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

Brief Insights

Anil Ambani in CBI HQ for Questioning in Bank Fraud Case

The CBI on Thursday questioned Industrialist Anil Ambani in connection with the case registered against Reliance Communications Ltd. on a complaint of the State Bank of India, officials said. Ambani arrived at the agency headquarters this morning for questioning in the case. The agency has alleged fund diversion, misappropriation and other

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Kavitha Eyes Telangana Praja Jagruthi as Party Name



K. Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi and former BRS MLC, on Thursday announced that she will launch a new political party after the auspicious Sri Rama Navami later this month, asserting that the party will remain independent with "no compromises" or alliances. Though the official name is yet to be chosen, Kavitha indicated it is likely to be "Telangana Praja Jagruthi". Her counsel has already approached the Delhi High Court seeking directions to

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Telangana CM assures regularisation of sada bainama land on Ugadi: P3

Cong Announces Office Bearers For 13 DCCs And One Corporation: P3

BJP's Rao Urges Women To Stay Cool on Gas Supplies: P2



CM Revanth Charts Profitable Farming Path



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that the Telugu New Year, Sri Parabhava Nama Samvat-saram, will be dedicated to farmers, reinforcing the State government's commitment to making agriculture profitable and dignified.

Addressing the official Ugadi celebrations at Ravindra Bharathi, the Chief Minister said the government's goal is to transform farming into a lucrative profession and ensure that farmers are treated as "kings" in society. He noted that nearly 70 per cent of families depend on agriculture, underlining the impor-

ance of sustained policy support to the sector.

Highlighting key welfare measures, he said the government is offering bonuses along with remunerative prices for agricultural produce. He also pointed out that Telangana has one of the lowest farmer debt burdens in the country, as per recent data presented in Parliament.

To further ease financial stress, the State has implemented a farm loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh per farmer, spending over ₹20,000 crore and benefiting around 25 lakh farmers. Additionally, ₹18,000 crore has already been disbursed under the Rythu Bharosa scheme,

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Iranian missile attack hits Israel's Haifa

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

An Iranian missile attack hit Israel's Oil Refineries in the northern port city of Haifa but did not cause "significant damage", Israel's Energy Ministry said on Thursday.

Energy Minister Eli Cohen said power was briefly disrupted, with electricity restored to most of those who were affected.

"The damage to the power grid in the north is localised and not significant," Cohen said. "Also, in the barrage towards the north, there was no significant damage to Israeli infrastructure sites."

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had targeted refineries in Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, and in Ashdod, in the country's south, "along with a range of security targets and military support centres of the Zionist regime", which it said "were hit by pinpoint missiles".

There was no immediate word on whether the Ashdod refinery was hit.

Police said bomb disposal units were at several



sites in Haifa where munitions landed. No casualties were reported.

Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection said debris from a missile that was intercepted fell in Haifa and was being examined as a hazardous materials incident.

Israel Electric Corp said

a power line in the Haifa area was hit by shrapnel, causing a brief outage, but that electricity was restored to all customers within about 45 minutes.

Last June, Oil Refineries in Haifa was hit by an Iranian missile, which killed three people and halted operations.

Trump Warns Israel: No More Strikes on Iran's South Pars Field

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Israel will not carry out further attacks on Iran's vital South Pars gas field, US President Donald Trump said on Thursday, while warning Tehran against targeting Qatar's energy infrastructure amid tit-for-tat strikes in the Middle East that sent global oil prices soaring.

"Israel, out of anger for

what has taken place in the Middle East, has violently lashed out at a major facility known as South Pars Gas Field in Iran," he said in a post on Truth Social. "A relatively small section of the whole has been hit." Trump was quick to distance Washington from the South Pars strikes, claiming it was solely an Israeli operation.

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Modi Calls for De-escalation in West Asia

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held talks with global leaders on the escalating West Asia situation, calling for deescalation and cautioning against attacks on energy infrastructure. During a conversation with King Abdullah II, he said, "attacks on energy infrastructure in West Asia are condemnable and can lead to avoidable escalation", without naming any country. The outreach follows recent strikes on energy facilities in the region, including Israeli attacks on Iran's South Pars gas field and a subsequent Iranian strike on Qatar's Ras Laffan facility.

In a separate post, the Prime Minister said, "Spoke with my dear friend, President Emmanuel Macron, on the situation in West Asia and the urgent need for de-escalation, as well as a return to dialogue and diplomacy." He also spoke with Sultan Hai-



tham bin Tariq, stating, "Reiterated India's condemnation of the violation of Oman's sovereignty and territorial integrity... India and Oman stand for safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz."

In his conversation with Anwar Ibrahim, the Prime Minister discussed the situation in West Asia and emphasised the need for peace and stability through dialogue. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar also spoke with Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saar. "Had a telecon with FM@Gidon-Saar of Israel this evening. Exchanged views on the ongoing West Asia conflict and its many repercussions," he posted.

Pentagon Seeks \$200B More for Iran War

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Pentagon is seeking \$200 billion in additional funds for the Iran war, a sizable amount that is certain to be met with questions from Congress, which would need to approve any new money, according to the AP sources. The department sent the request to the White House, according to a senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private information. Asked about the figure at



a press conference Thursday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth did not directly confirm the amount, saying it could change.

"It takes money to kill bad guys," Hegseth said. But he said "we're going back to Congress and our folks there to ensure that we're properly funded."

It's an extraordinarily high number and comes on top of extra funding the Defense Department already received last year in President Donald Trump's big tax cuts bill. Such a request would need to be approved by Congress, and it is not at all clear such spending would have political support. Congress has been bracing for a new spending request but it is not clear the White House has transmitted the request for consideration. The new funding request was first reported by The Washington Post.

Iran Weighs Taxing Hormuz Strait Passage

Iranian lawmakers have proposed a plan to impose tolls and taxes on ships passing through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, local media reported on Thursday. Officials have said shipping conditions through the waterway will not return to those from before the Middle East war began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. "We in parliament are pursuing a plan under which countries will pay tolls and taxes to the Islamic republic if the Strait of Hormuz is used

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Bhatti to Present Rs.3.25 Lakh Cr Budget

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is set to present the State Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, with the total outlay expected to be around Rs.3.25 lakh crore, according to sources. This would mark a 6.5 per cent increase over the 2025-26 Budget outlay of Rs.3,04,965 crore. The Budget is expected to prioritise education, health, irrigation, agriculture and



infrastructure, with higher allocations likely for the Congress party's Six Guarantees. The government is also expected to provide clarity on the job calendar for fresh recruitment.

Officials indicated that special allocations are likely for Hyderabad's de-

velopment, following the government's decision to expand the city limits up to the Outer Ring Road and create two new municipal corporations — Cyberabad and Malkajgiri — in addition to the existing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. The measures are aimed at strengthening urban governance and infrastructure. The Budget is expected to align with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's "Telangana Rising 2047" vision document, which proposes dividing the state into

three economic regions — CURE, PURE and RARE — to transform Telangana into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034. Allocations are likely to support this framework.

Infrastructure projects are expected to receive significant funding, including the Musi rejuvenation project and Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion under the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area, and the Regional Ring Road project under the Peri Urban Region Economy (PURE).

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Vikram Doraiswami Appointed as Next Indian

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Vikram Doraiswami, currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Thursday. In an official statement, the MEA said, "Vikram K. Doraiswami (IFS:1992), presently High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, has been appointed as the next Ambassador



of India to the People's Republic of China."

He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. Doraiswami joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992. Before that, he did journalism for a year. According to MEA, he received his master's degree in history from

Delhi University. After completing his in-service training in New Delhi from 1992-1993, Doraiswami was appointed Third Secretary in the Indian Embassy in Hong Kong in May 1994. He completed a Diploma in the Chinese Language at New Asia Yale-in-Asia Language School, Chinese University of Hong Kong. In September 1996, he was appointed to the Indian Embassy in Beijing, where he served for about four years.

On his return to the Ministry of External Af-

fairs in New Delhi in 2000, Doraiswami was appointed Deputy Chief of Protocol (Official). After two years he was promoted to the Prime Minister's office. Later he served as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of India. In 2006, Doraiswami took charge as the Political Counselor at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York and in October 2009 as the Consul General of India in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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Centre Defends Govt, SC Reserves 'Industry' Verdict

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it is "certainly not anti-labour" and will do everything to protect the interests of workers as a nine-judge Constitution Bench reserved its verdict on the correctness of 1978 ruling that gave expansive interpretation of term "industry." The Constitution bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant would decide on the pleas questioning

the correctness of the landmark verdict that broadened the term "industry" in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 bringing millions of workers under the protective umbrella of the law.

On the third day of the hearing, Attorney General R Venkataramani said, "I have consulted the government. The government is certainly not anti-labour. Labour welfare will be taken care of. We are moving towards a glob-

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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

BJP's Rao Urges Women To Stay Cool on Gas Supplies Amid Global Tensions

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday praised the Central government's efforts in maintaining stability in India despite global disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict, which has impacted fuel availability and prices in several countries. He reassured citizens that there is no shortage of domestic gas or petrol and urged people to celebrate Ugadi without panic. Speaking after participating in Panchanga Sraanam and Ugadi celebrations at the BJP state office, Rao appealed particularly to women not to fall prey to misinformation being circulated by "vested in-



terests." "Celebrate Ugadi joyfully — every stove should be lit, every kitchen active. There is no need to panic or believe in rumors," he said, emphasizing that essential supplies remain stable across the country. Rao pointed out that while many G20 nations are facing fuel price hikes and supply con-

straints due to the ongoing geopolitical situation, India has managed to maintain relative stability. He credited this to the effective governance and foresight of the Centre under the leadership of Narendra Modi. Clarifying concerns over LPG availability, Rao said domestic gas supply is functioning

normally and there is no need for consumers to rush for bookings or stand in long queues. "Gas agencies have confirmed that cylinders are being delivered within two to three days, and there is no disruption in household supply," he stated. However, he acknowledged a temporary dip of nearly 40 percent in commercial LPG supply, adding that the situation is expected to normalize soon as incoming gas shipments are unloaded.

