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Brief Insights

Naxalism Ended, Only Formal Declaration Awaits: Sai

With the Centre's deadline to eradicate the Leftwing Extremism barely 13 days away, Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Wednesday made a significant announcement that "Naxalism has ended. Only a formal declaration (to the effect) awaits". Speaking to the reporters on the sidelines of the meeting of 140 ex-Maoists to the Chhattisgarh Legislative

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SC Rebukes Mamata Banerjee Over "Unusual" Interference in ED Raids

The Supreme Court has come down sharply on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her alleged interference during recent Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids, describing the episode as "unusual" and "not a happy situation."



Hearing a petition filed by the ED, a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N.V. Anjaria flagged the larger implications of the incident. The judges questioned what precedent it sets if a sitting Chief Minister directly inter-

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KTR accuses Revanth Reddy of running 'Chor' model governance in Telangana: P2



Indian Navy steps up warship deployment near Gulf of Oman amid West Asia tensions: P4

Harish attacks Revanth over failure to deliver on promises: P3



Iranians bid farewell to Dena sailors, martyrs Larijani and Soleimani

Mass funeral in Tehran after killings of officials, sailors amid conflict

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Hundreds of thousands of mourners gathered in Tehran to participate in the funeral procession honoring the martyrdom of Iranian sailors and top officials, Ali Larijani and General Gholamreza Soleimani, assassinated during unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Many attendees arrived ahead of the ceremony to pay their respects to the 84 Navy personnel martyred aboard IRIS Dena on March 4, as well as to Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Ali Larijani, and the head of the Basij forces, Major General Gholamreza Soleimani, who were assassinated in targeted strikes on Tuesday.

The funeral procession witnessed one of the largest public gatherings in recent weeks, with crowds filling the streets of Tehran from early Wednesday morning.



People were holding photos of the martyrs and banners calling for justice. The event was attended by the families of the martyrs, government officials, and military leaders. Earlier on Tuesday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced the martyrdom of General Soleimani, and Dr. Larijani alongside his son, Mortaza Larijani.

The high-ranking Iranian officials were killed in coordinated targeted strikes by the US-Israeli forces. Iran has denounced all strikes as cowardly acts, vowing to avenge them in the most decisive manner. In retaliation, the IRGC launched massive overnight airstrikes targeting

over 100 locations in Tel Aviv.

Iran's navy personnel were killed while they were on an official mission in international waters to participate in a naval exercise in India. The ship was struck by a US Navy MK 48 torpedo from a submarine, approximately 40 nautical miles off the coast of Galle, Sri Lanka.

Reports indicate around 20 sailors remain unaccounted for, while 32 were rescued by Sri Lankan authorities.

The United States and Israel launched a large-scale, unprovoked war against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of Islamic Revolution

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Modi Greets Kuwait Crown Prince for Id, Calls for Safe Navigation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke with Kuwait Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to exchange Id greetings and review regional security developments. He reiterated India's condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while emphasising the need to ensure safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the two leaders reviewed the evolving situation in West Asia and exchanged views on regional security developments.

"During the conversation, Modi and the Crown Prince exchanged views on the evolving situation in West Asia and shared concerns over recent developments. ... Both leaders agreed that sustained diplomatic engagement remains essential for regional peace and stability. The Prime Minister



also thanked the Crown Prince for the continued support provided for the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait," the PMO said.

The Prime Minister, however, did not name any country in reference to the attacks. A day earlier, Modi had spoken with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and conveyed similar concerns over the situation in the region.

"The Prime Minister spoke with HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and conveyed advance Eid greetings. PM Modi and the President discussed the current situation in West Asia.

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KCR Got ₹1 Cr, No Work: Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said BRS chief and Leader of Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao had drawn ₹1,06,56,674 as salary and allowances since December 1, 2023, without attending Assembly proceedings. He called for a policy decision to prevent legislators from drawing salaries without discharging their duties.

Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Legislative Assembly, Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chandrashekar Rao for his continued absence from the Legislative Assembly and questioned the BRS chief's commitment to democratic institutions and legislative responsibilities.

He also noted that the opposition leader did not attend the unveiling of the 'Telangana Thalli' statue in the Assembly premises.

Launching a broader attack on the BRS, the Chief Minister accused its leadership of retaining an "arrogant and dictatorial mindset" even after losing power in the 2023 Assembly elections. He said



the previous BRS regime functioned with autocratic tendencies, undermining democratic values, and added that some leaders continued to behave like monarchs despite the people being sovereign in a democracy.

Backed by statistics, Revanth Reddy said the 10-year BRS rule had severely damaged Telangana's economy, leaving behind a debt burden of ₹8.11 lakh crore. He stated that his government had raised ₹3.47 lakh crore in the past 26 months but repaid ₹3.20 lakh crore towards principal and interest on loans taken by the previous government, highlighting the financial strain inherited by his government. The Chief Minister took a strong dig at BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao over his criticism of ongoing demolition drives, pointing out that the same leaders had supported stringent action against encroachments when in power.

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Centre Extends CS Ramakrishna Rao Tenure

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Centre has approved a three-month extension of Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao's tenure till June 30, according to orders issued by the department of personnel and training (DoPT) on Wednesday.

Rao had earlier been granted a seven-month extension from September 2025 to March 2026. With the latest approval, his tenure marks the longest extension given to a Chief Secretary in re



Appointed on April 30, 2025, Rao was initially due to retire on August 31, 2025, with a remaining tenure of four months. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had sought an extension citing administrative requirements, following which the Centre approved a seven-month extension in one

instance. Extensions are typically limited to six months and granted in phases. As the extended tenure was set to end on March 31, the state government again requested a further three-month extension. It is learnt that the Chief Minister raised the matter with Union home minister Amit Shah during a meeting in New Delhi earlier this month. Following the request, the state formally wrote to the Centre seeking continuation till June 30. The DoPT order enables Rao to continue in office till the end of June.

India LPG Shortage Persists Amid West Asia War

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, the Centre on Wednesday flagged that LPG shortages in parts of the country remain a concern, even as online booking systems show improvement.

To stabilise supply and push long-term reforms, the government has offered states and Union Territories up to 10% additional allocation of commercial LPG, linked to their support for transitioning from LPG to



pipiped natural gas (PNG). At an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the additional allocation will be phased through specific reforms. States can secure 1% extra allocation by forming state and district-level committees to fast-track city gas distri-

bution (CGD) approvals and grievance redressal. A further 2% allocation will be granted for issuing deemed CGD permissions, 3% for implementing the 'dig and restore' scheme for CGD entities, and 4% for reducing annual lease or rental charges.

Despite supply challenges, monitoring efforts have intensified. Over 2,300 surprise inspections were conducted by oil marketing companies on March 17, while nearly 30 states have established control

rooms, with 22 states already operationalising district-level monitoring systems. Meanwhile, India's energy logistics have shown resilience despite disruptions in the conflict-hit Strait of Hormuz. The Indian-flagged crude oil tanker Jag Laadki, carrying 80,886 tonnes of UAE-sourced crude, safely reached Mundra Port in Gujarat after departing from Fujairah despite an attack on the terminal. Earlier this week, LPG tanker Shivalik also reached the same port.

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Crude Oil Tanker Reaches Paradip

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In a significant development amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, a crude oil tanker carrying approximately 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of crude has arrived at Paradip Port on Wednesday, reinforcing India's energy supply chain. The vessel, identified as MT Flora, transported the consignment from Muscat, Oman, marking what is believed to be the first such ship-



ment to Paradip during the current phase of regional instability. The Hong Kong-flagged tanker docked at the SPM-3 jetty early in the day and has commenced unloading operations.

Sources said the shipment comprises Russian export-grade crude oil and is destined for the Indian Oil Corporation Limited refinery at Paradip. The

vessel reportedly reached the Odisha coast via Singapore before berthing. The arrival reflects the continuity of crude supply to India despite global uncertainties, helping maintain stability in refinery operations and fuel availability. However, the ripple effects of the Middle East conflict are being felt on the ground in Odisha, with reports of an acute shortage of LPG cylinders causing widespread inconvenience. From Bhubaneswar to several interior regions, long

queues have been witnessed outside gas agencies, with consumers waiting for hours to secure domestic cylinders. Experts attribute the disruption to supply chain constraints linked to the ongoing tensions. Financial analyst Trinath Lenka said the state government has directed a 25-28 per cent increase in domestic LPG distribution to ease the crisis. "The situation is expected to normalise soon, and the shortage is likely to persist only for a few more days," he noted.

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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ESTD - 1960.

