter seeking the two civil servants' release within three days for their central deputation after get-

ting its report on the President's protocol breach from state chief secretary Nandini Chakravorty. Though the exact reason behind the requisition of their release has not been known from the communication, sources indicated that the motive was apparently linked to their present posting area where the protocol breach of the President happened on March 7. Sources revealed that the CM decided to turn down the MHA's move in view of the upcoming polls.

## Anti-Conversion Bill Tabled In Maharashtra Assembly

**VISAKAPATNAM**  
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra government on Friday tabled the 'Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026' in the Legislative Assembly, aimed at preventing forceful and fraudulent religious conversions in the state. Minister of State for Home Pankaj Bhojar introduced the Bill in the House. Following its introduction, senior BJP MLA Sudhir Mungantiwar urged Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to allow a detailed discussion before the legislation is passed. Mr. Munganti-

war described the proposed law as a "revolutionary step" for Maharashtra and said the House should deliberate on it thoroughly. He noted that he had earlier introduced a private member's Bill on the issue in 2008, 2012 and 2025. "A permission should be given for a detailed discussion over this Bill," the senior BJP legislator said. According to the Bill, individuals intending to convert to another religion will be required to give a 60-day prior notice to the district magistrate. After the conversion, both the individual and the per-

son or institution facilitating the conversion must submit a declaration to the competent authority. The statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill states that incidents of forceful and organised religious conversions have been reported in several parts of the country, often targeting vulnerable sections through inducements. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, in the statement, said, "Instances of religious conversions which are forceful, involuntary or caused by influencing free consent of the citizens have been in-

creasing and are being carried out in organized manner by various institutions. Many instances of mass conversion have come to light where gullible persons have been forcefully converted from one religion to another by offering any gift, gratification, easy money or material benefit either in cash or kind, employment, free education in school or college run by any religious body or institution, promise to marry, better lifestyle, divine healing, etc.

## India Seeks BRICS Consensus on West Asia

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Government sources said on Friday evening that India will use its position as BRICS Chair to try to evolve a common position on the West Asian conflict and suggest ways for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy to end the war that the United States and Israel have launched against Iran. The task is complex as the 11-member BRICS grouping includes Iran as well as Arab Gulf nations such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said he dis-



cussed "BRICS-related issues" with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi during a phone call late on Thursday night. According to media reports, the Iranian foreign minister highlighted the importance of BRICS as a platform for strengthening multilateral cooperation among emerging powers and said that, at a time of rising global tensions, the grouping should play a

constructive role in ensuring regional and international stability. The BRICS grouping currently comprises 11 countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, along with newer members Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, which joined in the past two years. Government sources indicated that India would try to build consensus within the grouping and propose a way forward to end the conflict, despite the diplomatic challenges. India occupies a unique position as a strategic partner of both Israel and the United

States while also chairing one of the leading non-Western multilateral forums. However, with Iran attacking US bases and other targets in Gulf nations, countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia are expected to press within BRICS for Tehran to halt such actions. Earlier this year, Jaishankar had announced that India's theme for the BRICS Summit it will host this year is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The summit is scheduled to be held in India later this year.

# Blast Rocks Tehran After Israeli Threat

**PUNE**  
Wakeup telangana

A large explosion rocked a central square in Iran's capital where thousands were gathered Friday for an annual state-organized rally to support the Palestinians and call for Israel's demise. Israel had warned that it would target the area in central Tehran. There were no reports of casualties. But the decision to proceed with the mass demonstration that was attended by some senior government officials, and Israel's threat to target the area, underscored the fierce determination on both sides nearly two weeks into a war that has rattled the global economy and shows no sign of letting up. Meanwhile, a U.S. official told The Associated Press that roughly 2,500 Marines and at least one amphibious assault ship were headed for the Middle East in a major addition of troops. Iran has continued to launch widespread missile and drone attacks on Israel and neighboring Gulf states, and has effectively closed



the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil passes, even as U.S. and Israeli warplanes pummel military and other targets across Iran. The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon deepened, with nearly 800 people killed and 850,000 displaced as Israel launched waves of strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants and warned there would be no let up. In an interview with Fox News, U.S. President Donald Trump said the war would end "when I feel it in my bones." Explosion rocks area of mass demonstration The explosion in Tehran rocked the Ferdowsi Square area mid-day, where thousands had

gathered for an annual Quds Day rally in which they chanted "death to Israel" and "death to America." Israel had issued a warning on a Farsi-language X account for people to clear the area shortly before the blast. But few Iranians would have seen it, as authorities have almost completely shut down the internet since the start of the war. Footage from the scene showed people chanting "God is greatest," as smoke rose in the area. The Israeli military later posted a second message in Farsi, noting the head of Iran's judiciary was at the rally and criticizing Iran for blocking many from seeing their warning.

## Musi Riverfront.....

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is ready to fund 50 per cent of the cost, and Centre, which expressed has its satisfaction over the project, is keen to include it in the Urban Challenge Fund and give a 25-per cent grant while the remaining 25 per cent will be invested by the state government. Contrary to Opposition claims that the state would spend thousands of crores of rupees on Gandhi Sarovar, containing the largest statue in the world of Mahatma Gandhi and other facilities, the DPR put actual cost at `200 crore, Revanth Reddy pointed out.