Highlighting the broader message of Ugadi, Rao referred to the Panchangam discourse, which stressed the importance of combining ancient wisdom with modern scientific advancements. Quoting the speaker, he said, "If you are not up-

dated, you will be outdated," urging people to stay informed and progressive while remaining rooted in Telugu culture.

He also mentioned that the BJP's training sessions emphasize this balance between tradition and technology. Drawing a parallel with India's successful handling of the COVID-19 crisis, Rao said the country continues to stand as a symbol of resilience and stability amid global uncertainties. Calling for unity, he described Ugadi as a time for personal renewal and social harmony. "Let us shed ego, anger, and selfishness, and work together to build a stronger and united nation," Rao added.

Telangana to Have Good Rains, Bumper Crops, Says Almanac

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana will have bountiful rains and bumper crops, and the state government's reputation will rise during the Telugu New Year 'Sri Parabhava Nama Samvatsaram', according to noted Ugadi almanac (panchangam) reader B. Santosh Kumar Sastry. He said the year would bring prosperity to the state and its people through agriculture and rural development. Reading out the Panchangam at the state government's official Ugadi celebrations held at Ravindra Bharathi, he said the real estate sector in Hyderabad was likely to witness an upswing. Reforms were also expected in the health sector, with ministers focusing on strengthening public healthcare. He also advised people against purchasing land



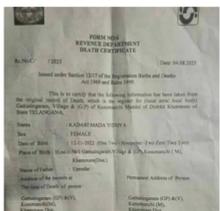
through loans and stressed the need for controlled spending, noting that financial discipline would be key to navigating the year successfully. He forecast a favourable period for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, stating that the latter would overcome obstacles and deliver effective governance. He cautioned the government about challenges such as price rise and food adulteration, and noted that financial pressures could mount, requiring the finance portfolio to take tough and prudent decisions to maintain stability. Clarifying concerns over the name 'Parabhava', which signifies defeat,

Sastry said there was no need for fear, explaining that the year would bring defeat only to the unrighteous, while those adhering to dharma would achieve progress and prominence. He said governance in the coming year would focus on public welfare, land and agriculture-related issues. He also said the state was likely to experience intense summer heat, with the maximum temperature potentially reaching extreme levels of up to 50° Celsius. Sastry warned that the year could witness power struggles and competition for dominance within the government, including differences between the leadership and ministers. Despite this, he said those following righteous paths would ultimately succeed. He advised the government to exercise caution in agreements and inter-state water-sharing matters.

New portal simplifies birth, death registrations TG

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Central government is preparing to roll out a unified digital platform, the Civil Registration System (CRS), to streamline the online registration of birth and death certificates across the country. The initiative is aimed at ensuring uniformity among states while curbing the issuance of fake or duplicate certificates through a centralized and transparent system. At present, local authorities such as the Greater Hy-



derabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) handle the issuance of birth and death certificates within their respective jurisdictions. However, differences in procedures followed by various states have led to loopholes, en-

abling the creation of fraudulent documents. Officials recently detected thousands of fake certificates, prompting the need for a more secure and standardized mechanism. Under the new CRS portal, citizens will be able to apply for birth and death certificates online by registering, filling out application forms, uploading required documents, and tracking their application status.

Once verified by the concerned registrar, certificates can be issued within three to five days. Appli-

cants can also obtain documents through Mee Seva centres by paying a nominal fee of ₹30 per certificate.

Birth certificates are crucial for accessing services such as school admissions, passports, Aadhaar, and other government benefits, while death certificates are essential for property transfer, insurance claims, and pension processing. The CRS portal is expected to significantly improve efficiency, transparency, and ease of access in civil registration services.

No professors on rolls in seven Telangana universities

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Seven universities and not even a single professor on the rolls. This is the situation of Telangana universities under the Congress government, reflecting a deep crisis in the State's higher education system. As per the statistics available with the Higher Education department, Kakatiya University, the second oldest and largest university in the State, has no professor to teach, as all 55 sanctioned pro-



fessor positions are lying vacant. The same is the fate of Mahatma Gandhi University, Satavahana University, Palamuru University, Suravaram Pratapa Reddy Telugu University, Dr BR Ambedkar Open University and Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge

Technologies (RGUKT) Basar. The absence of professors, who have a key role in formulating the syllabus, guiding research, mentoring PhD scholars and attracting funding from agencies, has brought academic activity to a near standstill in these varsities. Vacant positions are not just limited to the professor-level cadre. Eleven universities are also facing a shortage of faculty at the associate and assistant professor levels. For instance, only 53

out of 514 sanctioned associate professor posts in Osmania University are on the rolls, leaving a staggering 461 vacant for the past several years. Similarly, 470 out of 601 sanctioned assistant professor positions are vacant. The situation is worse in Kakatiya University, as only two out of 96 sanctioned associate professor posts are filled. Similarly, 183 out of 258 sanctioned assistant professor posts are lying vacant.

Gutta Sukhender Reddy Pitches Oil Palm Cultivation to Farmers

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy on Thursday strongly advocated oil palm cultivation, urging farmers to adopt the crop citing its profitability and government support. Addressing a Rythu Utsavam at an oil palm factory in Narmetta village of Nangunur mandal in Siddipet district, he said his own experience with oil palm had yielded favourable results and encouraged farmers to explore it as a sustainable income source. Highlighting the benefits, he noted that farmers could take up intercropping during the first two years, ensuring additional income before the main crop stabilizes. He also pointed to Central subsidy assistance of ₹4,200 per acre and advised farmers to register with oil federation officials to avail themselves of government schemes and technical guidance. The programme, organised under the Praja Palana programme,



witnessed participation from key political leaders including Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, ministers Tum-mala Nageswara Rao, Ponnampalabharathi and Vakituri Srihari, along with MP Raghunandan Rao and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao. Speaking on the occasion, Gaddam Prasad Kumar assured that the State government would extend comprehensive support to farmers taking up oil palm cultivation. He revealed that the crop is already being cultivated in nearly 3,000 acres in the region and reiterated the government's commitment to assist farmers, especially during the initial phase of cultivation. Minister Tum-

mala Nageswara Rao described oil palm as an emerging major source of income for farmers and highlighted subsidy support of up to ₹51,000 per acre. He added that the Narmetta oil palm factory has the potential to generate up to 4 MW of power, while plans are underway to establish a refinery in Siddipet to further boost the sector. T. Harish Rao attributed the region's suitability for oil palm cultivation to improved moisture levels following the Kaleshwaram project. He announced plans to expand oil palm cultivation to 50,000 acres in Siddipet district, reinforcing efforts to promote it as a viable alternative crop for farmers.

Telangana govt seeks 22,700 crore loan for Rabi paddy procurement



The Telangana government has empanelled the Telangana State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd (TG MARKFED) as an additional agency to procure 95 lakh tonne paddy from farmers in the Rabi marketing season 2025-26. A government order was issued to that effect by K Surendra Mohan, Agricultural Production Commissioner (APC) and Secretary to the government, Agriculture and Cooperation Department, on Wednesday, March 18. A loan, amounting to Rs 22,700 crore, is being sought from the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for paddy procurement through TG MARKFED, without linking it to the existing outstanding loans and other loans of the agency. The loan is being secured with the state government acting as the guarantor, permitting TG MARKFED to obtain it. The Managing Director of TG MARKFED has been authorised to transfer the obtained loan amount into the account of the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd (TGCSCL).

Congress smartphone scam bigger than Rs.20 crore, says BRS

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The BRS on Thursday escalated its attack on the Congress government, alleging that the smartphone procurement for Anganwadi workers under the Centre's Poshan Abhiyan scheme was not a minor irregularity but a scam exceeding Rs 20 crore if actual market prices were taken into account. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, BRS leader Manne

Krishank said the Union government sanctioned Rs 54 crore for supplying smartphones to 38,130 Anganwadi workers to enable digital data collection. He said the per-device allocation was fixed at Rs 11,800 after revisions made in 2024. The Party has demanded a vigilance inquiry and said the government must clarify whether the procurement was done transparently. He warned that if no probe was ordered within

a week, the BRS would move court. Krishank said the State government, through the Women and Child Welfare department headed by Minister D Seethakka, issued a tender for Samsung A06 phones and claimed the cost per handset was about Rs 11,600. However, he said the same model with 4GB RAM and 64GB storage was available in the retail market for around Rs 8,249.

Three held for transporting 105 kg ganja from AP to Telangana

Telangana Police arrested three people and seized 105.54 kg ganja worth Rs 52 lakh at Julurupadu mandal headquarters in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Thursday, March 19. Acting on credible intelligence that ganja was being transported in vehicles, the Julurupadu police and the Central Crime Station (CCS) personnel conducted a joint inspection, resulting in the seizure of the contraband from two cars. The police took three individuals, identified as Shivakar Pramod Kumar, 35, Baireddy Bhargava, 30, and Andekar Srinivas, 40, into custody for transporting ganja.