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

KTR accuses Revanth Reddy of running 'Chor' model governance

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao lambasted Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for lacking substance in his speech and failing to address key public commitments, particularly the Congress party's Six Guarantees. Revanth Reddy was promising a CURE, PURE and RARE model of governance, but was implementing a 'chor' model in Telangana, he alleged. "CURE, PURE, RARE; none of these acronyms suit the Congress government. The only one that is befitting is the 'chor' model," he said, adding that the Chief Minister, who is habituated to "bulldozer raj" in the State, bulldozed the As-

sembly by denying an opportunity to Opposition members to speak. Addressing mediapersons at the Assembly media point late on Wednesday, Rama Rao said that, except for free bus travel, most promises under the Six Guarantees remained unimplemented. He raised concerns over multiple sectors, alleging neglect of farmers, unemployed youth and government employees. He questioned the implementation of welfare schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, farm loan waiver and pensions, and said there was no clarity on the Pay Revision Commission for employees. He also pointed to repeated food poisoning incidents in residential schools and alleged a lack of response from the government.



The working president levelled serious allegations regarding the Musi riverfront project, questioning the proposed outlay of nearly Rs 1.5 lakh crore. He said the project lacked a Detailed Project Report, a clear funding plan and transparency. "The project is clearly aimed at benefiting private persons and filling the pockets of the Chief Minister," he alleged. He also criticised demolition drives, claiming that while no new houses were built, thousands of homes

of the poor were being razed in the name of development. Further, Rama Rao said attempts were being made to target institutional lands, including those of Hyderabad Central University. He said the Chief Minister was boasting about developing three tanks over the last two years in Hyderabad, in contrast with the previous BRS government's initiatives such as Mission Kakatiya, under which thousands of tanks, including over 70 in Hyderabad, were restored earlier. On State finances, the former minister accused the Chief Minister of presenting misleading figures on debt. He said borrowings rose sharply in a short span without corresponding benefits reach-

ing the poor. "The Chief Minister misled the House and the people of Telangana on State debts. The Centre announced in Parliament that around Rs 2.8 lakh crore loans and liabilities were incurred during the BRS regime. By claiming that the current Congress government obtained over Rs 3.17 lakh crore in loans, Revanth Reddy is admitting to borrowing more than the previous BRS government," he added. He condemned the Chief Minister's remarks against BRS president and Opposition leader K Chandrashekhar Rao, warning that such comments would not be tolerated and would be responded to in equal measure. Demanding an apology from the Chief Minister for his remarks in the House, he said

BRS stages walk out from Assembly protesting against corruption in Musi Project

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) staged a walk out from the Assembly on Wednesday in protest against what it called a massive scam of Rs.1.5 lakh crore being carried out in the guise of the Musi Rejuvenation project. BRS working president KT Rama Rao clarified that the party was not against the Musi rejuvenation project but against the government's approach on the issue during question hour in the Assembly. The BRS working president raised a few critical aspects over the apprehensions among people, especially those getting affected due to the project. Cornering the ruling

Congress party, he said Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu, during the last session in January, had informed the House that it would take 18 months for completing the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Contradicting his statement, the Minister stated that the DPR was already ready, he pointed out. Further, the Minister in the last session stated that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had in principle approved the Musi project. However, when the Musi Jan Adolan approached the ADB, it clarified that the DPR was not submitted and that the project was not approved in principle, Rama Rao said. "Explain the rationale behind inflating a project

originally estimated at Rs.16,000 crore to Rs.1.5 lakh crore. How can Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claim Rs. 1.5 lakh crore in public statements, while figures of only Rs.4,000 crore to Rs.5,000 crore were being cited in the Assembly?" he asked. Referring to official Gazette notifications, Rama Rao pointed out that over 10,000 houses were likely to be demolished and more than 3,260 acres of land would be acquired. But the government claims 1,435 structures were identified and sought to know on what basis they were identified. This apart, the Meinhardt company was blacklisted and banned in Pakistan and Singapore but the Congress.

Deen Dayal Society Successfully Organizes Teacher Training Program in Dhammaiguda

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Deen Dayal Society successfully conducted a teacher training program aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of educators in the region. On this occasion, the Dhammaiguda Division of Nagaram Municipality area the Society organized a special Deen Dayal Upadhyaya train-



ing session, with all necessary arrangements made to ensure the program ran smoothly. Mr.Srinivas Rao, Advocate and Division In-

Charge, along with other members of the association, actively participated in the planning and execution of the event. The session

was well-received by the attendees, highlighting the Society's commitment to educational development and teacher empowerment. The program marks another milestone in the Society's ongoing efforts to promote professional growth among educators and strengthen community engagement in Dhammaiguda.

EE PR Inspects Development Works in Pargi Constituency

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

District Panchayat Raj Engineer (DPRE) Mr. Umesh Kumar inspected several ongoing development activities in the Pargi Assembly Constituency on Tuesday. During the visit, he inspected Shivareddypally village in Doma Mandal, the native village of MLA Thammanna Gari Ram Mohan Reddy. On this occasion, the laying of a cement concrete (CC) road was initiated. DPRE Umesh



Kumar emphasized that all works under the MGNREGA scheme must be completed by the end of March. He noted that the material component of the centrally sponsored MGNREGS programme may lapse if not utilized within the stipulated

timeframe. Across the state, works are being executed on a war footing to meet deadlines. During the field inspection, he instructed engineers to complete all works within the stipulated time while strictly maintaining quality standards. He

stressed the importance of using quality materials and ensuring proper execution. Special attention was given to CC road works, where curing during the summer was highlighted as a critical factor for durability. Engineers were directed to take proper care in this regard. The MLA also instructed officials to prioritize quality assurance in all development works. Engineers from the Pargi constituency accompanied the DPRE during the inspection.

Cement Road Works Launched Under Employment Guarantee Scheme in Matur Village

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant boost to rural infrastructure, cement concrete (CC) road construction works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have officially commenced in Matur village of Motakondur mandal on Wednesday. The project is being carried out under the leadership of Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu. With an estimated budget of ₹20 lakh, the initiative aims to improve internal connectivity and enhance the overall living standards of villagers. The foundation stone for the project was recently laid by Aleru constituency MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, marking the formal launch of the development works. District officials have stressed the importance of completing all sanctioned works under the scheme by the last week of March. They warned that funds allo-



cated for the material component for the financial year 2025-26 must be utilized by March 31, failing which they will lapse. Local representatives have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring timely completion. Engineers associated with the project have also emphasized maintaining high construction quality. They raised concerns about possible water scarcity during the summer, which could affect proper curing of cement roads, and advised taking special care in this regard.

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 work-spaces. 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.

Hyderabad firm loses Rs 1.2 crore in WhatsApp impersonation scam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A city-based woman entrepreneur's company was allegedly duped to the tune of Rs 1.2 crore after a cyber-fraudster impersonated her on WhatsApp. As per information available, the incident occurred on March 13 when the firm's accountant received a message from an unknown number using the entrepreneur's name and display picture. As-

suming it was his employer, the accountant followed instructions to check the company's bank balance and urgently transfer funds to a specified account. Trusting the request, he transferred Rs 1.2 crore without cross-verifying the message. However, the fraud came to light only on March 17, after the accountant reportedly received another similar instruction and sought confirmation directly

from the business owner. It was then discovered that the earlier transaction had been carried out based on a fake WhatsApp profile. Police suspect the fraudsters exploited the entrepreneur's frequent travel schedule and the trust placed in staff handling financial transactions. The victim reported the matter through the national cybercrime helpline and filed a formal complaint.

Parigi MLA T. Ram Mohan Reddy Offers Prayers at Tirumala



Parigi MLA Dr. T. Ram Mohan Reddy visited the sacred hill shrine of Lord Shri Venkateswara at Tirumala along with his family on Wednesday morning. The MLA offered prayers to the deity and fulfilled his vows at the temple. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.T.Ram Mohan Reddy expressed happiness over having the darshan of Lord Venkateswara with his family.

Ramzan gifts are presented in Raikode

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of the forthcoming Ramzan festival, gifts were distributed in several areas. In this connection, gifts were presented to members of the Muslim community at the Raikode Mandal headquarters in Sangareddy district. Senior leader Elgoi Laxmaiah, along with local leaders, public



representatives, youth, members of the Muslim community, and the general public, attended the

program. Heartfelt advance Ramzan wishes were conveyed to all the people

Iftar Meet Promotes Harmony in Cantonment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A strong message of communal harmony and unity marked an Iftar gathering at New Bowenpally on Wednesday, where senior Congress leader and former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap joined local residents in celebrating the spirit of Ramadan. Held at Masjid-e-Miskin Shah near Medchal Bus Stop in Ward No. 1, the event brought together people from different communities, reflecting the region's enduring "Ganga-Jamuni



Tehzeeb." Pratap participated in the Iftar rituals and personally served fruits to devotees as they broke their fast after evening prayers. Addressing the gathering, Pratap highlighted the deeper significance of Ramadan, stating that

the holy month promotes discipline, compassion, and spiritual devotion. He praised the commitment of the Muslim community in observing fasting rituals and emphasized that such occasions strengthen social bonds.