He said some individuals were deliberately spreading half-truths and incomplete information to create anxiety among the public. He asserted that the government believed that power should be used as a safeguard for people rather than to dominate them, and that the presentation on the Musi was organised to transparently place facts before people. Revanth Reddy observed that human civilisation had historically evolved around rivers and warned that future generations would not forgive the present generation if the city lagged behind while the rest of the world progressed. Recalling the devastating 1908 Musi floods that submerged Hyderabad, he said the Nizam government, after consulting legendary engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, had built the Osmansagar and Himayatsagar to control floods and supply drinking water to the city. Those

reservoirs had protected Hyderabad from floods for over a century and quenched the city's thirst, he noted. "Should we abandon such a historic city with a rich heritage," the Chief Minister asked, urging critics to offer constructive suggestions rather than obstruct development. Without naming anyone, he questioned why those who governed the state for ten years were opposing the Musi rejuvenation. Revanth Reddy stressed that urban development in Hyderabad had never stopped despite changes in government since 1994, and said history would remember leaders who pursued visionary development.

## ED Attaches.....

E.V. Narasimha Reddy, MD of the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation (MRDCL) said that for the Himayatsagar to Gandhi Sarovar stretch, the proposed design could accommodate a flow of nearly 1.53 lakh cusecs of water, while in the Osmansagar stretch the design model could take nearly 26,300 cusecs of water. "In 2025, Himayatsagar had only a maximum flow of nearly 30,000 cusecs. This design is being proposed for 1.53 lakh cusecs," Narasimha Reddy said. Narasimha Reddy said that the government had used software of the Hydrologic Engineering Centre's (HEC) for hydrologic modelling and river analysis, both of which were developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to analyse hydrology for flood studies, urban drainage,

and water availability, along with studying water flow in natural rivers and channels.

Officials said that the Centre's National River Conservation Plan allowed for development of certain activities on the riverfront zones like promenades, walkways, cycling tracks, parks, seating areas, viewing decks along with essential underground utilities such as interceptor sewers and stormwater drains. Additionally, the guidelines stated that in the buffer zone, parks, plazas, amphitheatres, approach roads, parking lots and public amenities could be developed to connect the riverfront with the city. Narasimha Reddy also spoke about the Godavari River Linkage Project, which provides a schematic link between the Godavari and the Musi. The project, undertaken by the HMWS&SB would augment Hyderabad's drinking water supply and support Musi river rejuvenation.

## Modi Calls.....

Highlighting subsidies for fertilisers, the Prime Minister said a bag of urea fertiliser that costs about ₹3,000 in the international market is being provided to Indian farmers for around ₹300 through government support. He further stated that five major fertiliser factories that had shut down during the Congress regime had been revived under the BJP government. During the event, Modi also released the 22nd instalment of the PM-Kisan scheme, under which ₹2,000 will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of

registered farmers through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Under the scheme, eligible farmers receive ₹6,000 annually in three instalments of ₹2,000 each. So far, 21 instalments have already been released

## Delhi to Bengaluru...

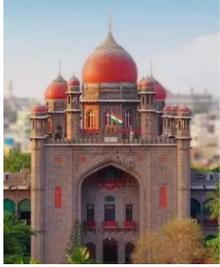
to beneficiaries across the country. The Prime Minister also spoke about efforts to reduce India's dependence on fossil fuels, noting that the electrification of the railway network has helped save about 1.75 lakh litres of diesel. Praising Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, Modi highlighted the state government's initiative to grant land rights to tea garden workers. At the event, he distributed land deeds to thousands of workers, giving them ownership rights in plantations where their families have lived and worked for generations. The initiative is expected to benefit around 3.5 lakh families across 825 tea estates in Assam. Many tea garden workers have lived in labour lines for decades without legal ownership of their homes. Tea tribes and Adivasi communities make up nearly 20 per cent of Assam's population and play a significant role in the state's politics, influencing nearly 35 of the 126 Assembly constituencies. To enable the transfer of labour lines to workers, the Assam Assembly amended the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act in November 2025.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Telangana HC Directs Govt to Clear 50% of Rs 200 Crore Dues to NCC Ltd by March 26

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana



The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the state finance department to pay at least 50 per cent of the outstanding dues owed to NCC Limited by March 26, while granting the government another opportunity to comply with its earlier orders. The directions were issued by Justice T. Madhavi Devi while hearing a contempt petition filed by the Hyderabad-based infrastructure company. The case pertains to pending bills of around ₹200 crore for works executed by NCC in 2018 under the state's flagship drinking water scheme, Mission Bhagiratha. According to the petitioner, the payments have remained pending for several years despite repeated

representations to the authorities. Earlier, in August 2025, the High Court had directed the state government to clear the outstanding dues within two months. However, as the payment was not made within the stipulated time, NCC Limited approached the court again by filing a contempt petition alleging non-compliance with the court's directions.

During the hearing, counsel representing the finance department submitted an affidavit

seeking exemption from the personal appearance of Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department. The affidavit stated that the senior official was unable to attend the proceedings as he was preoccupied with official engagements, including meetings with the Deputy Chief Minister and work related to the preparation of the State Budget for the financial year 2026-27. After considering the submission, the court allowed the request and dispensed with Sultania's personal appearance for the present hearing. However, the state government sought four weeks' time to make the payment of the entire amount due to the petitioner company. The court, while taking note of the request,

observed that the state must demonstrate its bonafides by initiating at least a partial payment of the outstanding dues. Justice Madhavi Devi emphasised that compliance with court orders cannot be indefinitely delayed and that the authorities must show concrete steps toward clearing the liabilities. Accordingly, the court directed the finance department to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the principal outstanding amount is paid to NCC Limited on or before March 26. The court further warned that failure to comply with this direction would require Sandeep Kumar Sultania to appear in person before the High Court on March 30 to explain the reasons for the non-compliance with its earlier orders.