SSC Paper 'Leaked' 30 Minutes After Exam Began

Nizamabad
Wakeup telangana

Fresh concerns have been raised around SSC exams after the latest incident in Nizamabad on Wednesday, where papers circulated on social media after the exam began, and nine officials were suspended across multiple centres. "This was not really a paper leak. It was an invigilator who took a photograph of the question paper and circulated it around 12.30 pm," said Dr E. Naveen Nicolas, director of school education. The incident followed a familiar pattern. Past cases across the state show papers being photo-

graphed inside exam halls and shared through messaging platforms shortly after the start of the exam. Teachers' unions said the immediate response often places the burden on all staff, including those not involved. Chava Ravi, state president, Telangana State United Teachers' Federation, said teachers on exam duty are now working under heightened scrutiny. He said such incidents create unnecessary pressure on students and on teachers who are conducting exams properly. Even when only a few individuals are responsible, suspicion extends to everyone involved in the

process, he added. Ravi said, "District authorities need to give invigilators the confidence to carry out their duties without fear while maintaining strict checks." He said stronger security and clearer safeguards are necessary to control malpractice, alongside action against those found responsible. Parents said the issue goes beyond one incident. Venkat Sainath, a parent and education activist, said, "If a violation of this scale is confirmed, students may have to face the burden of writing the paper again. How can invigilators be so careless, and the incident cannot be dismissed as a minor lapse?"

Sainath also said parents need assurance that such lapses will not recur and described the episode as a failure of command and control. Similar incidents have appeared every few years, he said, adding that the system still lacks adequate safeguards even as boards like CBSE and ICSE complete their exams without such disruptions. In Warangal, a Hindi question paper was shared while the exam was in progress, leading to arrests and departmental action. 2025 - A case in Nalgonda involved two teachers and others in circulating a question paper.

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".

Telangana CM assures regularisation of sada bainama land on Ugadi

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced on Thursday, March 19, that soon the state government will resolve the issue of registering the land purchased before 2020 by farmers through sada bainama (sale deeds written, agreed and signed on white papers).

Revanth Reddy was speaking at the "Sri Parabhava Nama" Ugadi celebrations held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad, where he made the announcement on Sada Bainama registrations.

In October 2020, the then Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) government had issued government order (GO) 112 to register the lands purchased through Sada Bainama, which was a process followed by farmers even since India attained



independence. Under Sada Bainama, the seller of the land and the buyer used to enter an agreement signed on a white paper, which itself was considered a land transfer document, though it was never entered in the revenue records of the state.

When GO 112 was issued, more than 9 lakh farmers applied for the regularisation/registration of those lands.

However, the GO was contested in the Telangana High Court by one Shinde Devidas from Nirmal dis-

trict, who contended that the regularisation of those lands didn't have a legal backing under the then Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Act of 2020, which then led to the launch of the Dharani revenue portal. The High Court had then issued interim orders preventing the state government from going ahead with the implementation of GO 112.

On August 26, 2025, a division bench comprising the then Chief Justice, Alok Aradhe, and Justice

GM Mohiuddin lifted the interim stay issued in November 2020.

Advocate General A Sudarshan Reddy had argued that the state government was committed to regularising lands purchased under sada bainamas, if they were in continuous possession for at least 12 years prior to 2014. In its ruling, the bench had observed that since the old Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Act was repealed and replaced by the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights in Land) Act, 2025, the public interest litigation (PIL) filed on the basis of the previous law had become redundant. The Congress government had also promised before the 2023 Assembly elections that if it came to power, sada bainama lands would be regularised.

Kavitha Eyes Telangana Praja Jagruthi as Party Name

Moves Election Commission of India for registration; rules out alliances

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

K. Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi and former BRS MLC, on Thursday announced that she will launch a new political party after the auspicious Sri Rama Navami later this month, asserting that the party will remain independent with "no compromises" or alliances.

Though the official name is yet to be decided, Kavitha indicated it is likely to be 'Telangana Praja Jagruthi'. Her counsel has already approached the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to process the party's registration.

The court disposed of the petition by directing the ECI to consider the



application filed under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, without specifying a deadline. Kavitha's legal team had requested a four-week timeframe, citing the likelihood of local body elections in Telangana being announced by mid-April.

According to submissions made before the court, the application for party registration was filed on January 23. Separately, during Ugadi celebrations at the Telangana Jagruthi office, Ka-

witha unveiled the 'Jagruthi People's Budget 2026-27' with a proposed outlay of ₹2,15,200 crore. She stated that the initiative aims to reflect the aspirations and needs of the people and would be presented annually on Ugadi.

Kavitha urged the government to consider incorporating these proposals into the official state budget. While the Telangana government is expected to present a budget exceeding ₹3 lakh crore, she said the Jagruthi budget focuses on efficient allocation while maintaining fiscal space for additional initiatives. The announcement signals Kavitha's formal political entry with an independent platform ahead of upcoming local elections.

Indiramma Houses in Forests May Open Podu Pandora's Box

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

One of the flagship programmes of the state government, Indiramma Illu housing, appears all set to open the question of whether or not podu rights on forest land given to tens of thousands of applicants are valid, and if houses granted under the scheme to build on podu land could overnight leave the beneficiaries liable for punishment for encroachment of forest land. The stand of the Centre in backing such permissions could play a major role in aiding the beneficiaries.

Even as officials have begun flagging the prospect that the state government could well face the charge of encouraging illegal encroachment of forest areas under the guise of Indiramma Illu houses, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court, looking into complaints of alleged illegal granting of podu rights, is expected to meet next week and begin going through every podu 'patta' and determine if these were issued as per the Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act.

According to sources, thousands of Indiramma Illu have been granted to beneficiaries who received RoFR rights issued by the tribal welfare department. "Every one of such permissions is by any means, an encroachment of the forest, and this cannot be permitted. Even in parcels where podu rights were given,



it was only for agriculture and no habitation rights are mentioned," a forest department official told.

"The podu rights issued in Telangana are to be examined by the CEC, which will also be taking into account how a majority of the pattas issued in the last round in 2023 were given despite the forest department's opposition as no proof existed that the applicants were practicing agriculture in the claimed forest land prior to December 2025, a primary requirement under the RoFR Act," another official explained.

The only saving grace for the Indiramma Illu scheme could be the affidavit filed in the Supreme Court in another case related to the PM Awas Yojana in RoFR land parcels. The Centre informed the court this past February that, as per the Act's provisions, 'habitation rights' can be granted for RoFR beneficiaries provided these rights were approved by a grama sabha. Incidentally, part of the cost of each Indiramma Illu unit comes from the PMAY scheme.

Cong Announces Office Bearers For 13 DCCs And One Corporation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Thursday appointed 855 office-bearers in 13 districts and a municipal corporation, under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan to reinforce the organisation from the grassroots. Some of the committees now have close to 100 district-level executives, including vice-presidents, general secretaries, secretaries and executive members. PCC president B. Ma-



hesh Kumar Goud formally released the list on Ugadi. The districts with full-fledged committees include Khairatabad (90), Nirmal (65), Nagarkurnool (32), Khammam (80), Peddapalli (58), Medak (61), Nizamabad (89), Wanaparthy (32), Nizamabad

Corporation (33), Mancherial (50), Komaram Bheem-Asifabad (54), Yadadri-Bhongir (66), Adilabad (61) and Kamareddy (84).

On November 22, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge had cleared the appointment of presidents for 33 district committees besides the corporations of Karimnagar, Khammam and Nizamabad. The Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan is a major organisational restructuring initiative to strengthen its grassroots

presence and democratise leadership. According to party sources these appointments were made after a rigorous review process involving AICC observers. Party officials were assigned to each district to conduct detailed reviews and engage with local party workers and stakeholders. "The goal was to ensure transparency and justice for all sections. Moving away from top-down appointments to a process that incorporates the opinions

of party workers ensures that leadership opportunities are not limited to a select few and avoids internal factionalism," sources said. The recent 10-day training camp held at Ananthagiri Hills at Vikarabad, which was attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, was part of the Abhiyan, where newly appointed DCC presidents received guidance on strengthening the party at the booth level.

Karwan MLA Reviews Eidgah Arrangements

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin inspected key Eidgahs across the constituency to review preparations for the upcoming Namaz. The visit covered major prayer venues including 7 Tombs Eidgah, Pension Pura Eidgah, Panch Khane Eidgah and Hakeempet Eidgah.

The inspection aimed to ensure smooth arrangements, proper facilities, and crowd management for devotees. Senior leader Gulam Mohiuddin Khan, along with Eidgah



committee members, AIMIM party leaders, former corporators, and local unit presidents, accompanied the MLA during the visit. Officials and party

workers reviewed essential arrangements to facilitate a peaceful and well-organized Eid-ul-Fitr prayer across all major Eidgahs in Karwan constituency.

V5 Honours Grassroots Service Leaders

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Recognizing outstanding grassroots contributions, V5 News hosted its "Social Service of Excellence" Awards, celebrating individuals driving meaningful change in their communities. The initiative reflects the organization's commitment to promoting social responsibility alongside journalism. Among the key awardees, Gurralla Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Congress Party In-charge for Rudram and Founder of Vishnu Seva Samithi, was honoured for his consistent philanthropic efforts and dedication to com-



munity welfare. Kethiredypalli Sarpanch Godugu Yadhiah received recognition for his proactive governance and impactful rural development initiatives. The awards were presented under the leadership of V5 News CEO Venkatesh, General Manager Prajwal, and State Special Correspondent Sairaj, who emphasized the importance of acknowledging grassroots leadership.

Ugadi Celebrations Peak in New Bowenpally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ugadi festivities reached a vibrant high in New Bowenpally as former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap distributed traditional 'Polelu' and extended New Year wishes to residents during celebrations marking the Parabhava Nama Samvatsara.

Participating as the chief guest, Pratap joined large gatherings at Sri Devi Nallapochamma Temple and Sri Devi Muthyalamma



Temple in Bapuji Nagar, where devotees assembled in festive spirit. The events combined devotion, charity, and cultural traditions, drawing significant local participation.

