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**WEATHER**

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

### Brief Insights

#### EAM Jaishankar Holds Phone Talk with Iranian Counterpart

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a phone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Saturday evening amid escalating tensions in West Asia. The two leaders exchanged Navroz and Eid greetings before turning to the regional crisis. According to officials, the discussion focused on the Israel-Iran conflict that

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#### Centre To Table Bill On IPS Deputation In Central Forces



Union home minister Amit Shah is set to introduce the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, proposing to formalise deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in CAPFs. The draft Bill provides that 50 per cent of Inspector General posts, at least 67 per cent of additional director general posts, and all special di-

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**BRS questions Revanth false claims on Rs 3.3 lakh crore debt repayments: P3**

**Hyderabad marks Eid with prayers, hugs and festive cheer: P8**

**Revanth Rs 8-lakh-crore debt claim crumbles under budget data: P3**



## US Trapped in Iran War: Leon Panetta

**WASHINGTON**  
Wakeup telangana

The longer the Iran war continues, the more complicated it becomes for US President Donald Trump, who is facing boiling criticism with no easy way out in sight. Leon Panetta, former US defence secretary and Central Intelligence Agency director, said that Donald Trump is stuck between "a rock and a hard place" after weeks of conflict.

Speaking to The Guardian, he said the Middle East crisis is largely of his own making. Leon Panetta said this was not an unexpected risk. He pointed out that for years, US security officials have known Iran could disrupt global oil supplies by blocking the Strait of Hormuz. According to him, this was a well-known danger, but one that appears to have been overlooked in the current conflict, despite repeated warnings in the past. He added that the current



situation shows a clear lack of preparation, claiming the administration either underestimated Iran's response or assumed the conflict would end quickly. "They were not prepared for it and they're now paying a price," he said, warning that the fallout is now being felt not just in the region but across global markets.

The ex-CIA chief also questioned the outcome of the initial military push and stressed it has not weakened Iran in the way Washington may have expected. He argued, instead, the leadership in Tehran appears more entrenched, with a new and more hardline figure (Mojtaba Khamenei) now in power. "We have a more entrenched regime and he's much more of a hardliner," he said. "That didn't turn out too well."

## CM Revanth Releases Rythu Bharosa For 70L

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday released Rs 3,590 crore to 70 lakh farmers in the state as the first tranche of the state government farmer assistance programme Rythu Bharosa. The money, he said, will be credited to the accounts of the farmers by Monday "I firmly believe that neither agriculture where the ox weeps, nor a kingdom where the farmer weeps can ever truly prosper. We are releasing Rythu Bharosa funds today to see a delightful moment in the lives of the farming community in the state," Revanth Reddy said.

"After discussions with finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, we are not only increasing Rythu Bharosa but also releasing the funds from Siddipet... Within 45 days, we will deposit a total of ₹9,000 crore in three tranches into the accounts of 70 lakh farmers," the Chief Minister explained. Asserting that the Congress government is a farmers' government, Revanth



Reddy said the government's goal is to enable farmers to live a life of a king. However, he said farmers should cultivate different crops based on regions, moving away from an exclusive focus on growing paddy in view of procurement limits for the state's staple cereal grains.

"Paddy alone is not the solution. Farmers believe it requires less effort, but the country already has surplus rice, and procurement has limits... We have procured 71 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. However, the Central government is not procuring more than 50 lakh metric tonnes. In this backdrop, we must formulate and implement necessary plans for crop diversification to ensure that the crops cultivated

by our farmers become profitable ventures," he added.

Though Telangana is a small state, he said the state leads in paddy cultivation. "Farmers here cultivate sugarcane, soybean, maize, red sorghum, and turmeric," he said. In Khammam and Warangal, cotton and chilli are grown; in Nalgonda, paddy and pulses are cultivated; in Mahabubnagar, green gram, millets, and pulses are grown; in Vikarabad, red gram is cultivated; and in Rangareddy, grapes, vegetables, and coriander are grown, he explained.

"Oil palm cultivation has reached 3 lakh acres and can expand to 10 lakh acres, with assured procurement, making it profitable.

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## Modi Longest Serving Head Of Government

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Top Union ministers on Sunday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 8,931 days in public office as head of government, a milestone achieved during his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and now as Prime Minister. They said the record reflects his commitment to nation-first governance, welfare of the poor and enhancing India's global stature. Defence minister Rajnath Singh said Modi has become the longest-serving head of a government in India, describing his journey as one defined by devotion to the nation and its people. He noted that Modi surpassed the previous record of former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Modi's decades of public service have shaped a new era, marked by development, welfare initiatives and rising global recognition for India. He added that



the Prime Minister's continuous service without a break for over 24 years reflects his dedication. Union health minister J.P. Nadda said Modi's tenure reflects a strong focus on people-centric governance, aimed at empowering the poor, youth, women and farmers, while moving towards the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'. Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Kiren Rijju also described the milestone as a reflection of Modi's commitment to inclusive development, integrity and tireless service. Modi served as Gujarat Chief Minister from October 2001 to May 2014 and was sworn in as Prime Minister on May 26, 2014. He has since won three consecutive Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 2019 and 2024, and continues in office.

## Bandlaguda protests Gandhi Sarovar land takeover

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Residents of Madhu Park Ridge (MPR) apartments at Bandlaguda Jagir held a protest against land acquisition for the Gandhi Sarovar Project for the third consecutive day, drawing support from residents of other colonies whose properties were also affected.

On Sunday, residents from around half a dozen colonies, located upstream and downstream of the Musi River at Hydershahkote, joined the protest on



the premises of Madhu Park Ridge. The residents chose an innovative form of protest by writing over 5,000 postcards to the former Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Apart from owners of 450 flats, their families and children took part in the postcard campaign and urged Rahul

Gandhi to save their homes. The Musi Jan Andolan, a city-based civilian body supporting residents of the affected areas, also joined the protest. Speaking on the occasion, the participants and residents urged the state government not to demolish the flats, in which they had been staying for the past 15 years. They warned the protests would be intensified if the State government continued to target them for eviction for the Gandhi Sarovar project.

## Trump, Iran Threaten To Escalate War With Attacks On Energy, Water Facilities

US President Donald Trump and Iran threatened to escalate their war by attacking energy and desalination facilities in the Gulf. "If Iran doesn't FULLY OPEN, WITHOUT THREAT, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 HOURS from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!" Trump posted on social media on Saturday.

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## Centre Downgrades RRR into Regular NH

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In an apparent setback to the state government, the Central government has decided to scale down the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR) by changing its nomenclature from an access-controlled expressway to a regular National Highway. This change, as per the Central government, was made due to the exorbitant costs involved in the proposed RRR. This decision also reduces several RRR unique features, including



the reduction of the maximum speed limit from 120-130 kmph to 100 kmph.

Earlier, the state government had proposed the RRR as the country's longest eight-lane ring road. However, the Central government scaled it down to six lanes, as it be-

lieved that an eight-lane expressway would not be necessary to handle the nation's road traffic for at least another 20 years. The original plan included LED street lighting along the entire length of the RRR, similar to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Now, the lights will be installed only in areas where the road passes through or touches villages.

Initially, service roads were proposed for the RRR on the lines of ORR. However, the approved plan allows a vacant strip of land alongside the road,

without the provision of a basic access road. Vehicles may need to travel a distance to take a U-turn. Initially, the proposal called for the construction of 204 bridges and culverts along the northern stretch of the RRR, covering rivers like the Musi, Manjeera, and Haridra rivers. Now, it has also been reduced by half. The road's vertical curve is also modified, reducing visibility from 600 metres to 360 metres, raising the risk of accidents if vehicles go above the speed limit.

## Iran Threatens to Close Strait of Hormuz Over Trump Ultimatum

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The United States and Iran threatened to target critical infrastructure Sunday as the war in the Middle East, now in its fourth week, puts lives and livelihoods at risk throughout the region. Iran said the Strait of Hormuz, crucial to oil and other exports, would be "completely closed" immediately if the US follows up on President Donald Trump's threat to attack its power plants. Trump late Saturday set a

48-hour deadline to open the strait.