"Iftar gatherings are not merely religious events but platforms that nurture mutual respect and communal harmony," he said, stressing the need for unity in a diverse society. The programme was organized by local minority representatives Maula and Chotu and witnessed the presence of several community leaders, including Varaprasad, Pawan Mudiraj, and TTD Pawan. The event concluded on a note of brotherhood, with attendees sharing the meal and reinforcing a collective message of peace and inclusivity.

IMD issues orange alert for Telangana, thunderstorms likely

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, on Wednesday evening upgraded its weather warning from yellow to orange (high) for several districts, signaling a period of extensive thunderstorms and severe weather across the State for Thursday.

The revised forecast indicates that a significant weather system will dominate the region for the next few days, bringing heavy thundershowers and a sharp dip in mercury. While almost all the districts in Telangana remain under a general thunderstorm alert, the IMD, Hyderabad, has specifically issued an orange alert (high) for Jangaon, Siddipet, and Kamareddy districts. "Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, gusty winds (40-50 kmph) and hailstorms are very likely to occur at isolated places in Jangaon, Siddipet and Kamareddy districts of Telangana," IMD Hyderabad said. For the rest of the districts in Telangana, IMD, Hyderabad said: "Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana".

Harish Rao attacks Revanth Reddy over failure to deliver on promises

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Launching a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfil promises made to the people, BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao said the Chief Minister was getting frustrated when questioned over the implementation of the six guarantees and declarations promised in the manifesto.

He said the Chief Minister had once again exhibited his vitriolic nature and proved that he would continue to use unparliamentary language, irrespective of the platform. "Revanth Reddy himself has repeatedly boasted about assuming the Chief Minister's position by trampling over everyone. Can anyone possess such a ruthless and autocratic mindset as Revanth Reddy?" Harish Rao



asked. The chief Minister claimed that the Governor's address serves as a "vision document", but in reality there was nothing visionary in it, the BRS Deputy Floor Leader said. During the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address in the House, if the principal Opposition party points out flaws in policies, how can that be dubbed as politics, he asked. He said the Chief Minister hailed the AI Summit held in New Delhi recently, unmindful of the fact that the Congress party opposed it, and asked, "Why did Youth Congress activ-

ists stage protests while Revanth Reddy was addressing the gathering?" The BRS Deputy Floor Leader stated that none could match the Chief Minister in deceiving people and garnering votes in the guise of guarantees.

He ridiculed the Chief Minister's lack of awareness on issues such as the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Outer Ring Road tenders and others. "A man who lacks the competence to even provide streetlights is now talking about 'Vision 2047'. Unless Revanth Reddy's intentions are pure, it is futile to constantly chant about CURE, PURE and RARE," Harish Rao said. He also found fault with the Chief Minister for claiming credit for schemes and projects initiated by former Chief

Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

The oil palm factory in Narmetta stands as a testament to BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao's achievements. Similarly, the initiative to provide fine rice was also the BRS chief's brainchild, he said. The former minister also pointed to the Congress government's failure to fulfil promises made to the farming community. "Will a man who failed to fulfil the promises made to farmers strive for farmers' prosperity?" he asked. After assuring farmers to cultivate paddy extensively, the Congress government was now trying to evade procurement under the pretext of crop diversification, he alleged. He charged that the Chief Minister was neglecting the welfare of different sections while focusing on building his own image.

KTR flags corruption in Musi project, challenges Congress on Rs.57,000 crore SHG loan claim

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday mounted a sharp attack on the Congress government, slamming it for corruption in the Musi riverfront project, discrepancies in interest-free loan claims and administrative failures across departments. Demanding transparency in the Musi project, he said the government was undertaking large-scale land acquisition in the name of river rejuvenation to benefit private real estate companies.

During an informal interaction with the media at the Assembly, Rama Rao said notices were being issued to thousands of families even in areas up to five kilometres away from the river, creating panic among residents. The government notified about 3,297 acres affecting nearly 10,000 households



in its gazette notification, but has now informed the House that only about 1,400 houses would be impacted. "This is misleading the Assembly and the people," he said. Reiterating that the BRS was not opposed to the Musi rejuvenation project, the former Minister questioned why rehabilitation was being promised selectively, like for Madhu Ridge Park apartments, but not to all affected families. He also criticised the selection of consultancy firms like Meinhardt and sought clarity on funding, asking how the government planned to mobilise nearly

Rs.1.5 lakh crore for the project while citing lack of funds to implement poll guarantees.

Rama Rao said eviction notices were being issued to residents of Hanuman Nagar in the name of buffer zones while properties linked to influential persons like the Chief Minister's brother, Ministers Pongulati Srinivas Reddy and G Vivek Venkataswamy were spared. He also accused the government of defying court orders during demolition drives in Ameenpur. "The government is turning the Musi riverfront project into a real estate venture," he remarked.

Criticising the handling of loans from multilateral agencies, he said funds expected from the Asian Development Bank had not materialised due to the absence of a Detailed Project Report. He warned officials against exceeding their mandate

Pending Payments for "Mana Ooru-Mana Badi" Works Spark Concerns for Small Contractors



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Small contractors who executed works under the "Mana Ooru-Mana Badi" programme, launched by the previous BRS government to improve infrastructure and basic amenities in government schools, are facing severe financial distress due to pending payments.

Reports indicate that around 1,500 small contractors have not received a single rupee for projects completed during the previous government's tenure. On Wednesday, a delegation of these contractors submitted a representation to Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy, urging the immediate release of pending bills.

The issue has drawn attention within the legislature, with leaders including MLA Komati Reddy Rajagopal Reddy of Mungode Assembly Constituency expressing concern over the hardships faced by contractors. Delayed payments have not only stalled ongoing works but also jeopardized school infrastructure upgrades intended to benefit students. Education experts emphasize that well-maintained school facilities play a vital

role in improving attendance, retention, and learning outcomes. "Every day of delay in completing infrastructure works affects students and demoralizes those who strive to improve their communities through small-scale public projects," said an education observer. Several public representatives have demanded that the Finance Department immediately release pending funds and withdraw any legal cases filed against contractors.

They stressed that clearing dues is a matter of humanity as well as governance, noting that many contractors rely solely on these payments to support their families. Contractors, some of whom have invested their life savings, appealed to the government to consider the human cost of delayed payments. One contractor said, "We built schools to help children, but now we are struggling to feed our own families. We request the government to act with compassion."

The controversy highlights broader governance challenges in large public infrastructure schemes, including payment transparency, contractor sustainability, and administrative accountability. Observers urge timely financial settlements to safeguard public trust and ensure that development programmes continue to benefit the intended communities. The "Mana Ooru-Mana Badi" programme remains a flagship initiative for school modernization in Telangana, and stakeholders hope that swift action will restore confidence among contractors and ensure students continue to enjoy improved learning environments.

Neglect, Corruption Alleged in Jagtial Horticulture Dept

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Horticulture Department in Jagtial district is facing serious allegations of neglecting horticulture farmers, with farmer state leader and journalist Vikram Reddy Vemula calling for urgent government intervention. He demanded strict action against concerned officials and warned that protests would be launched within two to three days if the issues are not addressed



promptly. On Wednesday, after interacting with farmers from various parts of the district over the phone, Vikram Reddy highlighted the worsening conditions faced by horti-

culture farmers, particularly mango growers. Jagtial, widely regarded as a key hub for horticulture crops, is currently witnessing significant distress due to adverse weather conditions that have severely impacted yields. Despite the gravity of the situation, he alleged that the department has failed to conduct field visits or submit timely reports to the government, leaving farmers without necessary support. He further pointed out

that several farmers have been waiting for months for the distribution of sprinkler pipelines, with repeated requests going unanswered. According to him, while the official farmer contribution for the scheme is ₹6,500, many farmers are allegedly being compelled to pay ₹7,500, leading to large-scale illegal collections. He described this as a blatant act of corruption and demanded an immediate inquiry into the matter. Vikram Reddy stressed

that the government must take swift and decisive action against negligent and inefficient officials to restore confidence among farmers. He warned that continued inaction would not only result in financial losses for farmers but also tarnish the government's image. Leaders including Aileni Kamalakar Rao, Bucchi Reddy, and Ravi Kumar were also present and expressed their support for the farmers' demands, urging authorities to respond without delay.

