



**WUT**  
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ITS READERS  
ID MUBARAK &  
NAVROZ  
MUBARAK

Tomorrow is a holiday for our edition on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

### WEATHER

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

### Brief Insights

#### Didi Slams Modi For 'Unofficial' Prez Rule In WB

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for imposing an "unofficial" President's Rule through the Election Commission's unprecedented bureaucratic rejig ahead of the Assembly Election in the state out of his fear for BJP's defeat. The Trinamul Congress supremo also predicted that around

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

#### Govt Tightens Noose On Online Betting: 300 Apps And Sites Blocked



In a major push to curb illegal online gambling, the Centre on Friday blocked around 300 websites and mobile applications involved in betting and gaming activities. The move is part of a wider enforcement drive that has already seen approximately 8,400 such platforms taken down across the country, according to official sources. Authorities said the blocked platforms include a wide range of illegal operations such as online sports betting sites, digital casinos offering games like slots and

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4



**BRS terms Budget a numbers game, says Six Guarantees buried under inflated outlay: P8**

**Congress skips job notifications, unemployment allowance again: P2**

**BRS stages protest at Gun Park, vows to corner Congress govt: P8**



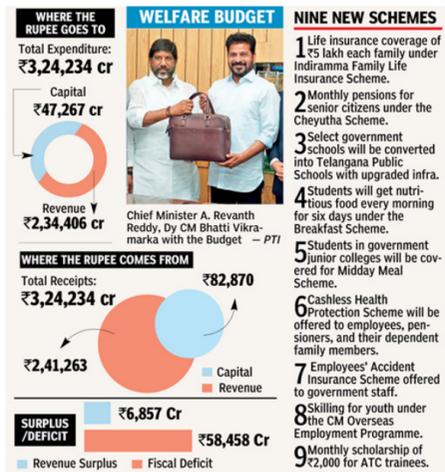
## Telangana Steps Up Welfare Spend In Budget

₹3.24 lakh crore Budget increases capital expenditure by over 20 percent for 2025-26 fiscal.

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Setting a new record, the Congress government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has introduced nine new schemes in the Budget 2026-27, which was presented by finance minister deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the Legislative Assembly on Friday. The new schemes are aimed at benefiting a wide cross-section of society, including students, senior citizens, government employees and pensioners.

As part of the nine new schemes, the government will roll out the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme, providing '5 lakh life insurance coverage to each of the state's 1.15 crore families, with an allocation of Rs. 4,000 crore. Under the Cheyutha social security pensions, two lakh new pensions will be sanctioned with a provision of ₹14,861 crore. In the education sector, selected govern-



ment institutions will be upgraded into Telangana Public Schools with modern infrastructure, digital facilities and transport systems, supported by ₹500 crore. Additionally, a breakfast scheme will be introduced from the 2026-27 academic year for students from pre-primary to intermediate, with ₹800 crore earmarked, while the midday meal scheme will be extended to intermediate students with a budget of ₹100 crore in

addition to school students from Class I to X. For government employees and pensioners, the government announced a cashless health protection scheme covering 23.51 lakh beneficiaries through the Rajiv Aarogyasri Trust, offering treatment for 1,998 diseases in government and 421 empanelled private hospitals. Each beneficiary will be issued a digital health card. Complementing this, a first-of-its-kind Employ-

ees' Accident Insurance Scheme will provide ₹1.2 crore compensation in case of accidental death, ₹10 lakh term life coverage up to 60 years of age, and ₹2 crore compensation for death in air accidents, covering 7.57 lakh employees and pensioners. A combined allocation of ₹1,056 crore has been made for these initiatives.

To boost global employment opportunities, the government will launch the CM Overseas Employment Programme, offering skill and language training, visa assistance and travel support, with job placements in sectors such as healthcare, hospitality, construction and logistics. Another ₹1,056 crore has been earmarked for this initiative. Trainees undergoing training in Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), the upgraded version of ITIs, will receive a monthly scholarship of ₹2,000, with ₹80 crore allocated for the scheme.

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May Allah bless you with peace, happiness, and prosperity.

**Adv Mir Qurram ALi**  
BRSV GHMC Coordinator

@mirqurramali

Eid Ul Fitr Mubarak

May Allah accept your prayers and grant all your wishes. Eid Mubarak!

**Fathe Affan**  
Congress Youth Leader

## Telangana Budget: Congress skips job notifications, unemployment allowance again

The Telangana Budget 2026-27 makes no mention of fresh job notifications or unemployment allowance, drawing criticism from youth groups. Promises of a job calendar and financial aid remain unfulfilled, raising concerns over employment generation and support for unemployed youth

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Assurances of job calendar, recruitment notifications and unemployment allowance for youth continue to remain hollow as the Telangana Congress government yet again omitted fresh job notifications and financial assistance in the Budget presented on Friday.

During the last Assembly elections, the Congress party had promised to fill 2 lakh vacancies, with a job calendar, within one year of coming to power. However, even after two years, the Congress government continued the same pattern, with no



mention of new jobs in the Budget. Presenting the Budget, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu claimed the government issued job appointment letters to 67,763 persons, so far. In fact, the majority of these jobs had been notified during the previous BRS government. In addition, the Deputy Chief Minister failed to announce how

many new job notifications will be issued and filled in the next financial year.

Further, the government has to allocate budget for paying salaries for the newly recruited persons. However, there is no mention of such allocations in the Budget. In fact, the State is already struggling to pay monthly salaries to its existing employees, who

are paid in the first or second week of every month as against the assurance on the first day of the month.

“During the previous BRS government, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had allocated Rs 100 crore towards salaries for new recruits and announced recruitment for 70,000 vacancies in 2022. As there are no allocations for salaries towards new recruits in the upcoming financial year, it is understood that the Congress government will not release the job notifications this year as well and continue to deceive the unemployed youth,” said A Janardhan, an unemployed youth leader.

Further, an unemployed allowance of Rs 4,000 per month as assured in Hyderabad Youth Declaration released by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi during Assembly election has also been omitted in this year’s Budget. As per estimates, there are nearly 35 lakh unemployed in the State. “In the last couple of months, some unemployed youth died by suicide due to financial pressure and no new job notifications from the government. We demand the government first issue notifications or honour its promise of providing financial assistance to the unemployed,” he added.

## Congress brings back KCR’s breakfast scheme

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

After depriving school students of daily breakfast, a scheme introduced by the previous BRS government, in their institutions for more than two academic years, the Telangana Congress government is re-launching the scheme with a new name from the next academic year.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, who presented the budget on Friday, announced the launch of the breakfast scheme from the academic year 2026-27, which will cover students from pre-primary to intermediate level. In addition, milk has also been proposed for students for three days a week, and ragi porridge three times a week. To ensure that government and local body students do not start their day on an empty stomach,



besides addressing their hunger, the previous BRS government led by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had already launched and implemented the Chief Minister’s Breakfast Scheme in 2023.

The scheme, which included idli and sambar, puri and aloo kurma, tomato bath, millet idli and sambar, rice rava khichdi, among other food varieties as per the day, became a role model for the entire country. It was designed to benefit 23 lakh students across 27,147 schools in the State, with an annual allocation of Rs.672 crore. Initially, the scheme was

introduced in 119 schools, with one in each Assembly constituency. It was later planned to expand to one school per mandal, and further to two or three schools per mandal.

The scheme evoked a good response from students, which was evident from increasing attendance in several schools back then. With a change in the ruling in 2023, the Congress government abandoned the breakfast scheme by not allocating funds, causing it to come to a halt.