At Sri Devi Nallapochamma Temple, the

Polelu distribution was organized with the support of donor Chalapathi, while temple committee members Ajith Kalyan, Prem Mudiraj, Narsimha, and Rama Rao coordinated the arrangements. Meanwhile, at Sri Devi Muthyalamma

Temple, donor Madhu Goud facilitated the celebrations, with Temple Chairman Durgayya and local leaders Komaraiah, Nagesh, Srikanth, Lakshman, Narsing Rao, Mallesh, and Parashuram overseeing the proceedings.

Addressing the gathering, Pratap conveyed Ugadi greetings and wished for prosperity and harmony among all families. He emphasized the significance of preserving traditions and fostering unity within the community.

Ramzan Promotes Unity, Brotherhood: MLA Sri Ganesh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh on Thursday underscored that the holy month of Ramzan stands as a powerful symbol of universal brotherhood and religious unity, reflecting the shared cultural values of society. Participating in multiple Iftar gatherings across the constituency, including Karkhana, Tadu Bund, Pension Line, and Mahatma Nagar, the MLA engaged with local residents and community leaders, reinforcing his



commitment to inclusivity and grassroots outreach. Addressing the gatherings, Sri Ganesh stated that Ramzan is not merely a period of fasting but a time that strengthens interfaith harmony and mutual respect among communities. He emphasized that all religions

promote peace and equality, adding that the strength of the Cantonment constituency lies in its tradition of communal harmony. Highlighting the importance of preserving this cultural fabric, he noted that such festivals serve as reminders of peaceful coexistence and

collective responsibility. Extending advance greetings for Eid, the MLA shared in the Iftar meals, fostering a spirit of unity and togetherness.

The events witnessed participation from ACP Gopala Krishna Murthy, former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap, and several local leaders including Jameel, Ashraf, Riyazuddin, Abid, Khaja, and Sarath. Special prayers were offered for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all residents in the constituency.

Europe, Japan Ready To Help Steady Energy Prices and Secure Chokepoint

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

European powers and Japan said on Thursday they would act to stabilise energy markets and join "appropriate efforts" to open the Gulf's energy chokepoint after tit-for-tat strikes on energy plants dramatically escalated the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Countries have been scrambling to cushion the impact of soaring energy prices after Qatar reported "extensive damage" from Iranian missile strikes on Ras Laffan Industrial City in response to Israel's bombing of Iran's major gas field. Ras Laffan processes about a fifth of the world's liquefied natural gas. Saudi Arabia's main port on the Red Sea, where it has been able to divert some exports to avoid

Iran's closure of the Gulf's exit point, the Strait of Hormuz, was also attacked. The strikes underscored Iran's continued ability to exact a heavy price for the U.S.-Israeli campaign, and the limits of air defences in protecting the Gulf's most valuable and strategic energy assets.

With no end in sight almost three weeks into the war, and the threat of a global "oil shock" growing by the day, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Japan issued a joint statement expressing "our readiness to contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait". They also promised "other steps to stabilise energy markets, including working with certain producing nations to increase output".



The statement offered no details, but marked a significant shift after weeks of resistance by major U.S. allies to U.S. President Donald Trump's demands they help secure the strait, intervening in a conflict with unclear objectives that they did not seek and over which they have little control. In particular, Israel's bombing of Iran's South Pars gas field, which Trump said the U.S. had not known about, suggested gaps in

coordination of strategy and war aims between the main protagonists.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told a briefing on Thursday that U.S. objectives in the war were "unchanged, on target and on plan". But Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard told the House intelligence committee that U.S. and Israeli goals differed: "...the Israeli government has been focused on disabling the Iranian leadership. The president has stated that his objectives are to destroy Iran's ballistic missiles launching capability, their ballistic missile production capability, and their navy." QatarEnergy's CEO told Reuters the Iranian attacks had knocked out a sixth of Qatar's LNG export capacity, worth \$20 billion a year, and that repairs

would take three to five years. Brent crude oil futures were up nearly 4.5% at \$112 at 1430 GMT, having surged up to 10% before the joint statement. European near-term gas prices were up more than 15%, and have leapt by over 60% since the war began. Japanese and South Korean stocks fell around 3% while the pan-European (.STOXX), opens new tab index was down 2.3%, around its lowest in more than three months. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (.DJJ), opens new tab was down about 1%. Fears of lasting inflation pressures encouraged both the European Central Bank and Bank of England to hold rates steady, and investors who once expected cuts were pricing in hikes by year-end.

Modi Invites Global Investors To Invest In Power Sector

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday extended a strong invitation to global investors to participate in India's rapidly expanding power sector, urging them to "make, invest, innovate, and scale" in the country. His message was delivered at the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 by Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal. In his address, the Prime Minister emphasized India's commitment to becoming a global hub for energy innovation and investment. He highlighted that the summit serves as a vital platform to bring together stakeholders from across the power and energy ecosystem, enabling meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. According to him, such initiatives are essential to



chart a collective roadmap for sustainable growth and improved quality of life. Modi underscored that the vision aligns with India's long-term goal of achieving a developed nation status under the "Viksit Bharat 2047" mission. He stressed the importance of sustainability, global connectivity, and inclusive growth as key pillars driving the country's energy transformation. Speaking on behalf of the government, Agarwal noted that India is at a defining moment in its energy journey. As one of the world's fastest-growing

major economies, the country is making significant strides in strengthening infrastructure and ensuring reliable and affordable energy access for all citizens. He further highlighted India's remarkable achievements in renewable energy, stating that over 50 percent of the country's installed power capacity now comes from non-fossil fuel sources. This milestone reflects India's strong commitment to clean energy and climate goals. The government has also set an ambitious target of reaching 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, signaling vast opportunities for global investors. The summit is expected to play a crucial role in fostering international partnerships and accelerating India's transition towards a sustainable and resilient energy future.

Iran Weighs Taxing Hormuz Strait Passage

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Iranian lawmakers have proposed a plan to impose tolls and taxes on ships passing through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, local media reported on Thursday. Officials have said shipping conditions through the waterway will not return to those from before the Middle East war began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. "We in parliament are pursuing a plan under which countries will pay tolls and taxes to the Islamic republic if the



Strait of Hormuz is used as a secure route for transit, energy and food security," Tehran lawmaker Somayeh Rafei was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency. "The security of the strait will be established with strength, authority and grandeur by the Islamic

Republic of Iran, and countries must pay a tax in return," she said. Traffic through the vital strait has been brought to a near-standstill since the start of the war. Iranian forces have attacked multiple vessels, saying they failed to heed "warnings" against transiting the wa-

terway. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Tuesday that maritime traffic would "not return to its pre-war status". In recent days, Iran has allowed some vessels from countries it considers friendly to pass, while warning it would block ships from countries it says have joined the "aggression" against it. Maritime intelligence firm Windward said in an analysis on Tuesday that at least five ships exited the strait via Iranian waters on March 15 and 16.

3-day Ceasefire Announced to Celebrate EID

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

A key outlawed Pakistani militant group behind numerous gun and bomb attacks announced a three-day ceasefire early Thursday ahead of a key Muslim holiday, hours after Pakistan and Afghanistan also declared a temporary pause to escalating fighting. No exchanges of fire were reported, marking the first lull since late February, when clashes erupted. Mohammad Khurasani, a spokesman for the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, said the ceasefire was intended to allow people to observe Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of



Ramadan. The TTP, which is separate from but allied to the Afghan Taliban, has stepped up attacks inside Pakistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021. The TTP has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and the United Nations. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan's Taliban government of sheltering TTP leaders and thou-

sands of members who carry out cross-border attacks. Kabul denies the charge. The group said the ceasefire is set to take effect from the first day of Eid, which is expected to begin Friday in Pakistan subject to a sighting of the moon. Pakistan and Afghanistan announced Wednesday that they plan a temporary pause in fighting until Monday night. The two sides said the truce was made at the request of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar. The three countries have been mediating efforts to end hostilities since cross-border fighting resumed in February and previously helped broker a ceasefire in October.

Trump Faces Toughest Iran Call: Will He Send US Troops for Uranium?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

President Donald Trump is facing perhaps the most daunting question of the war with Iran, one that could define his time in office: Will he put U.S. troops on the ground in Iran to secure some 970 pounds of enriched uranium that Tehran could potentially use to build nuclear weapons? Trump has offered shifting reasons for launching the war, but he has been consistent in articulating that a primary objective in joining Israel in the military action is ensuring that Iran will "never have a nuclear weapon." The president has been more circumspect about how far he's willing to go to follow through on his pledge to destroy Iran's weapons program once and for all, including seizing or destroying the near-bomb-grade nuclear material that Iran possesses. Much of it is believed to be buried under the rubble of a mountain facility pummeled in U.S. bombings Trump ordered last June that he had claimed "obliterated" Tehran's nuclear program.



It's a risky, complicated project that many nuclear experts say cannot be done without a sizable deployment of U.S. troops into Iran, a dangerous and politically fraught operation for the Republican president, who has vowed not to entangle the U.S. in the sort of extended and bloody Middle East conflicts that still loom large on America's psyche. At the same time, lawmakers and experts remain concerned that if Iran hardliners emerge from the fighting, they'll be more motivated than ever to build nuclear weapons as they look to deter the U.S. and Israel from future military action, a dynamic that makes taking control of Iran's enriched uranium even more critical. That stockpile could allow Iran to build as many as 10 nuclear bombs, should it decide to weaponize its program. Some law-

makers, like Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., say they remain deeply fearful that the president has put the nation on a path that will require putting troops inside Iran for what he called Trump's confused and chaotic objectives. "Some of the objectives that he continues to espouse simply cannot be achieved without a physical presence there -- securing the uranium cannot be done without a physical presence," said Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Meanwhile, Republican allies of Trump stress that there are plans in place to deal with the enriched uranium. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman James Risch, R-Idaho, on Wednesday cited "a number of plans that have been put on the table." He declined to elaborate. Others acknowledged the complications of deploying troops into Iran. "No one has given me a briefing on how you would do it without boots on the ground," said Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Bhatti to Present.....

