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Brief Insights

Prez Serves A kshaya Patra's 5 Billionth Meal

The Akshaya Patra Foundation commemorated the milestone of serving 5 billion meals and its completion of 25 years of service to humanity at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the event as the Chief Guest, and the Minister of Education Shri

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US Does 'Not Need' Help From Allies on Iran, Trump Says



President Donald Trump, whose call for assistance from allies to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to oil traffic has largely been rebuffed, said Tuesday that US forces "no longer need" military help in the Iran war. "Because of the fact that we have had such Military Success, we no longer 'need,' or desire, the NATO Countries' assistance -- WE NEVER DID! Likewise, Japan, Australia, or South Korea," Trump posted on his Truth Social network, adding: "WE DO NOT NEED THE HELP OF ANYONE!"

KTR attacks Congress government in Assembly over false claims: P2

BCCI honours Hyderabad's Trisha and Drithi at Naman Awards: P7

Kishan Reddy Condemns Cong. Over USCIRF Post: P2

US NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER DIRECTOR JOE KENT RESIGNS

Kent, who advised Trump and national intelligence director on 'terror' threats, says Iran 'posed no imminent threat'

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

The director of the US National Counterterrorism Center, which advises both US President Donald Trump and the director of national intelligence on "terror" threats, has resigned over the war with Iran.

In a resignation letter posted on X, Joe Kent said he could not "in good conscience" support the ongoing war.

"Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby," he said. He pointed to Trump's past pledges to end US engagement abroad, writing, "you understood that wars in the Middle East were a trap that robbed America of the previous lives of our patriots and depleted the wealth and prosperity of our nation".

The resignation is the most high-profile from the Trump administration since the US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28.



Kent's reference to the term "imminent threat" is also significant.

Such imminence is considered a prerequisite for US presidents to launch military attacks without congressional approval under US law. It is also significant to launch legal attacks on sovereign nations under international law.

Trump dismissed the resignation shortly afterwards, telling reporters, "I always thought he was weak on security" and that he "didn't know him well".

"It's a good thing that he's out, because he said that Iran was not a threat. Iran was a threat. Every country realised what a threat Iran was," Trump added.

Starmer, Zelenskyy urge 'focus' on Ukraine as Iran war diverts attention

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has met British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London to sign a new defence pact as the unfolding US-Israeli war on Iran threatened to divert international attention away from Russia's attacks on Ukraine. Starmer welcomed Zelenskyy at his official Downing Street residence on Tuesday, reassuring the Ukrainian leader that "the focus must remain on Ukraine", days after the US partially rolled back sanctions against Moscow to cool oil prices sent soaring by its attacks on Iran.

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Larijani Posts On X Minutes After Israel Claims He Was Killed In Tehran Strike

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday claimed that Iran's security chief Ali Larijani had been killed, according to a report by Reuters. However, there has been no confirmation from Tehran.

"Larijani and the Basij commander were eliminated overnight and joined the head of the annihilation program, Khamenei, and all the eliminated members of the axis of evil, in the depths of hell," Katz said, according to his office.

Reports of Larijani's alleged death first surfaced in Israeli media earlier in the day.

However, a post later appeared on Larijani's social media account paying tribute to the "martyrs" of the Islamic Republic.

"On the occasion of the funeral ceremony for the valiant martyrs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy: Their memory will forever remain in the heart of the Iranian nation, and these martyrdoms will strengthen the foundation of the Islamic



Republic's Army for years to come within the structure of the armed forces. I beseech the Almighty God for the highest ranks for these dear martyrs," the post read.

No clarification was provided on whether Larijani is dead or alive.

According to Israeli officials cited by Reuters, Larijani was among the targets of strikes carried out across Iran on Monday night.

If confirmed, his death would mark one of the most high-profile casualties in Iran during the ongoing conflict, following the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. Larijani was last seen on Friday in Tehran during Quds Day rallies.

China Announces Humanitarian Aid for Iran

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

China said on Tuesday it will provide humanitarian assistance to Middle Eastern countries, including Iran and Lebanon, targeted in US and Israeli strikes in the conflict now in its third week. Beijing is a close partner of Iran and has urged the United States and Israel to cease their attacks on the country, while also criticising Tehran's strikes against Gulf states housing US military bases.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said the war had caused "grave humanitarian catastrophes" in Iran and other Middle Eastern nations. "China has decided to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. It is hoped this will help alleviate the humanitarian plight faced by the local populations," Lin told a press conference, without providing further details.

"China will continue to make every effort to promote peace and stop the war... and to prevent further spreading of the



Beijing is a close partner of Iran and has urged the United States and Israel to cease their attacks on the

humanitarian crisis," he added. China has sought to mediate in the war, with its special envoy to the Middle East, Zhai Jun, urging de-escalation when he recently met Saudi Arabia's foreign minister for talks. China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, has also said that the war "should never have happened" and called for an end to fighting.

The humanitarian aid announcement came after US President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned visit to Beijing.

Trump, who postponed his planned visit to Beijing due to the war, according to the White House, has also pressured China to help Washington reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

BRS Disrespected Women: Bhatti

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday accused BRS leaders of disrespecting women and criticised Rama Rao for remarks that hurt women's sentiments. He also questioned the party's record on women's representation in the Cabinet. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing interest-free loans and said efforts were underway to create one crore women millionaires. He added that free bus travel for women was introduced soon after assuming office and that reimbursements



to RTC were being made regularly.

Criticising the previous BRS government, Bhatti said it failed to deliver on promises such as double-bedroom houses, Dalit Bandhu assistance and employment guarantees. He said the present government had sanctioned Rs 5 lakh per house under the Indiramma housing scheme and begun construction of 4.5 lakh

houses, releasing Rs 22,500 crore in a single tranche. He also said that the Congress government has been implementing its Six Guarantees while accusing the BRS of failing to fulfil its commitments. IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu, intervening in the debate, said the government remained committed to establishing pollution-free green pharma industries in Future City, as informed to the High Court. He said a white paper on the IT sector would be released and questioned criticism over Rs 5.75 lakh crore MoUs signed at the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025.

Trade Deficit With China Touches \$102 bn In Apr-Feb

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

India's trade deficit with China widened to \$102 billion in the 11 months of FY26, already surpassing the trade deficit of FY25. Total imports of both goods and services touched \$900 billion in the 11-month period and is expected to be above \$1 trillion in FY26. The trade deficit with China continued to widen in February with India's growing dependence on Chinese industrial supplies. Exports to China totaled \$17.5 billion during April-February, while imports surged to \$119.6 billion, leaving a \$102.1 billion deficit.

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Revanth to Launch Musi Project on March 28

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is likely to perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the phase-I of the Musi Rejuvenation Project by laying stone for the Gandhi Sarovar Project on March 28, official sources said on Tuesday. The Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. (MRDCL) was reportedly directed to make arrangements for the ceremony at Babu Ghat in Langar Houz. If Union defence minister Rajnath



The 200-acre Gandhi Sarovar Project, centred at Babu Ghat, Langar Houz, will feature a 153-foot Mahatma Gandhi statue on a 100-metre tower, a museum, a handloom centre, and a meditation centre.

Singh accepts Revanth Reddy's invite, the groundbreaking will be deferred to April 2. While extending the invite on February 12, Revanth

Reddy had asked Rajnath Singh to facilitate the transfer of 100 acres of defence land required for the Musi project.

According to the detailed project report (DPR) finalised by MRDCL on March 13, the tentative cost of Phase-I is estimated at '6,500-7,000 crore. The first phase will cover two river stretches — Musa and Esa — which converge at Gandhi Sarovar in Langar Houz. The 200-acre Gandhi Sarovar Project, centred at Babu Ghat, Langar Houz, will feature a 153-foot

Mahatma Gandhi statue on a 100-metre tower, a museum, a handloom centre, and a meditation centre.

In Hyderabad, the Musi river flows through a stretch of 55 km from Gandipet in western Hyderabad to Gowrelly village in Hayathnagar in the east. Of this, the first phase will focus on about 21 km — from the Outer Ring Road (ORR) West to Gandhi Sarovar at Babu Ghat, covering key areas such as Gandipet, Rajendranagar, Sun City, Kismatpur and Narsingi.

Mojtaba Khamenei Rejects Ceasefire

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Iran's newly appointed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei has rejected proposals for de-escalation conveyed through intermediaries, insisting that any talks can only take place after Israel and the United States are "brought to their knees", according to a senior Iranian official quoted by Reuters. The remarks came during his first foreign policy discussions since taking



over the position following the death of his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The stance signals a hardening of Iran's position as the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran enters its third week with no sign of easing.

According to the report, the senior official said Mojtaba Khamenei had taken a "very tough and serious" position during his first foreign policy session since being named supreme leader. It was not clear whether the leader attended the meeting in person or remotely. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two intermediary countries had passed proposals to Iran's Foreign Ministry aimed at reducing tensions or securing a ceasefire with the United

States. No details were given about the countries involved or the content of the proposals.