Israeli leaders visited one of two southern communities near a secretive nuclear research site struck by Iranian missiles late Saturday, with scores of people wounded. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was a "miracle" no one was killed. Israel detected more Iranian missiles fired toward the area Sunday evening. Netanyahu also claimed Israel and the US were well on their way to achieving their war goals. The aims



have ranged from weakening Iran's nuclear program, missile program and support for armed proxies to enabling the Iranian people to overthrow the theocracy. The developments sig-

nalled the war, which the US and Israel launched Feb. 28, was moving in a dangerous new direction, despite Trump's comment last week he was considering "winding down" operations. It has killed

over 2,000 people, rattled the global economy and sent oil prices surging. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah claimed responsibility for an airstrike that killed a man in northern Israel, while Lebanese President Joseph Aoun called Israel's targeting of bridges in the south "a prelude to a ground invasion."

Iran has practically closed the Strait of Hormuz that connects the Persian Gulf to the rest of the world. Roughly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through it, but at-

tacks on ships and threats of further strikes have stopped nearly all tanker traffic. Some of the largest oil producers have made cuts because their crude has nowhere to go. Trump said if Iran didn't open the strait, the US would destroy its "various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!" The US has argued that Iran's Revolutionary Guard controls much of the country's infrastructure and uses it to power the war effort. Iranian

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ESTD-1960

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

## Marking a policy shift, Revanth Reddy advocates for crop diversification, admits paddy cultivation was not a solution

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant policy reversal, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has urged farmers to adopt crop diversification, a position that contrasts sharply with his earlier stance as an Opposition leader when he had criticised similar appeals made by the previous BRS government. Addressing a public meeting in Siddipet on Sunday, the Chief Minister said paddy cultivation was not a sustainable solution. He pointed out that despite production and exports, there was a surplus of paddy in global markets. Referring to a recent statement by the Union government that only 50 lakh metric tonnes would be procured, he questioned the viability of continued large-scale paddy cultivation. "Already, this year the State government has procured

71 lakh metric tonnes. What should be done with the excess stock?" he asked. The Chief Minister's remarks assume significance in the backdrop of his earlier opposition to crop diversification. When former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao had advocated reducing paddy cultivation, Revanth Reddy, then Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president, had strongly opposed the move. Highlighting the challenges, Revanth Reddy said that efforts to export surplus paddy had not yielded remunerative prices, making cultivation increasingly unviable. He stressed that diversification into commercial crops was necessary to address these issues. He noted that different districts historically specialised in specific crops. In the past, Rangareddy



district was known for vineyards, vegetables, and leafy greens, but fertile lands had since been converted into real estate layouts. "As a result, essential commodities such as milk, vegetables, and eggs are now being sourced from other States," he said, urging farmers to reassess cropping patterns. He directed Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to create awareness and prepare plans to encourage farmers to shift towards commercial crops. Assuring farmers, the Chief Minister said there should be no apprehension about losses from

diversification. He pointed out that demand for millets and organic produce was rising and could be tapped locally. He recalled how a farmer could buy one tola of gold after selling one quintal of turmeric, but now gold prices have risen sharply, while turmeric prices have dropped. Revanth Reddy claimed that agriculture could offer higher returns than corporate and IT sector jobs if pursued efficiently. "If there is skill, earning is not a challenge," he said, adding that people were successfully engaged in diverse professions. On oil palm cultivation, he said it was currently spread across 3 lakh acres and assured that the government was ready to procure the entire produce even if the area expanded to 10 lakh acres. However, he acknowledged

that the crop takes four years to yield and sought financial support from the Centre to assist farmers during the gestation period. He proposed approaching the Central government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to seek support for promoting crop diversification and making commercial cultivation remunerative. The Chief Minister said that despite financial constraints, the State government was continuing farmers' welfare schemes, including free power and bonus-based procurement. Of the Rs 9,000 crore under Rythu Bharosa, Rs 3,600 crore was being released immediately, with the remaining amount to be disbursed within 45 days. Admitting financial limitations, he said that while funds were released within nine days earlier, delays were now due to constraints.

## Congress ignored BC welfare in budget: Srinivas Goud

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud on Sunday strongly criticized the Congress government for neglecting Backward Classes (BCs) in the State budget and failing to honour commitments made in the Kamareddy BC Declaration during the last Assembly elections. Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas Goud said that while the Congress had promised an annual allocation of Rs 20,000 crore for BC welfare, only about Rs 5,000 crore had been spent over the past two years. He accused the government of coming to power with the support of BCs, SCs, STs, and minorities but doing little to improve their welfare. Srinivas Goud highlighted



that despite presenting a budget exceeding Rs 3.24 lakh crore, there was no meaningful allocation for BC communities. He raised concerns over the delay in implementing key assurances, including the inclusion of the Mudiraj community under BC-A and the creation of a separate Ministry for Most Backward Classes. The former minister also condemned the government over pending fee reimbursement dues of nearly ₹12,000 crore and demanded adequate representation of BCs in the

State Cabinet and other nominated posts. He warned that the repeated neglect of BC interests would have political repercussions. Meanwhile, former MLA Jaipal Yadav demanded reservations for BCs in legislative bodies and a separate quota for OBC women within the existing women's reservation. He alleged that the Congress was indulging in vote-bank politics by making false promises and failing to deliver on welfare commitments. Both leaders called on the State government to urgently implement all assurances for BCs and ensure financial allocations and representation that reflect the community's contribution to Telangana's development.

## Development Works Launched in Mator Village

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Cement Concrete (CC) road construction work was formally inaugurated on Saturday in the 8th ward of Mator Gram Panchayat, Motakondur Mandal, near the SC Community Hall. The project was launched by the concerned Ward Member Smt. Bairapaka Bhagyamma Ravi, in the presence of local leaders and residents. Sarpach Janne Siddulu, Deputy Sarpach Bairapaka Ramulu, and others also attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Bhagyamma Ravi stated that several issues still persist in the 8th ward and assured that development



works would be taken up on a priority basis. She expressed her commitment to transforming the ward into a model area with the support of public representatives, including the Hon'ble MLA, government whip, and officials. She highlighted that significant development has taken place since the formation of

the new Gram Panchayat body. These include the establishment of a new electrical substation, new construction of a Mahila Samakhyia building, CC roads worth Rs 20 lakhs, underground drainage in the 3rd ward, and a new drinking water pipeline in the 10th ward to address summer water needs. Additional works are ongoing across the village. Emphasizing public participation, she said that cooperation from residents is essential for overall development. She also noted that politics should be limited to election periods and that elected representatives are committed to serving all sections of society without discrimination based on parties, caste, community, or gender.

## Mahabubnagar Comes Together to Celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr

**MAHABUBNAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

The spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great fervor today at Eidgah Waqf Rehmaniya, Mahabubnagar. The event began with special Eid prayers, attended by hundreds of devotees from across the district. Leading the celebrations, Al-Faiz Welfare Society President Jahangir Baba and Secretary Muhammad Yaqub Jawad Ali extended warm Eid greetings to the congregation, emphasizing unity, peace, and community welfare. The occasion was further graced by prominent dignitaries, including Yennam Srinivas Reddy, MLA and Government Whip in the Telangana



Legislative Assembly; Mohd Obaidullah Kotwal, Chairman of the Telangana State Minority Finance Corporation (TSMFC); D. Janaki, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Ma-

habubnagar; G. Mamatha, Mayor of Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation; and Deputy Mayor Surender Reddy, along with corporators Umer Zabiullah, Mohd Obaidullah Kotwal, and other community leaders. The dignitaries exchanged Eid greetings with citizens and appreciated the efforts of Al-Faiz Welfare Society in promoting social harmony and community service. They encouraged residents to continue fostering communal goodwill and supporting charitable initiatives during this festive season. The event concluded with collective prayers for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all, reflecting the essence of Eid as a festival of togetherness and compassion.