In addition to the breakfast scheme, the previous BRS government had also introduced ragi malt, which is being provided three times a week to curb anaemia among children. Since its launch, each student is being given ragi porridge comprising 10 grams each of ragi powder and jaggery.

## Doctors flag gaps in Telangana health budget 2026-27

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a measured response to the Telangana State Health Budget for 2026-27, totalling Rs 13,679 crore, the medical community on Friday hoped that, in the long run, the State government will address significant financial and administrative gaps. Professional bodies across the healthcare spectrum warned that there is an urgent need for human resource recruitment, stability and specialised safety funding. point of



contention has been the total absence of any mention regarding the new building for Osmania General Hospital (OGH). While the budget explicitly details the expansion of NIMS and the completion of TIMS hospitals at Sanathnagar, LB Nagar and Alwal, the silence on OGH, a long-

standing demand of the medical community, remains a glaring omission, doctors felt.

Dr Ranga Reddy Burri raised the issue of the absence of a dedicated Rs 500 crore allocation for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), requested under the banner of Infection Control Academy of India (IFCA).

Further concerns were raised by the Telangana Junior Doctors Association (T-JUDA) and the Healthcare Reforms Doc-

tors Association (HRDA) regarding the ‘human element’ of the budget. They pointed out that the rapid addition of 6,582 tertiary care beds by 2026 is not being matched by a proportional recruitment plan, leading to severe doctor burnout and excessive working hours. T-JUDA specifically flagged persistent implementation gaps and the need for a ‘balanced approach’ that prioritises the welfare of healthcare workers through timely stipend disbursements and regulated duty hours.

## Successful yield after 10-Day Mushroom Cultivation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Extension Education Institute (EEI) in Rajendranagar successfully conducted a 10-day mushroom cultivation training programme from February 18 to 28. Organised under the guidance of Director Dr. Jagannohan Reddy, along with programme coordinators Dr. Vasantha and Dr. Vijayalami, the training attracted around 50 participants from Andhra Pradesh



and Telangana. Participants received hands-on training in spawn packet preparation and modern cultivation techniques. Twenty-two

days after the completion of the programme, the mushroom crop was harvested by the professors, and the yield was presented to

the EEI Director as a token of success. Impressed by the high yield and effective implementation of the training, Mr Reddy the Director congratulated the participants and coordinators on the programme’s grand success.

Overall, only 753 posts have teachers on the rolls as against the sanctioned strength of 2,878 positions in 11 universities, translating the vacancy position to 74 percent.

## Madhu Park Ridge residents refuse eviction, stand firm against Gandhi Sarovar

Residents of Madhu Park Ridge in Bandlaguda Jagir staged a protest against eviction under the Gandhi Sarovar Project, vowing not to vacate their homes. Over 100 people, including children, demanded the government stop harassment and reconsider displacement plans

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Residents of Madhu Park Ridge at Bandlaguda Jagir staged a protest on Friday, voicing strong opposition to the state government’s move to displace them under the proposed Gandhi Sarovar Project. The demonstration, held within the apartment premises, saw participation from nearly 100 residents, including senior citizens, women, and children. The protesters asserted that they were determined not to vacate their homes and were prepared to resist any attempts by authorities to evict them.

They expressed deep concern over the land acquisition notification, which indicates that more than 450 flats across Blocks A and B of the residential complex would be affected by the project. Raising slogans demanding justice, residents accused the gov-



ernment of creating unnecessary distress under the pretext of development.

They urged the authorities to reconsider the proposal and halt any actions that would force them out of their legally owned properties. Many participants highlighted the emotional and financial investment they had made in their homes, stating that displacement would severely disrupt their lives.

Children also took part in the protest, adding a poignant dimension to the demonstration. Speaking to the media, some of them appealed directly to Chief Minister

A. Revanth Reddy, requesting him not to disturb their homes.

“We will lose continuity in our education if we are forced to move,” they said, underscoring the broader impact of displacement on families. Residents maintained that their protest was peaceful and aimed at drawing attention to their plight.

They called on the government to engage in dialogue and explore alternative solutions that would not involve uprooting hundreds of families from Madhu Park Ridge.

## 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).

## Ugadi Celebrations at BJP Telangana Office Highlight Unity, Growth Spirit

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a vibrant celebration of tradition and cultural pride, Professor and Scientist Yudhveer Katta, associated with the IIT Madras Alumni Association, participated in the Ugadi festivities held at the Bharatiya Janata Party Telangana State Office. The event marked the auspicious festival of Ugadi, celebrating the beginning of the Telugu New Year with the ceremonial Panchanga Sravanam—a time-honored ritual symbolizing reflection, renewal, and guidance for the year ahead. On this special occasion, Prof. Katta extended his heartfelt Ugadi greetings to the people of Telangana and Telugu communities across the globe. Wel-



coming the Sri Parabhava Nama Samvatsaram, he offered a powerful interpretation of the term “Parabhava,” meaning defeat, stating that defeat is meant only for forces that oppose India and cannot tolerate its progress—delivering a strong message of national confidence and resolve. Highlighting the global scenario, Prof. Katta noted that while many nations are grappling with wars, economic uncertainty,

and internal disturbances, India continues to move forward steadily on the path of growth and stability. He emphasized that the country’s collective spirit and resilience remain its greatest strengths and a source of pride. On this auspicious occasion, he prayed for greater development, peace, and prosperity for the nation and every citizen, urging all to step into the new year with hope, unity, and renewed determination. The celebrations were attended by Gangapuram Kishan Reddy, along with Naraparaju Ramchander Rao, Chandrashekar, and other senior leaders, adding significance to the event. The Ugadi gathering reflected the spirit of cultural heritage, national pride, and a shared vision for a stronger and more prosperous India.

## BRS MLAs stage walkout during Budget speech over unfulfilled promises

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Members of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi staged a walkout from the Assembly on Friday during the Budget speech presented by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. They protested over unfulfilled promises of the Congress government and non-allocation of budget for their implementation in the latest budget. BRS legislators tucked



flowers behind their ears shortly after the Deputy Chief Minister commenced his speech as a mark of protest and raised

slogans during the speech. They shouted “fraud, fraud” while referring to the promise of providing one tola of gold,

creation of two lakh jobs and other assurances made earlier. With the budget speech ignoring the pending promises, they staged a walkout. The protest continued outside the House, where the BRS MLAs staged a sit-in at the Assembly entrance and raised slogans against the budget. They alleged that the government failed to address public issues and did not honour its commitments.

### 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 Irrigation Sector: On the Brink? Dip in allocations come as a shocker

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The 2026-27 State Budget, presented with a total outlay of Rs 3.24 lakh crore, has allocated Rs 22,615 crore to the Irrigation and Command Area Development Department, reflecting a modest reduction of about Rs 740 crore (roughly three per cent) from Rs 23,355 crore in 2025-26. This dip comes despite the overall budget rising by nearly Rs 20,000 crore and capital expenditure increasing by over 20 per cent, raising concerns about prioritisation amid competing demands like welfare and urban development.

In this backdrop, the irrigation sector in Telangana, vital for the state's agrarian economy, faces growing concerns over funding and execution of ongoing projects. Alloca-

tions have stabilised in the Rs 23,000 crore range under the current administration, following an initial high post-transition. However, critics argue this moderation is inadequate given historical delays, siltation losses, and ambitious targets to expand irrigated area to over 127 lakh acres.

Nearly 55 per cent of the irrigation budget is consumed by non-capital heads such as loan repayments, power bills for lift operations, salaries and maintenance. This leaves only Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 crore annually for tangible works like canal construction, tunnels and ayacut development.