Plea to Denotify Forest Land Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court dismissed a writ petition seeking the release of 100 acres of land from a reserve forest notification, reiterating that long-delayed proprietary claims and complex title disputes could not be adjudicated in writ jurisdiction. The panel, comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice N.V. Shrivani, was hearing a writ petition filed by Baqtawar Begum and 11 others challenging the refusal by the state govern-

ment to de-notify land situated in Saheb Nagar Kalan village, Hayathnagar mandal of Rangareddy district. The petitioners unsuccessfully challenged Section 3 of the AP Forest Act, 1967 which empowers the state to constitute any forest land or wasteland, which is the property of the government or over which it has proprietary rights, as a reserved forest. It was the case of the petitioner that the action of the authorities in refusing to release the land from the notification, while relying on earlier proceedings and judgments, was arbitrary and illegal.

Flat Building Contractor writ plea dismissed

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin dismissed writ appeals challenging cancellation of allotment of an unfinished residential tower in a housing project at Pocharam. The appeals were filed by Mahandi Builders and several flat purchasers questioning the action of Telangana Rajiv Swagruha Corporation Limited in cancelling the allotment of

a residential tower and forfeiting the amount paid. The corporation allotted the unfinished tower consisting of 120 flats to the builder for about ₹29.51 crore under an "as-is-where-is" condition, requiring payment of 10 per cent of the amount initially and the balance within 120 days. The builder paid the initial amount with a delay and failed to pay the remaining consideration even after extensions were granted. The corporation thereafter cancelled the allotment and forfeited the amount paid.

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

The Langar House Police Station has registered a criminal case and apprehended the accused, Arif Khan, for allegedly using a forged registration plate on his vehicle. According to officials, the legitimate owner of a Honda Activa bearing registration number TS13EX3358 approached the traffic police after receiving illegal traffic challans against his vehicle. During the investigation, authorities found that the accused had replaced his vehicle's original registration number with TS13EX3358 to mislead authorities.

HC Seeks Centre's Response on Plea to Extend PG Medical Admission Deadline

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Friday directed counsels appearing for the Union health ministry and the National Medical Commission (NMC) to obtain instructions in a writ petition seeking extension of the deadline for admissions to postgraduate (PG) medical degree and diploma courses for 2025-26. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a petition filed by the Telangana Private Medical and Dental College Managements Association. The association sought directions to the Medical

Counselling Committee (MCC) and Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) to extend the last date for admissions to PG medical courses in Telangana beyond February 28. The association also requested the court to permit a special stray vacancy round or an additional round of counselling to fill 377 vacant PG medical seats. These include 125 seats under the competent authority quota and 252 seats under the management quota. The petitioner sought directions to open fresh registrations so that eligible candidates could participate in the proposed additional counselling round.

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

A man was booked for allegedly procuring and storing teak timber illegally in his house at Chintapalli village in Jannaram mandal on Friday. Timber worth over Rs.24,000 was seized from his possession. Jannaram Forest Range Officer Sushma Rao, in a statement, said a case was registered against Muthyam Venkanna from the village for procuring and storing the teak timber at his house. Venkanna was found to have stored the timber logs during a surprise raid conducted by the Forest officials, following a tip-off. The timber was shifted to the office of Jannaram FRO for further inquiry and legal action.

Telangana HC Directs Police to Probe Who Laid Disputed Road at Bachupally Villa Project

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has directed the Bachupally, Dundigal and Jagadgirigutta police to inquire and submit a report to the court clarifying who was responsible for the laying of a road after the demolition of the compound wall in the layout of the APR Pranav Antilia project at Bachupally in Medchal-Malkajiri district. After HYDRAA submitted that

it had not laid the BT road or any other road in the layout after breakage of the compound wall, Justice N.V. Shrivani directed the police stations to submit the report. It also ordered that the newly formed road, if any, shall not be opened for public use until further orders and posted the matter for hearing on April 7. The judge was dealing with a petition filed by the welfare association of villa owners of the APR Pranav Antilia project, al-

leging illegal demolition of a compound wall and formation of a road by the authorities. The petition was filed against the action of officials of the HYDRAA, who allegedly demolished a portion of the compound wall of the gated community on March 9, and began forming a road through the property. The petitioner association contended that the layout was approved in 2014 and that nearly 600 villas had since been constructed and occupied

within the project. According to the petitioner, officials arrived with machinery and demolished the north-eastern boundary wall, allegedly damaging electrical installations and attempting to create access to adjoining land parcels by laying a road across the property. The association argued that the action was taken despite status quo orders passed by the High Court in related writ petitions filed in 2025.

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.



# War in West Asia Remains a Concern for Auto Industry: SIAM

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's automobile industry recorded strong growth in February with total vehicle dispatches rising 30 per cent year-on-year, even as the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues to pose concerns for global supply chains and exports, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Passenger vehicle dispatches from factories to dealers increased by 10.6 per cent to 4.17 lakh units in February, compared to 3.77 lakh units during the same month last year. The growth was largely supported by tax cuts that have lowered vehicle prices across most models in the country,



helping sustain demand in the market. Despite the positive momentum in domestic sales, SIAM cautioned that geopolitical tensions in West Asia could affect supply chains and manufacturing processes in the coming months.