The Metro Rail and Musi projects have gained urgency as the state government prepares to take over Metro Phase-I operations from L&T from April 1 to facilitate Phase-II expansion, while the Chief Minister is planning to launch Musi development works by April. The Budget is also expected to include welfare measures, including increased Cheyutha pensions for the elderly, widows, single women, handloom workers, toddy tappers, and patients with HIV and filariasis. Proposals are also likely for allotment of house sites and incentives for para-athletes, and enhanced salaries and allowances for temple priests. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet on Friday to approve the Budget. The meeting will be chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at 9.30 am in the Assembly Committee Hall. Following Cabinet approval, Vikramarka will present the Budget in the Assembly at 12 noon, while legislative affairs minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu will table it in the Legislative Council at the same time. Sources said the Chief Minister and the finance minister exercised caution in drafting the Budget, with estimates based on expected revenues, including tax collections, Central grants and tax devolution.

Vikram Doraiswami...

In July 2011, Doraiswamy returned to the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, where he headed the South Asian Associa-

tion for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Division. During this period he was also the coordinator of the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi in March 2012. From October 2012 to October 2014, Doraiswami was the Joint Secretary in the Americas Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. He became India's Ambassador to Uzbekistan in October 2014, before being appointed India's Ambassador to Korea in April 2015. After completing this duty, he returned to the headquarters in July 2018 and served as the head of the Bangladesh and Myanmar department. In April 2019, he was tasked with setting up a new department in the Ministry of External Affairs for the Indo-Pacific region. After promotion in December 2019, he was designated Additional Secretary for International Organizations and Summits. Prior to UK, he had assumed charge as Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh on October 05, 2020.

Anil Ambani.....

The agency has alleged fund diversion, misappropriation and other irregularities in the loan funds issued to the company by the bank, they said. "Anil Ambani will be appearing before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Delhi on 19th and 20th March, 2026 for examination, in connection with the FIR registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the State Bank of India regarding Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCOM)," the spokesperson for Anil Ambani said in a statement. "The ap-

pearance is in furtherance to Mr Ambani's commitment to extend full cooperation in the matter with all agencies," the spokesperson said.

CM Revanth.....

The Chief Minister said land-related issues are being addressed through the Bhu Bharathi initiative, introduced after resolving challenges linked to the Dharani portal. He emphasized that the government remains focused on providing long-term solutions to farmers' concerns. Earlier, Ugadi celebrations were organised at Ravindra Bharathi by the departments of language and culture and endowments. The Chief Minister attended as chief guest and unveiled the Sri Parabhava Nama Ugadi Panchangam. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Konda Surekha, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, along with several public representatives and officials, were present. Reaffirming Telangana's national ambitions, Revanth Reddy said the government remains alert to natural calamities and expressed hope that the new year will bring peace, prosperity and progress to all citizens.

No more attacks.....

"The United States knew nothing about this particular attack, and the country of Qatar was in no way, shape, or form, involved with it, nor did it have any idea that it was going to happen," he

said. His remarks came in the wake of Iran threatening retaliation across the Gulf for yesterday's bombing of South Pars, said to be the world's largest natural gas field. In a statement, Iranian authorities warned that five energy facilities in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar "will be targeted in the coming hours". In short order, Iran launched missile strikes on Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City, the country's main liquefied natural gas hub, early on Thursday, according to Qatar's Ministry of Defence. The site, a bedrock of the Gulf state's economy, has been repeatedly targeted during the conflict. "Unfortunately, Iran did not know this, or any of the pertinent facts pertaining to the South Pars attack, and unjustifiably and unfairly attacked a portion of Qatar's LNG Gas facility," Trump said. The US President warned Tehran against further escalation, threatening to "blow up" the whole of South Pars gas field if the Ayatollah regime continues attacks on Qatar's energy facilities. "No more attacks will be made by Israel pertaining to this extremely important and valuable South Pars Field unless Iran unwisely decides to attack a very innocent, in this case, Qatar -- in which instance the United States of America, with or without the help or consent of Israel, will massively blow up the entirety of the South Pars Gas Field at an amount of strength and power that Iran has never seen.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Govt is Not Anti-Labour as SC Reserves Verdict on 'Industry' Definition: Centre

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana



The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it is "certainly not anti-labour" and will do everything to protect the interests of workers as a nine-judge Constitution Bench reserved its verdict on the correctness of 1978 ruling that gave expansive interpretation of term "industry." The Constitution bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant would decide on the pleas questioning the correctness of the landmark verdict that broadened the term "industry" in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 bringing millions of workers under the protective umbrella of the law.

On the third day of the hearing, Attorney General R Venkataramani said, "I

also comprised justices B V Nagarathna, P S Narasimha, Dipankar Datta, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma, Joymaya Bagchi, Alok Aradhe and Vipul M Pancholi. The judgement, keenly awaited across labour and industrial sectors, is expected to have far-reaching consequences on the rights of workers and the applicability of labour protection under the now-repealed Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, even as the bench clarified that its ruling will govern pending and existing disputes under the old regime. On February 21, 1978, a seven-judge bench delivered a verdict on the definition of the term "industry" while deciding the plea of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and expanded the definition which brought

millions of employees in hospitals, educational institutions, clubs and government welfare departments under the protection of the Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947. The CJI-led bench, which is examining the correctness of the verdict delivered almost 48 years ago, heard the submissions of various lawyers including the attorney general, Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj and others such as senior advocates Shekhar Naphade, Indira Jaising, C U Singh and Sanjay Hegde during the three-day-long hearing. The bench would examine whether the "triple test" evolved by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in the 1978 judgment correctly defines "industry" under Section 2(j) of the Act.

have consulted the government. The government is certainly not anti-labour. Labour welfare will be taken care of. We are moving towards a globalised economy and we need to take a call on how to manage the affairs." The attorney general, however, sounded an alarm and said that departments like forest should be declared as an industry as such an interpretation will adversely impact various governmental activities. Besides the CJI, the bench

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.

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

Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

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

Owner Not Responsible for Activities of Tenants: High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has set aside the action of the police in sealing a residential premises allegedly linked to commercial sex trade, holding that such powers were vested with a magistrate. The court clarified that its order would not prevent the competent magistrate from initiating fresh proceedings in accordance with law, if warranted by facts. Justice E.V. Venugopal of the High Court made it clear that only a magistrate was empowered to order closure of a premises, upon receipt of information from the police or otherwise that it was used for showing on prostitution, to issue a showcause notice to the owner. The judge was dealing with a writ

petition filed by Alluri Sitarama Raju, who challenged the sealing and attachment of his property at Guttala Begumpet. The premises, comprising a multi-storey building with around 40 rooms, had been leased out in March 2024 to tenants operating a guest house. According to the petitioner, a police raid conducted on August 13, 2025, led to the registration of a criminal case involving allegations of prostitution and related offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, and the Foreigners Act. The premises was sealed by the police, despite the petitioner not being named as accused and claiming no knowledge of the alleged illegal activities.

A showcause notice was issued on September 25, 2025, by the police

commissioner under Section 18(1)(a) of the Act, proposing attachment of the property. The petitioner submitted an explanation denying involvement and asserting that the tenants were responsible for operations. The authorities however sealed the premises. Justice Venugopal found that the notice had been issued by the police rather than by a magistrate, rendering the process procedurally defective. The court observed that there was no material on record to establish that the petitioner had knowledge of or had consented to the alleged activities. It reiterated that ownership of a property cannot be equated with complicity in unlawful acts carried out by tenants, particularly in the absence of evidence.



Rs 12 Lakh Crore Wiped Out As Sensex Crashes 2500 Pts, Nifty Down 775 Pts

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian equities witnessed a bloodbath on Thursday, snapping a three-day positive streak as escalating tensions in West Asia triggered a global risk-off sentiment. The Nifty 50 declined 3.2 per cent or 775 points to close at 23,002, while the Sensex fell 3.2 per cent or 2,497 points, with broader markets mirroring the weakness. The sell-off was primarily driven by crude oil prices surging above \$111 per barrel, intensifying concerns around inflation and supply disruptions, persistent FII outflows and FED official comments. The bloodbath wiped out over Rs 11.5 lakh crore in market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms, bringing the total



down to a little over Rs 427 lakh crore. Market breadth remained firmly negative, with around 864 stocks advancing, 3,048 declining, and 122 unchanged on the NSE. All 16 major sectoral indices ended in the red with rate-sensitive financial, realty, auto and private bank stocks being the worst hit. The sell-off hit midcaps and smallcaps hard. Nifty Midcap 100 fell 3.19 per cent, and Nifty Smallcap 100 dropped 2.94 per cent.

HDFC Bank, Eternal, and Shriram Finance were among the top losers in the Nifty 50, falling up to 5 percent while Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, Reliance Industries, and Coal India were the only gainers, rising up to 2 percent. The conflict has increasingly taken the shape of energy warfare, with attacks on critical infrastructure by both sides driving a sharp spike in crude oil prices and rattling investor confidence.

For an import-dependent economy like India, this directly impacts inflation expectations, economic growth, corporate margins and current account outlook, prompting a swift risk-off reaction across asset classes.