Reports suggest actual spending on irrigation works in the current year (2025-26) has been as low as around Rs 4,000 crore in some estimates, far below expectations and prompting concern within

the department, which has sought at least a two-fold hike to complete pending schemes. The budget emphasises a completion culture rather than new mega announcements, focusing on inherited projects amid fiscal constraints and competing welfare demands such as Rythu Bharsa. Accelerating completion of major lift irrigation schemes such as the Palamuru-Rangareddy, Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Devadula (J Chokka Rao), Sitarama and others would need substantial allocations.

The Irrigation department may have limited funds even for the revival of the Dr B R Ambedkar Pranhita-Chevella project, which has been described as correcting past historic mistakes. Desiltation works in key reservoirs such as Sriramsagar, Priyadarshini Jurala, Musi

and Nagarjunasagar, as per national guidelines to restore storage capacity, also require funds on priority. Similarly, there is a push for southern districts, with land acquisition prioritised for Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima and Koilsagar, along with earlier commitments to operationalise Palamuru-Rangareddy in 20 to 30 months and complete several other projects by March 2027.

Despite substantial past investments, on-ground achievements lag, with many projects remaining midway, affecting crop productivity in northern and southern districts. The dip in allocations, low spending on actual capital works and absence of bold new initiatives have drawn criticism from opposition parties, farmer groups and experts.

## 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-

vitha 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.

## Matoor Village Marks a Milestone with Launch of Underground Drainage Project

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A new chapter in village development unfolded today as Matoor village inaugurated its much-awaited underground drainage system in Ward 3. The event, attended by local leaders, officials, and enthusiastic villagers, promises to transform the community's sanitation and living standards. Sarpanch Janne Siddulu, Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu, and Ward 3 member Bandru Srinivas officially launched the project amid cheers from the local populace. Representing various community groups, residents, youth, women's associations, and the village president Anantula Lakshmareddy also graced the occasion, highlighting the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

Speaking at the event, villagers expressed their relief and excitement: "During the rainy season, water used to stag-



nate on our streets, causing inconvenience and health hazards. Once this drainage project is complete, our streets will be clean, dry, and hygienic," they said. The project is part of a broader roadmap to modernize Matoor village and improve public infrastructure. Officials emphasized that the underground drainage system is expected to enhance sanitation, reduce waterlogging, and pave the way for better urban amenities in the rural setting. This launch not only addresses a long-standing issue but also stands as a symbol of Matoor's commitment to progress.

Residents are hopeful

that the initiative will mark a turning point in the village's development story, providing a model for other villages in the region to follow. Special Attraction: Local youth and women's groups participated in a symbolic "Clean Streets March," carrying banners that read "Clean Matoor, Healthy Matoor," showcasing the community's active involvement and enthusiasm for sustainable development. With this milestone, Matoor village sets a shining example of participatory governance and modern rural planning, turning a vision of clean, safe, and organized streets into reality.

## MLA Sri Ganesh Praises Bhatti Vikramarka's Welfare Budget

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh on Friday congratulated Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for presenting a people-centric Budget for 2026-27 in the State Assembly, highlighting several welfare-focused initiatives aimed at broad-based social support. During a meeting at the Deputy CM's office in the Assembly



premises, Sri Ganesh appreciated the government's decision to extend financial security and welfare benefits to

a larger section of society. He specifically lauded the inclusion of nearly two lakh new beneficiaries under the

Cheyutha pension scheme, calling it a major relief for vulnerable groups. The MLA also welcomed the introduction of a breakfast scheme for students from pre-primary to Intermediate level starting the upcoming academic year, along with the provision of mid-day meals for Intermediate students. He noted that these measures would significantly improve student nutrition, attendance, and academic

outcomes across the state. Further, Sri Ganesh praised the rollout of a cashless health security scheme that is expected to benefit around 23.51 lakh employees and their family members, terming it a crucial step towards strengthening public healthcare access. He stated that the budget reflects a strong commitment to inclusive growth and welfare-driven governance.

## MGNREGA Works Reviewed in Bommala Ramaram Mandal by CEO ZPP

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Mandal Praja Parishad office in Bommala Ramaram turned into a hub of discussion and review as officials assessed the progress of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) works on Friday. District ZPP CEO Mrs. N. Shobha Rani, who attended as the chief guest, led the review session focusing on labourer welfare, efficient work-day allocation, and protection of plants under MGNREGA initiatives. She emphasized that in-



creasing awareness about labourer rights and the benefits of the scheme is essential for improving enrollment and participation. "It is important to ensure that every village receives uninterrupted work-day provisions and that saplings are protected, especially during the summer months," Mrs. Rani said. Officials at

the meeting reviewed ongoing measures to safeguard plants and crops, particularly during adverse weather conditions, and discussed strategies for strengthening accountability in work implementation. The session aimed to ensure that the scheme not only provides employment but also supports rural livelihoods and sus-

tainable agricultural practices. Key points discussed included: Boosting the number of enrolled labourers in each village. Ensuring effective allocation and uninterrupted provision of work-days.

Implementing safeguards for saplings and crops, particularly in summer and monsoon seasons. Enhancing transparency and accountability in MGNREGA work execution. The review was attended by several key officials, including MPDO D. Shyamala, Superintendent Gaddam Gyanprakash Reddy, APO S.

Srilakshmi, along with Executive Committee members, Technical Assistants, and other local officials. Ms. Shobha Rani's leadership was widely appreciated, with participants noting that her guidance would strengthen rural employment, protect crops, and ensure the proper implementation of MGNREGA projects at the mandal level. Officials committed to taking forward her directives to improve both the reach and quality of employment and environmental protection measures under the scheme.

## Memorandum to Collector Seeking Welfare Accountability

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Raising serious concerns over the alleged negligence of the state government in implementing promises made to the public, leaders from various districts jointly submitted a memorandum to the Hyderabad District Collector, urging immediate corrective action. The delegation emphasized the urgent need for district collectors to exert pressure on the state government to ensure that funds allocated under various welfare schemes are effectively utilized for public devel-



opment. They highlighted that delays and mismanagement in fund allocation are adversely impacting grassroots development and public welfare. The memorandum was submitted under the leadership of Bhagyanaagar District President Niranjan Yadav, Secunderabad District

representative Bharat Goud, Central District leader Deepak Reddy, and Golconda District President Uma Mahender. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests Dr. Gautham Rao and Pradeep Kumar, who expressed their support for the cause and stressed the importance of trans-

parency and accountability in governance. Several key members and activists participated in the program, including Pandarinath, Srinath (General Secretary, BNZ), Kaudi Mahender, Madari Chandrasekar, Ranjith, Prabhakar, Eshwar Yadav, Raju, Krishna, Gopi, Dasarith Lakshmi, Shiva, and Nandu. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders reiterated their commitment to safeguarding public interests and warned that further action would be initiated if the government fails to respond promptly.

## Chandraiah Meets Senior Leader T. Devender Goud, Extends Belated Birthday Wishes

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a gesture reflecting political courtesy and personal regard, former ZPTC member and senior political leader Education Institutes founder Chandraiah from Pargi mandal of Vikarabad district met veteran leader and former Home Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, T. Devender Goud, at his residence in Hyderabad on Friday. The meeting, though brief, carried both political and personal significance. Chandraiah conveyed his belated birthday wishes to the senior leader, whose birthday fell on March 18. Now aged around 73, Devender Goud continues to remain an influential and respected figure in regional politics. The inter-



action was marked by warmth and mutual respect, highlighting enduring relationships that extend beyond

active political roles. During the visit, Chandraiah enquired about Devender Goud's health and well-being. The veteran leader expressed gratitude for the thoughtful gesture and interacted cordially with his visitor. Devender Goud, known for his long-standing contribution to state politics and his tenure as Home Minister in united Andhra Pradesh, continues to command respect across political circles. His residence in Hyderabad remains a hub for leaders, supporters, and well-wishers who frequently call on him. The visit concluded with Chandraiah wishing the senior leader good health and a long life, making the interaction both respectful and memorable.