Iftar Feast Promotes Unity in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Reinforcing the spirit of communal harmony, an Iftar feast at Osman Gunj on Monday brought together leaders and citizens to celebrate unity during Ramzan. S. Dhanraj, former SETWIN director and

Khairatabad District Congress Vice-President, attended as chief guest and stressed that festivals act as bridges between communities.

Organized by Rizwan Hussain, President of the Bhagyanagar Goods Transport Association, the event witnessed a large gathering and highlighted Hyderabad's tradition of shared celebrations. Participating in prayers, Dhanraj joined attendees in breaking the fast and symbolically served fruits, promoting brotherhood. He noted that such occasions strengthen mutual respect and social cohesion.

Leaders and participants emphasized the importance of interfaith gatherings in preserving peace and the city's "Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb." The program concluded with a community dinner, underscoring the message of unity in diversity.

SC/ST Bias in Health Dept: Legal Warning

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana State SC/ST Commission Chairman Bakki Venkataiah has issued a strong warning of legal action against officials accused of discriminating against SC/ST employees in the medical department. He highlighted serious concerns over blocked promotions, violation of roster norms, and delay in allocating rightful land shares. During a review meeting at Osmania General Hospital, the Commission examined complaints from around 206 SC/ST staff members, including doctors, nurses, and Class-IV employees. The Chair-



man set a 10-day deadline for authorities to submit a detailed report on pending land allocation issues. He also raised concerns about alleged financial irregularities that have adversely impacted marginalized staff. While appreciating the dedication of healthcare workers, he made it clear that any form of caste-based discrimination will not be tolerated and those responsible will face strict legal consequences.

Mala Groups Protest Against T'gana Govt

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Leaders of Mala associations, including the National Ambedkar Sena and Mala Mahanadu, have issued a strong warning to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over what they call "unscientific" SC sub-categorization, threatening state-wide protests if their demands are ignored. At a protest in Basheerbagh, leaders alleged that the policy is severely affecting 26 Mala sub-castes, limiting their



opportunities in education, employment, and promotions. They demanded immediate revision of roster points to the 2-10 range, a 3% increase in reservation, and the public release of the

Shamim Akhtar Committee report. The associations also questioned the lack of implementation of Supreme Court guidelines on the creamy layer and claimed that Malas were receiving negligible rep-

resentation in MBBS admissions and university recruitments.

Tensions escalated when police detained several leaders, including Taluka Rajesh and Kadari Vinay Kumar, as they attempted to march to the Assembly to submit a petition to Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Criticizing Mala public representatives for remaining silent, the groups warned of political consequences for the Congress in upcoming local body elections if the issue remains unresolved.

Annadanam Marks Amavasya in Secunderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A grand Annadanam (free food distribution) program was organized on Wednesday across key temples in the Cantonment area to mark the auspicious occasion of Amavasya. Hundreds of devotees participated, reflecting strong devotion and community spirit. The initiative was conducted at Sri Devi Nalla Pochamma Temple and Chinna Tokatta Katta



Maisamma Temple under the supervision of respective temple committees, with food served to devotees throughout the day. Former Cantonment

Board Vice President Jampana Pratap attended as chief guest. He inaugurated the program after offering special prayers and personally served meals to devotees.

Speaking on the occasion, Pratap described Annadanam as the highest form of charity, adding that performing it on Amavasya holds deep spiritual significance and promotes peace and harmony. Several local leaders and volunteers, including Prakash Bantiya and Chalapathi, along with temple committee members, ensured smooth arrangements, making the event a success in New Bowenpally.

Indian Navy steps up warship deployment near Gulf of Oman amid West Asia tensions

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Indian Navy has increased the deployment of its warships near the Gulf of Oman and is escorting Indian-flagged ships coming from the Strait of Hormuz region amid heightened tensions in West Asia that have raised concerns over global energy security. According to government sources, Indian-flagged tankers continue to pass through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz and reach Indian ports under naval escort. The vessels Shivalik, Nanda Devi, and Jag Ladki have already arrived safely at Indian ports after being escorted by the Indian Navy. The deployment has been enhanced under the Navy's "mission-based deployment"



framework, under which at least one warship has remained stationed near the Gulf of Oman since 2017. However, considering the current security situation, the Navy has increased its presence in the region. Sources said the number of warships in the area was initially raised from one to three and has now been increased further, although the exact number has not been disclosed. These warships are primarily

tasked with escorting Indian-flagged ships through sensitive maritime routes and ensuring their safe passage to secure waters. The government also said that at present, 22 Indian vessels are located west of the Strait of Hormuz. Under the mission-based deployment framework, the Indian Navy maintains a continuous presence in six different maritime regions around the world. The deployment system

has been in operation since 2017 to enhance maritime security and ensure a swift response to emerging threats. Two major naval operations are also underway near the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden under this framework. While "Operation Sankalp" is being conducted in the Gulf of Oman to ensure the safety of merchant shipping, an anti-piracy operation continues in the Gulf of Aden. At an inter-ministerial press conference on the situation in West Asia, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randeep Singh said the Indian Navy remains present in the region primarily for anti-piracy missions and is supporting several initiatives linked to maritime security. He added that

further details about the Navy's operational support would be provided by the Ministry of Defence. Apart from the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden, other mission-based deployments include a naval presence near Seychelles to secure ships travelling along the Cape of Good Hope route and counter piracy threats. Additional deployments are maintained near the Maldives, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and in the Bay of Bengal near the Myanmar-Bangladesh maritime region. During these deployments, Indian naval ships also conduct exercises with friendly foreign navies and undertake humanitarian assistance, relief and rescue operations in the event of piracy incidents or maritime accidents.

Supreme Court Rebukes Mamata Banerjee Over "Unusual" Interference in ED Raids

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court has come down sharply on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her alleged interference during recent Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids, describing the episode as "unusual" and "not a happy situation." Hearing a petition filed by the ED, a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N.V. Anjaria flagged the larger implications of the incident. The judges questioned what precedent it sets if a sitting Chief Minister directly intervenes in a central agency's investigation. They pointedly asked



whether agencies like the ED would be left "remediless" if such actions became the norm across states. The court is currently examining the ED's plea seeking action against Banerjee, the state Director General of Police, and other officials. In the meantime, it has stayed the FIRs filed by the West Bengal government against ED officers involved in the operation. The controversy traces back to January 8, 2026, when the ED

conducted searches at the Kolkata offices of I-PAC, a political consultancy linked to the Trinamool Congress, and at the residence of its chief, Prateek Jain. The raids were part of an ongoing money laundering probe tied to an alleged coal scam. According to the ED, the situation escalated when Mamata Banerjee reached the spot with state police personnel and allegedly removed key materials from the premises — including a laptop, mobile phone, and documents. The agency has termed this a serious case of evidence tampering and a "gross abuse of power."

TMC Names 291 Faces For WB Polls

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal's ruling Trinamool 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.

Vijay rules out NDA alliance, says TVK is people's team

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Avoiding directly naming the NDA, TVK chief Vijay on Wednesday dismissed as a "false campaign" claims of "alliance talks" for the April 23 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls. Cadres may have been confused due to claims that TVK may go in for an alliance, Vijay said, addressing an Iftar event held at Mamallapuram near here. Giving clear indications that TVK will not align with the NDA for the 2026 TN Assembly polls, he declared: "We are firm on the stand that the government will be led by us (following a big win in the polls); there will be



no compromise on secular and social justice principles." TVK belongs to the 'people's team,' he asserted, and dismissed allegations that his party functioned as a "B-team."

However, Vijay did not elaborate on who accused TVK of being a B-team. For the past five to six days, claims have been doing the rounds that TVK would align with the NDA. It was claimed that the 'successful Jana Sena-TDP model of Andhra Pradesh' was being attempted in Tamil Nadu and that Vijay would be the Deputy CM like Pawan Kalyan. While TVK leaders, including CTR Nirmal Kumar, have already ruled out the possibility of an alliance with the NDA, this is the first time Vijay himself has given clear indications that there would not be any alliance with the AIADMK-BJP combine.