The supreme leader reportedly responded that it was not the right time for peace, saying negotiations could only begin once the United States and Israel were defeated and agreed to pay compensation. Under Iran's political system, the supreme leader has final authority over all state matters, including foreign policy and military decisions.

India Begins Sourcing Cooking Gas From US

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, India has begun sourcing cooking gas or LPG from the United States as part of the government's measure to augment supplies. In order to diversify sources of LPG and ease the pressure in the ongoing conflicts, oil-marketing companies (OMCs) have started taking LPG from the US as the government is putting all efforts to

keep sufficient fuel available in the country, a top government official said. "The fuel availability is stable now as we are getting more crude today due to increased diversification. Most of the LPG is coming from the Gulf. Besides, our OMCs have started taking LPG from the US despite our refineries running at full capacity and sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel. The government is putting all efforts to diver-

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ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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

KTR attacks Congress government in Assembly over false claims

Kishan Reddy Condemns Cong. Over USCIRF Post

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hauling the ruling Congress party over the coals for its broken promises, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the State government was pushing false claims in the Governor's address and challenged its leaders stating that he would resign if proven wrong. From legal sanctity to the six guarantees, interest-free loans to women SHGs, crop loan waiver for farmers and investment claims, he mounted a sharp attack, countering the Congress government's assertions at every step.

Participating in the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address in the Assembly on Tuesday, Rama Rao sought to



highlight what he termed as the government's failures with facts and figures. He questioned the Congress government's assurances on granting legal sanctity to the six guarantees within 100 days of assuming office. In December 2023, the then Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan had stated that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had already signed the file. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had also assured that legal sanctity would be provided in the first Cabinet,

he said. "Where is the file signed by the Chief Minister granting legal status to the six guarantees? If such an important document has disappeared, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) must be constituted immediately to trace it," he demanded. "If the Chief Minister's signed file itself has no value, how can people trust this government? Every declaration made by the Chief Minister today carries zero value in the eyes of the public," he added.

When ruling party members alleged that the previous BRS government had not issued a single ration card, he countered them by stating that Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy had informed the

House that 6.5 lakh ration cards were distributed between 2014 and 2023. Interrupting his speech, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy reiterated that the BRS government had not issued any ration cards. He urged Rama Rao to be patient and assured that the Congress government would fulfil its promises.

Referring to the Congress manifesto, the BRS working president said each family was promised benefits worth Rs 2.5 lakh annually. "The Congress said each family would benefit to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh. Even after over two years, can the government show a single family that has received such benefits?" he asked.

Deputy Chief Minister

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka intervened and listed schemes such as 200 units of free power, fine rice distribution and others. He claimed that with Rythu Bharosa assistance and a Rs 500 bonus for fine rice, each farmer was receiving benefits of Rs 25,000 per acre. Dismissing these claims, Rama Rao said if each of the 1.06 crore families were receiving Rs 2.50 lakh annually, the State would require Rs 2.75 lakh crore for welfare schemes alone.

He alleged that in the last two and a half years of Congress rule, people from all sections had been betrayed and pointed out that the Governor's address made no mention of the six guarantees and declarations.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday condemned the Congress' social media post highlighting the controversial report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which urged the Trump administration to impose sanctions on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). He called it a stark example of the party degrading itself into a "brazen anti-national" outfit.

Reddy accused the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, of targeting institutions that safeguard India, including the RAW and the RSS



which he said was a socio-cultural organisation promoting societal unity. He said Congress's reliance on controversial foreign reports reflected "anti-national behaviour." The minister noted that the Centre had rejected the USCIRF report as "motivated and biased." The ministry of external affairs (MEA) criticised USCIRF for years of presenting a "distorted and selective picture" of India based on questionable sources, undermining its credibility.

ity. The MEA urged the commission to address vandalism of Hindu temples in the US, intolerance against the Indian diaspora, and selective targeting of India, rather than focusing solely on India.

Reddy charged that under Rahul Gandhi, Congress had "cheered national calamities, spread rumours during crises such as LPG shortages, and attacked constitutional bodies from the President and Vice-President to the Election Commission, Supreme Court, Lok Sabha Speaker, and armed forces." Unable to win elections, Gandhi had allegedly invited foreign intervention for regime change, weakening India from within, he said.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation report on Hyderabad Metro

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Experts have called upon governments to adopt integrated mobility ecosystems to address fast-growing traffic issues in cities and improve people's quality of life. Speaking at the Second National Mobility Summit 2026, Sarfaraz Ahmad, managing director, Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, said, "Urban mobility can no longer be addressed in silos. Cities across the world are moving towards integrated mobility eco-



systems where roads, metro rail, buses, non-motorised transport, and technology-driven last-mile connectivity operate seamlessly together." Ahmed is also the commissioner of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. Hyderabad Metro Rail received the Innovation in

Metro Rail and Multimodal Integration Award at the summit for its contribution to integrated urban mobility and metro infrastructure development in the city. The summit, which was inaugurated in Hyderabad on Tuesday by transport and BC welfare minister Ponnam Prabhakar, brought

together policymakers, transport authorities, industry leaders, startups and technology providers to deliberate on future mobility in India. It was attended by Special Chief Secretary (transport) Vikas Raj and transport commissioner Dr K. Ilambarathi.

Echoing Ahmed, Dr Ilambarathi said mobility now extended beyond transport functions to wider urban outcomes. "Mobility today is no longer just about moving vehicles and people. It is about enabling economic growth.

KCR era was golden period for agriculture : MP Ravichandra

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra said the agricultural sector in Telangana witnessed a golden era during the tenure of BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. He cited initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu, expansion of irrigation through major lift schemes like the Kaleshwaram project and promotion of oil palm cultivation as key measures that improved farm



incomes. Participating in the discussion on the Appropriation Bill 2026-27 in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Ravichandra said the Bill was not merely a financial exercise but a mechanism to ensure accountability in the use of public funds. Referring to Telangana's ex-

perience, he said the State achieved major progress in agriculture after its formation due to planned irrigation projects, investment support schemes and free power to farmers.

The BRS MP said the present situation in the State had deteriorated, with the current Congress government failing to deliver promises on farm loan waiver and Rythu Bharosa financial assistance to farmers. He also raised the issue of crop losses due to monsoon menace and sought

intervention from both the Centre and the State. "The Congress government completely failed to address the challenges faced by the farmers including input subsidies, seeds, fertilisers and also timely release of irrigation water," he added. Pointing out that Telangana emerged as one of the key States for the nation's economy, he urged the Centre to extend equal support to the State for effective implementation of the development and welfare schemes.

BJP Submits Representation to MRO Demanding Implementation of State Guarantees



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Acting on the directives of the state leadership, BJP leaders staged a protest at the Tahsildar Office in Chandrayangutta Assembly Constituency under the Bhagya Nagar district. The demonstration was organized by the presidents of Barkas, Uppuguda, Jangammet, Rayasatnagar, Chandrayangutta, Lalithabagh, Kanchanbagh divisions along with leaders from Gowlipura

division. The BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to the MRO demanding that the state government immediately fulfill the promises made under the Six Guarantees scheme. They urged swift implementation of Mahalakshmi scheme, ₹4,000 pension assistance, Rythu Bharosa, Yuva Vikasam, and Indiramma housing.

The leaders also demanded distribution of Kalyana Lakshmi gold and resolution of local

public issues. Bhagya Nagar District General Secretary Pandarinath Aedla actively participated and emphasized the need for the Congress government to honor its commitments to the people. Several division presidents, former corporators, contested MLAs, state leaders, and senior BJP members attended the protest. BJP's senior leader and SC morcha vice President Madhavi Chandra Shekhar participated in the representation programme.

Hyderabad Sees Strong Office Space Demand, Supply



Hyderabad is set to remain a key growth driver of India's office market in 2026, with demand and supply each projected at 10-12 million sq ft, reinforcing its position among the country's top commercial hubs, according to Colliers. At the national level, India's Grade A office demand is expected to remain robust at 70-75 million sq ft in 2026, with new supply estimated at 60-65 million sq ft, supported by a diversified occupier base, expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and growing adoption of flexible workspaces.

Hyderabad, along with Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR, is expected to anchor this growth cycle, benefiting from strong leasing momentum, stable supply additions and continued occupier interest in high-quality assets, said Colliers' report '2026 India office: Unlocking agility, vitality and flight-to-quality.' The report notes that Hyderabad continues to benefit from a strong technology ecosystem, cost competitiveness and availability of Grade A office space, making it a preferred destination for GCCs and large occupiers.

MLA Acts on Mosque Access Issue

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin visited Masjid-e-Qutub Shahi at Malkam Cheruvu after the closure of a nearby U-turn caused inconvenience to worshippers. Following a complaint filed by the Masjid Committee at Raidurg Police Station, the MLA inspected the site along with committee members, the local Inspector, and the Traffic Inspector. During the visit, he reviewed the situation on the ground and inter-



acted with officials regarding the difficulties faced by musallies accessing the mosque. MLA Kausar Mohiuddin directed the concerned authorities to immediately ensure that the U-turn re-

mains open to facilitate smooth access for worshippers. The intervention brought relief to local residents and mosque attendees, highlighting prompt action in addressing civic concerns.