# Canada Police Find No Proof Linking India To Criminal Cases

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A senior Canadian law enforcement official has said that ongoing investigations have found no evidence linking the Indian government to criminal or violent activities in the country, signalling a potential thaw in strained bilateral relations.

According to media reports, Mike Duheme, Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, stated that probes into recent cases have not established any involvement of Indian authorities. The remarks mark a significant development after months of diplomatic tensions between Canada and India. The ties between the two nations had deteriorated sharply between



September 2023 and March 2025 under then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Ottawa had alleged India's involvement in the killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. New Delhi had firmly rejected the accusations from the outset, calling them unsubstantiated. India has consistently maintained that it has no role in any form of transnational

crime or violence. Earlier, P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, described such allegations as "baseless, motivated and not supported by any credible evidence," stressing that repeated requests for proof had not yielded any substantive material. New Delhi has also underlined that any concerns surrounding the Nijjar case should be addressed

through established judicial mechanisms rather than public or political assertions. The disagreement had escalated into a major diplomatic standoff in October 2024, when both countries expelled each other's diplomats after Canada named certain Indian officials as persons of interest in the investigation. Further strain emerged when Canada reduced its diplomatic presence in India, citing issues related to parity and diplomatic immunity—claims that were rejected by New Delhi as inconsistent with international norms. However, relations have begun to stabilise in recent months following the leadership transition in Ottawa, with Mark Carney assuming office. Both sides have since

taken steps to restore normalcy, including the reinstatement of High Commissioners and the resumption of dialogue through diplomatic and security channels. The latest statement by Canadian authorities suggests a shift in tone, indicating that current investigations have not produced evidence connecting India to the criminal cases under review, potentially opening the door for improved bilateral engagement. The ECB now sees 2026 inflation at 2.6%, above the 1.9% predicted in December. At a summit in Brussels, European Union leaders sought ways to offset higher energy costs for industries and consumers already struggling with the rising cost of living.

# BJP Plans Big West Bengal Campaign Led by Modi

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to roll out an extensive and high-intensity campaign in West Bengal following the announcement of Assembly poll dates, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to spearhead the party's outreach. According to party sources, Modi is likely to address around 14 to 15 public events, including large-scale rallies and roadshows across key constituencies. His campaign schedule is expected to pick up pace after the festival of Ram Navami, marking the beginning of an aggressive push to consolidate voter support. A senior party functionary noted that Modi's presence will play a central role in energising cadres and drawing crowds in



crucial regions. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also expected to play a significant role, addressing approximately eight to ten public events while simultaneously overseeing election strategy, voter mobilisation, and booth-level management. His focus will include strengthening grassroots coordination and ensuring effective implementation of campaign plans. Senior leaders such as BJP national president J. P. Nadda and newly appointed state chief Nitin Nabin will conduct mul-

iple rallies to bolster the party's presence. Yogi Adityanath is also expected to campaign in several regions, adding further momentum to the party's efforts. Actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty is likely to engage in outreach programmes, leveraging his popularity to connect with voters. The BJP's multi-tiered strategy includes large public meetings, smaller corner gatherings, and door-to-door campaigns, covering constituencies across the state. The comprehensive campaign aims to strengthen the party's organisational network and maximise voter outreach ahead of the Assembly elections, as the BJP seeks to expand its footprint in West Bengal's dynamic political landscape.

# India Sends 2.5 Ton Medical Aid to Kabul

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India on Friday delivered a 2.5-ton consignment of emergency medical supplies to Kabul to support treatment of those injured in a recent hospital attack. The ministry of external affairs said the consignment included medicines, medical disposables, kits and equipment. "India stands in solidarity with the Afghan people and will continue to extend all possible humanitarian support in this difficult hour," MEA spokesperson Randhir



Jaiswal said. The assistance follows an attack on the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul on the night of March 16, which India earlier condemned. New Delhi termed the incident a civilian-targeted strike and said the facility could not be justified as a military target. "This heinous

act of aggression by Pakistan is also a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability. It reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and its repeated attempts to externalise internal failures through increasingly desperate acts of violence beyond its borders," India said earlier. "That this attack was carried out during the holy month of Ramzan, a time of peace, reflection, and mercy among Muslim communities across the world, makes it all the

more reprehensible. There is no faith, no law, and no morality that can justify the deliberate targeting of a hospital and its patients. The international community must hold the perpetrators of this criminal act accountable and ensure that the wanton targeting by Pakistan of civilians in Afghanistan ceases without delay," it added. According to reports, the attack resulted in significant casualties, with hundreds feared dead and many injured at the facility, which functioned as a drug rehabilitation centre.

# Modi Speaks to Bahrain King, Condemns Attacks on Energy Infra

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and condemned attacks on energy and civilian infrastructure amid the ongoing West Asia conflict. In a post on X, Modi said the two leaders discussed the regional situation and its wider implications. "Had a fruitful discussion with the King of Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa. Conveyed warm greetings on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr to him and the people of Bahrain. We discussed the current situation in the West Asian region. Condemned attacks on the energy and civilian in-



frastructure in the region, underscoring their adverse impact on global food, fuel and fertilizer security. Reiterated the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation and keeping shipping lines open and secure. Thanked His Majesty for his continued support for the well-being of the Indian community in Bahrain." The outreach follows Modi's recent conversations with several global

leaders, including those of France, Qatar, Jordan, Oman and Malaysia, on the escalating situation in West Asia. During these interactions, he had described attacks on energy infrastructure in the region as condemnable, amid recent strikes targeting gas facilities in Iran and Qatar. India has expressed concern over the escalation and its potential impact on energy security and global supply chains. Earlier, Modi had also spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, emphasising civilian safety and the need for an early cessation of hostilities, while External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with his Israeli counterpart.

# VP To Preside Over 1st Convocation Of Maharashtra's Skill University

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan is scheduled to preside as the guest of honor at the inaugural convocation of the Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skill University (MSSU) on Saturday. The event marks a significant milestone for the institution, which was established in July 2022 to bridge the gap between traditional education and industrial requirements. The ceremony will be held at 2 pm at the Durbar Hall in Lok Bhavan, Mumbai, according to Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Among those expected to attend are Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Ajit Pawar. According to Mr. Lodha, the university focuses on skill development aligned with industry requirements, including training, incubation and support for startups. "While the university's permanent campus is currently under construction in Panvel,



active training centers have already been established within Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and private facilities across Navi Mumbai, Thane, Pune, and Nagpur. The academic structure includes specialised schools for Science Engineering and Technology, Management and Commerce, and Design and Creative Skills," the minister said. A key feature of the university's curriculum is its integration with global and domestic industry leaders. The institution has secured partnerships with Persistent Systems, Kirloskar Group, and Microsoft. Its Bachelor of Design programme is conducted in collaboration

with the French institute Rubika, and the university has also introduced medical assistant courses to support the healthcare sector. An exhibition titled the Jayant Sahasrabudde Skill Exhibition will be held alongside the convocation. It will include stalls from organisations such as Toyota Kirloskar, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Dassault Aviation, as well as social sector groups including Swades Foundation and Art of Living Rural Development Trust. "The programme will conclude with recognition of industrial organisations for contributions to vocational training," Mr. Lodha said.