"While March has festive drivers in several parts of the country, the conflict in West Asia remains a concern, both from the perspective of

supply chain, which could impact the manufacturing processes and exports," said Rajesh Menon, while releasing the sales data. He noted that the automobile industry would continue to closely monitor evolving geopolitical developments that may influence the sector's operations and exports. The two-wheeler segment witnessed particularly strong growth

during the month. Dispatches rose by 35.2 per cent year-on-year to 18,71,406 units in February, compared to 13,84,605 units sold during the same month in 2025. Within the segment, motorcycle dispatches increased by 31 per cent to 10,96,537 units, up from 8,38,250 units in February last year. Scooter sales showed an even stronger performance, rising 42.3 per cent to 7,29,774 units compared with 5,12,783 units a year earlier.

The three-wheeler segment also recorded robust growth. Dispatches rose by 29 per cent year-on-year to 74,573 units in February, compared with 57,788 units in the same month of the previous year. Overall, the

automobile sector maintained a steady upward trajectory, with tax reductions continuing to support consumer demand and extending vehicle sales momentum for the fifth consecutive month. Across all vehicle categories, total dispatches reached 23,63,684 units in February, marking a 30 per cent increase compared with 18,20,082 units recorded in February last year. Industry officials believe that while the domestic market remains strong due to price benefits and seasonal demand, global geopolitical developments—particularly in West Asia—will remain a key factor influencing supply chains and export performance in the coming months.

# M.P. Ahammad Wins Business Bhushan Award

**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 visionary leadership and significant contributions to the global jewellery retail industry and society. The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at the iconic Gateway of India in Mumbai.

The event was attended by Devendra Fadnis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, along with several ministers, bureaucrats, business leaders and prominent personalities from various sectors. Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat Media Group, was also present at the ceremony. Organised by



Lokmat Media Group, the awards recognise individuals whose leadership and achievements have significantly shaped industries while contributing meaningfully to society. Mr. Ahammad's recognition highlights his entrepreneurial journey and the transformation of Malabar Gold & Diamonds into one of the world's leading jewellery retailers.

The brand is currently the fifth-largest global jewellery retailer and the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin. Expressing gratitude for the honour, Mr. Ahammad said the award reflects the collective dedication of the Malabar family and the trust customers have

placed in the brand. He emphasised that the company's growth has been guided by responsibility, integrity and a commitment to creating lasting value for society. Maharashtra has played a key role in the brand's expansion, with 34 showrooms across major cities including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Nashik.

The Group plans to expand this network to 64 stores by 2029, further strengthening its footprint. Beyond business, the company allocates 5% of its profits to CSR initiatives supporting education, healthcare, housing and women's empowerment across its regions of operation.

# Royal Challenge Launches 'Irish Trail' Whiskey in Hyderabad

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Global spirits company Diageo India has introduced a new whiskey blend, Royal Challenge Irish Trail, in India with an immersive launch event celebrating authentic Irish pub culture in Hyderabad. The launch took place at Cock and Bull in Madhapur, where guests experienced a specially curated evening inspired by traditional Irish pubs,

highlighting camaraderie, music, and social connections.

The event marked the official debut of Royal Challenge Irish Trail, a premium blend that combines Irish Grain, Malt, and Pot Still whiskey with select Indian malt. The blend is crafted to offer a refreshingly smooth taste profile featuring creamy sweetness, delicate vanilla undertones, and subtle hints of matured oak, finishing with a sweet and smooth

character designed to appeal to modern whiskey consumers.

The launch experience recreated elements of Irish pub culture through interactive showcase zones, themed pub games, live Irish sing-along performances, and specially crafted cocktails. Guests were introduced to a range of cocktails highlighting the versatility of the new blend, including Irish Coffee, Irish Old Maid, Irish Buck, Irish Sour,



and Pickled Trail. The evening concluded with the official unveiling of the product as attendees sampled the cocktails and explored the new

whiskey.

Speaking at the launch, Ruchira Jaitly, Chief Marketing Officer at Diageo India, said consumers today are in-

creasingly seeking globally inspired experiences in their choice of spirits. She noted that Royal Challenge Irish Trail brings together authenticity, smoothness, and discovery through its blend of Irish whiskeys harmonised with Indian malt, creating a drink suited for contemporary social occasions at pubs, bars, and gatherings.

With the introduction of Irish Trail, the company aims to expand its premium whiskey portfolio

in India by offering international whiskey styles while maintaining accessibility for Indian consumers. The brand says the new blend represents a fresh approach to experiencing Irish whiskey in India, blending heritage with modern social drinking culture.

Royal Challenge Irish Trail is currently available only in Telangana. The whiskey is priced at ₹1,360 for a 750 ml bottle, ₹680 for 375 ml, and ₹340 for 180 ml.



# Zerodha MF Launches WhatsApp-Based ETF Tracking Feature

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Zerodha Mutual Fund has launched an industry-first feature that allows investors to track their Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) directly through WhatsApp, offering a unified dashboard for both mutual funds and ETFs without leaving the messaging platform.

The new feature enables investors to view their entire Zerodha MF portfolio, including mutual funds and ETFs across equity, debt, and com-

modities, in a single interface. The update aims to simplify portfolio monitoring and make investment tracking more convenient for users who prefer a familiar messaging platform over multiple financial apps.

The development was highlighted by Anugrah Shrivastava, founder of smallcase, in a LinkedIn post, noting that the integration represents a major step toward making investment management more accessible and frictionless for retail investors.