The global monetary backdrop also turned less supportive with the US Federal Reserve keeping its policy rate unchanged at 3.5-3.75 per cent and signalling an extended pause until more clarity emerges around the effects of the Iran crisis. This has strengthened the US dollar and tightened global liquidity conditions, exerting additional pressure on emerging markets. Domestic sentiment was further dented by developments surrounding HDFC Bank, which

slipped over 8 per cent to hit its 52-week low of Rs 722 on BSE after part-time chairman Atanu Chakraborty resigned citing governance issues. Given that it is the largest bank in India and the second-largest company by market capitalisation, the move significantly weighed on benchmark indices. Volatility surged sharply, with the India VIX rising 21.8 per cent to 22.80, reflecting heightened uncertainty and a spike in risk aversion among investors. The fall was further exacerbated by persistent foreign outflows, with foreign institutional investors (FIIs) selling Rs 73,705 crore over the past 12 sessions, adding to the pressure alongside weak global cues.

Bullion Tumbles As Investors Flock To Dollar

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Bullion prices witnessed a 'bloodbath' on Wednesday as US dollar firmed up and crude oil prices spurted with escalating tensions in the Middle East. MCX Gold futures crashed by over Rs 9,180, a staggering 6 per cent decline to Rs 1,43,844 per 10 gm. In the COMEX, gold dived below \$4,600 per ounce. The sell-off was ignited by the US Federal Reserve's hawkish "higher-for-longer" interest rate stance, which sent US 10-year Treasury yields surging to 4.25 per cent. Fed projects only one rate cut despite persistent inflation concerns and this strengthened the US dollar.

The massive spike in the US Dollar Index to 100.50 saw investors



moving towards the safe-haven greenback. In the Indian physical market, discounts hit a decade-high of \$83/oz as retail buyers remained sidelined by extreme volatility. In the New Delhi market, gold dropped by Rs 7,000 to Rs 1.53 lakh per 10 gm. "If current momentum persists, the next technical floor is expected near Rs 1,40,000, as physiological support as market brace for continued pressure from escalating West Asia tensions and surging energy costs," said Kedia Commodities.

With COMEX Gold diving below \$4,600/oz to \$4555, this widespread long liquidation marks a significant shift in market sentiment.

If current momentum persists, the next technical floor is expected near ₹1,40,000, as physiological support as market brace for continued pressure from escalating West Asia tensions and surging energy costs. On MCX, silver futures for May delivery slumped Rs 16,534, or about 6.7 per cent, to settle at Rs 2,31,660 per kg. During the session, the metal hit an intraday low of Rs 2,29,234 per kg. Silver in the international market fell to \$67.9, a drop of 9.82 per cent and in the New Delhi spot market, silver prices tanked Rs 17,800 to Rs 2.38 lakh per kg.

AI Bias May Worsen Gender Inequality in Jobs: ILO Report

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Artificial intelligence can disproportionately affect women's jobs, and AI systems trained on biased and incomplete data can deepen gender biases in the workplace, a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has found. In India, awareness of this threat remains nascent and fragmented. A recently released ILO report reveals

a concerning trend: jobs dominated by women are nearly twice as likely to be exposed to generative AI compared to male-dominated roles. Around 29 per cent of female-dominated occupations are exposed to GenAI, compared to just 16 per cent of male-dominated occupations.

The report also finds that systems trained on biased and incomplete data can disadvantage women in recruitment, pay deci-

sions, credit scoring, and access to other services. Since AI models are trained on historical data that often reflects male-dominated patterns, they risk reinforcing discrimination in hiring, pay, and access to financial services. In India, this issue is compounded by women's lower digital and financial footprints and the invisibility of informal work, leading to incomplete datasets, said Rituparna Chakraborty,



Partner and Regional Lead for India at True Search.

Awareness about gender bias in AI remains limited and fragmented. "AI will not create gender inequality, but it can either correct it or compound it. The choice India makes now will determine

whether AI becomes an equaliser or an amplifier of bias," she said. She stressed that the first step is acknowledgement and awareness, followed by willingness and clear intent to address the issue. From a government perspective, mandated algorithmic audits for bias, similar to ESG compliance, are needed. "Women can be incentivised to participate in AI skilling programmes at scale. Gender-tagged da-

taset can be developed through public digital infrastructure," she said.

From an industry perspective, she suggested embedding gender considerations into AI systems by design and regularly auditing hiring, pay, and promotion algorithms. She also emphasised the need for returnship programmes for women in technology and greater inclusion of women workers in AI training datasets and test-

ing processes. A multi-stakeholder dialogue involving government, industry, and academia is essential to address emerging risks.

Globally, roles such as clerical work, administrative support, customer service, data entry, and BPO operations are most vulnerable. In India, this risk is even more pronounced due to the large number of women employed in these repetitive, task-heavy sectors,

especially in the outsourcing industry. Even now, a large proportion of working women are concentrated in agriculture, often in informal or unpaid roles. Others are employed in sectors such as healthcare, education, retail, and domestic work. In white-collar jobs, women are mainly seen in entry- and mid-level roles in IT, HR, and finance, with limited representation in leadership positions, she said.

Global Trade to Slow to 1.9 Pct in 2026: WTO

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Global merchandise trade growth would slow to 1.9 per cent in 2026 from 4.6 per cent in 2025 and by 2.6% in 2027. Commercial services trade growth too will ease to 4.8 per cent in 2026 after this year's 5.3 per cent rise, then accelerate again to 5.1 per cent in 2027. However, if the Middle East crisis persists, merchandise trade volumes would grow by just 1.4 per cent in the high energy price

scenario and services trade would also grow at a slower rate of 4.1 per cent in 2026, finds WTO.

As trade is expected to normalise following a surge in AI-related products and the frontloading of imports to avoid new tariffs, trade growth will taper in 2026. World merchandise trade volume is then projected to grow by 2.6 per cent in 2027. Commercial services trade growth will ease to 4.8% in 2026 after this year's 5.3% rise, then accelerate again to 5.1% in



2027. Together, goods and services trade will grow 2.7% in 2026 compared with 4.7% in 2025. Global GDP growth is projected to moderate slightly from 2.9 per cent in 2025 to 2.8 per cent in both 2026 and 2027.

However, if both crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices remain elevated throughout 2026

would shave 0.3 percentage points off the GDP forecast for 2026. This would in turn slash 0.5 percentage points off the trade forecast for this year and up to 1.0 percentage point for regions dependent on energy imports. This would mean merchandise trade volumes would grow by just 1.4 per cent in the high energy price scenario. Services trade would also grow at a slower rate of 4.1 per cent in 2026. Beyond fuels, the Strait of Hormuz blockade has dis-

rupted fertilizer supplies critical to global agriculture, with around one-third of the world's fertilizer exports normally passing through the waterway. Major agriculture producers like India, Thailand and Brazil depend on the Gulf for 40 per cent, 70 per cent and 35 per cent of their urea imports, respectively. Gulf states face a food security challenge as well, with import dependency averaging 75 per cent for rice and exceeding 90 per cent for corn.

West Asia crisis, rising crude prices to hit fuel, food, inflation worldwide

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

As the war in Iran ratchets up, the price of crude oil has been swinging sharply. Consumers are already feeling the effects of the war and its destabilising effect on worldwide energy production.

Gasoline prices are climbing, and many people will find some of the most immediate economic pain at the pump. But not only drivers are affected. Food and nearly everything else that's bought and sold must travel from where it's produced. Those costs will climb with higher gasoline, diesel and jet fuel prices.

Brent crude oil, the international standard, is now trading above USD 110 a barrel. That will likely be a big factor for inflation. As the war continues, some experts say the price of everything could be affected - which could eat into wider spending down the road. Here's how the growing cost of oil and gas could impact consumers as the war continues.

At the pump: Gas prices are likely to continue

climbing. Gasoline, diesel and jet fuel are made from crude oil. As the cost of crude climbs, so do the prices of those widely used pro-



ducts, which keep equipment, cars, buses, delivery trucks and airplanes running. Across the US, gas prices are now near their highest levels since 2022. Drivers were paying an average of USD3.88 for a gallon of regular gasoline on Thursday, compared with USD2.98 before the war started. Prices have increased about 30 per cent since the US and Israel attacked Iran.

Prices vary across States. In California, drivers were paying nearly USD 5.62. Some of California's refineries have shut down in recent years, so the massive state relies on imports of gasoline and other refined products from Asia.

By contrast, the average price in Louisiana, which

has oil production and refineries, was USD 3.52. And Oklahoma had the lowest average on Thursday, at USD 3.24 a gallon.

The spike in oil prices is likely to further push up gasoline prices, and could be felt more significantly in Asia and Europe, which are more dependent on Middle Eastern oil and gas than the United States.

When gas prices hit USD 4, that's usually the tipping point for consumers, said Patrick Penfield, professor of supply chain practice at Syracuse University, who expects gas prices to hit that point in the next week or two.

"That's usually when people start to pull back," he said. "They may not drive as much, or they may not go out, they have decisions to make so either you can spend it on going out or you spend it buying gas for your car."

The cost of shipping and goods increases alongside the price of diesel. The price of diesel - which powers 18-wheeler trucks - has been climbing, too: nearly USD 5.10 a gallon in the US Thursday, a 36 per cent jump since the war started.

CBIT Professor Earns PhD in English from Bangalore University

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr. V. Temuzion Kumuja, Assistant Professor at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, has been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English by Bangalore University. His viva voce examination was conducted on October 18, 2025, marking a significant milestone in his academic journey. Dr. Temuzion's doctoral research, guided by Dr. Sindhu J., focused on "Investigating Learner's Emotion Regulation Strategies in Cosmopolitan Language Classes." The study addresses a crucial gap in language educa-



tion by examining how learners manage emotional responses such as anxiety, frustration, and self-doubt in diverse, multilingual classroom environments. It further suggests practical strategies that educators can

adopt to create emotionally supportive and inclusive learning spaces. With over a decade of experience in English Language Teaching across various states in India, Dr. Temuzion brings extensive practical insight to his academic work.