## Didi Slams Modi.....

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for imposing an "unofficial" President's Rule through the Election Commission's unprecedented bureaucratic rejig ahead of the Assembly Election in the state out of his fear for BJP's defeat. The Trinamul Congress supremo also predicted that around 10 lakh voters' names including a particular community in three bordering districts have been marked by the EC for fresh deletion in the special intensive revision's (SIR) first supplementary list which was supposed to be out during the day. Ms Banerjee claimed at TMC manifesto release in her residence, "It's not unofficial but an official President's Rule that has been imposed here! Shame! Modiji has resorted to the President's Rule to conduct polls here. Why does he fear the people of Bengal so much?" She argued, "There is a proverb: History repeats itself. The British shifted the capital to Delhi from Kolkata fearing the people here because they knew they would not be able to tame them. Similarly, Bengal has long been BJP's target as they don't want the state to exist for its rich culture, history, heritage and talent." Lashing out at the BJP, the CM alleged, "They have imposed the President's Rule already. They are not talking about it. But their activities prove that. Action is the reaction and action is the reality. People are against them. They

will diffuse their audacity totally." On the first supplementary list, Ms Banerjee pointed out, "The SIR list, which was expected today, did not come out. Thus, days get wasted. I heard that nearly 22 lakh names have been sorted out of around 60 lakhs which have been 'under adjudication' for logical discrepancies." She added, "Out of the figure, 10 lakhs have been removed from the voters' list. Most of these deletions were made in Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur, targeting a particular community. Many Hindu, Rajbanshi and Matua names have been axed." The TMC chief further mentioned, "They are pseudo-religious. They only show off in the name of religion. We have knocked everywhere, from EC to judiciary to streets to rallies. If it takes around 20 days to sort out 22 lakh names, can the entire process be completed before the polls?" She then accused the Prime Minister's Office and union home minister Amit Shah's office of threatening the state government officials and allowing money flow, mafia, arms and drugs across the border. The TMC manifesto this time promises 10 pledges—Lakshmir Bhandar, Yuba Sathi, a ₹30,000 crore-agricultural budget, housing, clean drinking water supply, Duare Chikitsa (medical at doorstep), holistic upgradation of government education, business and industry, old age pension support and creation of seven new districts in the state.

## CM Revanth.....

In a major push to curb illegal online gambling, the Centre on Friday blocked around 300 websites and mobile applications involved in betting and gaming activities. The move is part of a wider enforcement drive that has already seen approximately 8,400 such platforms taken down across the country, according to official sources. Authorities said the blocked platforms include a wide range of illegal operations such as online sports betting sites, digital casinos offering games like slots and roulette, live dealer platforms, peer-to-peer betting exchanges, satta and matka networks, as well as real-money card and casino gaming applications. The action reflects the government's intensified efforts to dismantle unregulated online gambling ecosystems. Sources revealed that a significant portion of these blocks — nearly 4,900 out of the total 8,400 — were carried out after the enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, indicating the law's immediate and strong enforcement impact. The crackdown aims to create a safer, more transparent, and accountable online gaming environment in India. The 2025 legislation was introduced with a dual objective: to promote innovation in legitimate sectors such as e-sports and online social gaming, while imposing a strict ban on online money-based games. Under the law, all forms of online money gaming are prohibited, regardless

of whether they are classified as games of chance, skill, or a combination of both. The legislation also bans the advertisement, promotion, and facilitation of such activities, including financial transactions routed through banks or digital payment systems. Enforcement agencies have been granted sweeping powers under the Information Technology Act, 2000, enabling them to block access to illegal platforms swiftly and effectively. This has significantly strengthened the government's ability to respond to emerging online threats. The Act also introduces stringent penalties to deter violations. Individuals or entities found offering or facilitating online money games can face imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both. Repeat offenders face harsher punishment, including a minimum three-year jail term, extendable up to five years, along with fines ranging from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore. Additionally, advertising such illegal gaming platforms is punishable with up to two years of imprisonment or fines up to ₹50 lakh, or both. Subsequent convictions attract even stricter penalties. Officials подчернули that the ongoing crackdown is part of a sustained effort to protect users, especially youth, from financial risks and addiction associated with online gambling, while fostering a regulated and innovation-friendly digital gaming ecosystem.

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

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 CJ, the bench

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 CJ-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.

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 degree and diploma courses for 2025-26. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a petition filed by the Telangana Private Medical and Dental College Managements Association. The association sought directions to the Medical

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

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

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

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.



# EMI Holiday Offer Boosts Buyer Interest at Vertex 33 West

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Homebuyers exploring the western corridor of the city are finding a timely opportunity at Vertex 33 West, located in the rapidly developing Nallagandla-Gachibowli belt. The project is drawing attention for combining strong construction progress with a financially flexible purchase option. A key highlight is the EMI Holiday scheme extended until January 2027, allowing buyers to book a home now without immediate repayment pressure during the construction phase. Valid until April 15, 2026, the offer is designed to give buyers breathing room for finan-



cial planning while their investment steadily progresses. The project's credibility is reinforced by its visible construction pace. After receiving approvals in August 2023 and starting foundation work in January 2024, both towers have already reached structural completion at 33 floors. Finishing works

such as interiors, façade, and building services are currently underway. The completed podium structure further reflects the project's accelerated execution. A standout feature is its elevated podium lifestyle concept—rare in this micro-market. The design separates recreational and community spaces from

vehicular movement, offering residents a safer, quieter, and more family-friendly environment. The development also emphasizes low-density living, with only two towers planned. Apartments are designed with three private balconies, ensuring better ventilation, natural light, and multiple views. Modern touches such as glass railings, biometric locks, and large-format tiles enhance both aesthetics and functionality.

Attention to quality is evident in the specifications. Model apartments showcase premium fittings, including European-brand fixtures across kitchens and bathrooms, balancing design appeal with dur-

ability and ease of maintenance.

The project is part of a larger vision, with the developer holding around 43 acres of ongoing development in the Nallagandla-Gachibowli corridor. This signals long-term commitment and confidence in the area's growth, driven by proximity to IT hubs and urban infrastructure. With construction ahead of schedule and limited-period financial benefits, Vertex 33 West presents a well-timed opportunity. For buyers seeking both reliability and financial ease, the current offer window stands out in a competitive real estate market.

# Flipkart Group CFO Sriram Venkataraman steps down

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Flipkart on Friday announced a key leadership transition, stating that Group Chief Financial Officer Sriram Venkataraman will step down from his role.

The company clarified that Venkataraman will continue for a transitional period to ensure continuity and a smooth hand-over of responsibilities. During this interim phase, Ravi Iyer, currently serving as CFO within the organisation, will take charge of overseeing the broader finance function. This move is aimed at maintaining operational stability as the Walmart-backed e-commerce giant navigates the leadership change. In a parallel development, Flipkart also announced the return of Nishant Ver-



man, who has been appointed as Senior Vice President for Corporate Development and Partnerships. Verman rejoins the company after founding Bazaar, a cross-border exports platform, bringing with him extensive experience in corporate strategy and investments. Prior to his entrepreneurial stint, Verman worked with Microsoft's Corporate Development team and held a role in tech investment banking at Morgan Stanley. His reappointment signals

Flipkart's focus on strengthening its partnerships and strategic growth initiatives. Founded in 2007, Flipkart Group has grown into one of India's leading e-commerce ecosystems, comprising platforms such as Myntra, Flipkart Wholesale, Cleartrip, and super.money. Backed by Walmart, the company continues to evolve amid leadership changes and competitive pressures in the digital commerce space.