Civil Supplies seize 38 domestic LPG cylinders in Balanagar raids

The Civil Supplies authorities conducted raids at various commercial outlets in Balanagar and seized domestic LPG gas cylinders on Tuesday. Acting on information about diversion of domestic LPG cylinders to commercial market, the Assistant Supply Officer Balanagar, G Kalyan, conducted raids at multiple places at Chintal, Shahpurnagar, Suraram, Gajulararam and other places.

The officials checked the tiffin centres, roadside eateries and fast food corners, and found the management was using domestic gas for commercial cooking purposes. A

Grand Tribute to Dr. T. Venkat Rama Rao

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Udhaka Shanthi and 12th day (Dwadasa Dina) rituals of the late RTD JD A&H Dr. T. Venkat Rama Rao were performed with deep devotion and traditional reverence. The ceremonies were personally conducted by Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula senior journalist who fulfilled the rites as a matter of family responsibility. His wife, Mrs. Renuka, also participated in the sacred rituals, contributing to the spiritual atmosphere. The rituals were carried out in a highly dignified manner amidst Vedic chants by priests. Family members, relatives, and well-wishers attended in large numbers and offered prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul. On this occasion, the late Dr. Venkat Rama Rao's wife, Smt.



Sridevi (Chinnamma), paid heartfelt tributes to her husband. Their daughters Shirisha, Himabindu, and Indra Priyadarshini participated along with their family members. Mr. Shashi Kumar, husband of Himabindu, also joined the family in offering prayers. Other family members including Satish Kumar, Shashikala, Jyothi, Suharshi, Harsha, Chan-

drika, Dhanush and others, along with grandsons and granddaughters, attended the ceremony and paid their respects with devotion. From the Thanugula family, Dr. T.R.K. Rao Director general mining Nagpur and his family members were present. Sanjiv Family TRK Bayer and his family members. Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula's mother, Smt. Revathi, also participated and offered her respects, adding emotional strength and dignity to the gathering. The event was efficiently organized by the chief coordinator Mr. Sadashiva Rao Vishnudasa, who ensured that all arrangements were carried out smoothly. Conducted in a traditional and spiritual manner, the ceremonies reflected the family's devotion, respect, and deep sense of duty.

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. Rauf 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.

Swift Police Action Exposes Hawala Dacoity

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Swift action by Kukatpally police and CCS Balanagar led to the detection of a sensational ₹1 crore hawala money dacoity case, with the culprits arrested within 24 hours. Police said the breakthrough came after one of the gang members abandoned his vehicle at the crime scene. Ownership details helped trace the accused, who were apprehended while attempting to flee to Lucknow at the Shamshabad airport, around 3 pm on Tuesday. "Our special team acted promptly on information, rushed to the airport, arrested two dacoits while they were trying to flee, and detained them at Kukatpally police station for further investigation,"



said Kukatpally DCP Ritu Raj. The alleged prime conspirator, Md Khusrouddin, along with Md Azeemuddin, was proceeding from Bahadurpura towards Kukatpally on Monday night when Azeemuddin collected ₹1 crore hawala money packed in a cotton box. Khusrouddin's associates — Md Omer Shareef, Md Ghouse Saddam, Abdul Hameed, and others including absconding accused Chotu, Salman, Ghouse, Zeeshan and Jammu — followed them on motorcycles, waiting

for his signal. At Pillar 836, the gang executed their plan by throwing chilli powder into the victims' eyes and fled with the cash. During the offence, Saddam was also affected by the chilli powder and fell onto the road. Investigations revealed Khusrouddin worked at a firm in Bahadurpura, where he and Azeemuddin regularly collected liquid cash using a ₹10 note as a token. The amounts were delivered to one Shaik Ibrahim at different locations. Khusrouddin later realised the

transactions were illegal and conspired to steal the money.

A patrolling constable noticed the incident and alerted Kukatpally police, who registered a case. Details of the abandoned two-wheeler allegedly linked the crime to Saddam's family. Further enquiry showed Saddam, Omer Shareef and Hameed were planning to fly to Lucknow. Acting swiftly, police apprehended them at RGIA with incriminating evidence. Police recovered ₹77.39 lakh, flight tickets worth ₹39,195, the two-wheeler, and five mobile phones. The other accused remain absconding. Cyberabad police commissioner commended Kukatpally and CCS Balanagar teams for cracking the case within 24 hours.

Bansilalpet Iftar Promotes Harmony



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A grand Iftar feast in Bansilalpet showcased strong Hindu-Muslim unity during Ramzan, bringing together community members and leaders in a celebration of harmony and brotherhood. Organised under the leadership of Y.M. Vijayakumar, the event was attended by several Congress leaders, including Dr. Kota Neelima, Deepak John, M.P. Sunil, Anasuya, Rajasekhara, Mamidala Balakrishna, Kondra Ramesh, Dinesh, A. Ma-

hesh, C. Sunil Kumar, Srihari, Pandu, K. Vijay Rahul, Arif, and Khaliq. The gathering highlighted Hyderabad's long-standing tradition of communal harmony. Addressing the attendees, Vijayakumar emphasised the importance of unity among all communities. He expressed hope that people of all religions would continue to live together peacefully, echoing the message of "Hindu-Muslim Bhai Bhai." Leaders at the event praised the initiative, stating that such programmes strengthen social bonds

and promote mutual respect. They encouraged more efforts to bring communities together. The Iftar featured a special mixed fruit salad prepared with fresh seasonal ingredients, symbolising togetherness. Guests interacted warmly, reinforcing the spirit of inclusivity. The programme concluded on a cordial note, with organisers urging people to uphold unity and respect in everyday life, making the event a meaningful example of communal harmony in the city.

Vision Zero, Governance Failed, Telangana Is Sinking: Dasoju Sravan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan Kumar launched a sharp attack on the Congress government led by Revanth Reddy during the Budget Session of the Telangana Legislative Council, calling the Governor's address "visionless" and disconnected from ground realities. Delivering a data-driven critique, he alleged that the government had failed across key sectors including employment, welfare, finances, and social justice. He termed the omission of Telangana martyrs in the Governor's speech as "a shameful act," questioning the non-implementation of promises such as jobs for martyrs' families and ₹25,000 monthly pensions. Highlighting financial concerns, Dr. Sravan Kumar cited gaps between budget estimates and actual revenues, excessive borrowings beyond targets, and declining income from key sectors. "Telangana is sinking financially," he said, disputing claims of growth presented in official statements.



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nancially," he said, disputing claims of growth presented in official statements. On employment, he challenged the government's claim of filling 67,000 jobs, asserting that only around 17,513 positions were newly notified, with many re-branded from previous BRS announcements. He also questioned IT job growth figures and demanded a white paper on employment and investments. The MLC further accused the government of failing to implement its

"six guarantees," including financial aid for women, loan waivers for farmers, and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme. He alleged that BC reservation promises were diluted through GO 46, calling it a "betrayal of social justice," and demanded the release of SEBC survey data. Raising concerns over the Musi River project, he alleged forced demolitions without rehabilitation, while also criticising the handling of projects like Kaleshwar Project and Medigadda barrage. He also flagged issues including alleged irregularities in the Young India Skill University, lack of inquiry into Miss World event allegations, and declining SDG rankings in areas such as health, education, and equality. Dr. Sravan Kumar concluded by urging immediate government action, including transparency measures, welfare implementation, and protection of Telangana's cultural and public assets.

Telangana AAP Warns Government Over Rising Drug Mafia

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Alleging a surge in drug-related activities across Telangana, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State Working President Burra Ramu Goud launched a sharp attack on the state government, accusing it of failing to curb the growing drug mafia. He claimed that the administration has become a silent spectator while illegal drug networks expand across the state. Ramu Goud questioned the role of the Chief Minister, who also handles the Home portfolio, asking why strict action has not been taken

despite reports of drug parties in farmhouses, pubs, and clubs. He alleged that political connections may be shielding those involved and demanded accountability, even suggesting resignation if the government is unable to control the situation. He also targeted BJP and TDP, accusing them of maintaining silence over alleged involvement of a TDP MP in a drug case. He warned that Telangana should not become a hub for illegal activities driven by networks from neighboring states and called for stringent action against those responsible. Highlighting the broader impact,

Ramu Goud said drug abuse is contributing to rising crime rates, including thefts and assaults, and insisted that the political backing behind such networks must be exposed. Citing AAP governance models in Delhi and Punjab, he said strong measures can dismantle drug networks if there is political will. AAP put forward key demands, including immediate arrests in drug cases, formation of a zero-tolerance special task force, and constant surveillance of clubs and farmhouses. The party warned of statewide protests if the government fails to act decisively.