Naxalism Ended, Only Formal Declaration Awaits: Sai

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Vishnu Deo Sai has asserted that Left-wing extremism in the state has effectively come to an end, with only a formal declaration pending. His remarks come just days ahead of the Centre's March 31, 2026 deadline set by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to eradicate Naxalism from the country. Speaking to reporters during a visit of 140 surrendered Maoists to the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Sai said the state has already witnessed a decisive shift. "Naxalism has ended. Only a formal announcement remains," he reiterated, expressing confidence in the government's sustained efforts to restore peace in the conflict-affected regions. The surrendered cadres, hailing from the insurgency-hit districts of Bijapur and Kanker in the Bastar region, were invited to observe democratic proceedings inside the Assembly. The initiative aimed to familiarize them with governance and reinforce their transition into mainstream society. During an interaction with the Chief Minister, the former Mao-



ists shared personal accounts of transformation. They spoke about their lives in the forests, marked by constant fear, uncertainty, and isolation, contrasting it with their present circumstances of safety and dignity. Many highlighted how improved infrastructure in remote areas—such as roads, electricity, and communication facilities—has played a key role in reshaping their lives. Some among the group shared emotional experiences, including celebrating festivals like Holi with their families for the first time. These moments, they said, symbolized their return to normalcy and the beginning of a new chapter. Sai described their return as more than an individual decision, calling it a collective step toward long-

term peace and development in Chhattisgarh. He emphasized that their faith in the Constitution and democratic system sends a strong and inspiring message to others still in insurgency. Reaffirming the government's commitment, the Chief Minister assured comprehensive support for rehabilitation, employment, and social reintegration of surrendered cadres. He stated that ensuring their stability and dignity remains a top priority for the state. The development marks a significant milestone in the state's decades-long battle against Left-wing extremism, signaling what the government claims could be the final phase of one of India's most persistent internal security challenges.

KCR Got ₹1 Cr.....

He said that the Congress government was ready to constitute a fact-finding committee to examine encroachments and demolitions carried out during both the previous BRS and current Congress regimes. He also invited the BRS to suggest any agency for a probe into alleged irregularities in industrial land conversions in Hyderabad and the issuance of Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) from 2014 onwards, assuring that the government was prepared to hand over the investigation to any agency of their choice. The Chief Minister warned that future generations would not forgive the present leadership if lakes were not restored and the city protected from pollution. He outlined measures taken by the government, including tax exemptions for electric vehicles and plans to retrofit existing autorickshaws under the 'CURE' initiative into electric vehicles free of cost. Highlighting the government's long-term vision, Revanth Reddy said the "Telangana Rising 2047" document would serve as a roadmap for rapid and inclusive development, aiming to transform the state into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. He added that a comprehensive policy on artificial intelligence had been prepared to tackle the impending "AI tsunami" and position Telangana at the forefront of technological advancement. The Chief Minister said the state had been divided into CURE, PURE, and

RARE zones for focused development and reiterated that his government would push ahead with growth and welfare initiatives "against all odds," even if the opposition chose not to cooperate. Invoking the legacy of national leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh, Revanth Reddy said transformative reforms and visionary leadership were essential to steer the state towards sustained growth. **Iranians bid.....** The high-ranking Iranian officials were killed in coordinated targeted strikes by the US-Israeli forces. Iran has denounced all strikes as cowardly acts, vowing to avenge them in the most decisive manner. In retaliation, the IRGC launched massive overnight airstrikes targeting over 100 locations in Tel Aviv. Iran's navy personnel were killed while they were on an official mission in international waters to participate in a naval exercise in India. The ship was struck by a US Navy MK 48 torpedo from a submarine, approximately 40 nautical miles off the coast of Galle, Sri Lanka. Reports indicate around 20 sailors remain unaccounted for, while 32 were rescued by Sri Lankan authorities. The United States and Israel launched a large-scale, unprovoked war against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and a

number of senior commanders. Subsequent terrorist strikes on civilian and military targets have killed hundreds of people, including more than 200 children. **Modi Greets.....** The Prime Minister, however, did not name any country in reference to the attacks. A day earlier, Modi had spoken with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and conveyed similar concerns over the situation in the region. "The Prime Minister spoke with HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and conveyed advance Eid greetings. PM Modi and the President discussed the current situation in West Asia. The Prime Minister reiterated India's strong condemnation of all attacks on the UAE that have resulted in loss of innocent lives and damage to civilian infrastructure," the PMO had said. "The Prime Minister and the UAE President agreed on the importance of ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. Shri Modi emphasized that both nations will continue to work together for the early restoration of peace, security, and stability in the region," it added. **No Extra Levy.....** The rates of seats are as per location, with the front row costing the maximum, followed by window and aisle seats. Seats in the centre and in the back rows near toilets cost less. In a post on X on Wednesday, Union civil aviation minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu said important directions have

been issued to further strengthen passenger facilitation measures. "Sixty per cent seats free of charge, assured seating together for families, and clear, transparent norms for carriage of sports equipment, musical instruments and pets," he said. According to him, there will be stronger enforcement and visibility of passenger rights, including during delays and cancellations. As per DGCA orders, carriage of sports equipment and musical instruments to be facilitated in a transparent and passenger-friendly manner, subject to applicable safety and operational regulations. Besides, airlines shall also bring out clear, transparent policies for carriage of pets. Strict adherence to passenger rights framework, particularly in cases of delays, cancellations and denied boarding; prominent display of passenger rights across airline websites, mobile applications, booking platforms, and airport counters; and, clear communication of passenger entitlements in regional languages to ensure wider accessibility and awareness are other provisions that the airlines have been told to follow to further strengthen passenger convenience, transparency and uniformity of practices across airlines. "The ministry of civil aviation remains committed to enhancing passenger experience, ensuring transparency, reducing grievances and upholding the highest standards of safety across the aviation ecosystem," the ministry said in a statement.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

NHRC Complaint Filed Over Chandur Violence; Police Role Under Scrutiny

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant development, a formal complaint has been lodged with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) over the alleged brutal attack on BJP workers in Chandur, raising serious concerns about law enforcement failure and human rights violations. Advocate Vinod Hindustani, representing the victims, has approached the Commission, which has registered the case under Diary No. 5728/IN/2026. The complaint pertains to a violent incident that occurred on the evening of March 15 at Chandur X Road. According to the petition, a group of as-



sailants carried out a premeditated and life-threatening attack on Doti Shiva and eight others, leaving them severely injured. The incident has sparked outrage, particularly in light of allegations that the local police failed to act promptly. Allegations of Police Inaction The complaint sharply criticizes the police for their delayed response and lack of decisive action, noting

that even 48 hours after the incident, no arrests had been made. It also questions the application of minor legal sections, arguing that the nature of the assault clearly suggests an attempt to murder.

Further, the petition accuses law enforcement personnel of remaining passive during the attack and failing to provide adequate protection to the victims. Serious Charges Against Police Officer- Adding to the controversy, Chandur Circle Inspector Adireddy has been accused of intimidating the victims by threatening to file counter-cases instead of ensuring justice.

The complaint terms this conduct a "gross violation of human rights"

and calls for immediate accountability. Demand for Independent Probe- Seeking urgent intervention, the petition urges the NHRC to order a high-level independent inquiry into both the attack and the alleged police negligence.

It also calls for strict action against officials accused of shielding the perpetrators and demands the immediate arrest of those involved.

Fight for Justice to Continue Advocate Hindustani asserted that the legal battle will continue until the victims receive justice, their safety is guaranteed, and those responsible—both perpetrators and negligent officials—are held accountable.

Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

A man was booked for allegedly procuring and storing teak timber illegally in his house at Chintapalli village in Jannaram mandal on Friday. Timber worth over Rs.24,000 was seized from his possession. Jannaram Forest Range Officer Sushma Rao, in a statement, said a case was registered against Muthyram 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.

Police Turn Lifesavers: Free Water Kiosk Launched in Motakonduru

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a heartwarming initiative that blends public service with community care, the Motakonduru Police Station has set up a free drinking water kiosk (Chalivendram) to help residents beat the scorching summer heat. The kiosk was inaugurated on Wednesday as part of the "Arrive Alive Campaign 2026," reflecting a broader vision of people-friendly policing. With temperatures expected to soar in the coming weeks, the initiative aims to provide immediate relief to pedestrians, travelers, and local residents struggling with water scarcity. Large earthen pots filled with cool drinking water have been placed at an accessible public location, inviting anyone in need to quench their



thirst—free of cost. During the inauguration, police officials distributed water pots symbolically, emphasizing the importance of sharing resources and community participation. Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted that the effort is aligned with the government's Palle Pragathi program, which focuses on improving rural infrastructure and living conditions. "Ensuring access to safe drinking water is a basic necessity. Through

this Chalivendram, we are trying to make a small but meaningful difference," a police representative said. The event witnessed active participation from local leaders, police personnel, and villagers, turning it into a community celebration. Residents appreciated the thoughtful gesture, noting that such initiatives not only address essential needs but also strengthen the bond between the police and the public. For many, the sight of uniformed officers serving water instead of enforcing law painted a refreshing picture of modern policing—one that prioritizes empathy and service. As summer intensifies, the Motakonduru Chalivendram stands as a symbol of compassion, reminding everyone that sometimes, even a pot of water can make a world of difference.