## A Path Denied, A Dignity Restored:

### Why Telangana Must Act Decisively on Cremation Access Rights

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a country that prides itself on constitutional equality, the image of a grieving family wading through mud with the body of an elderly man is both heart-breaking and unacceptable. The recent incident in Pedda Kondur village has exposed a stark and uncomfortable truth: for many marginalized communities, even dignity in death remains contested. For generations, 10-15 Dalit families in the village have relied on a traditional cremation ground known locally as "Bonda Gadda." Yet, when an elderly man passed away on March 18, his family was denied access to this site. The pathway—reportedly encroached upon by adjacent landowners for cultivation—had been blocked. What followed was not just logistical hardship, but a profound moral failure. With no passage permitted, the family was forced to carry the body through slush and water-logged fields to perform the last rites. No citizen in a constitutional democracy should have to endure such indignity. This is not merely a land dispute. It is a test of our commitment to justice, equality, and basic human dignity. India's Constitution guarantees equality before the law under Article 14 and prohibits

caste-based discrimination under Article 15. More specifically, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 criminalizes acts that deny Scheduled Castes access to public spaces and community resources. A cremation ground—especially one used traditionally and collectively—falls squarely within that definition. Denial of access, if deliberate, is not just insensitive; it is unlawful. The response from district authorities offers a measure of hope. Orders have reportedly been issued to remove encroachments, establish a protected right-of-way, and ensure police protection against intimidation. Plans are also underway to develop a permanent access road and secure the cremation site through public funding. But the real question remains: will this be a one-time corrective action, or the beginning of systemic change? Across rural India, similar disputes persist quietly. Informal access routes to burial and cremation grounds—used for decades—often remain legally unrecorded, making them vulnerable to encroachment. Marginalized communities, lacking social and economic power, are frequently forced into silence. Only when an incident becomes too visible to ignore does the system re-

spond. This cycle must end. First, the state government must undertake a comprehensive survey of all cremation and burial grounds used by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ensuring that access routes are clearly demarcated, legally recorded, and protected. Second, local administrations must act proactively—not reactively—to resolve disputes before they escalate into indignity and conflict. Third, accountability must be enforced. If the denial of access in Pedda Kondur was wilful, legal action under the SC/ST Act must follow without hesitation. Equally important is the need for social introspection. Development cannot be measured merely in roads and infrastructure, but in how we treat the most vulnerable—especially in moments of grief. The people of Pedda Kondur are not asking for privilege. They are asking for a path—a simple, unobstructed path—to bid farewell to their loved ones with dignity. That is not too much to ask. It is the bare minimum of a just society. If Telangana acts decisively now, this painful episode can become a turning point—ensuring that no family, anywhere, is ever forced to choose between tradition and humiliation again.

## Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar Extends Ramzan Greetings



On the auspicious occasion of Ramzan, Zaheerabad Member of Parliament Suresh Shetkar extended warm greetings to the Muslim community. He emphasized that the festival embodies the core values of peace, unity, and brotherhood. The event saw the presence of several prominent leaders and community members. Mir Javeed Ali of JJ Constructions participated in the celebrations, along with leaders from the Indian National Congress. Among them were Ashok Contractor Hanumanth Rao Patil, President of the Jarasangam Mandal Congress Party, who also conveyed their festive wishes. The gathering showcased a spirit of communal harmony and underscored the importance of togetherness during festive occasions, making it a memorable celebration for the local community.

## Secunderabad MLA Promises to Take ASHA Workers' Demands to Government

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In Secunderabad Cantonment, ASHA workers met MLA S. Ganesh on Saturday at his office, submitting a petition highlighting their issues and demands. Ganesh assured them that he would take their legitimate requests to the state government. He praised their role during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that despite public fear, they served on the frontlines without hesitation. He acknowledged the injustices they faced under the previous BRS government and expressed confidence that the current Congress government would address them.



Ganesh further stated that, as per government assurances, their demands would be fulfilled. He personally promised to discuss their concerns with Chief Minister S. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, and Health Minister Damodara Rajanar-simha. Those who met the MLA included Yadamma, Krishnaveni, Bhagyalakshmi, Meena, and CITU leaders Mahender and Dasharath.

## BJP Senior Leader Gudur Narayana Reddy Leads Grand Preparations for Sansad Khel India Mahotsav

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district is witnessing vibrant activity as large-scale arrangements are underway at the Government Junior College ground for the prestigious Sansad Khel India Mahotsav. The preparations are being efficiently spearheaded by BJP State Executive Member and senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy. Under his leadership, party leaders and local cadre are working in close coordination



to ensure the event is conducted in a grand and disciplined manner. Special focus is being placed on developing the venue, or-

ganizing sports infrastructure, and ensuring smooth participation for athletes. The event is set to gain further prominence as the

Hon'ble Governor of the state, Shiv Pratap Shukla, will grace the occasion tomorrow evening as the chief guest. Several prominent BJP leaders and public representatives are also expected to attend the program. The Mahotsav aims to encourage youth participation in sports and promote a spirit of fitness and discipline. With Gudur Narayana Reddy at the helm, the event is expected to be a grand success, inspiring young talent and fostering a strong sporting culture in the region.

### 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".

## Revanth Reddy's Rs 8-lakh-crore debt claim crumbles under budget data

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's sweeping claim in the Assembly that the previous BRS government pushed Telangana into a debt trap of more than Rs 8 lakh crore is at odds.

His claims on the floor of the House contradict with data furnished in his own government's budget documents and data placed before Parliament last year. Instead, the narrative exposed the Congress government's borrowing spree.

Replying during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address last week, Revanth Reddy said the State had inherited loans of only about Rs 69,000 crore at the time of formation in 2014-15.

He argued that total liabilities had ballooned under the previous BRS



regime to Rs 8.11 lakh crore by 2023-24 after including borrowings of special purpose vehicles (SPVs), corporations, guarantees and ways-and-means advances along with regular government loans.

The Chief Minister also admitted that the present Congress government had raised about Rs 3.47 lakh crore in the last 28 months.

According to his statement, this included Rs 1.62 lakh crore market borrowings under the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) limits, about Rs

7,995 crore in government-guaranteed loans serviced by the State, nearly Rs 1.54 lakh crore in government-guaranteed loans raised by SPVs and corporations but serviced by them, and Rs 23,119 crore in non-guaranteed loans.

Finance experts pointed out that only FRBM borrowings and government-serviced guaranteed loans are treated as part of the State's public debt. Loans raised by SPVs and corporations that repay their own borrowings are not counted as liabilities of the government. By clubbing all these categories together, the Chief Minister's calculation inflated the total debt figure far beyond the official accounts.

Data furnished by the Centre also weakened the claim. Replying to a question from BJP MP M Raghunandan Rao in Au-

gust last year, union minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha that Telangana's public debt at the time of formation was Rs 69,603 crore. By the end of 2023-24, the total public debt stood at about Rs 3.5 lakh crore, including Rs 3.14 lakh crore in open market loans along with smaller components of Central loans and statutory liabilities which is far below the Rs 8 lakh crore burden cited in the Assembly. Audited accounts presented in the recent State budget documents reinforced this position. The outstanding public debt was estimated at Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the revised estimates for 2025-26. Government guarantees, including loans raised by SPVs, corporations and other agencies, are pegged at about Rs 3.01 lakh crore.

## BRS questions Revanth Reddy's false claims on Rs 3.3 lakh crore debt repayments

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Fresh figures in the State government's own Socio-Economic Outlook-2026 have cast serious doubt on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims in the Assembly that his government raised Rs 3.47 lakh crore in loans and repaid nearly Rs 3.3 lakh crore.

The BRS leaders stated that the Chief Minister gave false statement on debt servicing which was far lower than those mentioned in the House. The debate on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address, the Chief Minister argued that heavy borrowing was unavoidable because of an Rs 8 lakh crore debt left by the previous BRS government.

He also claimed that the

Congress government raised Rs 3.47 lakh crore loan and spent Rs 3.3 lakh crore towards repayments including interest on loans obtained by the previous BRS regime. However, the official debt-servicing data contradicted this narrative.

According to the Socio Economic Outlook 2026 tabled in the Assembly, the Congress government spent Rs 1.67 lakh crore towards repayment of principle and interest between December 2023 and December 2025.

These repayments were pertaining to FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) loans and government-guaranteed loans raised by SPVs but serviced by the government.

Speaking on the issue at Telangana Bhavan on

Sunday, BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan said the Socio Economic Outlook published by the State government proved that the Chief Minister misled the Assembly by presenting inflated numbers.

He pointed out that while outstanding debt as on December 31, 2025 stood at Rs 8 lakh crore, the Chief Minister wrongfully attributed it to previous BRS government, to defame former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. The Chief Minister is stooping to new lows and taking credit for loans repaid by the SPVs and corporations, to justify this government's borrowing spree," he said, adding that the Chief Minister misleading the House and people of the State was shameful.