Protect BC Hostel Land from Encroachments: Residents Demand Action



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents of Gopinagar, Bapunagar, and Nehrunagar have urged authorities to protect the BC Boys Hostel land in Gopinagar, located in Serilingampally mandal, from alleged encroachments.

They submitted representations to Deputy Collector, Tahsildar Mahipal Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Hemanth Borkade, BC Development Officer (Deputy Director) Keshuram, and Serilingampally Corporation Ragam Nagender Yadav. The welfare association members expressed concern that despite the hostel existing for decades, no proper boundary wall has been constructed, leaving the land vulnerable. They warned that the absence of protection is leading to gradual encroachments on the premises. Calling for immediate action, the residents appealed to officials and public representatives to intervene and safeguard the hostel land for the benefit of students. Several residents from Gopinagar, Bapunagar, and Nehrunagar localities participated in submitting the petition.

Kavitha Reddy Named IIFHW Chairperson



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr Kavitha Reddy, a doctor from Nizamabad, has assumed charge as chairperson of the governing council of the Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare. She officially took charge at the institute's office in Hyderabad. State government advisor and Bodhan MLA P Sudarshan Reddy, along with Jagtial MLA Sanjay, attended

the event as chief guests. On the occasion, Dr Kavitha Reddy expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, ministers and MLAs for appointing her to the post. She said she would work towards protecting public health and prepare an action plan to ensure better medical services in government hospitals. She also pledged to strive for further development of the institute.

Ramzan Tohfa Brings Smiles in Cantonment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader and former Vice President of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board, Jampana Pratap, distributed 'Ramzan Tohfa' gift packages to underprivileged families at his residence in New City Colony, New Bowenpally, on Tuesday. The initiative aimed to support economically weaker Muslim families ahead of the upcoming Eid celebrations. The distribution primarily



benefited residents of Bapuji Nagar basti in Ward No. 1, ensuring that the spirit of the holy month of Ramazan reaches every

household, regardless of financial hardship. The Ramzan Tohfa, a government-supported initiative, includes essential items

meant to ease the burden on families observing the fast. Addressing the gathering, Jampana Pratap highlighted the spiritual importance of Ramazan, noting that even those facing financial struggles observe fasting with deep faith and devotion. He emphasized that the festival, which culminates with the sighting of the moon, should be celebrated with joy, unity, and enthusiasm by all communities.

IAS Hari Chandana Honoured for Fair Polls

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

IAS officer Hari Chandana has been honoured by the Ministry of Co-operation for conducting transparent and fair cooperative elections for Mahesh Cooperative Bank in Hyderabad. She is among only five District Collectors selected from nearly 800 across the country for this recognition. The award was presented by Krishna Pal Gurjar on March 12, 2026, acknowledging her role in ensuring a smooth, transparent, and well-coordinated election process in the cooperative sector. Cooperative societies are vital for strengthening



rural and local economies, supporting sectors like agriculture, credit, and marketing. Their effectiveness depends on democratic governance, which requires free and fair elections to ensure accountability and representation. At the district level, conducting such elections involves complex ad-

ministrative responsibilities, including verification of membership records, strict adherence to legal procedures, coordination with co-operative department officials, and efficient management of polling and counting processes. Under Hari Chandana's leadership, the entire process was executed with high levels of transparency, efficiency, and inter-departmental coordination, ensuring the integrity of the institution's democratic functioning. The recognition underscores the importance of ethical governance and aligns with the national vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi," promoting prosperity through cooperation.

LPG shortage worsens as Modi government focuses on excuses: Rahul

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that the LPG crisis in the country is deepening but the Modi government is busy spinning tales, taunting those who ask questions, and offering one excuse after another. In a Facebook post in Hindi along with a video montage on the reported LPG shortage, Gandhi alleged that the Modi government has "compromised" India's energy security and if adequate preparations are not made even now, the times ahead will bring an even graver crisis. "The LPG crisis in the country is deepening; yet, instead of offering solutions, the Modi government is spinning tall tales, taunting those who ask



questions, and offering one new excuse after another," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said. The reality is that the government itself is "rattled", Gandhi said. "What was the first sign of this panic? As soon as supplies stalled, gas prices were hiked. Upon whom was the burden of this crisis placed? Upon you, the people of this country," he said.

Gandhi argued that this "crisis" did not emerge

overnight. "It is the result of a weak foreign policy that operates under duress. When the US exerted pressure on our energy policy, the 'Compromised PM' capitulated and made a deal," he alleged. "Another major failure of this government: India has been rendered completely dependent on imports. The government has failed to develop the country's domestic energy capacity," the former Congress chief claimed.

Most importantly, the government failed to recognize the looming danger in time, he said. The warning signs of an energy crisis were evident early on, yet the government took belated and half-hearted measures, Gandhi claimed. "Today, the situation is dire: businesses are shutting down, and kitchen stoves in homes are going cold. Who is bearing the brunt of this suffering? You, the people of this country," he said. "The truth is stark: the Modi government has compromised India's energy security. And if adequate preparations are not made even now, the times ahead will bring an even graver crisis," he said. "And once again, the heaviest price for it will be paid by the very same people, you, the citizens

of India, standing in queues for gas," he added. With the LPG supply squeeze impacting hotels, businesses and household consumers through longer waiting periods and panic bookings, the Centre has asked states to expedite approvals for piped gas projects to enable faster rollout and ease pressure on cooking gas availability. As the war in West Asia, which blocked India's access to almost 60 per cent of its LPG, continues with no end in sight, the government is now pushing for the use of alternative cooking mediums like induction cooktops. "Situation remains a matter of concern, but we are providing supplies as before to the domestic consumers," said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

India on the Cusp of a New Phase in Global Trade: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Amid the widening West Asia war, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that India is on the cusp of a new phase in global trade that could strengthen its position worldwide. The comments of the minister come at a time when merchandise domestic exporters are reportedly facing the cost pressure as well as insurance challenges due to the geopolitical situations. The minister, however, acknowledged that the recent global developments have put pressure on India's trade numbers, saying that the trade pressures are visible, but it's manageable. "I believe a new phase, a new era of international trade for India is beginning a new chapter that will strengthen India's



position in the world, framing India's trade trajectory as resilient despite near-term pressures," he said in a reply to the Lok Sabha. As geopolitical disruptions weigh on global supply chains, it has been observed that over the past one to two months, the country has seen a rise in trade deficit and stress in merchandise exports, driven in part by disruptions such as shipping constraints through the Strait of Hormuz, higher freight costs and insurance challenges as well. While tensions in the Middle East have not yet caused any systemic disruption to trade financing, industry experts are expecting more cau-

tiou approach from exporters and importers, particularly in Gulf-linked trade corridors. "Despite the government measures, there is still a concern for small businesses, especially the trade financing of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) amid the ongoing middle-east tensions," they said. "Some export-oriented MSMEs are facing shipment delays and higher logistics and insurance costs, which is prompting greater reliance on invoice discounting and receivables financing to manage working capital. If geopolitical uncertainties persist, demand for structured working capital solutions is likely to increase as businesses seek to secure liquidity and mitigate payment cycle risks," said Ketan Gaikwad, MD & CEO, RXIL.

TMC Names 291 Faces For WB Polls

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal's ruling Trinamul Congress on Tuesday announced that the party will contest 291 of the 294 seats in the Assembly polls, leaving three for the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM). TMC supremo and three-time CM Mamata Banerjee will contest from her home turf, Bhowanipore. The BJP is fielding Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari against her. Mamata Banerjee, along with her MP nephew Abhishek



Banerjee, announced the TMC candidates' list — dropping 74 from the 2021 poll — at her residence in Kalighat before the media and exuded confidence of winning a fourth consecutive term. She declared that her party would bag more than 226 seats in the polls. Asked about her rival candidate, Mamata Baner-

jee sounded irritated but said, "I have faith in people because I stay with them 365 days, discharging my responsibilities. Our party will win with a big margin in Bhowanipore." The Chief Minister also took potshots at the BJP and Left Front for failing to release their full candidates' list, like her party, in one go. Giving out the details of candidates' selection, Abhishek Banerjee, who is also the TMC national general secretary, said that among the 291 picks, 95 represent the SC/ST communities. "Out of 95

candidates, 78 belong to SC communities, while 17 are STs. There are also 52 women in the list, and 47 candidates are from the minority community," he said. The TMC dropped 74 old faces, including many heavyweights like Partha Chatterjee, Manik Bhattacharya and Jiban Krishna Saha, who were arrested by the Central agencies in the school jobs scam. Chiranjit and Kanchan Mullick, Swarna Kamal Saha, Tapan Dasgupta, Asit Majumdar and Vivek Gupta are among those who are dropped.