EDITORIAL

SAFETY FIRST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Two devastating industrial explosions within two days — February 28 and March 1 — in two of India's most industrially advanced States have once again exposed the alarming gaps in safety regulation governing hazardous manufacturing units. The twin tragedies, which together claimed more than 40 lives, underline a persistent pattern of negligence, weak enforcement and systemic complacency in industries dealing with explosive and chemical materials. The first incident occurred at the Suryashree Fire Works factory in Vetlapalem, Andhra Pradesh, where a powerful blast reportedly took place while workers were manually mixing chemicals used in fireworks production. Such processes, known to be highly volatile, demand strict adherence to safety standards, specialised equipment and trained personnel. Preliminary reports suggest that basic precautions may not have been adequately followed, raising serious questions about monitoring mechanisms and compliance checks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Benchmark Indices Rally for 2nd Day on Positive Global Cues

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian equities continued their recovery for a second consecutive session on Tuesday, buoyed by strong gains in metal and auto shares, positive global cues, and bargain hunting by foreign investors. The Sensex jumped 568 points (0.75%) to close at 76,071, while the Nifty 50 gained 172 points (0.74%) to end at 23,581.

The benchmark indices have rebounded sharply this week following a steep selloff last week. Broad-based buying supported the rally, with most sectoral indices closing in green except for Nifty IT and FMCG. Metal, auto, and



realty stocks led the gains, while Nifty IT fell over 2% amid concerns over delays in rate cuts and ongoing macro uncertainty in key markets like the US, affecting IT earnings outlook despite favorable currency trends. Nifty Bank added 463 points to close at 54,876, and Nifty Auto surged over 2% amid sustained

buying momentum. On the Nifty 50, top gainers included Eternal, Tata Steel, M&M, HDFC Life, and BEL, which advanced 2-6%. BEL rose over 2% after securing an order worth Rs 1,011 crore. Meanwhile, Wipro, Cipla, and Tata Consumer Products were the day's top laggards. Midcaps and smallcaps mir-

rored the benchmark's strength, with Nifty Midcap 100 up 1% and Nifty Smallcap 100 rising 0.65%. Market breadth turned positive after four days, with the BSE advance-decline ratio at 1.25, signaling broad participation. A key support came from a sharp decline in India VIX, which fell nearly 8% to sub-20 levels, reducing option risk premiums and stabilizing the markets ahead of derivatives expiry. The Indian Rupee also strengthened for the second day, appreciating 5 paise to 92.37, supported by equity market gains and strength in Asian currencies. According to Nandish Shah, Deputy VP at HDFC Securities, "A

double bottom formation on intraday charts suggests further upside potential. Immediate resistance is at 23,700, with a breach likely opening the path to 23,835.

Conversely, a decisive break below 23,300 may signal a resumption of the downtrend." On the liquidity front, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) injected Rs 48,014 crore through a seven-day variable rate repo auction at a cut-off rate of 5.26%, aiming to ease tightening conditions caused by tax outflows. The amount absorbed was lower than the notified Rs 1.50 lakh crore, reflecting moderate demand despite a sharp drop in surplus liquidity.

Some Banks Revise ATM Rules From April 1

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Several banks, including HDFC Bank and Punjab National Bank, have announced changes in cash withdrawal rules at ATMs, charges and limits. These changes will affect how customers use ATMs every month and are effective from April 1. HDFC Bank has announced that it will start counting UPI-based cash withdrawals at ATMs as part of the monthly free transaction limit. Now, customers using cardless cash withdrawal via UPI will have these transactions included within their allowed free ATM usage. After exceeding this limit, a charge of Rs 23 per transaction (plus applicable taxes) will be levied by the bank. Earlier, these cardless with-



drawals were treated separately. Now, they will be included in the same limit as debit card withdrawals. Currently, HDFC Bank allows five free withdrawals per month at its own ATMs. For transactions at other bank ATMs, the limit is three free withdrawals in metro cities and five in non-metro locations. The bank said this move is aimed at standardizing fee structures across different withdrawal channels and improving transparency in how charges are applied. UPI-

enabled ATM withdrawals allow users to withdraw cash without a debit card by scanning a QR code at compatible machines and authorising the transaction through a UPI application. Separately, Punjab National Bank has also announced a revision in ATM withdrawal limits for select debit cards, effective April 1. The bank has said that daily withdrawal limits will be reduced for certain card categories, but specific thresholds are yet to be announced.

Gold Offers a Layer of Resilience During Rupee Depreciation: WGC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Apart from providing a buffer during geopolitical uncertainties, gold offers a layer of resilience by amplifying returns for Indian investors during periods of rupee depreciation also, finds the World Gold Council. An environment characterised by elevated geopolitical tensions, shifting market correlations, and persistent currency risks underscores

the importance of building resilient portfolios. Gold's performance across market cycles, its importance as a diversifying tool and its ability to provide protection during periods of financial stress reinforce its strategic, long-term relevance within portfolios. "For Indian investors in particular, gold offers an additional layer of resilience by amplifying returns during periods of rupee depreciation," finds WGC. As gold is priced

internationally in US dollars, the value of the Indian rupee can significantly influence its domestic price. Periods of rupee depreciation tend to amplify gold price rises. Over longer horizons, the depreciation of the rupee has therefore contributed meaningfully to gold's return profile. This becomes increasingly relevant during periods of stress, when capital flows and exchange rates tend to be volatile.



During such times, gold provides additional protection against uncertainty

as well as from currency risk within portfolios. Despite India's growth mo-

mentum, risks to the outlook stem largely from external uncertainties like spillover from geopolitical tensions, volatility in the global financial markets, and uncertain global economic prospects, have intensified since the beginning of 2026. The implications of the ongoing West Asian conflict are particularly significant for India, from energy supplies to trade and capital flows. Prolonged disruption

could exert pressure on inflation, the rupee, and sectoral performance. Gold has emerged as one of the strongest performing assets in recent years, outperforming equities, bonds and currencies as investors have sought protection against geopolitical tensions, policy uncertainty and inflation risks. Price momentum has further reinforced investor demand. Importantly, many of the drivers behind this rally remain

firmly in place in 2026. In this environment, building strong buffers and constructing resilient portfolios becomes increasingly important for wealth preservation. The case for gold in Indian portfolios extends beyond recent performance. Market cycles, correlation dynamics, currency movements, and periods of systemic stress all reinforce gold's role as a portfolio stabiliser.

CBIT Students Gain Real-Time Project Exposure

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Students from Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, gained valuable hands-on experience during an industrial visit to a major infrastructure project undertaken by Das Engineering Company (DEC) at Rajendranagar. Organized by the Department of Civil Engineering for B.E. and M.E. students, the visit aimed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and



real-world construction practices. The initiative was coordinated by Assistant Professor Sri M. Kalyan under the guidance of Head of Department

Dr. K. Jagannadha Rao, along with a team of faculty members. The large-scale project spans nearly 100 acres and includes the devel-

opment of multi-storey institutional buildings, assembly halls, and office spaces, with an estimated cost of ₹1,500 crore—making it a significant infrastructure undertaking in the region. During the visit, Project Director Vivek Singh provided insights into project execution, structural systems, and quality benchmarks. Project Manager Sudhakar elaborated on daily site operations and safety measures, while Planning Engineer Tanuj explained scheduling tools like CPM

and efficient resource management. Students closely observed critical construction activities, including foundation work, reinforced concrete structures, quality testing methods, and on-site inspections, enhancing their practical understanding. CBIT Principal Dr. C. V. Narasimhulu lauded the initiative, emphasizing that such industrial exposure plays a crucial role in shaping industry-ready engineers by offering practical insights beyond textbooks.