## BRSV Ramakrishna Demands Mid-Day Meals for All Children

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Ramakrishna, a leader of BRSV at Osmania University, has strongly criticized those opposing the government's mid-day meal scheme in schools, calling it a legal and constitutional obligation to support underprivileged children. He emphasized that the right to food is directly linked to Article 21 – Right to Life – and the Right to Education Act, both of which are backed by Supreme Court rulings.

Highlighting a key 2001 Supreme Court directive, Ramakrishna noted that children are entitled to cooked meals rather than dry rations, making mid-day meals a mandatory provision, not a charity. He condemned individuals who criticize the scheme without understanding the struggles of children from economically disadvantaged families.

"How can someone sitting comfortably lecture about morality and education without witnessing the hunger and deprivation faced by these children?" he asked.

Ramakrishna further criticized self-serving political leaders who prioritize private interests over public welfare. He pointed out that while some advocate for global corporations and elite families, they fail to recognize the importance of feeding SC, ST, BC, and minority students in government schools. He accused such individuals of showing



arrogance and disrespect by undermining a program that ensures even a single meal reaches every underprivileged child.

He also condemned comments disparaging the nutritional content of the meals, such as including eggs, stating that questioning these efforts reflects personal bias rather than public concern. He warned that disrespecting these legal and social obligations is unacceptable and demanded accountability.

Ramakrishna concluded by calling for corrective action and public responsibility. He stated that if necessary, students at Osmania University are prepared to protest against any attempts to undermine the scheme, and urged the government and society to recognize the mid-day meal program as a fundamental right of every child, not a matter of political or personal pride.

## Ahmadiyya Community Celebrates Eid Milan to Promote Unity

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC), Hyderabad Chapter, organized a vibrant Eid Milan gathering after Eid prayers, bringing together more than 110 members along with dignitaries from Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Nirankaris, police, academia, and law. The event was chaired by Tanveer Ahmed, President AMC Hyderabad, and included Shaik



Shakeel Ahmed, Secretary for External Affairs. The gathering aimed to foster interfaith harmony and strengthen bonds of

brotherhood, reflecting the AMC's slogan, "Love for All, Hatred for None." President Tanveer Ahmed welcomed

guests, emphasizing the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that encourage sharing in the joys and sorrows of all humanity, promoting justice and fairness.

Eid Milan celebrations are a core tradition of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community across India, marking the end of Ramadan with gratitude to Allah and compassion for others. These events encourage dialogue, friendship, and mutual respect among diverse

communities. The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be upon him), envisioned a world united through love, affection, and spiritual harmony. Events like Eid Milan strengthen India's cultural fabric and inspire individuals to uphold justice, fairness, and empathy toward fellow human beings.

## Education Committee demands 15% budget allocation in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Expressing concerns over the Telangana Congress government allocating only 8.2 per cent of the total budget to the Education sector, Telangana Save Education Committee demanded that the government enhance the allocations to at least 15 per cent.

In a statement on Sunday, the Committee reminded that the Congress government

had ignored its own manifesto promise of allocating 15 per cent of the budget to the education sector on par with other States.

The government claimed that it would expand pre-primary education to 2,500 schools, but did not allocate even a single rupee in the budget, raising questions about the government's sincerity, it said. As for higher education, the committee said instead of allocating at least Rs

500 crore for development of each university, the government allocated small amounts.

"The Telangana Save Education Committee demands that the priorities of the education sector be discussed and understood in the assembly and that allocation for this sector be increased to at least 15 per cent," said K Lamixnarayana, organising secretary, Telangana Save Education Committee.

## Ambedkar Legacy Honored at Lothkunta

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The 159th week of the Gana Mala Programme was celebrated at Dr.B.R. Ambedkar statue, Lothkunta "X" Road, Alwal. Chief Guest Mr. J. David Robertson, Ambedkarite and Public Prosecutor, urged support for communities respecting Dr. Ambedkar and the Constitution, warning against attempts by RSS & BJP to undermine them.

The Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Mission announced grand birthday celebrations on April 14, 2026, featuring a citywide bike rally visiting



multiple Ambedkar statues. Attendees included community leaders, journalists, and activists. The Mission invites all to join weekly tributes every Sunday, 10-11 am, at the Lothkunta statue to honor Babasaheb's legacy.

## Maheshwaram Resident to Attend Global Academic Events

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Edulapuram Satyanarayana Chari, a resident of Maheshwaram and a private sector professional, has been selected to participate in two prestigious academic events this month, highlighting his dedication to learning and engagement in national and global knowledge platforms.

Chari will first attend a national conference on youth development at the Rajiv Gandhi National In-



stitute of Youth Development (RGNID), Tamil Nadu, on March 24-25.

The conference will focus on innovative strategies to empower youth across India and

provide a platform for policymakers, educators, and professionals to share insights and best practices for the country's young population. Immediately after, Chari will participate in an international workshop on soft power and diplomacy at Nalanda University, Bihar, from March 26-28.

Supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the workshop aims to explore global diplomatic practices, cultural influence, and international cooper-

ation, providing a unique opportunity for participants to engage with global scholars and policy experts. Chari's involvement in these events underscores his commitment to academic growth and professional development. By exchanging ideas with experts and peers, he aims to enhance his knowledge, contribute to youth initiatives, and bring insights from these forums back to his community and workplace.

## Grand Ramzan Celebration in New Bowenpally

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The vibrant spirit of Ramzan came alive in New Bowenpally as senior Congress leader Asmath Hussain hosted a grand celebration at his Sanchapuram Colony residence, drawing political leaders and local residents together to mark the festival of peace and harmony.

The event was attended by Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh and former Cantonment Board Vice-President Jampana Pratap, who



were warmly received by the Hussain family. Both leaders extended heartfelt Ramzan greetings, highlighting the importance of communal harmony and shared local traditions.

Guests enjoyed the traditional festive delicacy Sheer Khurma, symbolizing the warmth and inclu-

sivity of the New Bowenpally community. The gathering fostered cross-community interactions and strengthened bonds beyond political affiliations.

In recognition of their presence, Rizwan Hussain felicitated Sri Ganesh and Jampana Pratap with tra-

ditional shawls as a mark of respect. The celebrations saw active participation from notable individuals including Rizwan Hussain, Imran Hussain, Shakeeb Hussain, Azam Sharif, Venugopal Reddy, Dilawar, Chottu, and Maula.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of peace and communal solidarity, as attendees pledged to work toward the continued progress and harmonious coexistence of the Cantonment region.

## Modi To Officials: Mitigate Iran War Impact On India

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting with key Cabinet ministers and senior officials to review fuel, power and fertiliser supplies amid the evolving West Asia situation. Issues relating to exports, imports, logistics and distribution were also discussed. He directed the formation of a group of ministers and secretaries to adopt a whole-of-government approach. He also called for sector-specific groups to engage with stakeholders and stressed coordination with state governments to prevent hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities. A detailed assessment of the availability of essential goods, including food, fuel and energy, was undertaken. Short-, medium- and long-term



measures to ensure continued supply were also discussed. On the agriculture front, the impact on farmers and fertiliser requirements for the upcoming kharif season were reviewed. The government said existing measures would ensure adequate availability, while alternative sources of fertilisers were also explored. Sources said the government is taking proactive steps to

ensure energy security and the uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, including petroleum products and fertilisers. The meeting focused on maintaining stable logistics, seamless distribution and resilient supply chains across the country. "Senior officials from key ministries briefed the Prime Minister on preparedness to ensure energy security and supply chain resilience, with an emphasis on

minimizing any impact on consumers and critical sectors of the economy," sources said. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a high-level meeting to review the situation related to petroleum, crude, gas, power, and fertiliser sectors in view of the evolving West Asia situation. The government said the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by the Prime Minister, reviewed the situation and mitigation

measures in the context of the West Asia conflict.

The Cabinet Secretary made a detailed presentation on the global situation and the steps taken and planned by various ministries. The meeting reviewed the situation in the crude oil, gas, petroleum, power and fertiliser sectors in light of the ongoing conflict. It also assessed measures to safeguard consumer and industry interests. The government said the expected impact and mitigation strategies across sectors such as agriculture, fertilisers, food security, petroleum, power, MSMEs, exports, shipping, trade, finance and supply chains were discussed. Earlier, on March 12, the PM had described the West Asia conflict as a trigger for a global energy crisis, calling it a "critical test of national character."