# Premium petrol, industrial diesel costlier; retail rates steady

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Price of premium or higher-grade petrol on Friday was increased by Rs 2 per litre while the rate of bulk diesel sold to industrial users was hiked by about Rs 22 a litre, reflecting the spike in global oil prices amid conflict in West Asia. However, the price of normal petrol and diesel remains unchanged. Premium 95-Octane petrol

price in Delhi has been increased from Rs 99.89 per litre to Rs 101.89 in the national capital, industry sources said. Alongside, bulk or industrial diesel prices were hiked from Rs 87.67 per litre to Rs 109.59 in Delhi. International oil prices touched USD 119 per barrel on Thursday on intensifying Iran war, before pulling back to around USD 108 a barrel. A litre of normal petrol

in Delhi continues to cost Rs 94.77 while the same grade diesel comes for Rs 87.67 a litre. Normal petrol typically has an octane rating of 91-92 and is suitable for standard engines, offering adequate performance for everyday driving. Premium petrol, on the other hand, has a higher octane rating of 95-98, making it ideal for high-performance or high-compression engines.



At a media briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said there is no increase in prices of normal petrol and diesel. "Some increase is reported in the premium category which hardly makes up for 2-4 per cent

of the entire petrol (sold in the country)," she said. "There is no increase in price for the common man."

Pricing decisions, she said, are taken by oil companies independently as petrol and diesel pricing was deregulated in 2010 and 2014 respectively. "It (pricing) is decided by oil marketing companies. Government does not regulate petrol and diesel prices," she added.

The government is closely monitoring global oil markets, but there is no immediate plan to raise retail fuel prices. Oil marketing companies are expected to absorb the current cost pressure for the time being. "Our priority is to make energy available to all consumers, which we have been doing all through the crisis. Till now we have not increased the prices," she added. Retail petrol and diesel

prices have been frozen since April 2022, with fuel retailers like Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) absorbing losses when crude prices are high and making profits when rates are low. This meant that when global fuel prices went up in response to elevated crude prices, prices were stable in

India. And when softening of crude prices pushed down fuel rates globally, rates in India remained unchanged. The government wants to continue to shield consumers, and the same policy will continue unless there is a huge spike in crude prices. India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its natural gas requirement. These mostly come via the Strait of Hormuz.

# Global oil prices fall up to 3 pc as US signals easing of Iran crude sanctions

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Global oil prices declined sharply on Friday after the United States signalled a possible easing of sanctions on Iranian crude, raising expectations of improved supply and easing concerns over tight global markets. Brent crude futures fell as much as 3.39 per cent to an intra-day low of \$104.96 per barrel, while US WTI crude dropped 3.22 per cent to \$92.47.

The slide followed comments by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who indicated that Washington may allow certain Iranian oil shipments already at sea to re-enter the global market. In an interview with Fox Business Network, Bessent said the US could "unsanction" around 140 million barrels of Iranian oil currently on the water in the coming days. He added that Iranian crude exports have continued from the Gulf region and hinted that further flexibility could be explored depending on market con-



ditions. He also clarified that the US is not targeting Iran's energy infrastructure and retains several policy tools to influence global oil supply if needed. The development comes at a time when efforts are intensifying to secure safe passage for oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route that handles a significant portion of the world's crude trade.

Any reduction in geopolitical risk or disruption to this corridor tends to immediately re-

flect in oil prices, and the latest signals of de-escalation have helped cool markets. Despite the decline, crude prices remain elevated following a sharp rally triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Brent crude has surged nearly 40 per cent in recent weeks, rising from \$77.74 on March 2 to \$108.65 on March 19 as the regional conflict intensified. Analysts note that the recent correction reflects easing fears around potential disruptions to Iranian oil infrastructure and

shipping routes, which had previously added a risk premium to prices. However, the overall price level continues to remain high, posing challenges for oil-importing economies such as India. Elevated crude prices tend to widen the trade deficit, weaken the currency, and contribute to inflationary pressures, thereby impacting broader economic stability. Meanwhile, equity markets responded positively to the cooling oil prices and improving sentiment.

Indian benchmark indices recorded strong gains in early trade, with the BSE Sensex rising nearly 1,000 points, or 1.34 per cent, while the Nifty 50 advanced about 1.38 per cent, or around 300 points. Global markets, however, remained mixed. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 ended 0.27 per cent lower, while the Nasdaq Composite slipped 0.28 per cent, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid ongoing geopolitical developments and uncertainty over the global economic outlook.

# Gold, silver prices climb up to 3 pc as geopolitical tensions appear to ease

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp rebound on Friday, rising up to 3 per cent amid easing concerns over geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The recovery comes a day after both precious metals recorded significant losses, highlighting continued volatility in the commodities market driven by global economic and political factors.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for April 2 surged to an intra-day high of Rs 1,48,302 per 10 grams around 10:45 am, marking a gain of 2.30 per cent or Rs 3,348. During the trading session, the yellow metal dipped to a low of Rs 1,47,401 before stabilising. At the last count, gold was trading at Rs 1,47,534, up Rs 2,580 or 1.78 per cent. Silver futures also mirrored the upward trend. Contracts for May 5 jumped as much as 3.68 per cent, or Rs 8,540, to touch Rs 2,40,000 per kilogram. In intra-day trade, silver hit a low of Rs 2,37,300 before retreating slightly. It was



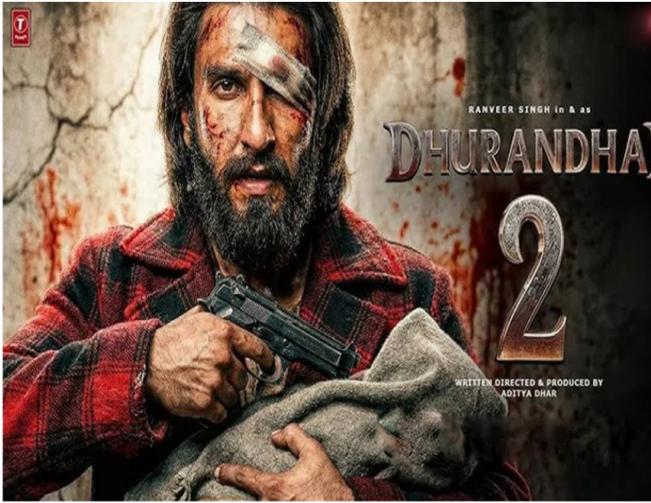
last seen trading at Rs 2,36,903, up Rs 5,443 or 2.35 per cent. In global markets, the rally was equally strong. Gold prices on COMEX rose 2.40 per cent to \$4,716 per ounce, while silver gained 3.61 per cent to \$73.78 per ounce. The upward movement reflects renewed investor interest following recent declines.

According to Manav Modi, commodities analyst at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, gold prices have stabilised in early trade but are still on track for their worst weekly decline in six years. He attributed the recent fall to rising inflation expectations triggered by the ongoing US-Israel conflict with Iran, along with diminishing hopes of near-term interest rate cuts. He further noted that safe-haven de-

mand for gold has weakened due to a strengthening US dollar and rising Treasury yields. Elevated crude oil prices have also intensified inflation concerns and fears of supply disruptions, adding pressure to precious metals. On Thursday, both metals had witnessed a steep correction, with gold falling to nearly Rs 1.44 lakh per 10 grams and silver dropping to around Rs 2.20 lakh per kilogram. Market experts suggest that gold is currently trading above a key support level of Rs 1,47,000 on MCX, with immediate resistance seen in the Rs 1,50,000-1,52,000 range. Silver, meanwhile, remains range-bound, with support near Rs 2,33,000 and resistance between Rs 2,43,000 and Rs 2,46,000, indicating cautious optimism among traders.