No Funds Awarded Under PLI Scheme for Solar PV Modules

Around 30 GW of solar PV module manufacturing capacity, around 10.5 GW of solar PV cell manufacturing capacity, and around 2 GW of ingot-wafer manufacturing capacity have been set up. Out of the awarded capacity, 4 GW of integrated capacity for solar cells and modules, has been declared commissioned in October 2025.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Under the Rs 24,000 crore PLI scheme for solar PV modules, no funds have been awarded yet due to lower progress in upstream components such as polysilicon and wafer manufacturing. Under the scheme, letters of award have been issued for setting up 48,337 MW of fully/partially integrated solar PV module manufacturing capacity. However, no funds have been released under the scheme, as it provides for release of PLI to the successful bidders one year after commissioning of the manufacturing projects awarded under the scheme. Until now, this one-year post-commissioning period has not been completed in respect of the projects awarded under the scheme, the government informed the Parliament. Around 30 GW of solar PV module manufacturing capacity, around 10.5 GW



of solar PV cell manufacturing capacity, and around 2 GW of ingot-wafer manufacturing capacity have been set up. Out of the awarded capacity, 4 GW of integrated capacity for solar cells and modules, has been declared commissioned in October 2025. "The lower progress in upstream components such as polysilicon and wafer manufacturing under the scheme, is primarily due to various difficulties associated with setting up of facilities, and lack of prior domestic experience. In addition, the global supply chain for upstream solar PV components is concentrated in a limited number of countries, and the domestic ecosystem for these segments is still

at a nascent stage. "The Government is aware of the dependence on imported raw materials, specialised manufacturing equipment, and technical expertise, in the upstream segments of the solar PV manufacturing value chain," it said. The PLI Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules has been designed to encourage vertically integrated manufacturing, including polysilicon, wafers, cells, and modules, with higher incentives provided for higher extent of integration. Further, domestic manufacturing of other ancillary inputs used in solar module manufacturing, like solar glass, aluminium frame, encapsulant, and tinned copper interconnect, are being supported through measures like imposition of basic customs duty on finished product, exemption of basic customs duty on specified inputs, and anti-dumping duty.

Community Iftar Promotes Unity, Service

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Reflecting the true spirit of Ramadan, corporators from Divisions 10 and 60 organized community Iftar gatherings, bringing together residents in an atmosphere of unity, compassion, and service. Division No. 60 In-charge Corporator Sajjad Rahil and Nagaram Corporator Mohammed Anwar made elaborate arrangements for Iftar and dinner in their re-



spective areas. The initiative witnessed participation from a large

number of local residents, who gathered to break their fast in a

peaceful and well-coordinated setting. The arrangements were carried out smoothly, ensuring comfort and convenience for attendees. Community members appreciated the organizers for maintaining proper facilities and creating a welcoming environment for all. Addressing the gathering, the corporators emphasized that Ramadan is not only a period of fasting but also a time to strengthen bonds, ex-

tend help to the needy, and promote harmony among communities. They stated that such efforts aim to foster inclusiveness and collective well-being. Residents lauded the initiative, calling it a meaningful step toward reinforcing communal harmony and social responsibility. Many described the event as an inspiring example of how local leadership can bring people together through acts of service during the holy month.

Oscars Viewership Hits Low

This year, the 98th Academy Awards, hosted by legendary TV talk show host Conan O'Brien, reportedly saw a decline in viewership compared to the previous year. The ceremony was broadcast on ABC in the U.S. and streamed on Hulu. According to ratings from Nielsen Media Research, viewership dropped from 19.7 million last year to 17.9 million this year—a decline of 9.1%. Hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Dolby Theatre in downtown



Los Angeles, this trend is not unusual for the show. Since the 1990s, TV viewership for the Oscars has been steadily declining, with 1998 holding the all-time record of 57 million viewers. This drop is largely attributed to

changing audience habits, particularly the shift toward digital streaming platforms over traditional television.

The event recorded a rating of 3.92 (approximately 5.3 million viewers) among adults aged 18–49,

marking a 14% decline from last year's rating of 4.54. However, in terms of awards, the night saw major wins across categories. Paul Thomas Anderson's film dominated with six major awards, including Best Director,

Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Picture, and the newly introduced category of Best Casting. This was followed by Ryan Coogler's *Sinners*, which took home four Oscars. Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor, Coogler secured Best Screenplay, and cinematographer Autumn Durald Arkapaw won Best Cinematography—becoming the first woman to win in that category. Despite dramatic moments, surprising ties, and highly anticipated wins, overall viewership for the Oscars continued to decline.

'Dhurandhar' Beats 'Ustaad' in Telugu States?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In a surprising turn in the Telugu states, Ranveer Singh's *Dhurandhar*:

The *Revenge* has secured more screens than Pawan Kalyan's *Ustaad Bhagat Singh!* In Telangana, *Dhurandhar* is showing in over 300 of roughly 450 theatres, while *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* plays in around 150. In Andhra Pradesh, *Dhurandhar* leads again with nearly 400 theatres and premiere shows are seeing strong occupancy.

According to a leading exhibitor, "No Bollywood film has created this level of hype in the Telugu states in recent times."



However, from a business standpoint, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* still leads! The exhibitor further noted that the movie may regain additional screens in the coming days, depending on its box office performance. "Distributors hope to capitalise on the upcoming Ugadi festival holiday," he added. The box office battle has effectively turned into a face-off between

Pawan and Ranveer twin states respectively. However, the exhibitor cautioned against direct comparisons. He noted that while Ranveer benefits from franchise momentum, Pawan's fan base could boost *Ustaad Bhagat Singh's* collections in the next few days, especially if the cop drama proves engaging.

Women in Imtiaz Ali Films Are the Story: Sharvari Wagh



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Bollywood actress Sharvari Wagh, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', has lauded Imtiaz Ali's films and his characterization of women in his films. She lauds him, mentioning his filmmaking style, and his portrayal of women. The film 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' is directed by Imtiaz Ali and also co-written by him. Imtiaz's films are unlike

other commercial films; they are known to have flawed characters where men are on a quest to search for themselves. Apart from themes of despair, love, loneliness, and flawed male protagonists on the quest for self-discovery, he is also known to portray powerful female characters on screen. Actress Sharvari Wagh is set to be the leading lady of Imtiaz's latest film. In a recent interview, she appreciated her director and stated that Imtiaz's films tend to have women de-

defined by their depth and individuality. Sharvari said, "I think being an Imtiaz Ali heroine means stepping into a space where the lines between the character and your own heart begin to blur in the most beautiful way. Imtiaz sir has given us such incredible heroines that we have all loved for so many years. To be his choice as the leading lady in *Main Vaapas Aaunga* is truly a dream come true moment for me. That he sees me as a leading lady in his vision when actors

like Alia, Deepika, Kareena, Anushka, and others have worked with him, is such a big validation of my work and my passion towards my craft and cinema". She further mentioned, "His women have never been just parts of a story; they are the story. When I think of Geet Dhillon from *Jab We Met*, there's this uninhibited joy and fearlessness, but also a quiet resilience when life doesn't go as planned. Tara Maheshwari in *Tamasha* - she carries so

much depth, love, and emotional courage, holding space for someone else's brokenness while navigating her own truth. In *Highway*, Alia Bhatt as Veera is so raw, unfiltered, and achingly real. Her transformation from a sheltered young woman to someone who confronts her deepest traumas is portrayed with remarkable honesty. I have been inspired by all of them, and it's incredible to be shaped and mentored by Imtiaz Ali because I think

Ishan Kishan to captain Sunrisers Hyderabad in Pat Cummins' absence

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan will lead Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for the first few matches of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, standing in for Australian legend Pat Cummins, who is yet to recover from a back injury, the franchise announced on Wednesday. SRH have also stated that top-ranked T20I batter Abhishek Sharma will be Kishan's deputy during this period. "Pat Cummins will miss a few matches due to his ongoing recovery. Until he recovers, Ishan Kishan will be the captain, and Abhishek Sharma will be the vice-captain," SRH wrote in a post on Twitter. Cummins has not played competitive cricket since the third



Ashes Test in Adelaide in December 2025, following his injury during the West Indies tour due to a lumbar stress fracture in his lower back. He was ruled out of the remaining Ashes matches and the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup due to the same issue. The all-rounder is

expected to join the team in the later stages of IPL 2026.

Kishan, who joined SRH in the 2025 IPL, captained Jharkhand to their first Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in the recent domestic season and has strong credentials to lead the side in Cummins' absence.

This will be his first stint as a captain in the IPL.

Abhishek, who joined SRH ahead of IPL 2019, has been a mainstay with the side, forming an ultra-attacking opening partnership with Australia's Travis Head. While Kishan struck three fifties in India's triumphant T20 World Cup win, Abhishek found his rhythm, smashing a half-century off just 18 balls in the final, which India won by 96 runs. He will look to continue his good form in IPL 2026 as vice-captain.

SRH, the 2016 IPL winners, will begin their IPL 2026 campaign against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on March 28.

CSK's Samson move signals transition beyond Dhoni: Experts

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chennai Super Kings decided to trade in Sanju Samson ahead of the TATA IPL 2026 auction as part of their succession plans. JioStar experts AB de Villiers and Anil Kumble discussed Samson's role despite not being named CSK Captain, as well as the team's strategy and planning for the future beyond MS Dhoni.