## Tanker Laden With Russian Oil Arrives In India; Docks Off Mangaluru Coast

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A Russian oil-laden tanker, MT Aqua Titan, chartered by Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), has arrived in India on Sunday amid growing concerns over global energy supply due to the escalating conflict in West Asia. The tanker is currently anchored in the Arabian Sea, about 10 nautical miles off the Mangaluru coast. The tanker was expected to arrive in India on Saturday. Its arrival comes at a time when global energy markets remain volatile, with supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions impacting crude and energy availability. Earlier in the day, a cargo ship carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

from Texas, United States, arrived at the New Mangalore Port in Mangaluru. On Friday, the Shipping Ministry informed that New Mangalore Port has waived cargo-related charges for crude oil and LPG from March 14 to 31. It also said that there is no congestion reported at any port. During the inter-ministerial briefing, Special Secretary of the Shipping Ministry, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, said all 22 Indian ships and 611 sailors in the Persian Gulf are safe amid the West Asia conflict. "There has been no report of any maritime incident in the last 24 hours. All our 22 ships and 611 Indian sailors in the Persian Gulf region are safe, and we are continuously monitoring them... There is no con-

gestion in any port...New Mangalore Port has issued a circular for waiver of all cargo-related charges for crude and LPG, which is valid from 14 March to 31 March," the Shipping Ministry official said. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the Indian-flagged crude oil tanker, Jag Laadki, successfully arrived at Adani Ports Mundra in Gujarat, marking a significant addition to the nation's energy imports. Earlier, the two Indian-flagged LPG carriers safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz before arriving in India on March 16 and 17. MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi - carrying approximately 92,712 metric tonnes of LPG - crossed the Strait of Hormuz on March 13.

## Ex-Pak Envoy Sparks Row with Retaliation Remarks

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Pakistan High Commissioner to India, Abdul Basit, has sparked concerns with remarks suggesting that Pakistan could retaliate against India in the event of a threat to its nuclear arsenal. In an interview with a Pakistani television channel, Basit stated that if Pakistan's nuclear assets were targeted, the country should respond by striking Indian cities. His comments come amid heightened tensions



linked to the Iran-US situation, which has amplified regional security concerns. Basit's statements have drawn attention from both Indian officials and the international community, given Pakistan's history of nuclear development and past incidents of clandestine proliferation.

A spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Randhir Jaiswal, responded last week, emphasizing that Pakistan's nuclear track record has consistently raised global concerns. Jaiswal said, "As far as Pakistan is concerned, they've had a history of clandestine nuclear proliferation. Such statements once again make it clear to the world, as to what kind of danger they pose and the dangers their clandestine nuclear operations pose." The remarks come against a backdrop of

scrutiny by the United States, which has expressed concern over Pakistan's advancing missile capabilities. US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, noted that Pakistan's missile program could potentially place the US within range, heightening apprehensions about regional stability and global security. Officials highlighted that Basit has a history of making similar statements, both during and after his tenure as Pakistan's envoy to India, reflecting a consistent

## Fadnavis Says Mamata 'Under Pressure', Slams Rahul Gandhi

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday brushed off West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's 'biggest infiltrator' jab at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, labeling it a sign of her "fear of losing" the upcoming elections. Mr. Fadnavis also took aim at Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, accusing the latter of attempting to defame the country and incite public panic. "Mamata didi is under pressure. She

can see that she is going to lose the elections. People lose wisdom in the face of defeat. If someone speaks like this after that happens, it should not be given much importance. People know who are infiltrators and who the saviours of the country are," said Mr. Fadnavis. Ms. Banerjee, who is also a chief of Trinamool Congress, had on Saturday accused PM Modi of allegedly using SIR to remove legitimate voters, labelling them as 'infiltrators.' She went on to call him 'the biggest infil-

trator." "We will not give up our rights to Modiji. He goes to Saudi Arabia and shakes hands there, that is his choice. I respect all countries, but I am proud of my own. Let this message go out to the world for peace and fraternity. However, when you shake hands abroad, you seem to forget everything, but when you return to India, the Hindu-Muslim narrative begins again. You then call for deleting names, labelling people as infiltrators. I would say you are the bigger infiltrator," she said. Mr. Fad-

navis also took aim at Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of attempting to defame the country and incite public panic. The Maharashtra CM said, "A war is going on in the world. Despite such a war, the Government of India made all preparations to ensure that the lives of common people were not affected. Look at the condition in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they closed offices and went in for 'Work from Home', they closed schools and colleges, there is petrol and gas shortage.

## Trump, Iran Threaten To Escalate War With Attacks On Energy, Water Facilities

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump and Iran threatened to escalate their war by attacking energy and desalination facilities in the Gulf. "If Iran doesn't FULLY OPEN, WITHOUT THREAT, the Strait of Hormuz, within 48 HOURS from this exact point in time, the United States of America will hit and obliterate their various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!" Trump posted on social media on Saturday. Striking major Iranian power plants could trigger blackouts, crippling everything from pumps and refineries to export terminals and military command centres. Reacting to the threat, Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned in a statement that it will completely shut the strategic Strait of Hormuz if Trump executes the threats. They also said companies with US shares will be 'completely destroyed', if Iranian energy facilities were targeted by Washington and energy facilities in countries that host US bases will be 'lawful' targets. Iran's Par-



liament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf wrote on X that critical infrastructure and energy facilities in the Middle East could be "irreversibly destroyed" should Iranian power plants be attacked. The Israeli military said hours later that it was striking Tehran in response. Israel said it had instructed the military to accelerate the demolition of Lebanese homes in "frontline villages" to end threats to Israeli communities, and to destroy all bridges over Lebanon's Litani River which it said were used for "terrorist activity". Meanwhile, Iran's strikes on Israel appear to be intensifying as the conflict in the Middle East enters its fourth week, leaving dozens of people injured and causing damage and disruption across the country. Two ballistic missiles evaded Israeli air

defenses late Saturday and hit the southern cities of Arad and Dimona. About 115 people were hurt, 11 of them seriously, according to authorities. Israel's military said it's investigating the failure to intercept the attacks, while rescue crews continue to search for those trapped inside buildings. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the events as a "very difficult evening in the fight for our future." Dimona in southern Israel is a particularly sensitive site because the country's main nuclear facility lies on its outskirts, albeit several miles from the impact of the strike. Iran's Tasnim news agency said the hit was retaliation for an attack on its Natanz nuclear compound. The Strait of Hormuz remains open to all shipping except vessels linked.

## Revanth Releases....

Revanth Reddy was speaking after inaugurating an oil palm factory at Narmetta in Siddipet Assembly Constituency on Sunday as part of the Praja Palana progress programme. Ministers Tummala Nageshwar Rao, Vivek Venkataswamy, Ponnampalraj, MP Raghunath Rao, and others were present on the occasion. Referring to Kodangal as a backward region, Revanth Reddy said a factory like the one in Siddipet should also be established at Kodangal to benefit the farmers. "This is a highly profitable form of agriculture. Such industries help families prosper and support children's education," he said. The Chief Minister said that former chief minister K. Chandrababoo Naidu served for 114 months and spent an average of ₹2,533 crore per month for farmers. In contrast, the Congress government has been spending an average of ₹5,500 crore per month on farmer welfare over the past 88 months. In 88 months, Revanth Reddy said nearly ₹1.4 lakh crore has been spent solely on farmers. "We are providing free electricity, minimum support price, bonus for fine paddy, loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, and Rythu Bima schemes," the Chief Minister explained. "No matter how many problems arise in governance or finances, we will continue to provide all welfare schemes to farmers... We will ensure uninterrupted free electricity to farmers and purchase every grain of crops grown by farmers," Revanth Reddy said.

Revanth Reddy also cautioned the farmers of a fertiliser shortage in the coming days because of the US-Iran war in West Asia, and he said he had ordered the authorities to convince the Centre to provide more fertilisers to the state. "We must meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and strive to secure the maximum possible allocation of urea for our state. This is not the time for politics, but for moving forward with coordination and unity. We do politics only during the elections. Once the elections are over, the development of the state becomes the sole priority," he said.