Tigress Found Dead In Karnataka's Chamarajanagar

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

A sub-adult tigress about 2 years was found dead in an agricultural field at Padugar village of Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar on Monday night at around 10.45 pm and forest officials suspect the death of the tigress to have occurred after it came into contact with a live wire drawn from a nearby pole to his fence to guard his crops. The field is taken on lease by a farmer Parameshwarappa. Forest officials told Deccan Chronicle on Tuesday the carcass of the tigress was discovered about 15-km from the Bandipur Tiger Reserve

buffer zone. The strayed tigress came into contact with a live wire leading to its death. The power connection has been drawn by Parameshwarappa to his electric fence to guard his banana and jowar crops. After the tigress death, forest officials said Parameshwarappa is absconding while Terakanambi police of Gundlupet and officials of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation inspected the spot to find out the power drawn by the farmer which led to the death of a tigress. CAPTION---Carcass of tigress discovered in a field at Terakanambi of Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar on Monday.



Strategic Energy Mitigation Framework Needed to Protect Economy From Oil Shocks: Panel

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A parliamentary panel on Tuesday suggested that the department of economic affairs should develop a strategic energy mitigation framework to protect the economy from oil shocks and ensure long-term stability. Besides, the standing committee on finance also emphasised in its report that a coordinated national strategy is also needed for the rapidly evolving global competition for critical minerals and rare earth elements. Critical minerals and rare earth elements are essential for semiconductors, renewable energy systems, electric mobility, defence technologies, and the development of alternative fuels, requires a coordinated national strategy. "The framework should incorporate sector-specific incentives, including single-window approvals, fast-track clearances for high-value manufacturing and frontier technology projects, and targeted R&D linked fiscal benefits, to attract and retain institutional investors despite global volatility," the panel said in a report. The panel, headed by senior BJP leader Bhartru-



hari Mahtab, has, therefore, recommended that the government accelerate efforts to secure diversified international supply chains for critical minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements, while simultaneously strengthening domestic exploration, processing, and value-addition capabilities to support emerging sectors, including renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuel technologies. Regarding investment, the panel has recommended that the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Finance Ministry must streamline the FDI regulatory framework to counter the global downward trend and ensure India remains a preferred destination for long-term institutional capital. Most critically, the committee have recommended that the department facilitate a 'Structural Reform Bridge' to help states transition

away from revenue deficit grants (RDGs). "This must include a rigorous mechanism to discourage fiscal populism by linking 'Special Assistance for Capital Investment' to the successful rationalisation of revenue expenditure. By enforcing strict adherence to off-budget borrowings (OBBs) reporting and promoting fiscal prudence, the government can ensure that the transition to a post-RDG era strengthens the internal economic fabric of the nation," the report said. The panel also recommended the establishment of a more formalised 'Sinking Fund' to manage the redemption of long-term bonds systematically. "The DEA maintains high levels of transparency regarding 'Off-Budget' liabilities to ensure the market has an accurate view of the total repayment obligations, thereby maintaining the stability of the sovereign credit rating," the panel suggested.

Trade Deficit With.....

The imports from China in February alone grew by 30 per cent and for the period between April and February, it grew by 15.2 per cent. The gap is projected to widen further to about \$111.4 billion for the full year, finds GTRI. "The imbalance reflects India's reliance on Chinese components and industrial inputs, including electronics parts, electric-vehicle batteries and components, solar cells and modules, machinery, organic chemicals and pharmaceutical ingredients, which remain difficult to source domestically," it said. In FY25, the trade deficit with China stood at \$99.2 billion. It has risen from \$1.1 billion in 2003-04 to \$99.2 billion in 2024-25. China's trade deficit accounted for about 35 per cent of India's total trade imbalance of \$283 billion in the last fiscal. The trade deficit was \$85.1 billion in 2023-24. The total imports of goods and services touched \$900.5 billion between April and February is most likely to cross \$1 trillion in FY26. In FY25, total imports stood at \$915 billion. Meanwhile, India's exports to the US reached \$79.3 billion during April-February, up 3.8 per cent from a year earlier, despite the high tariffs on several products. "At the current pace, exports to the US—India's largest export market—are expected to reach about \$86.5 billion in the fiscal year ending March 2026," finds GTRI. In FY25, India had exported goods valued at \$86.5

billion in FY 2024-25. Even with the higher tariffs, India managed to maintain the goods exports in FY26. Due to the US-imposed restrictions on buying crude oil from Russia, the imports from the country dipped 13 per cent in February and 12 per cent between April and February. **India Begins.....** "The fuel availability is stable now as we are getting more crude today due to increased diversification. Most of the LPG is coming from the Gulf. Besides, our OMCs have started taking LPG from the US despite our refineries running at full capacity and sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel. The government is putting all efforts to diversify sources of LPG," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, while briefing the media. Officials further said that commercial LPG supplies, which had earlier been halted, have now been partially restored, with states resuming distribution. "To ease pressure on domestic LPG demand, alternative fuels such as kerosene and coal have also been activated. Authorities have also stepped-up enforcement to prevent malpractice — hoarding and black marketing as well," they said. "More than 12,000 inspections have been carried out, leading to the seizure of around 15,000 LPG cylinders. The panic-driven demand is easing and there is a downward trend in panic booking. On March 13, there were 89 lakh panic bookings. It has come down to 70

lakhs today. LPG refill distribution rate remains the same as before the conflict." Sharma urged consumers to avoid hoarding and refrain from black-market purchases. **President Droupadi...** The event was held in the august presence of Akshaya Patra's founders - Madhu Pandit Dasa, Chairman and President of ISKCON Bangalore, and Shri Chanchalpathi Dasa, Vice Chairman and Sr. Vice President. The theme of the event — 'Suposhit and Sukhshrit Bharat for Viksit Bharat' highlighted the collective efforts towards child nutrition and education for a developed India. The event was attended by Akshaya Patra's Board of Trustees, senior government officials, distinguished leaders, public policy think tanks, philanthropists, partners, supporters and key stakeholders. Some of the past beneficiaries of Akshaya Patra, students, parents, teachers and staff from government schools were also present. The President gave gifts, served meals and in a heartfelt gesture, personally fed the children with her own hands. Currently in Telangana, Akshaya Patra is feeding 2.5 lakh meals daily through 5 centralised kitchens, and Akshaya Patra Founder and Chairman Shri Madhu Pandit Dasa, and Telangana President Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa were present during the celebrations along with the President of India. As an implementing partner of the Government of India's flagship PM POSHAN initiative, Ak-

shaya Patra has been serving fresh, nutritious meals to millions of children studying in government schools across India. **Starmer, Zelenskyy...** Starmer welcomed Zelenskyy at his official Downing Street residence on Tuesday, reassuring the Ukrainian leader that "the focus must remain on Ukraine", days after the US partially rolled back sanctions against Moscow to cool oil prices sent soaring by its attacks on Iran. The British Prime Minister's office said NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte would also join the meeting to discuss peacemaking efforts in Ukraine, which have so far been led by the US, but have stalled as the war on Iran escalates, and "the need to maintain sanctions pressure on Russia". "There is obviously a conflict in Iran going on, in the Middle East, but we can't lose focus on what's going on in Ukraine and the need for our support there," said Starmer, who was meeting Zelenskyy to sign a defence partnership aimed at boosting "global defensive capability against the proliferation of low-cost, high-tech military hardware". The deal would combine Ukraine's "expertise" in building high-tech, battle-tested drone interceptors and the UK's "industrial base to manufacture and supply drones and innovative capabilities", said Starmer's office. Starmer said in a statement that "drones, electronic warfare and rapid battlefield innovation are now central to national

FROM FRONT PAGE

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 18, 2026

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.

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 Vellapalem, 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.

Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court plea dismissed

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 Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice N.V. Shrivani Kumar, 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.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Aparesk 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 Swagraha 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 Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a petition filed by the Telangana Private Medical and Dental College Management 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.

Eagle Uses Advanced Tools To Detect Drug Users

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana's drug law enforcement agency EAGLE is strengthening its strategy with a mix of technology, field intelligence and rehabilitation support, even as recent cases have exposed loopholes in on-the-spot testing methods. According to a senior EAGLE official, drug detection kits are widely used during raids to conduct immediate tests. "These kits are effective for on-the-spot checks and provide instant

results," the official said. In 2025 alone, around 1,000 to 1,300 drug kits were used during raids. In the first three months of this year, approximately 50 kits have already been used.

An officer said the drug kits are being procured from a multinational company and can detect more than 10 drugs, including ganja, opium, MDMA, LSD and cocaine. The tests can be conducted using urine, saliva or blood samples. In the recent Moinabad farmhouse case, one of the accused,

Telugu Desam Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar, allegedly diluted his urine sample, leading to a negative result in the drug kit test. Subsequent blood analysis confirmed his consumption of methamphetamine. To address such gaps, authorities have identified 36 laboratories to conduct confirmatory medical tests. EAGLE teams are also relying on trained canine units during raids and checks. "The use of sniffer dogs is often more efficient than collecting random samples. They

can identify suspects quickly and accurately. Canine squads are now being deployed in buses, trains and public places as part of routine checks," an official said. Under a new standard operating procedure (SOP) being coordinated with the law and order police, special focus is being placed on Hyderabad's thriving pub and nightlife scene. Officials said background checks will ensure that DJs or staff with prior drug-related involvement are not engaged.