## 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' delivers record-breaking opening, earns Rs 145 crore

**D**hurandhar: The Revenge, directed by Aditya Dhar, has stormed the box office with a record-breaking opening, emerging as one of the biggest day-one performers in Indian cinema. Headlined by Ranveer Singh, the high-octane spy thriller has taken a phenomenal start, driven by massive anticipation and strong advance bookings. According to early estimates, the film collected over Rs 43 crore from paid previews alone, setting a new benchmark for pre-release earnings. On its official opening day, the film added approximately Rs 102.55 crore, pushing its total domestic earnings to around Rs 145 crore



within just two days. Trade analysts suggest that the numbers could be revised further once final figures are released. With this performance, "Dhurandhar: The Revenge" has

comfortably surpassed the opening day collections of recent Bollywood blockbusters like Jawan starring Shah Rukh Khan, Pathaan, and the horror-comedy hit Stree 2. The film's global

earnings are also expected to cross Rs 200 crore, reflecting its widespread appeal and strong overseas response. Backed by producers Jyoti Deshpande and Lokesh Dhar, the

sequel builds on the massive success of the original Dhurandhar, which reportedly earned Rs 1,300 crore worldwide. In the film, Ranveer Singh plays Jaskirat Singh Ranghi, who evolves into undercover operative Hamza Ali Mazari operating in Pakistan. The narrative explores his journey through the Karachi underworld while uncovering the origins of his covert identity. The ensemble cast includes R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi. Released in multiple languages, the film has struck a chord with audiences nationwide, setting the stage for a blockbuster theatrical run.

## NCW summons Nora Fatehi, Sanjay Dutt over 'Sarke Chunar' song row

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

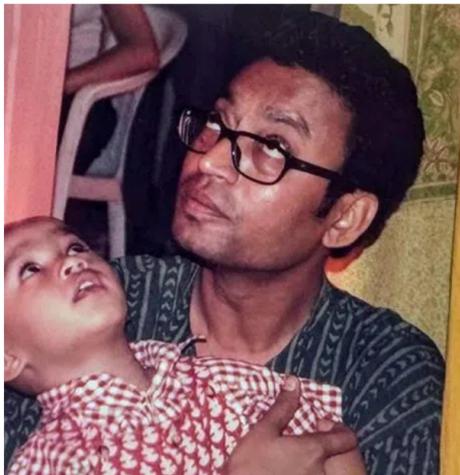
The National Commission for Women has summoned actress Nora Fatehi, actor Sanjay Dutt and others following a controversy over obscenity and vulgarity in the song "Sarke Chunar". In a statement, the Commission said the content prima facie appears to be sexually suggestive, objectionable, and violative of provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, IT Act, and POCSO Act. The National Commission for Women, in exercise of its powers under the NCW Act, 1990, has taken suo motu cognizance of media reports alleging obscenity and vulgarity in the song "Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke", the Commission said. The NCW said it has also summoned lyricist Raqueeb Alam, producer Venkat K Narayana of KVN Group, and Kiran Kumar to appear before it



on March 24. They have been asked to be present along with relevant documents, the Commission said. "Failure to appear may invite appropriate action as per law," it added. The song, which is part of the upcoming Kannada movie "KD: The Devil", released on YouTube earlier this week and kicked up a major controversy with its sexually explicit lyrics. It has since been pulled down from the video sharing platform. The movie, directed by Prem and starring Dhruv Sarja in the lead, will release on April 30. Fatehi, who features in

the dance video of the song along with Dutt, and lyricist Alam, who translated the original Kannada song in Hindi, have distanced themselves from the controversy. Fatehi said she recorded the Kannada version three years ago and when she heard the Hindi version, she had already flagged the issue to the makers. Alam said he was told to do a literal translation from the Kannada version and that's what he did. The Kannada lyrics were written by the movie's director Prem.

## Babil Khan misses late father Irrfan Khan, shares unseen childhood pictures



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Actor Babil Khan, on Thursday, remembered his late father Irrfan Khan as he shared a series of unseen childhood pictures, reflecting on their beautiful bond. The post struck an emotional chord with fans who took to their comments

section of the post, as Babil reflected on memories while revisiting moments from his early years with his father. Sharing the pictures, Babil wrote in the caption, "To begin again, remembering you. With my feet planted firm in my roots." Reacting to the post, Babil's mother Sutapa Sikdar com-

mented, "What beautiful pictures both with same expression. Mashaallah". The pictures shared by Babil, capture intimate and candid moments between Irrfan and a young Babil. In one picture, Irrfan is seen holding baby Babil in his arms, both looking upward. In another picture, the late actor is seen sit-

ting closely with his son, gently holding him while engaging with him. In a third picture, Irrfan is seen carrying Babil on his shoulders, with the little one holding on playfully as they share a lighthearted moment at home. For the uninitiated, Irrfan Khan passed away on April 29, 2020, at the age of 53, reportedly after

battling a neuroendocrine tumour, a rare form of cancer. His demise had sent shockwaves across the country and the global film fraternity. Talking about Sutapa Sikdar, a writer and producer by profession, had been Irrfan's wife for decades. The two met during their time at the National School of Drama

and tied the knot in 1995. They are parents to two sons, Babil and Ayan. Talking about Babil Khan, he has followed his father's footsteps and entered the film industry. He made his acting debut with the Netflix film "Qala" released in 2022, starring alongside Triptii Dimri and Swastika Mukherjee.

## 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.

## Telangana clears Rs 1,011 crore for urban school infra under CURE programme



The Telangana government has cleared school infrastructure works worth Rs 1,011.65 crore under the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) programme, which will see 11 new integrated school complexes built, 17 existing schools upgraded and 501 classrooms added across 164 government schools in urban areas of the state. Of the total outlay, Rs 496.75 crore has been earmarked for the new integrated school complexes across Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sangareddy, Rangareddy and Hyderabad districts. Most of the proposed schools will offer education from Pre-Upgrade of the 17 existing schools, which will expand facilities and extend classes up to the higher secondary level, will be taken up at a cost of Rs 364.60 crore. The 501 additional classrooms will be constructed at a unit cost of Rs 30 lakh each, totalling Rs 150.30 crore.

About 30 per cent of the funds will be met through the state budget or corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions, with the remaining 70 per cent financed through a loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

The Director of School Education has been authorised to entrust execution of the works to the Telangana State Engineering Agency through e-tendering. The order was issued with the concurrence of the Finance Department.

## From free bus rides to petrol pumps, Telangana Budget puts women at centre

The Telangana Government has proposed a substantial outlay of ₹3,081.04 crore for the Department for Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens in the 2026-27 Budget, prioritising welfare schemes, women's empowerment, and social security initiatives. Of this, ₹1,833.47 crore has been earmarked for welfare and development programmes, while ₹1,247.57 crore will cover administrative and departmental expenses. A major highlight is the continued expansion of the Mahalakshmi Scheme, which alone received ₹4,305 crore. Presenting the budget, Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka stated that 34.37 lakh beneficiaries, including women, girls and transgender women, have utilised the scheme, completing nearly 270 crore free bus journeys and saving ₹9,222 crore collectively. The scheme also ensures LPG cylinders at ₹500, benefiting over 42.9 lakh families with savings of ₹752 crore.