With the addition of ETF tracking, Zerodha Asset Management Private Limited becomes the first asset management company in India to provide visibility of ETF holdings directly within the WhatsApp interface. Traditionally, investors were required to log into separate brokerage applications or demat accounts to track their ETF investments. The new integration eliminates that extra step and brings portfolio visibility into a single digital touchpoint.

Apart from tracking investments, the platform also allows users to execute ETF transactions directly through WhatsApp. Using the smallcase Gateway, investors can connect their brokerage accounts and buy or sell ETFs without switching to another application. The system operates through a simple tap-based interface, ensuring that users do not need to download additional apps to manage their investments.

Commenting on the initiative, Vishal Jain, CEO

of Zerodha AMC, said the objective is to meet investors where they already spend time online. He noted that eliminating the need to move between different platforms makes managing diversified investment portfolios simpler and more intuitive.

Investors can access the new feature by sending "Hi" to Zerodha Mutual Fund's WhatsApp number +91-98453 35486 and selecting the "Track & Invest" option to view their updated investment dashboard.

# Desire Designer Exhibition Opens at Taj Krishna, Hyderabad



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The much-awaited Desire Designer Exhibition, a luxury fashion and lifestyle showcase, was grandly launched at Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills, attracting celebrities, fashion enthusiasts, models and socialites from across the city.

The three-day exhibition is being held from March 13 to March 15, 2026, bringing together renowned designers and premium brands under one roof. Visitors are being treated to an exclusive collection of festive and wedding special ensembles, designer contemporary jewellery, stylised garments, chic footwear

and exquisite home décor products.

The exhibition features a diverse range of luxury fashion and lifestyle products including customised haute couture outfits, designer fashion ensembles, creative accessories, enchanting jewellery and curated lifestyle décor items. The event provides fashion lovers and shoppers an opportunity to explore unique designs and interact directly with designers presenting their latest collections. Known for its elegant presentation and high-end fashion displays, the Desire Designer Exhibition has built a strong reputation across India as a premier platform for showcasing designer wear and lifestyle products.

Speaking on the occasion, Anita Agarwal, Chief Organizer of the Desire Designer Exhibition, said the three-day special event aims to bring together leading designers and fashion lovers on a single platform. She said the exhibition showcases a wide variety of products ranging from opulent festive and wedding collections to designer garments, contemporary jewellery, accessories and exclusive lifestyle décor. With its blend of fashion, creativity and luxury shopping, the exhibition is expected to draw a large number of visitors during the three-day event in Hyderabad.

# Hyundai Venue crosses one lakh bookings milestone

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyundai Motor India Limited has announced a major milestone for its popular compact SUV, the Hyundai Venue, which has crossed one lakh bookings in India. Marking the achievement, the company has also introduced a new HX8 Diesel Automatic (AT) variant, expanding the model's lineup and offering customers greater convenience and performance options.

The newly launched HX8 Diesel AT variant is powered by Hyundai's U2 1.5-



litre CRDi diesel engine paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission, designed to deliver strong torque performance along with smooth and effortless driving. The addition of this variant aims to cater to modern Indian customers who prefer the efficiency of diesel engines

combined with the comfort of automatic transmission.

The new variant also comes equipped with several upgraded comfort, safety, and convenience features. These include front-row ventilated seats, dual-tone leatherette seats with Venue branding, and

an electric 4-way adjustable driver seat. Advanced technology features such as Controller Over-the-Air (OTA) vehicle updates and Hyundai Bluelink connected car technology enhance the digital driving experience.

Other key additions include an electric parking brake with auto hold, rear disc brakes, ambient lighting on the crash pad and central console, and paddle shifters for enhanced driving control. The vehicle also offers drive modes — Eco, Normal, and Sport — along with traction control modes for

Sand, Mud, and Snow, improving adaptability across different driving conditions.

Commenting on the milestone, Tarun Garg said the one-lakh booking mark reflects the strong trust customers place in Hyundai and their growing preference for smart, connected, and feature-rich mobility solutions. With Hyundai's wide sales and service network across the country, the Venue continues to remain a strong contender in India's competitive compact SUV segment, offering a balanced mix of technology, comfort, performance,

# Rishab Rikhiram Sharma To Debut India's First Next-Gen LED-Powered Electric Sitar

Neo-classical musician and sitarist Rishab Rikhiram Sharma will debut and perform on India's first-ever LED-enhanced electric sitar during the India leg of his upcoming 10-city Sitar for Mental Health Tour 2026. The pioneering instrument, titled 'SITARA - The Next-Generation Electric Sitar', has been conceptualized and built by his father, master luthier Sanjay Sharma, marking a significant advancement in the evolution of the sitar and contemporary classical music. Designed as a state-of-the-art reinterpretation of the traditional instrument, SITARA builds on



a lineage of experimental sitars developed by Sanjay and Manjul Sharma's Rikhi Ram's Music, including the Rik-E-Sitar and the Studio Sitar. The new model integrates modern sound design, portability and lighting technology, while retaining the tonal

character of the classical sitar. The instrument has been developed to expand the sitar's role in contemporary performance contexts, particularly across film music, fusion and global live productions. Explaining the vision behind the instrument,

Sanjay Sharma says, "SITARA was created to give sitarists the ability to step into contemporary musical spaces where the electric guitar is often used. The idea was to enable sitar players to perform modern arrangements especially in Bollywood, fusion and world music, without needing to learn another instrument. While the acoustic sitar remains the soul of classical music, this instrument opens exciting possibilities for crossover and global performance." A defining aspect of SITARA is its compact, ergonomic design, developed with modern touring musicians in mind. Unlike the tradi-

tional sitar, the instrument is lightweight and allows performers to play while standing, making it well suited for contemporary stage productions. "We wanted to design something practical for today's performers," Sharma explains. "The instrument is compact and travel-friendly, with a collapsible hand-rest frame and a custom-built active pickup system with volume and tone controls that can run through amplifiers and processors. At the same time, when played clean through an amplifier, it still retains the tonal character of a traditional sitar."