## Iran Threatens to.....

Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf responded on X that if Iran's power plants and infrastructure are targeted, then vital infrastructure across the region - including energy and desalination facilities - would be considered legitimate targets and "irreversibly destroyed." Under international law, power plants that benefit civilians can be targeted only if the military advantage outweighs the suffering it causes to civilians, legal scholars say. Separately, Iranian officials said they would keep providing safe passage through the strait to vessels from countries other than its enemies. Iran said its strikes in the Negev Desert late Saturday were in retaliation for an earlier attack on Iran's main nuclear enrichment site in Natanz, according to state-run media. Tehran praised the attack as a show of strength, even as Israel's military asserts that

Iranian missile launches have gradually decreased in frequency since the war began. "If the Israeli regime is unable to intercept missiles in the heavily protected CM Revanth....."

Dimona area, it is, operationally, a sign of entering a new phase of the battle," Qalibaf said. Southern Israel's main hospital received at least 175 wounded from Arad and Dimona, its deputy director Roy Kessous told The Associated Press. Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, though it doesn't confirm or deny their existence. The UN nuclear watchdog said on X it had not received reports of damage to the Israeli center or abnormal radiation levels. Israel denied responsibility for hitting Natanz on Saturday, while the Iranian judiciary's official news agency, Mizan, said there was no leakage. The Pentagon declined to comment on the strike. The International Atomic Energy Agency has said the bulk of Iran's estimated 972 pounds (441 kilograms) of enriched uranium is elsewhere, beneath the rubble at its Isfahan facility.

## No more attacks.....

According to officials, the discussion focused on the Israel-Iran conflict that began on February 28, 2026, following U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian military bases, airports, and civilian sites. Both sides reviewed the widening impact of the confrontation, including fresh strikes in Lebanon and disruptions to Gulf shipping routes. This marks one of several

recent exchanges between Jaishankar and Araghchi since the conflict erupted, underscoring India's close monitoring of developments. The engagement reflects New Delhi's efforts to balance ties with Iran through BRICS while safeguarding maritime security. The call follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, during which Modi condemned attacks on critical infrastructure and emphasized the importance of keeping global shipping lanes open and secure.

## Centre To Table.....

The draft Bill provides that 50 per cent of Inspector General posts, at least 67 per cent of additional director general posts, and all special director general and director general posts in CAPFs will be filled by IPS officers on deputation. At present, such appointments are made through executive orders. The proposed legislation follows a Supreme Court order rejecting the Centre's plea to review its May 23, 2025 verdict directing reduction of IPS deputation in CAPFs and calling for a cadre review. The court had directed the Centre to complete cadre review, pending since 2021, in forces including ITBP, BSF, CRPF, CISF and SSB within six months. The government, in the statement of objects and reasons, said IPS officers are required for coordination between the Centre and states and for effective functioning of the forces.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

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

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana



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

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

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

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

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

## EDITORIAL

### SAFETY FIRST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court dismissed a writ petition seeking the release of 100 acres of land from a reserve forest notification, reiterating that long-delayed proprietary claims and complex title disputes could not be adjudicated in writ jurisdiction. The panel, comprising Chief Justice Aparesk 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 Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin dismissed writ appeals challenging cancellation of allotment of an unfinished residential tower in a housing project at Pocharam. The appeals were filed by Mahandi Builders and several flat purchasers questioning the action of Telangana Rajiv 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 Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a petition filed by the Telangana Private Medical and Dental College Managements Association. The association sought directions to the Medical

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

### Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

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

### Police Turn Lifesavers: Free Water Kiosk Launched in Motakonduru

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



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

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

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



# World Water Day: Significance and Global Impact

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

World Water Day is observed every year on March 22, as an international initiative led by the United Nations to highlight the importance of freshwater and promote sustainable water management. It serves as a global platform to raise awareness about water scarcity, sanitation issues, and the need for equitable access to clean water for all. Theme of World Water Day 2026 The theme for 2026 is "Water and Gender", with the slogan "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows." This theme emphasizes:

- The link between water access and gender equality
- The disproportionate burden on women and girls in water collection and management

- The need for inclusive participation in water governance

Globally, women and girls are often responsible for fetching water, especially in rural areas, which affects their education, health, and economic opportunities. Global Importance of World Water Day Water is a fundamental human right and essential for survival, development, and ecological balance. However, the world faces a severe water crisis:

- Billions still lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Water scarcity is increasing due to climate change and population growth

World Water Day highlights:

- The need for sustainable use of water resources
- The urgency of addressing water inequality



- The importance of integrating water management into development policies

It also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), which aims to ensure universal access to safe water by 2030. Importance in India India faces a critical water crisis due to population pressure, urbanization,

awareness, conservation, and policy action. Importance in Rural Areas of India Water plays a crucial role in rural life, especially in agriculture and daily household needs. Drinking Water Access Many rural areas still lack piped water supply. People depend on wells, hand pumps, and rivers, which may be unsafe or seasonal. Government initiatives like community-based programs aim to improve access and sustainability. Burden on Women In rural India, women and girls often travel long distances to fetch water. This:

- Reduces time for education and employment
- Causes physical strain and health issues
- Reinforces gender inequality

This directly connects

with the 2026 theme "Water and Gender." Agriculture Dependency Agriculture consumes a large share of water in rural India. Inefficient irrigation practices lead to:

- Water wastage
- Groundwater depletion
- Reduced agricultural productivity

Health and Sanitation Lack of clean water leads to water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, affecting rural populations more severely. Importance in Urban Areas of India Urban India also faces serious water challenges, though of a different nature. Water Scarcity and Demand Rapid urbanization has increased demand for water in cities. Many cities face:

- Water shortages during summer
- Dependence on tankers

and groundwater Unequal Distribution Water access is often unequal:

- Affluent areas receive regular supply
- Slums and informal settlements suffer shortages

Pollution Urban water bodies are heavily polluted due to:

- Industrial waste
- Untreated sewage

This makes water unsafe and increases treatment costs. Infrastructure Challenges Old and inefficient water infrastructure leads to leakage and wastage, worsening the crisis. Bridging Rural and Urban Challenges World Water Day emphasizes integrated solutions for both rural and urban India:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Efficient irrigation (drip and sprinkler systems)
- Wastewater treatment

and reuse

- Community participation in water management

The 2026 theme highlights that empowering women in both rural and urban water systems can lead to more sustainable and equitable outcomes. World Water Day 2026, with its theme "Water and Gender," reminds us that water is not just a natural resource but also a social and developmental issue. In India, both rural and urban areas face distinct yet interconnected water challenges. Ensuring equitable access to clean water, promoting sustainable practices, and empowering communities—especially women—are essential steps toward a water-secure future. Ultimately, conserving water today ensures survival, equality, and prosperity for future generations.

# India emerging as strong pharma economy, says Jitendra Singh

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that India is steadily evolving into a robust pharma economy, which could help as a significant contributor to the country's overall GDP. During his address at a 'Healthcare Summit' here, the minister stated the nation's pharmaceutical, medtech and manufacturing ecosystem is

positioning the country as a key global manufacturing hub — particularly in high-quality, affordable healthcare solutions. The minister said that the discussions revolved around two central themes — "Made in India" and "Quality". The sector is undergoing a major shift, with a strong focus on global quality benchmarks, indigenous innovation, and integration of re-

search with industry. Over the last 10 years, India has witnessed a transformation in healthcare, moving from a largely import-dependent system to one driven by indigenous capabilities, the minister said. He also recalled that earlier, critical medical devices, implants and even advanced drugs were largely sourced from abroad, making treatment expensive and



inaccessible for many. "Today, India is developing its own antibiotics, vaccines, and advanced therapies, marking a decisive shift towards self-reliance," the minister highlighted. Earlier, critical medical devices, implants and

even advanced drugs were largely sourced from abroad, making treatment expensive and inaccessible, he noted, adding that India is developing its own antibiotics, vaccines and advanced therapies. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the minister said India not only developed indigenous vaccines but also supplied them globally, reinforcing its role as a reliable healthcare part-

ner. On quality standards, Singh said that "home-grown" products now match global benchmarks. "Indigenous medical devices such as stents, ventilators and diagnostic equipment are increasingly ensuring safety, efficacy and affordability." The minister highlighted policy initiatives such as the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech

(PRIP) scheme, with an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, aimed at shifting India from low-cost manufacturing to high-value innovation. According to the minister, India currently accounts for around 1.5 per cent of the global medical devices market. He said that the government is working to significantly expand this share under the National Medical Device Policy 2023.