Government claims \$2.81 billion from Reliance and BP over alleged KG basin gas siphoning

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union government has informed Parliament that it has raised a claim of \$2.81 billion (approximately ₹25,983 crore) against Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its partner BP over the alleged extraction of natural gas from fields owned by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the eastern offshore Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi revealed this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, stating that the matter is currently sub judice before the Supreme Court of India.



His response came following a query by Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash, who asked whether the government had claimed over \$2 billion from private companies for alleged gas theft from ONGC's offshore blocks, and sought details of the firms involved and payment status.

The dispute centres around the KG-D6 block operated by Reliance, which lies adja-

cent to ONGC's fields. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has alleged that between 2004 and 2013-14, RIL extracted gas that had migrated from ONGC's blocks, resulting in "unjust enrichment" estimated at more than \$1.55 billion, excluding interest. Based on subsequent calculations and interest, the total claim has now risen to \$2.81 billion.

A major turning point

in the case came with the February 14, 2025 ruling of the Delhi High Court. A division bench set aside a 2018 arbitration award that had earlier absolved Reliance of liability. The court also overturned a prior single-judge ruling that had termed the government's demand "unsustainable," thereby reviving the government's claim.

Reliance Industries has strongly denied any wrongdoing. The company argues that the gas in question was "migratory" in nature, meaning it naturally moved across reservoir boundaries due to geological conditions. According to RIL, such movement is a recognized phenomenon in

hydrocarbon extraction and does not constitute illegal extraction or theft.

Following the High Court verdict, Reliance and BP have challenged the ruling in the Supreme Court, where the matter is currently pending. As of now, no payments have been made by the companies.

The case is being closely watched as it carries significant implications for India's energy sector. It could set an important legal precedent regarding resource ownership, liability, and operational boundaries in offshore oil and gas exploration, particularly in complex geological zones like the KG basin.

ISUZU Launches Nationwide Pre-Summer Service Camp

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Isuzu Motors India has announced a nationwide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' to enhance customer convenience and ensure vehicles are summer-ready. The service initiative will be conducted from March 23 to March 28, 2026, across all authorised ISUZU dealer service outlets in the country. The camp is open to owners of ISUZU D-MAX pick-ups and SUVs, offering a range of preventive maintenance checks along with exclusive service benefits. Customers can avail special discounts and offers on servicing, aimed at improving vehicle performance and ensuring a hassle-free driving experience during the summer season. As part of the 'ISUZU Care' programme, the initiative re-



fects the company's continued focus on strengthening after-sales support and delivering superior ownership experience. The camp will include comprehensive inspections of key vehicle components such as air conditioning systems, engine performance, fluid levels, brakes, and overall vehicle health to help customers avoid breakdowns during extreme weather conditions. The Pre-Summer Camp will be organised across a wide network of authorised service centres in major cities including Hydera-

bad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam, along with several tier-2 and tier-3 locations, ensuring easy accessibility for customers nationwide. By conducting such seasonal service initiatives, ISUZU aims to promote proactive vehicle maintenance while reinforcing customer trust and long-term reliability. The programme also underlines the brand's commitment to safety, efficiency, and customer satisfaction across its growing footprint in India.

EAM Jaishankar, EU leaders discuss 'enormous economic potential' under FTA

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar concluded a productive visit to Brussels, where he held talks with leaders and foreign ministers from the European Union (EU) and discussed "enormous economic potential" under the recently signed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to advance cooperation across trade, technology, security, and connectivity.

Taking to social media

platform X, EAM Jaishankar announced details of the meeting, stating that he met members of the EU Foreign Affairs Council and held discussions with senior European leaders, including Antonio Costa, Ursula von der Leyen, and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas. "Concluded a productive visit to Brussels, meeting with the European Union Foreign Affairs Council, calling on EU Council President Antonio Costa

and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and holding talks with EU HRVP Kaja Kallas. Also met EU counterparts and held separate bilateral discussions with many," Jaishankar wrote in a post.

The External Affairs Minister highlighted that the finalisation of the FTA would mark a major milestone in bilateral relations, adding that it represents a turning point in India-EU ties.

"The finalisation of the Free Trade Agreement



(FTA) represents a turning point in India-EU ties. It will not only unlock its enormous economic potential but also express the strategic nature of our engagement," he said.

To realise the gains of the FTA on the ground, he further stated that both sides should proactively assist each other in practical activities, including trade and investment pro-

motion. EAM Jaishankar noted, "The Trade and Technology Council (TTC) can be upgraded and repurposed to facilitate collaboration in critical and cutting-edge technologies." He also emphasised that de-risking supply chains and enhancing resilience are shared objectives, adding that the FTA will encourage "deeper business linkages" to that end. Highlighting the importance of talent mobility, he said, "Mobility of skills and talent flows are

very important. The establishment of the Legal Gateway Office in India is noteworthy." He added that both sides have a common interest in promoting Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India. EAM Jaishankar also stated that both sides will further the security cooperation by taking the Security and Defence Partnership forward, and mentioned that efforts will be made to conclude the Security of Information Agreement early. "Connectivity is also

prominent in our agenda. We will work together to give practical shape to IMEC and other such initiatives," he said. He further noted that as multilateralism comes under stress, India and the EU will strive to strengthen their institutions and practices. "Our Strategic Partnership will be carried out through close and regular consultations at the leadership level. Domain-specific mechanisms will support those efforts," EAM Jaishankar added.

CBIT Hosts Global Finance Lecture

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A guest lecture on "Global Finance, Money, Business Management, Entrepreneurship & MBA" was held on March 17, 2026, at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, offering students key insights into international finance and career opportunities.

The session, organized by the MCA Department in association with the CBIT



Career Development Cell, featured Ms. Magdalena Partac, Deputy Head of the School of Economics & International Business

and Senior Lecturer in Accounting & Finance at Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom. Ms. Partac highlighted global fi-

nancial systems, emerging trends in business management, and the growing scope of entrepreneurship. She also guided students on pursuing higher education abroad, stressing the importance of global exposure, adaptability, and skill development in today's competitive landscape.

The interactive lecture enabled students to gain clarity on career prospects in finance and international business. Participants actively engaged in

discussions, raising queries related to overseas education, job markets, and entrepreneurship pathways. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and aspiring entrepreneurs, making it a highly informative and impactful session.

Faculty members noted that such initiatives help bridge the gap between academic learning and global industry expectations, preparing students for international careers.

When EVs Break Down, This 22-Year-Old Has the Fix

Meet the 22-Year-Old Rishabh Bhandari Jain Keeping India's Electric Dreams Running

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As electric vehicles rapidly transform India's mobility landscape, one young entrepreneur is stepping up to solve a critical gap—reliable servicing and repair. Rishabh Bhandari Jain, a 22-year-old innovator, is emerging as a key player in the growing EV ecosystem through his venture, EV Clinic.

Recognizing that many EV owners struggle to find skilled mechanics when issues arise, Rishabh launched EV Clinic as a one-stop solution for electric vehicle repairs. His workshop caters to a wide range of vehicles—from popular brands like Ather Energy and Bajaj Auto to locally operated e-rickshaws that form the backbone of last-mile connectivity. EV Clinic offers specialized services including battery diagnostics, motor rewinding, and access to hard-to-find spare parts that often take months to procure elsewhere. Equipped with trained technicians and modern



tools, the facility ensures faster turnaround times and dependable service for EV users. Speaking about his vision, Rishabh highlights the gap between EV adoption and service infrastructure. He emphasizes that while people are investing in electric vehicles for a sustainable future, the lack of reliable maintenance support often leaves them stranded. EV Clinic aims to bridge this divide by delivering consistent and trustworthy repair solutions. Beyond technical expertise, the venture focuses on

customer confidence and long-term reliability. By combining skilled manpower with efficient processes, EV Clinic is steadily building a reputation as a go-to destination for EV servicing. As India accelerates toward cleaner transportation, initiatives like EV Clinic are playing a crucial role in supporting the ecosystem. Through innovation and commitment, Rishabh Bhandari Jain is ensuring that the journey toward a greener future remains smooth and uninterrupted for EV owners.

Deepthi Srirangam Wins Miss Infinity 2026

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Deepthi Srirangam from Andhra Pradesh was crowned Miss Infinity of India 2026 at a grand finale held in Hyderabad, marking the highlight of a nationwide pageant that celebrated beauty, talent, and unity. The prestigious Miss Infinity of India 2026 competition concluded after a rigorous four-month journey that began with auditions across the



country. The event attracted over 500-600 participants, from which top contestants were shortlisted through multiple screening rounds. Finalists representing 30

states competed in the finale, showcasing India's cultural diversity and spirit. Deepthi's victory reflects seven years of dedication, perseverance, and consistent effort, set-

ting an inspiring example for aspiring young women. Her performance stood out across multiple rounds that tested confidence, intelligence, talent, personality, and elegance. The grand event was attended by renowned music composer Koti as the Chief Guest, who encouraged participants and praised the platform for promoting talent and empowerment. An esteemed jury panel evaluated the contestants, including Mou-

nika Kalapala, Naksha Saran, Dr. Akshaya, and J. Pranoop Jawahar. The stage presentation and visual appeal were enhanced under the creative direction of choreographer Manceendra Kumar. Beyond competition, the pageant served as a platform for women's empowerment, confidence-building, and cultural representation. Participants from diverse backgrounds reflected the unity in diversity that defines India.