## Shahid, Kriti, Rashmika-starrer 'Cocktail 2' To Release On June 19

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Homi Adajania's "Cocktail 2", starring Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, and Rashmika Mandanna, is set to release in theatres on June 19. A follow-up to the director's 2012 directorial "Cocktail", the film is written by Luv Ranjan and produced by Dinesh Vijan under his production banner Maddock Films. The makers of "Cocktail 2" shared the announcement by uploading the posters from the film with the lead actors, which had the release date written over them. The first look of the film will be unveiled in theatres on March 18 during the paid preview shows of Dhurandhar: The Revenge. "Cocktail 2" also reunites Kapoor



and Sanon, who have previously worked together in "Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya". The film will be the first collaboration for Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. Shahid was recently seen in Vishal Bhardwaj's O'Romeo, and Rashmika Mandanna was last seen in the Telugu romantic drama The Girlfriend, for which she bagged the Telangana Gaddar film award 2025 for the best actress. Kriti

Sanon appeared in Tere Ishk Mein. Adajania's "Cocktail" was led by Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone and Diana Penty. It featured the love triangle between the three leads. The film was well-received at the box office and collected over Rs 120 crore. Adajania is known for films such as "Being Cyrus", "Finding Fanny", "Angrezi Medium", "Murder Mubarak" and series "Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo".

# Rashmika And The Right To Dream: Why Judge Her Choices?



MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

When a woman chooses her dreams, the world questions her. When she chooses love, the world questions that too. Somewhere between those two choices lies the story of Rashmika Mandanna and the storm surrounding her personal life. Years ago, when Rashmika's career had just begun to bloom, she was engaged and reportedly asked to step away from films because marriage was expected to come first. It was a choice many women are silently pushed into making. But Rashmika chose differently. She stepped back from a

relationship instead of stepping away from her dreams. Today, that decision stands as a turning point. Had she walked away from cinema then, the industry may never have witnessed the star she has become.

Ironically, the same choice that allowed her to build a career is now being held against her. Recently, as she celebrates a new chapter in her personal life, old memories have resurfaced through a leaked audio conversation involving her mother. Rashmika has threatened legal action against those circulating the clip. Yet beyond the legal angle lies a deeper question: why is a woman not allowed to move on? In her wedding post, Rashmika

spoke with disarming honesty about the kind of support she had longed for. "He told me it's okay to dream and achieve," she wrote, a line that resonated deeply with many who know the choices she once had to make. That encouragement from Vijay Deverakonda clearly meant everything to someone who had once been asked to choose between love and ambition. Also, that reassurance carries a powerful meaning. It represents the freedom to live a life without having to apologise for wanting both love and a career.

In a recent statement, she also made it clear that choosing a life partner is her decision. It is a simple truth, yet one that women often

have to defend. The timing of this controversy raises uncomfortable questions. Rashmika appears to be in one of the happiest phases of her life, personally and professionally. Why reopen old chapters now? Why turn a joyful moment into a public trial?

Everyone deserves the right to move forward without being haunted by the past. For women, especially, that freedom often comes with conditions imposed by society. Perhaps the real conversation is not about Rashmika at all. It is about why a woman's happiness still feels like something the world must approve before she can fully claim it.

## GVR Karate Academy Holds Saraswati Puja for Students



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Cricket experts Harbhajan Singh and Aakash Chopra have urged Rohit Sharma to play the full match for Mumbai Indians instead of being used as an Impact Player, stating that his leadership and presence on the field remain crucial for the team. Speaking on Game Plan - Know Your Team on JioStar, Harbhajan Singh said

Rohit's experience and leadership qualities make him too valuable to remain on the bench for most of the match. He noted that the former Mumbai Indians captain has recently been used mainly as a batter, coming in as the 12th man under the Impact Player rule, which limits his presence on the field. Harbhajan pointed out that in tense situations during a match, captains often need advice

and support from experienced players. According to him, Rohit's presence on the field can help current captain Hardik Pandya make important tactical decisions. "Rohit Sharma has been used as the 12th man who just bats, but a leader like him should be on the field. In tough matches, when a captain sometimes needs a shoulder to lean on, Rohit Sharma can provide that support," Harbhajan said.

Echoing similar views, Aakash Chopra stressed that a player of Rohit Sharma's calibre should ideally be involved throughout the game if he is physically fit. He argued that the Impact Player role is not suitable for an opening batter who usually prepares mentally and physically while being actively involved in the field. Chopra explained that watching the entire first innings from the dugout can disrupt an opener's rhythm. "If you are fit, logically you should play the whole game and not be substituted. Especially when you are batting second, an opener shouldn't come in as an Impact Player," he said. He further added that Rohit Sharma remains one of the fittest and strongest players in the squad, and Mumbai Indians would benefit the most when he contributes across all 40 overs of the match rather than just with the bat.