"It's very tricky and not straightforward. Brands are built over years, and CSK have built this empire over many years with this MS Dhoni figure that's always been there. When you mention CSK, you immediately think of Dhoni," de Villiers said. "I feel that in the last few years, his role has purely been about keeping that brand as strong as possible. That's why I don't see a role for him batting at eight or nine and not really doing enough, like last season," he said. WE KNOW he can be impactful with the bat, but if he's batting that low and not captaining, it feels like he's almost just making up for a spot for the wrong reasons. There's still a place for him, but he needs to bat higher, at least at six, maybe even at five or four at times. It's a tricky situation, but Sanju Samson is the right guy to take over, and credit to Dhoni because he's hung around, waiting for the right person to come. If MS plays, I want him to put himself under more pressure and be the guy to handle those big moments," de Villiers explained. For his part, another JioStar expert Anil Kumble said: "Icons from one generation to another, the baton has passed on in Indian cricket, from Sunil Gavaskar to Sachin, then to Virat, with MS Dhoni also part of that era. You had the likes of Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly before the shift to MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, who still carry that aura and continue to perform."



"In that sense, Sanju coming in is a great move for CSK. The icing on the cake is his fantastic form leading into the IPL and winning the World Cup for India with three back-to-back knocks. I'm sure that will certainly contribute to the franchise's fan following. From a Chennai perspective, he fits their need, being Kerala-born, speaks Tamil, so there's a connect, a wicketkeeper-batter, so in a similar mould to MS, and his experience will be valuable for CSK," he explained.

On Sanju Samson's role as unofficial vice-captain, Kumble said: "I think that's the perfect role for Sanju, handling those responsibilities almost like a vice-captain. He has captained Rajasthan for a long period of time, so that leadership role comes naturally to him, and that's something CSK will be looking for. Last year, when Rituraj was injured, MS had to take over, and previously, when Ravindra Jadeja was also captain, MS Dhoni came back in as captain midway through the season."

Transgender Groups Protest Amendment Bill



A coalition of transgender persons, activists, students and civil society groups gathered at Dharna Chowk on Wednesday to oppose the proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, calling it a rollback of constitutional protections and demanding its withdrawal. "This Bill sets us back not by a few years, but by 126 years," said Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli, senior human rights and RTI activist, linking it to the colonial-era Telangana Eunuchs Act. She reminded the gathering that courts had previously described such laws as "an assault on the dignity of transgender persons."

Speakers highlighted the impact on daily life. "At a time when I had just begun to feel that I could live with recognition as a human being, this Bill has taken away all that hope," said Kiran Raj, a trans rights activist and advocate. He asked, "If this Bill becomes law, will we still have the freedom to say 'I am a trans man' or 'I am a trans woman'?" Concerns centred on the requirement of medical certification. "Why should people like me be forced to stand before a medical board to prove who we are?" Kiran asked, warning it could lead to coercive practices such as correction therapies and forced marriages. Clinical psychologist Aarathi Selvan added, "When there is discrimination and institutional abandonment, it leads to extreme stress, anxiety, depression and even suicidal thoughts. A trans person's gender identity is not determined by how others perceive them. It is a deeply felt sense of self." Speakers also pointed to India's legal history.

Al-Faiz Welfare Society Hosts Iftar, Distributes Aid to Students



Al-Faiz Welfare Society organized an Iftar gathering on the 28th day of Ramadan at its office in Mahabubnagar, promoting unity and community service. The event brought together local members and students, with essential supplies distributed to students of a nearby Arabic madrasa. Society President Jahangir Baba said the organization is committed to supporting education while continuing its long-standing public service efforts. He noted that the society has been actively serving the community for the past 29 years through various welfare initiatives. The program was attended by Secretary Mohammed Yaqoob, Suhail Rahman Khan, social worker Mohammed Abdul Qawi, Imam Mohammed Ali, Maulana Mubarak, Hafiz Abid, Mahboob Ali, and madrasa students. The gathering reflected the spirit of charity, compassion, and togetherness associated with Ramadan, reinforcing the society's ongoing mission of community upliftment and social responsibility.

Teen Ends Life Over Alleged Love Failure

A 19-year-old student ended her life at her house in Srinivasanagar under Chilkalguda police station limits, reportedly after her parents restricted her from meeting her friend Jagdish, police said. Her parents, Ramadevi and Koteswara Rao, returned home from work and grew suspicious when she did not respond to the doorbell. With the help of neighbours, they broke open the door and found her dead, said V. Ramakrishna, SHO Chilkalguda. Jamina had recently completed her Intermediate Second Year and was in love with Jagdish. Police suspect she might have taken the drastic step after her parents refused her proposal. Ramadevi, who lodged the complaint, alleged that Jagdish was responsible for her daughter's death. "We have registered a case of suspicious death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The case is under investigation."

Pre-Eid Rush Surges at Charminar Bazaar



A large crowd is busy shopping in the bustling markets for Eid al-Fitr near Charminar, as devotees are seen breaking their fast along the roadside during the holy month of Ramzan in Hyderabad on Wednesday. —Photo: Mir Zulfeqar ali

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

The historic lanes around Charminar came alive with unmatched vibrancy on the last day of Ramzan, as thousands of people thronged the bustling Charminar bazaar for final Eid shopping. From early evening till late night, the area witnessed heavy footfall, with families, youngsters, and tourists soaking in the festive spirit. Shops selling bangles, perfumes, traditional attire, and accessories did brisk business, especially at the iconic Laad Bazaar. Glittering bangles, embroidered dresses, and sherwanis attracted buyers preparing for Eid celebrations. Street vendors lined the roads with colorful displays, while the aroma of haleem, kebabs, and biryani filled the air, adding to the festive charm.

Traffic movement was slow due to the surge in visitors, but police personnel were deployed in large numbers to manage the crowd and ensure safety. Special arrangements, including barricades and pedestrian-only zones, helped maintain order.

Locals described the atmosphere as joyous and energetic, reflecting Hyderabad's rich cultural traditions. For many, visiting Charminar on Chand Raat is a cherished ritual, marking the end of Ramzan with shopping, food, and togetherness before the grand festival of Eid-ul-Fitr.

IIT Basar Students Protest Over Safety, Facilities

HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Students of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (IIT Basar) staged a prolonged protest on campus on Wednesday, raising serious concerns over safety, medical facilities, and food quality. The agitation, led by the Telangana Students Association for Solidarity (TSAS), was held in front of Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. Goverdhan's chamber, with students demanding immediate resolution of long-pending issues.

The protest intensified following the death of M. Tejaswini, a second-year student from Siddipet, who was suffering from leukaemia. She passed away on March 16 while undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital. Students alleged that she did not receive adequate medical attention at the campus health facility, prompting outrage among the student community.

They demanded ₹50 lakh compensation for her family and better health-care infrastructure on campus. In response, Vice-Chancellor Goverdhan

held discussions with student representatives and assured that all concerns would be addressed within a week. Following this assurance, the students called off the protest. To maintain law and order, police personnel were deployed on campus. Janaki Sharmila visited the institute and reviewed the situation, interacting with officials to ensure peace.

Meanwhile, a video circulating on social media, allegedly showing a woman using abusive language against students, sparked controversy. However, police clarified that the video was morphed and fake. TSAS also denied any involvement in its circulation, urging the public not to spread unverified content.

HYDRAA fences 3 acre of land in Vengal Rao Nagar worth Rs 600 crore



HYDERABAD

Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Wednesday, March 18, fenced three acre of land in Vengal Rao Nagar in Khairatabad meant for public use. The estimated worth of the land is Rs 600 crore. According to HYDRAA, the Housing Board had acquired 45 acre of land before 1975 by providing compensation to the concerned individuals and developed a layout with 660 plots.

Within the layout, five acre had been allocated for public use; however, two acre of land had al-

ready been encroached. Without messing with the permanent structures on the two acre of land, HYDRAA erected a fence on the remaining three acre. Some people had even approached the Telangana High Court claiming the open space as theirs. The High Court had then ordered a stay on any activity on the land; however, ignoring the High Court order, some people had erected sheds and huts on the open space.

On Wednesday, HYDRAA removed the encroachments from the three acre and erected fences and boards identifying the land as government property.

Judges, Lawyers Enjoy Friendly Match



Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Chief Justice of Telangana, joined fellow judges and members of the legal fraternity at the CJ XI vs President XI cricket match held at DRF Training Center Cricket Stadium. The friendly match created a lively atmosphere, encouraging interaction and camaraderie among participants beyond their professional roles. Judges and advocates came together to celebrate sportsmanship and teamwork, reflecting the spirit of unity within the judicial community. Advocate Mir Qurram Ali also attended the event, marking his presence among distinguished members of the legal fraternity.

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