He completed his master's degree in English Literature from University of Hyderabad and holds an international TESOL certification from Arizona State University. In addition to his research and teaching contributions, he has served as a subject expert for the Government of India's SWAYAM MOOC initiative, aimed at expanding access to quality higher

education through digital platforms. His involvement reflects a strong commitment to innovation and educational accessibility. Emphasizing the importance of emotional well-being in education, Dr. Temuzion noted that language teaching extends beyond grammar and vocabulary, focusing on creating safe spaces where learners can confidently engage and grow. Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu and faculty members of CBIT congratulated him on this notable academic achievement, expressing confidence that his research will contribute meaningfully to language education and psychology.

Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025 Glitter With Star Power

The 2025 Telangana Gaddar Film Awards marked a grand revival of cinematic celebration, bringing together leading figures of the Telugu film industry in a glittering in Hyderabad.

The highlight of the evening was legendary actor Chiranjeevi receiving the prestigious NTR National Award from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, in the presence of Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit, drawing thunderous applause from the audience. Among the top winners, Naga Chaitanya was awarded Best Actor for Thandel, calling it one of the most defining moments of his



16-year career. Rashmika Mandanna bagged the Best Actress award for The Girlfriend, describing the recognition as a turning point after overcoming early criticism.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that reviving the awards

after nearly a decade reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the film industry. He noted that Telugu cinema has expanded its reach beyond regional boundaries, gaining national and international acclaim. Telangana State Film

Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju welcomed guests and credited the state leadership for fostering a stronger bond between the government and the industry. Veteran producer Allu Aravind paid tribute to his father Allu Ramaling-

iah, remembering his lasting contribution to cinema.

The ceremony also honored stalwarts including Kamal Haasan, Jayasudha, Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, Ashwini Dutt, Suddala Ashok Teja and R. Narayana Murthy. Adding vibrancy to the evening, performances by Shreya Ghoshal and Devi Sri Prasad energized the audience. Expressing gratitude, Chiranjeevi lauded the government's vision to develop Hyderabad into a global film hub, stating that recognizing artists not only boosts cinema but also contributes to cultural and economic growth.

Kuchipudi Performance Shines at Ugadi Event

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A vibrant Kuchipudi dance performance marked the Ugadi celebrations at Secunderabad Club, bringing together culture and unity in a unique interfaith setting. The performance was presented by renowned artist Dr. Himabindu Kanoj and her troupe "Muvva NRN," captivating the audience with graceful movements and classical storytelling.

The event gained special significance as one of the city's rare interfaith cultural initiatives, organized through the joint efforts of Raunaq Yar Khan and Shri Anna Rao. Their collaboration symbolized harmony and inclusivity, aligning with the festive spirit of Ugadi.

Attendees were mesmerized by the intricate expressions and traditional



choreography that showcased the richness of Kuchipudi, one of India's most celebrated classical dance forms. The performance not only entertained but also served as a reminder of the country's deep-rooted cultural heritage.

Backstage interactions between Master Anna Rao

and the performers added a personal touch to the evening, making it a memorable experience for all involved. Overall, the event stood as a testament to Hyderabad's diverse cultural fabric, promoting unity, artistic excellence, and communal harmony through the universal language of dance.

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' movie review: A loud, violent spectacle that forgets to breathe

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Early in this maximalist's dream of sensory overload, when the background voice of a girl menacingly provokes: 'you are not ready for this', one wants to tell her actually, one is over-prepared. As it turns out, the sequel attempts to outdo the original in volume and venom, perhaps at the expense of the original's narrative weight. One went for a story, returned with a migraine and a beard. Dhar is the master

of frame and fireworks, but he loses sight of the clock and control. Perhaps, deliberately. Channeling the mood of the moment, when the world is itching for war, he feeds the bloodlust of a section of the masses, ensuring a box-office bonanza but setting a dangerous precedent.

The exhausting revenge saga that mistakes length for depth picks up right after the first film's climax, with undercover Indian agent Jaskirat Singh Ranghi (Ranveer Singh), now deeply embedded as



Hamza Ali Mazari, rising to dominate Karachi's Lyari underworld follow-

ing the death of gang leader Rehman Dakait (Akshaye Khanna).

Fueled by personal tragedy and pumped up by Ajay Sanyal's (R. Madhavan) radicalisation, Hamza consolidates power amid gang wars, shifting alliances, corrupt officials, and escalating threats from SP Chaudhary Aslam (Sanjay Dutt) and ISI operative Major Iqbal (Arjun Rampal), the mastermind behind terror networks targeting India. As he infiltrates deeper into Pakistan's criminal-terror-political nexus, the mission blurs into a brutal personal vendetta, forcing Hamza to

dismantle funding routes, eliminate key enemies, and for a moment confront the psychological toll of living as a monster for his country.

The film's strongest hook is Ranveer's performance. After being overshadowed by Akshaye in the first part and reduced to furniture by the demands of the character that expected him to be largely one note, here the actor flexes all his muscles, shifting seamlessly between vulnerability, cold calculation, and unhinged ferocity to carry the

nearly 4-hour runtime almost single-handedly as a home-grown Rambo.

Drenched in odious emotion where savagery is the screenplay, for the most part, it works like an explainer of the first part, an answer to those who mocked Dhar's peak detailing. Dhar's style leans heavily on gratuitous violence, creating a world so relentlessly brutal that it seems the makers want the audience to become desensitized to the stakes and focus on the blood-curdling sequences. It feels more like an ex-

tended web series than a tight theatrical film, with indulgent sequences that impede mood and momentum. In this game of cause and effect, the focus is on effect. If you take out the addictive background score, the mis-en-scene runs the risk of getting reduced to twenty ways to maim or decapitate the enemy. The language increasingly descends into the gutter, and the motive seems to justify the government's controversial policy decisions, such as demonetisation.

Lionel Messi scores 900th career goal in Inter Miami match

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Lionel Messi has reached another milestone, scoring his 900th career goal in the opening minutes of Inter Miami's CONCACAF Champions Cup Round of 16 match against Nashville on Wednesday night.

The back-to-back Major League Soccer MVP, eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and World Cup champion got it as would be expected, with his left foot, like the majority of his career goals for club and country. He took a pass in the middle of the box in the seventh minute, controlled the ball, spun and lined a low shot through a maze of defenders and into the far corner of the net.

Cristiano Ronaldo is the only other men's player with more than 900 goals, at least by official counts. It took Ronaldo about 100 more matches to get to the milestone than



Messi needed. Ronaldo was 39 when he got to 900 goals in September 2024, while Messi does not turn 39 until June.

The historic goal drew the attention of star names even outside the soccer world. Basketball Hall of Famer Magic Johnson posted on social media that Messi reaching 900 goals is an "incredible milestone." "What an unbelievable feat!" Johnson wrote.

There are some who have suggested Brazilian legend Pele topped

1,000 goals for his career, though his "official" total is closer to 800. Different sources, counting different sets of games, list Pele's goal totals anywhere from around 650 in league matches to somewhere near 1,300 in all matches, some against low-level competition.

It was a night where Messi surely did not feel like celebrating. Nashville tied Inter Miami 1-1, advancing to the tournament quarterfinals on an away-goal tiebreaker. The

teams played to a 0-0 tie in Nashville last week, the opening leg of the Round of 16 matchup.

Nashville coach B J Callaghan paid tribute after the game, saying, "900 goals, congratulations to him. He is the best." Messi remains the game's most popular and most-followed player. His No. 10 Inter Miami jersey has been the bestseller in the league since he arrived in MLS, and everything he does becomes major news in all corners of the soccer world.

This milestone joins countless other awards and accomplishments over Messi's career, including eight Pichichi trophies as La Liga's top scorer, six La Liga Best FIFA Men's Player awards, three UEFA Men's Player of the Year wins, two FIFA World Cup Golden Balls and no fewer than 15 selections as Argentina's best player in a given year.

Ajit Agarkar seeks extension as India selection committee chief

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

After India successfully defended their T20 World Cup crown, chairman of the men's senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar has reportedly sought an extension to his tenure until the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Agarkar, who has been chairman of the men's senior selection committee since June 2023, got his contract renewed before the start of IPL 2025 after India's impressive performances, including victories in the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy.

As per the Times of India report, a former Indian cricketer has approached the board for a further extension until the 2027 World Cup after India's successful defense of the T20 World Cup this month.

The report claimed that the BCCI is currently engaged in discussions regarding the request, further suggesting that "strong murmurs within BCCI corridors suggest that another former India cricketer from the West Zone was the front-runner to succeed Agarkar, but there has been no concrete development on that front."

Under Agarkar's tenure, so far India has won three major ICC



trophies: two T20 World Cups and one Champions Trophy. Despite these successes in limited-overs cricket, India's Test performances have been inconsistent, with consecutive home series defeats and a loss in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy abroad. This contrast between formats has somewhat dampened the enthusiasm sparked by India's white-ball dominance, in which the team has lost only two of 33

matches and secured the Asia Cup in both 2023 and 2025. Agarkar's tenure has also seen major changes, with veteran players like Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Virat Kohli announcing retirements in various formats. While Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli continue to feature in ODIs, Ashwin has retired from all forms of international cricket.

Roads closed in Hyderabad's Old City for Jummat-ul-Wida, advisory issued



Hyderabad police have imposed major traffic restrictions across the Old City and parts of Secunderabad on Friday, March 20, in view of Jummat-ul-Wida prayers at Mecca Masjid near Charminar. Key routes will remain closed between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, with diversions in place to manage heavy footfall.

The main roads from Charminar towards Madina, Murgi Chowk, and Shalibanda are shut for all vehicular traffic. Commuters are advised to avoid these stretches and follow alternate routes suggested by the police.