## Sharp Increase In Indian Women's Participation In Cricket: New Study

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Women's cricket in India has grown exponentially with participation doubling across 14 states since 2020, according to a study commissioned by the BBC and Collective Newsroom. The survey, which covered over 10,000 women, has found that the share of women who say they play cricket has risen from five per cent in 2020 to 10 per cent now. The participation of young women is growing even faster as 16 per cent of those aged 15 to 24 say they play cricket compared with six per cent in 2020.

"The research also finds that one in four young women aged 15 to 24 have considered sport as a career option," according to the study. The Indian women's cricket team has been on a high recently, winning its maiden ODI World Cup and defeating Australia in a bilateral three-match T20I series for the first time in a decade, a surge that could also be contributing to the sport's growing popularity.

Cricket has overtaken traditional sport kabaddi, which has long been a favourite in India's hinterlands, by a huge margin. "Cricket has also strengthened its position as the most played sport among women in the states surveyed. In 2020 it only narrowly edged past kabaddi, but the new figures suggest it is now firmly ahead. "Participation has in-



creased across most regions. All but two of the states surveyed report a rise in the number of women playing cricket. In Uttar Pradesh, levels of participation have increased 10-fold, from one percent to 10 percent. The gender gap in cricket participation across the states covered has also narrowed." The study also shows that for every woman who plays cricket, three men play the sport, compared with a ratio of one to five in 2020. As for career interest, 26 per cent of young women aged 15 to 24 say they have considered a career in sport, up from 16 per cent in 2020, with the highest levels reported in Tamil Nadu (27 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (19 per cent), and Meghalaya (19 per cent), the study said.

The participation in badminton has also risen among the women surveyed, especially in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. However, more women could get drawn towards sport if their safety concerns are properly addressed, the report says. "13 per cent of women who do not play any sport cite safety concerns as a barrier." Rupa Jha, the Editor in Chief and co-founder of Collective Newsroom, said: "The findings show both progress and continuing barriers. While participation and viewership are rising fast, stereotypes and practical challenges remain. "We hope this data will prompt further discussion and action to support women athletes."

## Owaisi Questions Centre Over Iran Attack Silence



Asaduddin Owaisi, Member of Parliament from Hyderabad and president of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), on Friday questioned the Union government's foreign policy, asking why India had not openly condemned the recent attack on Iran and why Prime Minister Narendra Modi had engaged with leaders such as Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump ahead of the escalation.

Speaking at the Jalsa Youm-ul-Quran programme held at Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad, Mr. Owaisi said India had historically followed a neutral foreign policy and had long expressed support for the Palestinian cause. He questioned why the Centre had not publicly opposed the attack despite potential geopolitical and economic consequences.

Mr. Owaisi linked the situation to India's energy security, noting that nearly 60% of the country's oil and gas supplies pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption in that strategic route, he said, could significantly affect fuel prices and the Indian economy. Referring to his earlier remarks, the Hyderabad MP said he had warned weeks ago that Iran could be targeted after the Prime Minister's diplomatic engagements in the region. He argued that India should have conveyed to Iran earlier that such attacks by any country should not take place.

## 'Cyber Simba' volunteers spread cybercrime awareness in Hyderabad

Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar on Friday, March 13, urged citizens to actively spread awareness about cybercrimes and protect others from cybercriminals. Speaking at the volunteer orientation program for 'Cyber Simba' at the TG ICC auditorium in Banjara Hills, the CP advised people to use WhatsApp groups to share cyber safety awareness messages rather than 'Good Morning' and 'Good Night' messages.

Highlighted the success of the 'Cyber Simba' initiative, which was launched as part of the 'Jagrut Hyderabad - Surakshit Hyderabad' in November last year, the CP said that 1,717 people have registered as volunteers so far and reached 2 lakh people through their 5,118 door-to-door awareness programs. The CP cautioned that cybercriminals are now using sophisticated methods like digital arrest, trading and investment scams to defraud even retired judges and educated professionals and said that spreading awareness about cyber safety is the most effective way to prevent such crimes. Explaining the importance of the 'Golden Hour'—the first hour after a cybercrime occurs—the Commissioner stated that reporting such incidents immediately to the 1930 helpline.

## Vendors halt supplies to Telangana hospitals; govt says no shortage

Twin Cities Hospital's Suppliers Association on Thursday, March 12, wrote to the Superintendent of Osmania General Hospital informing them that due to outstanding payments amounting to crores, the association is forced to stop the medical supplies to their organisation. The association said that they have not received any payments for medical, surgical or diagnostic supplies and since 2022 and have not been getting and Aarogyasri payments since January 2025.

They said that the government did not release decentralized budgets for the aforementioned supply categories between 2022 and 2024, and in 2025, only the first and second quarter budgets for medical and surgical supplies were released while the diagnostic budget was dropped completely.

# Al Bushra Perfume Center A Charminar Favourite

## Decades-old Charminar perfume shop attracts customers with long-lasting traditional attars



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Nestled near the iconic Charminar in the heart of the Old City, Al Bushra Perfume Center continues to attract perfume enthusiasts with its wide range of traditional attars known for their rich and long-lasting aroma.