# Anirudh Ravichander Rocks Hyderabad Concert

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad experienced an electrifying night as Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander performed live for the opening leg of his "Rockstar Anirudh XV – 15 Years With You" Tour at Gachibowli Outdoor Stadium. Over 30,000 fans attended, marking a record turnout for the city and making it Anirudh's first-ever concert in Hyderabad. Organised by Brand Avatar, the



event was executed flawlessly, combining top-tier stage production, lighting, and visuals. Anirudh performed his hit songs, engaging the crowd throughout the night and creating an unforgettable atmosphere. Fans were treated to a seamless concert experience, with ample park-

ing, food stalls, clean restrooms, and medical facilities available on-site. Security and crowd management were priorities. Telangana Police, along with traffic marshals, ensured smooth entry, exit, and overall safety, allowing fans to enjoy the performance without concerns. This concert marks a significant milestone in Hyderabad's live music scene, raising the bar for future events. The "XV – 15 Years With You" Tour

not only celebrated Anirudh's musical journey but also delivered a world-class entertainment experience, leaving fans eagerly anticipating the next leg of the tour. The record-breaking attendance, stellar performance, and meticulous planning have made Hyderabad a memorable stop on Anirudh Ravichander's tour, establishing new standards for large-scale concerts in the city.

# Vaarahi Silver Jewellery Launches

Vaarahi Silver Jewellery Unveils Exclusive Collection with Teja Sajja & Meenakshi Chaudhary

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Vaarahi Silver Jewellery is all set to launch its premium Kukatapally store on March 28, featuring a grand pre-launch event with actors Teja Sajja and Meenakshi Chaudhary unveiling exclusive silver jewellery. The launch promises special offers, vouchers, silver coins, and a mega lucky draw, making it a must-visit for jewellery enthusiasts. The pre-launch event was held at Vaarahi Silks, 1st Floor, Road Number 1, opposite Metro Pillar A756, Colony, KPHB Phase I, Kukatapally. Teja Sajja and Meenakshi Chaudhary were officially announced as the brand ambassadors and appeared in a royal Maharaja-Maharani look for the brand's new campaign, perfectly reflecting the elegance and grandeur of Vaarahi's silver collection. Vaarahi Silver Jewellery offers a wide range of products, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern elegance. The



store houses over 10,000 unique designs, including an extensive bridal collection, exceptional quality, and intricate detailing. Vaarahi also promises affordable luxury, exchange value on purchases, and the "Future Gold Vision" — encouraging customers to invest smartly while enjoying premium style. The pre-launch included the official unveiling of the campaign film and an interactive media session with the celebrities. The campaign showcases royalty, timeless charm, and elegance, positioning Vaarahi as a destination for regal aesthetics in everyday jewellery. Exclusive Launch Offers: ₹1,50,000 purchase: ₹50,000 voucher + gold &

silver coin free  
 ₹1,00,000 purchase: ₹30,000 voucher + silver coin free  
 ₹50,000 purchase: ₹15,000 voucher + silver coin free  
 Offers valid until April 12, 2026. Mega Lucky Draw: Customers stand a chance to win a car and refrigerator, with the draw on April 30, 2026. Founded by Manideep Yechuri and Dr. Spandana Maddula, Vaarahi Silver Jewellery aims to create a destination where style, variety, and affordability come together. The grand opening is set to be a celebration of elegance, rewards, and unmatched shopping excitement.

# Thrithi 2026 – Undergraduate Cultural Fest Officially Announced

**HYDERBAD**  
Wakeup telangana

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) announced Thrithi 2026, the flagship undergraduate cultural festival, set for 2–4 April 2026 at the IFHE campus, Dontanapally, Shankarpally Road, Hyderabad. The festival launch began with a vibrant flash mob and a grand poster unveiling, energizing students and faculty and reflecting the spirit of creativity and enthusiasm that Thrithi represents. The event was attended by eminent dignitaries including Prof. Koti Reddy, Vice Chancellor (I/c); Prof. Vijayalakshmi, Reg-



istrar; Prof. Ravishekararaju, Director, Faculty of Law; Dr. A. Arun Kumar, Thrithi Convenor, and other faculty leaders. The festival dates and official posters were formally revealed

by the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, and Convenor. Thrithi 2026 will host students from various undergraduate schools, featuring competitions and showcases in Law, Management, Technology, Social Sciences, Architecture, Cultural Arts, Literature, and E-Sports. The three-day festival aims to foster collaboration, celebrate talent, and create a vibrant space for academic and creative excellence. With over 11,500 participants expected, Thrithi 2026 embodies "Culture, Identity, and Heritage" while promoting innovation and student engagement. For details, visit: IFHE Thrithi

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | MONDAY | MARCH 23, 2026

## Mrunal Thakur likely to feature in special song in Ram Charan's Peddi

If rumours doing the rounds in the industry are to be believed, actress Mrunal Thakur will be seen in a song in director Buchi Babu Sana's eagerly awaited rural action drama 'Peddi', featuring actor Ram Charan in the lead.

While some rumours doing the rounds suggest that the special song will feature two other leading heroines along with Mrunal Thakur, some others claim that she will be the only heroine in the song.

However, there has been no official confirmation regarding Mrunal Thakur's appearance in a special song for the film until now.

'Peddi', which has triggered huge excitement among fans and film buffs, has been in the limelight right from the time it was first announced.



Recently, the film was in the news when Indian cricketer Tilak Varma, who was part of the T20 World Cup winning Indian cricket team, paid a visit to its sets.

Director Buchi Babu Sana, who shared a video clip of the cricketer greeting and meeting actor Ram Charan on the sets of 'Peddi' on his social media timelines, went on to disclose that the powerful middle order batsman caught a glimpse of the film's sports sequences and

that he was thoroughly impressed. Sources present on the occasion say Tilak Varma was deeply impressed not just by the action but also by the emotional weight packed into the sequences of the film. On the occasion, Ram Charan presented the 'Peddi' bat

with his autograph on it to Tilak Varma. Meanwhile, the 'Peddi' team is racing through its final schedule and post-production. The film brings together a strong cast with Janhvi Kapoor playing the leading lady. Senior actors Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu, and Boman Irani will all be seen playing important parts in this film.

On the technical side, the movie is backed by some of the best in the industry. R Rathnavelu is handling the camera work, Navin Nooli is in charge of editing, and Avinash Kolla has designed the film's massive and detailed sets.

## Parineeti Chopra reveals she has a crush on her co-actor

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Actress Parineeti Chopra has revealed that she has a crush on her co-actor. Yes, in her latest post, the 'Kesar' actress admitted that she has a crush on the latest actor she is working with. However, Parineeti's crush is none other than her politician husband, Raghav Chadha.

On Sunday, she took to the Stories section of her official Instagram account and shared a photo of a vanity van with the name "Raghav Chadha" on the door. The text read, "Sometimes you can have a crush on your costar(sic)", followed by a kissy face emoji.

While it is not clear what Parineeti and Raghav are shooting for, it would be exciting to see the two sharing the screen yet again. Before this, the couple graced an enter-



taining episode of "The Great Indian Kapil Show", in July last year. The 'Saina' actress loves to shower her husband with praises and admiration on social media whenever she gets a chance. Recently, Parineeti called her husband her 'hero' for raising the important issue of menstrual hygiene in Parliament.

During a speech in the Rajya Sabha, Raghav

pointed out that a large number of girls still miss school during menstruation due to the lack of access to sanitary pads, clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and privacy. The politician further emphasized that menstrual hygiene should not be seen as charity or a favour, but as a fundamental issue linked to health, education, equality, and dignity.

## Karthi's 'Marshal' directed by Tamizh set for Deepavali release



MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

Director Tamizh, who is directing the eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Marshal', featuring actor Karthi in the lead, has now disclosed that his film is likely to release for Deepavali this year.

The director, who is also known to be a writer, while participating in an event, was asked about his upcoming film 'Marshal'.