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 18, 2026

Dharmendra missing from Oscars 'In Memoriam'; Priyanka Chopra returns to stage

India had a brief, starry moment at the Oscar stage when Priyanka Chopra Jonas presented the award for best international feature film alongside Javier Bardem who grabbed attention with his declaration "No to war, free Palestine".

But those seeking more of India at the 98th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre here on Sunday were in for a disappointment. Bollywood legend Dharmendra was conspicuously absent from the In Memoriam segment and Indian American filmmaker Geeta Gandhir didn't



win either of her two nominations. "The Devil Is Busy" was nominated in the best documentary short category and "The Perfect Neighbor" in the best documentary feature segment.

And then there was Isha Ambani, daughter of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, who attended Hollywood's biggest night with her

husband Anand Piramal. While she wore a vintage strapless column gown from Valentino's Fall 2006 couture collection, featuring floral embroidery in pastel shades of lilac, pink, blue and green, Piramal opted for a Dolce and Gabbana suit.

For Chopra Jonas, it was a return to the Oscars stage after a

decade. Dressed in a white feathered Dior gown, the 43-year-old actor said global stories "remind us that international is never truly far away... because every story sends a ripple far beyond where it begins," she said.

Her on stage moment with Bardem, who opened with the words "No to war, free Palestine" while wearing a patch bearing the slogan "No a la Guerra", the same anti-war slogan he sported more than two decades ago to protest the Iraq war in 2003, made sure she was splashed across social media plat-

forms and elsewhere.

The winner in the category was "Sentimental Value", directed by Norway's Joachim Trier. And Dharmendra, India's loved Hindi movie star who passed away in November 2025 at the age of 89, was not the only one absent from the broadcast's In Memoriam segment — despite it running 15 minutes longer than in previous years, with special remembrances for Hollywood legends Rob Reiner, Diane Keaton and Robert Redford. Also missing were Brigitte Bardot, James Van Der Beek and Eric Dane. Movies

Swadesh jewellery Shines at Oscars red carpet

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

At the Oscars red carpet, Brandi Carlile and Catherine Shepherd wore fine jewellery by Swadesh, bringing the brilliance of Indian craftsmanship to Hollywood's most iconic stage.

Brandi Carlile wore the Petal Prism Brooch, inspired by the organic geometry of a sunflower. Handcrafted in gold and centred around a luminous oval-cut emerald, the brooch is framed by pavé-set diamonds arranged through an open-setting technique that allows light to move freely through the stones. Every petal and the diamond-studded stem were shaped with precision, requiring over 100 man-hours of



craftsmanship by master artisans in Telangana, whose goldsmithing traditions have been passed down through generations.

Catherine Shepherd wore a diamond necklace crafted with extraordinary flexibility, designed to drape and flow with the softness of fabric. Its articulated construction echoes the delicate barb of a feather, allowing each segment to move in harmony and create a fluid, weightless silhouette

along the neckline. A continuous ribbon of hand-set diamonds runs through the piece, arranged in a refined chevron-inspired pattern with subtle Victorian-era detailing that lends the jewel an antique romance. In the spirit of Swadesh, these creations honour India's rich artisanal legacy—celebrating the inherited mastery of craftspeople who transform precious materials into enduring works of art.

'KPop Demon Hunters' Wins Oscar for Best Animated Film



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

"KPop Demon Hunters" won the Academy Award for best animated feature film on Sunday, capping a culturally defining run that has placed the musical-action movie atop both box-office and music charts. Netflix's big blockbuster follows HUNTR/X, a Korean girl group that battles otherworldly demons, a rival boy band and their lead singer's own shame. Its choppy animation style,

which combines 2D anime aesthetics with 3D CGI stylizations, underscores the high-octane action. The soundtrack, led by the Grammy-winning hit "Golden," landed eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100. Alongside all the demon-slaying and choreography is a creative tale of self-acceptance that blends Korean mythology and K-pop idol culture.

In her acceptance speech, director Maggie Kang apologized to "those of you who look like me" that it took so long for

them to be represented on the screen. "This is for Korea and Koreans everywhere," she said. The win further demonstrates the global influence of South Korean pop culture. The film's fantastical world, where the only force standing between evil spirits and humanity is one snack-loving vocal trio, inspired many children's Halloween costumes in the United States. The HUNTR/X singers — Ejae, Audrey Nuna and Rei Ami — gained hundreds of thou-

sands of Instagram followers, performed at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and appeared alongside Bad Bunny on the "Saturday Night Live" season premiere.

Arden Cho, who provided the speaking voice for Rumi, was named one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2025. The film's victory came as little surprise to those following awards season. The other nominees — "Arco," "Elio," "Little Amélie or the Character of Rain" and

"Zootopia 2" — had racked up few prizes at the shows leading up to the Oscars. "KPop Demon Hunters" won big at many of the precursors, including the Producers Guild Awards and the Golden Globes.

The recognition continues voters' celebration of original animated stories that don't adapt existing intellectual property. Recent winners include Hayao Miyazaki's "The Boy and the Heron" and the Latvian film "Flow."

New Zealand beats South Africa by 68 runs in 2nd T20 to level



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

New Zealand bounced back strongly to defeat South Africa by 68 runs in the second T20I, leveling the five-match series 1-1 on Tuesday. A composed batting effort followed by a clinical bowling display helped the hosts dominate on a challenging surface. Opening the in-

nings, New Zealand posted a competitive total of 175/6 after being put in to bat. Devon Conway led the charge with a well-crafted 60, anchoring the innings and ensuring stability at the top.

He was well supported early on by Tom Latham, who played innovative shots including a ramp six, as the duo powered the team to 43

without loss in the powerplay. Despite a slight slowdown in the middle overs, contributions from Nick Kelly (21) and Mitchell Santner (20) kept the scoreboard ticking. A late flourish from Josh Clarkson, who smashed 26 off just nine balls, along with Cole McCool, added crucial runs in the final over. In response, South Africa

struggled from the outset as the pitch offered variable bounce and pace, making stroke-play difficult.

The innings folded for just 107 in 15.3 overs, with all wickets falling to catches. Ben Sears (3/14) and Lockie Ferguson (3/16) led the bowling attack, dismantling the batting lineup with disciplined pace and accuracy.

The only resistance came from George Linde, who played a quickfire knock of 33 off 12 balls, hitting three fours and three sixes. However, his effort was not enough to prevent a collapse, as South Africa lost their last six wickets for just 40 runs. Captain Keshav Maharaj acknowledged his team's struggles, crediting New Zealand's bowlers for their early pressure. The third T20I of the series will be played in Auckland on Friday, with both teams aiming to take the lead.

BCCI honours Hyderabad's Trisha and Drithi at Naman Awards

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabadis G Trisha and Drithi Kesari have been felicitated at the BCCI Naman Awards in Delhi.

The two girls from the City were members of the Under-19 World Cup winning Indian team in 2025 in Malaysia.

Trisha, the leg-spinning all-rounder, created history at the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup by becoming the first player to score a century in the tournament's history, making critics take a closer look at her in the world of cricket.

It has been a fairy tale journey for Trisha, whose cricket career began in Khammam before the family moved to the City. She represented Hyderabad under-16 team in the 2014-15 season and next year made it to the Hyderabad under-23 team. Later, with her consistency in domestic cricket, she represented South Zone before featuring in the 2023 Under-19 World Cup in South Africa. The 20-year-old Trisha also represented India in the Emerging Team, India-A series against England, and the Emerging Asia Cup.

Off-spinner Drithi has been performing consistently well in domestic cricket this season with



G Trisha

impressive hauls. In the under-23 national one-day Elite Group, she stood third with 14 wickets. In the seniors category, she is the No 1 bowler from Hyderabad, picking a five-wicket haul against Delhi.

The awards ceremony recognized excellence across international, domestic, and age-group cricket, highlighting India's rich cricketing talent.

It may be mentioned that Shubman Gill and Smriti Mandhana took home the top honours as Best International Cricketers, with Gill winning the Polly Um-



Drithi Kesari

rigar Award for the second time and Mandhana receiving the award for the fifth time.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Rahul Dravid, Roger Binny and Mithali Raj, who has been an inspiration for many young talents over the years.

Other notable winners included Harshit Rana (best international debut), N Sree Charani (best international debut – women), Smriti Mandhana (highest ODI runs) and Deepti Sharma (highest ODI wickets – women).