The decades-old fragrance destination, which has been serving customers for nearly 70 to 80 years, is a family-run establishment managed by Mohammad Akram Ali. Over the

years, the store has earned a reputation for preserving the traditional craft of attar making while also catering to the changing tastes of modern customers. Located in one of Hyderabad's most historic and bustling areas, the shop has become a must-visit stop for locals and tourists exploring the cultural charm around Charminar. The fragrance oils available at the store are particularly popular for their strong and lingering

scent, often lasting for two to three days after application. Al Bushra Perfume Center offers a diverse collection of attars at prices ranging from ₹200 to ₹1,800 per tola. Among the premium fragrances available are Ameer Al Oud, Oud Mubakhir, Shams Al Oud, and Oud

Mukhalat, which are highly sought after for their deep woody notes and luxurious aroma. The store also carries classic traditional scents such as Sandalwood, Khus, and Jannat-ul-Firdaus, which remain favourites among long-time customers. According to the management, customers are encouraged to personally try the fragrances before purchasing them to truly experience their quality and longevity. This hands-on approach has helped the shop maintain loyal clientele across generations. Beyond perfumes, the store also offers a variety of traditional items including surma, mehndi, tasbeehs, herbal powders and other cultural products. These offerings further enhance the shop's appeal as a destination that reflects the rich heritage and traditions of Hyderabad's Old City.



## Gurramguda area in Telangana's Rangareddy declared reserve forest

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

After a long legal battle, the Telangana government has declared Gurramguda forest area in the Amangal division in Rangareddy district as a reserve forest, a senior official said on Friday, March 13.

The state government has issued a Government Order (GO) notifying 424 acres and 31 guntas of forest land as Reserve Forest under Section 15 of the Telangana Forest Act, 1967. According to a statement issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr C Suvama, the government issued GO Ms No. 7 dated March 9, 2026 through the Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department. With this notification, the legal process concerning

the land has been completed and the forest area now has official Reserve Forest status, ensuring stronger legal protection. She stated that 102 acres in Survey No. 201/1 of Saheb Nagar Kalan village, part of this area, had long been under legal dispute. The matter, widely known as the 'Saheb Nagar Kalan case,' was heard in various courts for several years. Ultimately, the Supreme Court upheld the Forest Department's claim, reinforcing the need to protect forest lands from encroachments and unauthorised claims. In December 2025, the Supreme court declared 102 acres of land in Saheb Nagar Kalan a part of the Gurramguda reserve forest block, and not private land.

## 1800 kg of adulterated ginger-garlic paste seized in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Nearly 1800 kg of ginger-garlic paste was seized by Rajendra Nagar Zone police on Friday, March 13, during a raid on illegal manufacturing units in Shastripuram Colony and Udangadda. This is the fifth such seizure this month. Other raids had also resulted in the seizure of thousands of kilograms of adulterated ginger garlic paste. According to the police, the accused were using low-quality raw materials mixed with salt, chemicals like Titanium Dioxide, and Xanthan Gum powder to increase thickness and enhance colour, posing a severe threat to public health. The accused have been identified as Abdul Aleem, 25, owner of Standard Food Products and Jasani Dildar Ali, 46. Along



with the adulterated food products, police also seized 2 kg Xanthan Gum and 2 kg Titanium Dioxide, lemon yellow synthetic food colour, seven packing machines, 3 grinding machines, and 2 weighing machines. Cases have been registered at Mailardevpally Police Station under sections 318(4) (cheating) and section 274 (adulteration of food or drink intended for sale) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is underway.

## Devotees Offer Jumat-ul-Vida Prayers at Mecca Masjid

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hundreds of devotees gathered at the historic Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad to offer Namaz-e-Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday prayers of the holy month of Ramzan. The mosque witnessed large crowds as worshippers assembled in large numbers to mark the spiritually significant occasion with devotion and prayers.

Special arrangements were made by authorities to manage the gathering and ensure smooth conduct of prayers. Devotees prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being of the community and the nation. Jumat-ul-Vida holds deep religious importance for Muslims, symbolizing reflection, gratitude, and spiritual renewal during the final days of Ramzan.



Hundreds of devotees offered Namaz-e-Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday prayers of the holy month of Ramzan, at the historic Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad, as large crowds gathered to mark the spiritually significant occasion.

# SSC Exams Begin Across Telangana With 5.2 Lakh Students

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) public examinations began across Telangana on Saturday, with more than 5.2 lakh students appearing at 2,676 centres set up across the state. The month-long examination schedule will continue until April 16, with authorities making extensive arrangements for security, transport, medical support, and student welfare. Examinations will be conducted daily from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Students have been instructed to reach their exami-

nation centres by 8.30 am, while entry will close at 9.35 am, allowing only a five-minute grace period. Officials have advised students to carry essential items such as their hall ticket, pens, pencils, and scales. Electronic gadgets including mobile phones, calculators, and smart watches are strictly prohibited inside the examination centres. To maintain order and ensure smooth conduct of the examinations, police bandobast has been deployed at all centres. Authorities have also enforced Section 163 of the BNSS in the vicinity of examination venues. Additionally, xerox centres lo-



cated near exam centres will remain closed during examination hours to prevent any malpractice. The education department has deployed 144 flying squads and sitting squads, particularly at sensitive centres, to monitor the conduct of examinations. A 24x7 control room has also been set up to address issues

and ensure quick response to any emergencies. Basic facilities such as drinking water, lighting, fans, and seating arrangements have been ensured at all examination centres. Medical support will also be available, with an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) present at centres carrying Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and basic medicines to assist students if needed. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) will operate additional bus services to help students reach examination centres on time and avoid transportation issues.

Alongside logistical preparations, mental health support has also been emphasised during the examination period. Counsellors from Tele-MANAS have urged parents and families to provide emotional support to students and avoid putting excessive pressure on them. According to P. Jawaharlal Nehru, senior psychologist at Tele-MANAS Telangana, parental anxiety often increases the stress experienced by children during examinations. He emphasised that parents should remain calm and supportive while helping children plan their study schedules.

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