The government's flagship Mahila Shakti Mission aims to transform one crore women in Self-Help Groups into millionaires. As part of this, 600 buses will be procured through SHGs and leased to TGSRTC, with 494 buses already purchased in the first phase. The state has also extended ₹57,938 crore in loans to SHGs out of a planned ₹1 lakh crore, alongside a ₹2,500 crore allocation for interest-free loans under DWACRA. Infrastructure and livelihood support will expand with 22 new Indra Mahila Shakti Bhavans, additional women-led petrol pumps, and continued backing for 700 entrepreneurs through WE-Hub. Programmes like RAMP are also supporting SHG-run enterprises, particularly among minority, tribal and disabled women. In education and health, 93 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas will be upgraded under Young India Institutes, while 120 will be extended to intermediate level.

# BRS stages protest at Gun Park, vows to corner Congress govt in Assembly over Six Guarantees

BRS leaders, led by KT Rama Rao, protested at Telangana Martyrs' Memorial, accusing the Congress government of failing to implement the Six Guarantees promised in elections, citing delays in pensions, women's aid, farmer support, and youth employment schemes

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The BRS on Friday staged a protest at Telangana Martyrs' Memorial in Gun Park, accusing the Congress government of failing to implement the 'Six Guarantees' promised during the Assembly elections. Party working president KT Rama Rao warned that the issue would be raised repeatedly in the State Legislature during the ongoing budget session.

Rama Rao, BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao, and the party MLAs and MLCs held placards and displayed "Dues Cards" of the Congress government, in a counter to its "Guarantee Cards." Stating that the government failed to deliver financial benefits promised to various sections of society, the BRS legislators protested against the Congress betraying the people after coming to power. Addressing the media, Rama Rao said the Congress promised to implement the Six Guarantees within 100 days after coming to power, but failed to give them statutory backing or adequate budgetary allocations even in its third budget. He said the government secured votes through the "Abhaya Hastam" manifesto but had not fulfilled commitments made to the elderly, women, farmers, unemployed youth and persons with disabilities. leader demanded explanation on



why pensions of Rs 4,000 per month for the elderly and widows were yet to be implemented and questioned the delay in the promised Rs.6,000 pension for persons with disabilities. They also sought clarification on the Mahalakshmi scheme under which Rs.2,500 per month was promised to women, and asked why the enhanced assistance to farmers under Rythu Bharsa had not been released.

He reminded that the Congress government owed Rs.54,000 each to differently abled persons, senior citizens, over Rs 24,000 each to auto-rickshaw drivers, one tola gold to newly-married brides, and Rs 2,500 month financial assistance to around 1.58 crore women, among others. "The Congress leaders issued bond papers to implement Six Guarantees within 100 days, but even after three years, they continue to deceive the people without delivering

their promises," he said. Rama Rao said the government promised two lakh jobs to unemployed youth, but had filled only a fraction of them. "This is nothing but betrayal of

people of Telangana. The BRS would expose the Congress government's failure to honour its guarantees during the Assembly and Council proceedings," he reiterated.

## BRS terms Budget a numbers game, says Six Guarantees buried under inflated outlay

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The BRS on Friday launched a sharp attack on the State Budget for 2026-27 presented by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, with BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao calling it a 'bogus budget'. For the third consecutive year, the Congress government had failed to honour its poll promises, particularly the Six Guarantees, he said. Addressing a press conference at the Assembly media hall, Harish Rao said the government increased the size of the Budget only on paper while avoiding clear allocations for key guarantees promised to the people. Apart from increasing the

outlay by about Rs 20,000 crore and adding a few pages to the Budget



speech, there was no sincerity in implementing welfare commitments. Several schemes announced in the previous Budget were repeated without actual spending during the current financial year, he said, citing the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme, for which Rs 6,000 crore had again been shown despite no

## Dasoju Sravan Slams Govt Over Fiscal Mismanagement

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



Dasoju Sravan strongly criticised the state government over its financial management, questioning how it plans to generate revenue and control the growing deficit. He pointed out that the government has already exceeded its loan targets by 160-200 per cent, raising serious concerns about fiscal discipline. Sravan alleged that despite making grand promises, the government has failed to implement any of its six guarantees or deliver on several welfare commitments.

He accused the administration of misleading the public while continuing to announce large-scale projects like the proposed Future City, without clearly explaining the funding sources. Highlighting key issues, he said women are still waiting for the promised ₹2,500 assistance under the Mahalakshmi

scheme. He also noted that a job calendar has not been released and nearly two lakh government vacancies remain unfilled. Additionally, pensions and other welfare benefits are reportedly pending, causing distress among beneficiaries. Calling the previous two budgets a "betrayal," Sravan warned that his party would intensify pressure on the government to ensure accountability. He demanded transparency in financial planning and urged the government to prioritise fulfilling its promises before launching new projects.

# Thousands Offer Jumaath-ul-Vida Prayers Across Hyderabad



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Thousands of Muslims gathered across Hyderabad on Friday to offer Jumaath-ul-Vida prayers, marking the last Friday of Ramzan with deep religious devotion and communal harmony.

The largest congregation was held at the historic Mecca Masjid, where devotees began assembling early in the morning in large numbers. Dressed in traditional attire, worshippers steadily filled the mosque premises and its surrounding areas by afternoon, creating a sea of faithful united in prayer. The spiritual atmosphere was marked by solemnity

and reflection as the faithful observed the significance of the final Friday before Eid. A significant number of women offered prayers separately at the Government Nizamia Tibbi College and Hospital campus located opposite the mosque, ensuring inclusive participation in the observances. Following the congregational prayers, the Youmul Quran programme was organised by the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, drawing active participation from community members and religious scholars. The programme emphasized the teachings of the Quran and encouraged spiritual reflection during the con-

cluding days of Ramzan. To ensure the smooth conduct of the massive gatherings, extensive security arrangements were put in place. Personnel from the Rapid Action Force, City Armed Reserve, TGSP, and civil police were deployed at key locations across the Old City. Surveillance and crowd management measures were intensified to maintain order. Traffic police implemented diversions around key routes to prevent congestion and facilitate the movement of devotees. Apart from Mecca Masjid, large congregations were also witnessed in Musheerabad, Mehdiapatnam, Public Gardens, Khairatabad.

## Asaduddin Owaisi criticises BJP, police over arrest of Muslim youth in Varanasi

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi, on Friday, criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party and Uttar Pradesh police over the arrest of 14 Muslim youths in Varanasi, who broke their fast aboard a boat on the Ganga.

Mr. Owaisi was addressing a gathering at the Mecca Masjid on Jumatul Vida, the last Friday of Ramzan, where he questioned the basis of the charges. "If one were to take a boat ride on the Hussainsagar in Hyderabad, wear a life jacket and consume food such as chicken biryani while breaking the fast, the authorities would invoke sections of the law?" he drew parallels, and questioned how, according to UP police, eating food on a river could be construed as an offence under Sections 298, 296, 270 and 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Mr. Owaisi also raised



concerns over pollution in the Ganga and the selective outrage, stating that sewage and human waste were being discharged into the river without attracting similar scrutiny. "You will not say anything about that," he said, adding that the arrested youths were in jail "for the crime of being Muslim".

The AIMIM president further accused the BJP of inconsistency, stating that while the party spoke of outreach to Pasmanda Muslims, it simultaneously supported actions that, he alleged, targeted the community. He also criticised the closure of meat shops during certain festivals, pointing to its impact on communities

like the Qureshis engaged in the meat trade. Questioning the selective sensitivity, he said that liquor shops remained open during Ramzan, asking whether the sentiments of Muslims could not be hurt in this. On economic issues arising from the USA-Israel and Iran conflict in West Asia, he claimed that India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve was sufficient for only about 9.5 days and expressed concern over disruptions in exports, including fruits and basmati rice, citing logistical challenges. He also criticised calls for economic boycotts targeting specific communities, terming them divisive.

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