Hyderabad

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HYC Founder Salman Khan's Instagram Account Suspended in India



Salman Khan, founder of Hyderabad Youth Courage (HYC) and a leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has had his Instagram account suspended in India, with the reason for the action yet to be clarified. On March 16, Khan claimed in a post that the Government of India, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had blocked his account in the country. Despite the suspension, he asserted that his work for the underprivileged would continue. Khan has frequently been in the spotlight for controversies. He recently joined the BRS ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election after his nomination was rejected. Notably, he had earlier criticised senior BRS leaders but later issued a public apology, expressing respect towards KCR and KTR upon joining the party. His past legal troubles also add to the controversy. In 2020, Khan and HYC vice-president Syed Ayyub were arrested by Chandrayangutta police over allegations of misusing funds collected through crowdfunding. The duo had reportedly raised money for the medical treatment of an elderly woman but diverted a significant portion into personal accounts. According to reports, donations worth lakhs were collected, with substantial amounts allegedly transferred to Khan and associates, triggering accusations of financial misconduct.

Hundreds of children attend 'Kids Iftar' at Public Garden mosque



Hundreds of children gathered at the historic Shahi Masjid in Public Garden in Hyderabad on Tuesday, March 18, to take part in a "kids iftar," marking the spirit of the holy month of Ramzan. The event saw enthusiastic participation from young boys and girls, who joined together for the community iftar, reflecting the values of sharing and togetherness associated with the month of fasting. Organisers said the programme was aimed at familiarising children with the significance of Ramzan and instilling values such as compassion, patience, charity and unity from a young age.

One held with adulterated ginger garlic paste in Hyderabad

The sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force apprehended a person for manufacturing, storing and selling adulterated ginger and garlic paste. The Commissioner's Task Force, Khairatabad Zone Team, Hyderabad, conducted a surprise inspection at the premises of Sahara India at Tappachabutra in Karwan on Tuesday, March 17, and took Mohammed Zafar Alam, the accused, under custody. The task force personnel found 1,155 kg adulterated ginger and garlic paste, a grinding machine, a weighing machine, and five packets of pouches and stickers, all combined worth Rs 2,50,000. This was the sixth such seizure this month. Other raids had also resulted in the seizure of thousands of kilograms of adulterated ginger garlic paste. During the inspection, it was found that the accused was manufacturing ginger and garlic paste in plastic containers under highly unhygienic conditions.

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Customer Trust Drives AK Royal Step's Success Story



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

AK Royal Step Footwear, situated at Madina Building near Nayapul in Hyderabad's Old City, is fast emerging as a preferred destination for quality and affordable footwear. Known for its diverse collection and customer-first approach, the store has built a strong reputation among shoppers across the city.

The showroom offers an extensive range of footwear, catering to various occasions and preferences. Customers can choose from party wear shoes, wedding and marriage collections, formal footwear, and the latest trendy designs. One of the key highlights of the store is its

specially curated Kolhapuri range, sourced from different parts of the country, reflecting both tradition and craftsmanship.

Speaking to wakeup telangana Abdullah Khan Rehan, son of the store owner, said that the success of AK Royal Step Footwear lies in its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. He emphasized that the store aims to provide high-quality products at affordable prices, ensuring that customers receive value for money with every purchase. This approach has helped the business gain the trust of hundreds of loyal customers over time.

With festival and wedding seasons driving higher demand, the store consistently updates its collections to meet changing customer preferences. It focuses not only on style but also on



comfort, making it a reliable choice for shoppers looking for both fashion and durability.

Abdullah further noted that the store follows a minimum-margin policy while maintaining product quality, which has significantly contributed to its growing popularity. This balance between affordability and quality has strengthened its position in the competitive footwear market.

As a result, AK Royal Step Footwear continues to attract a steady flow of



customers, reinforcing its status as a trusted footwear destination in Hyderabad's Old City.

Style, Comfort, and Value Define AK Royal Step

Abdullah Khan Rehan, son of the store owner, the success of AK Royal Step Footwear lies in its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. He emphasized that the store aims to provide high-quality products at affordable prices, ensuring that customers receive value for money with every purchase. This approach has helped the business gain the trust of hundreds of loyal customers over time. With festival and wedding seasons driving higher demand, the store consistently updates its collections to meet changing customer preferences. It focuses not only on style but also on comfort, making it a reliable choice for shoppers looking for both fashion and durability.

HYDRAA fences 11 acre land worth Rs 1,650 crore

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Tuesday, March 17, fenced around 11 acre of land in Kondapur and Pragatinagar to protect it from encroachment. The estimated value of the land is around Rs 1,650 crore, the agency said.

In the first instance, residents of Central Park Colony in Kondapur had approached HYDRAA complaining that two acre

of land, which had been allocated for a park in the 1998 layout, was being encroached upon.

Based on this, HYDRAA conducted an on-site inspection in coordination with Revenue and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials and, after determining the site as parkland, erected a fence around it. Similarly, HYDRAA also acted on complaints from Pragatinagar, where a five-acre cremation ground and a four-acre dumping yard adjacent to Amber Cheruvu.

BRS Leader Hosts Iftar Gathering in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior politician and BRS leader Ali Bin Ibrahim Masaqati hosted a Dawat-e-Iftar during the holy month of Ramzan at Masjid-Ujale Shah, bringing together a large gathering of devotees, scholars, and local residents. The Iftar gathering witnessed participation from prominent community members including Mohammed Omer Khan, Mohammed bin Nasir Al-Awali, Arif Ali, Ahmed Ali, Kaleem Ali,



Mohammed Shareef, Syed Basheer, Mohammed Ali, and M.A. Raqeeb, among others.

The event provided an opportunity to come together in a spirit of unity, prayer,

and reflection, marking the significance of fasting and charity associated with Ramzan. Scholars present at the gathering highlighted the importance of compassion, togetherness, and service to

society during the holy month. The large turnout reflected strong community participation and the cultural importance of Iftar gatherings in Hyderabad.

BJP MLAs bring farmers' issues to Telangana Assembly on push-cart

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs staged an innovative protest by reaching the Telangana Assembly with a push-cart with representations from farmers during the ongoing Budget Session on Tuesday, March 17. They were carrying representations demanding the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal

Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the state and resolutions of various problems being faced by the farmers in their constituencies.

MLAs Palvai Harish and Payal Shankar led the protest, along with their supporters, carrying placards with their demands. They said they were trying to draw the state government's attention by submitting their representations. The BJP MLAs first went

to the Martyrs Memorial at Gun Park, after which they tried to enter the Telangana Assembly. However, they were stopped by the security personnel stationed at the entrance and denied permission to carry the pushcart into the premises. The security staff asked the MLAs to hand over the representations to them, and assured them that they would be handed over to the officials concerned.



Large numbers of fasting devotees gathered before Iftar to purchase haleem at the Diamond cafe near Nampally ek minar masjid in Hyderabad, carrying the traditional Ramzan delicacy along with Iftari to their homes and other locations to break their fast with family and friends.

No central funds for Mission Bhagiratha, which inspired Modi's Jal Jeevan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Centre has clarified that Telangana has not received any financial assistance for Mission Bhagiratha, with Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil informing the Rajya Sabha that no support is currently planned under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Responding to a query raised by Vaddiraju Ravichandra of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the Minister stated that both Telangana and Bihar undertook their drinking water projects independently using their own financial resources. As a result, they do not fall under the funding framework of the Centre's flagship rural water supply programme, the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Patil further explained that the Jal Jeevan Mission operates under fixed guidelines and timelines, with a national target to provide functional household tap connections to every rural household by 2028. Since Telangana had already made signifi-

cant progress in providing piped drinking water through its own initiative, there is currently no proposal to extend additional financial support from the Centre. Mission Bhagiratha, launched during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, is one of Telangana's flagship welfare schemes. The project aimed to ensure safe and sustainable piped drinking water supply to every household across the state, significantly improving rural and urban water access.

The ambitious programme is widely regarded as a pioneering model in India's water supply sector and is often cited as an inspiration for the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission, which was later rolled out nationwide. The Centre's response effectively rules out any immediate financial assistance for Telangana under the current framework, even as the state continues to rely on its own infrastructure and investments to maintain and expand drinking water connectivity.

Fake nurse held for drugging patients, stealing gold jewellery

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A woman was arrested by the Secunderabad Zone Task Force and the Market police on Tuesday, March 17, for posing as a nurse and drugging patients to steal their gold jewellery. Her husband was also arrested for assisting her.

The accused has been identified as Goundla Shireesha, 25, a Pharm-D student, and her husband, Edulapalli Sai Kumar Goud, 30.

According to police, the accused would infiltrate hospitals, disguising herself as a nurse and then target elderly female pa-

tients and administer a Diazepam sedative injection to render them unconscious. She would then proceed to steal their gold jewellery before fleeing. Shireesha allegedly committed such acts at Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad and Citizen Speciality Hospital in Chandanagar.

Police have seized approximately 11 tolas of gold jewellery, one Maruti Suzuki Baleno vehicle, and two mobile phones from the accused. Cases have been registered against them at the Market and Chandanagar police stations. Further investigation is underway.