Traffic from Nayapul heading towards Charminar is being diverted at Madina Junction towards City College. Vehicles from Nagulchintha and Shalibanda are redirected at Himmatpura towards Hari Bowli and Khilwat. At Chowk Maidan Kaman, traffic is diverted towards Kotla Aliza and Moghalpura, while at Motigalli, vehicles are rerouted towards Shalibanda and Falaknema-bound roads.

Similarly, diversions are in place at Etebar Chowk, Sher-e-Batil Kaman, and Old CP Office junction to ease congestion around Gulzar House and surrounding areas. Parking has been arranged at designated locations including function halls, hospital grounds, and bus terminals nearby.

RTC buses towards Charminar will terminate at Afzalgunj, while district-bound buses are rerouted via Chadarghat, Saidabad, and Aramghar. In Secunderabad, Subhash Road remains closed from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with diversions towards Paradise and Ranigunj.

Hyderabad airport wins 'Best Airport Staff' at Skytrax World Airport Awards



The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, more commonly known as the Hyderabad airport, received the "Best Airport Staff in India and South Asia" on Thursday, March 19, at the Skytrax World Airport Awards. This is the fifth time that the airport has received this award.

The recognition is based on comprehensive global passenger surveys and evaluations that assess the quality of airport staff service, including friendliness, professionalism, efficiency and customer support across key passenger touchpoints such as check-in, security, immigration, boarding areas, transfers and arrival journey.

Receiving the award highlights Hyderabad airport's dedication to ensuring a seamless, convenient and memorable travel experience for passengers, a press release from RGIA said. Additionally, the RGIA airport also ranked second in the "Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia" category and third in the "Best Airport in India and South Asia" category. As for the "Best Airport with 20-30 Million Passengers Per Annum," it bagged the eighth place.



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Rainbow Expo Lights Up Ramzan Nights in Hyderabad

20-Year Legacy: Hyderabad's Iconic Ramzan Expo Shines Again



Aslam Ahmed Khan, Owner Rainbow Family Shopping Expo

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Rainbow Family Shopping Expo Apparel at Minar Garden stands as one of Hyderabad's most famous and enduring Ramzan shopping attractions, with a legacy spanning over 20 years. Renowned for its consistency and popularity, the expo continues to draw massive crowds each season, reinforcing its status as a trusted destination for festive shopping.

Shoppers flock to the venue for its elaborate jewellery collections and a

wide array of Pakistani-style outfits, blending traditional elegance with contemporary fashion trends. Over the years, the expo has built a reputation for offering quality, variety, and a vibrant marketplace experience under one roof. Its extended late-night operating hours make it especially appealing during Ramzan, allowing visitors to shop comfortably after Iftar in a lively and festive environment. Families, youth, and fashion enthusiasts alike find it a convenient and culturally rich shopping hub.

As part of Hyderabad's iconic Ramzan retail culture, the Rainbow Family Shopping Expo reflects the city's unique mix of heritage and modern retail energy. More than just a marketplace, it remains a celebration of tradition, style, and community spirit—continuing its legacy as a must-visit expo year after year.



Group advocating for the disabled seeks a seat at GHMC table

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections just around the corner, a disability rights group has called out the "glaring democratic blind spot" of the complete absence of persons with disabilities in the city's municipal body. VOICE OF THE PEOPLE (VOTPA) has written to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) portfolio, and GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan, demanding mandatory political representation for the community, not just in the GHMC but also in other urban local bodies.

Given that people with disabilities make up a sizeable chunk of Hyderabad's population, the organisation said, their continued exclusion from civic decision-making is "simply indefensible." The group's demands are that it wants at least two

PWD representatives — a man and a woman — to be co-opted into the GHMC Council. "These members will serve as subject-matter experts to ensure all municipal infrastructure, road-building and civic policies are 100 per cent disabled-friendly," read the letter.

VOTPA has also pushed for a minimum four per cent horizontal reservation across wards, and a fixed share of the GHMC's annual budget to be earmarked exclusively for disability welfare in the city. "It is a historic democratic injustice," the letter states. "With no representation, urban planning, infrastructure, and municipal policies consistently fail to address the accessibility and survival needs of disabled citizens." The group also argued that political empowerment is the only real empowerment. "Such measures would help set a national benchmark for inclusive democracy," the letter said.

EID On Saturday As Moon Not Sighted In Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Id-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Saturday, after the Crescent was not sighted on Thursday in the city, according to the Markazi Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, the moon-sighting panel. The state government has declared a holiday on Saturday. Members of the committee, functioning under Majlis Ulama-e-Deccan, confirmed that the Crescent was not visible, and said the festival would be celebrated on Saturday. Friday, therefore, will see Jummat-ul-Wida prayers to mark the last Friday of

the holy month of Ramzan. Quazi Farooq Arifi, a member of the committee, said, "The committee, which meets regularly to determine the start of Islamic months based on local sighting of the Crescent particularly for Ramzan and Id-ul-Fitr, gathered at locations such as Dabeerpura to receive witness testimonies, but the moon was not sighted." The committee said decisions on Islamic months are based on local crescent sightings and verified testimonies received at designated locations.

Hyderabad Eid Prayers: Venues and Timings Guide

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Telangana Waqf Board has intensified inspections at key Eid prayer venues, including Mir Alam Eidgah and Madannapet Eidgah, which are expected to witness massive congregations on Saturday, March 21.

Officials said more than two lakh worshippers are likely to gather at Mir Alam Eidgah alone. Authorities are focusing on essential arrangements such as sanitation, drinking water supply, and smooth traffic management to ensure hassle-free prayers.

Eidgahs, which are open-air prayer grounds, play a vital role during major Islamic festivals like Eid-ul-Fitr, accommodating large gatherings of men, women, and children from across the city.

Multiple Prayer Venues Across City

Apart from the main Eidgahs, special prayers will be held at several locations across Hyderabad at different timings:

- 6:30 am: Mohammadia Eidgah, Uppally
- 6:35 am: Bilqis Ground, Tolichowki
- 6:45 am: Hockey Ground (New Malakpet), Owaisi Playground (Golconda Fort), Sports Coaching Foundation (Masab Tank),

Masjid-e-Omar Farooq (Rajendranagar), OR Palace (Bandlaguda), Maulana Azad Community Hall (Uppal), Naseer Garden (Shamsher Gunj)

- 7:00 am: NTR Stadium (Lower Tank Bund), Aramghar (near Masjid Mohammedia), Eidgah Ahle Hadees (Pahadi Shareef Road), Government Junior College (Gowlipura), NF Garden (Nacharam), Masjid Al Mumin (Sun City), Jamiat Falah Ground (Shaheen Nagar), Sanjay Gandhi Playground (AC Guards), Sultan Shahi Playground (Talab Katta)
- 7:15 am: Qutbullapur Church Ground (HMT Chintal), Masjid
- Ground (Shaheen Nagar), King Sports Club (Hafiz Baba Nagar)
- 7:30 am: Quli Qutub Shah Stadium, Flower Function Hall (Dammaiguda), Welfare Center Ground (Santosh Nagar), Kohinoor Function Hall (Hafiz Baba Nagar), Lake View Sports Ground (Kismatpur)
- 7:45 am: Eidgah Ahle Hadees Qutub Shahi (Medchal)
- 10:00 am: Chilkalguda Eidgah
- Authorities have urged the public to follow traffic advisories and cooperate with officials to ensure peaceful and orderly celebrations across the city.

Telangana's third DISCOM files for distribution license on Ugadi

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The third DISCOM of the state, named the Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited (TGRPDCL), submitted a formal application to the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Thursday, March 19, seeking a distribution license to begin power supply operations. TGRPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Musharraf Faruqui said that submitting the application



on the day of Ugadi, which marks the Telugu New Year, reflects the government's commitment to a fresh, farmer-centric approach.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had granted formal approval for the incorporation of TGRPDCL on March 18.

All agricultural electricity connections in the state, along with lift irrigation schemes, Central Public Water Supply (CPWS)/Mission Bhagiratha water supply systems, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) connections and municipal water supply connections under the Low Tension VI-B category will come under the jurisdiction of the new DISCOM, which is slated to start operations from April 1.

On March 11, the Telangana government transferred 51 engineers and specialised staff members from the existing Southern and Northern DISCOMs to the new TGRPDCL corporate office.

Musharraf Faruqui has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director, while V Tirupati Reddy, P Krishna Reddy, V Mohan Rao and Dr N Narasimhulu have been appointed to the Board of Directors.

Shastripuram bridge to be inaugurated in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Shastripuram road-over-bridge, also known locally as the Uddamgadda overpass, is finally nearing completion after five long years, surpassing its 18-month deadline by a wide margin.

The proposal of the project was first cleared by the GHMC in 2017 at an estimated cost of Rs 71 crore. It aimed to ease traffic congestion on Mailardevpally-Vattepally

road and provide a hassle-free avenue for people to bypass the Uddamgadda railway gate. Construction started three years later, in 2021, as a joint venture of the GHMC and Railways. The inordinate delay was flagged by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP, Asaduddin Owaisi, in the 2024 Winter Session of the Lok Sabha, where he jibed that the project would set a 'new world record' due to its delays.

20-yr-old woman dies by suicide after pet cat's death in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Losing a pet can be a deeply distressing experience, often hard to express the grief. Himabindu, a 20-year-old college student in Hyderabad, allegedly died by suicide shortly after her cat passed away.

The incident occurred on Wednesday morning at Venkatadri Colony in Badagpet. The cat, which was with the family for two years, suddenly died at around 4 am, said the

Meerpet police. Based on a complaint filed by her mother, she found her daughter lying unconscious with rat poison at around 4:30 am. The family quickly took her to the hospital, where she died. The body was handed over to the bereaved family members after the post-mortem examination. "The family has more cats. We have registered a case of suicide. Further investigations are underway," Meerpet Station House Officer said.

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