Choosing to drop an update, Tamizh said, "This will be a film that happens in the year 1965. I have completed two schedules of shooting. We have shot for 48 days until now. We will resume shooting on the 15th again. We should be there for Deepavali." Source close to the unit say that the film is being made on a lavish scale. There are also rumours that the film is to be made in two parts. However, none of this has

been officially confirmed. For the unaware, actor Karthi's upcoming film with director Tamizh, best known for having made the film 'Tanakaaaran', has been titled 'Marshal'. The film, which will feature Kalyani Priyadarshan as the female lead, will also have actors Sathyaraj, Prabhu, Lal, John Kokken, Easwari Rao and Murali Sharma in pivotal roles. On the technical front,

Marshal will have music by the young music sensation Sai Abhyankkar and cinematography by Sathyan Sooryan. Well-known editor Philomin Raj will be the editor of the film. Production design will be by Arun Venjaramoodu. The film is to be produced by S R Prakash Babu and S R Prabhu on behalf of Dream Warrior Pictures and is to be co-produced by Ishan Sak-sena. It may be recalled that

the makers had released a poster of a ship along with the announcement that the film was getting made last year. Director Tamizh, who is best known as an actor for his performance as the antagonist in director T J Gnanavel's courtroom drama 'Jai Bhim', featuring actor Suriya in the lead, made his mark as a director with the Vikram Prabhu-starrer Taanakaaran.

## Bolarum Sporting Club to Revive Challenge Cup with Floodlit Tournament

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Bolarum Sporting Club and Cantonment Football Club executives have announced the revival of the Bolarum Challenge Cup, which had not been held for several years. The decision came during a joint meeting at the Bolarum Football Ground, where plans were also made for a summer coaching camp for youngsters, installation of floodlights, and leveling of the playing field.

Dr. Narsimhan Kannan was officially elected as the chairperson of the Bolarum Sporting Club during the meeting. In his first act as chairperson, he handed over a cheque of ₹1 lakh for the installation of lights at the ground. Dr. Kannan also agreed to sponsor the Challenge Cup, promising a cash



prize of ₹50,000 for the winners, ₹30,000 for the runners-up, and ₹20,000 for miscellaneous tournament expenses. The tournament will be conducted under floodlights to enhance the playing experience.

The meeting was attended by senior officials and football experts, including MVN Murthy (President), Dr. P Navin Raj (Vice President), Bhagirath Chary (Secre-

tary), K Shyam Raj, an A-license FIFA and AP Football Coach, and senior players and coaches such as Prabhakar Reddy (KV Schools Coach), GY Vinod (NIS Telangana Sports School), Mani Bhusan, Prabhu Raj (AG Office Coach), Pramod Kumar, and Deepak, among others. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sunil Kumar, Coach of Bolarum

Sporting Club, who appreciated the collaborative efforts and sponsorship commitment that will help rejuvenate football activities in the region. With the revival of the Bolarum Challenge Cup, the club aims to encourage youth participation, promote competitive football, and provide upgraded facilities for local players.

## CSK's Samson move signals transition beyond Dhoni: Experts

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

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

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



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

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

## Revanth Recalls Gandhi's Vysya Legacy, Vows To Give Priority to Arya Vysyas



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday said that Mahatma Gandhi, who comes from the Arya Vysya community, proved how the philosophy of non-violence can be successfully adopted in achieving the goal. Participating in Vasavi Mahashakthi Mahotsavam, organised by Telangana Arya Vysya Corporation at Gachibowli, Revanth Reddy recalled Gandhi's crucial role during India's freedom struggle.

"In the era of colonial rule, violence was inevitable to dethrone autocratic rule. It was only Mahatma Gandhi who fought single-handedly and attained independence for the country without violence. Gandhi pursued non-violence, non-cooperation and salt satyagraha and drove out the British Empire," he explained. Revanth Reddy said the Congress government will give priority to the Arya Vysya community in key political positions and other posts. The community was already given political importance by allocating one Mayor post and 6 municipal chairperson posts in the recently held municipal elections.

He assured that the government will provide a rightful place for the community. The ideas and perspectives of the Arya Vysyas are also being given importance in making the government's policies... We will ensure that your honour and dignity remain intact," he noted.

## 3 From Cyberabad Lose ₹16 Lakh In Online Frauds

Three cybercrime cases reported in Cyberabad have collectively resulted in losses of over ₹16 lakh, with victims falling prey to fake investment schemes, sextortion, and a fraudulent dating service, police said. In the first case, a 40-year-old private employee from Chandanagar lost ₹11.99 lakh to a fake international trading platform. He was added to a WhatsApp group on January 28 by one Piyush Sharma, who claimed to be an investment banker. After initial gains on a platform called "Universal Account ALUA," the victim invested larger sums in March. The platform showed virtual profits and IPO allocations but kept demanding payments, including ₹13.08 lakh, to allow withdrawals. He realised the fraud after continuous demands. In another case, a 24-year-old software engineer from Ayyappa Society, Madhapur, alleged sextortion after receiving a WhatsApp video call on March 15 from an unknown woman who appeared nude and asked him to undress. Soon after, a male caller sent an edited video and threatened to circulate it. The video was shared with his Instagram contacts, and out of fear, he transferred ₹1.8 lakh. The accused also obtained his father's number through screen sharing and demanded another ₹3.6 lakh. The victim then approached the police.

In the third case, a 65-year-old retired government employee from Gachibowli was cheated of ₹2.47 lakh by fraudsters posing as representatives of a dating service offering "free chat and meetings" with women. He first received an SMS on February 27 and was asked to pay ₹1,550 as registration fee. Later, he was shown photographs of women and asked to select profiles, followed by demands for ₹17,800 as "member service charges." The fraudsters continued to demand payments under various pretexts, including membership ID, hotel booking, cancellation and clearance charges. He transferred amounts totalling ₹2,47,350 before realising it was a fraud.

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# Hyderabad marks Eid with prayers, hugs and festive



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As the first light broke over the city on March 21, thousands streamed towards Idgahs across Hyderabad, for Id-ul-Fitr with prayers, greetings and gatherings that stretched across neighbourhoods. At Mir Alam Tank near the Nehru Zoological Park and Hockey Ground at Masab Tank, large congregations assembled, with children and men arriving early to take part in the morning prayers.

"We planned ahead and left before 6 a.m. so we could attend prayers without the rush. It's the most important part of the day for us," said Mohammed Arif, 41, who was at Mir Alam Tank. By mid-morning, the focus shifted from prayer grounds to homes, as families visited relatives and shared festive meals. Children in new clothes, exchange of Id and the steady flow of visitors defined the day across many localities. "Eid is about gratitude after a month of fasting. The prayers bring everyone together, and that sense of community is what

makes the day special," said Syed Khaleel, 52, who attended prayers at Hockey Ground. Traffic diversions were in place between 7 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. around Bahadurpura, Kalapather, Nawab Saheb Kunta, Shastripuram, Danamma Huts, Masab Tank, Khaja Mansion, NMDC and 1/12 Junction to manage the movement of large crowds.

"It's the one time when everyone meets, no matter how busy the year has been. The house is full from morning till evening," said Ayesha Fatima, 29, from Mehdiptanm. "For us, Eid also means sharing. We make sure to visit relatives, distribute food and spend time with neighbours. It's about staying connected," said Farzana Begum, 45, a resident of Sainikpuri. The night before Eid, the Charminar stretch turned into a dense hub of activity, with the monument illuminated in bright colours and surrounding lanes filled with shoppers. Stalls offering bangles, accessories and attar perfumes saw steady footfall, capturing the sea-

sonal buzz associated with Ramzan. The area once again drew crowds from across the city, reinforcing its place at the centre of Eid shopping. Markets in Charminar, Laad Bazaar, Tolichowki and Mehdiptanm remained active late into the night, with traders reporting steady demand for garments, jewellery and food items. Haleem counters continued to draw crowds through the festival day, with operators saying the recent LPG supply concerns had little bearing on their business. "Haleem is mostly cooked on firewood, so the LPG issue did not really affect us. Demand has been strong right through Ramzan and even today," said Mohammed Salman, 37, who runs a food outlet in Tolichowki.



## Cyberabad takes up lake clean-up drive, clears 20.5 tonnes of garbage



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) and residents undertook a lake clean-up drive on Sunday, March 22, collecting 20.5 metric tonnes of garbage from 57 lakes. The drive, called Swachh Sunday, was undertaken as part of the 99 Days Action Plan and saw a massive turnout with 1,271 volunteers.

CMC Commissioner G Srijana also joined volunteers in cleaning activities at Wipro Lake and Kudi Kunta Lake. "Lakes are important for the city's environment and water balance, and their upkeep is a shared responsibility. Small efforts together can make a big difference in maintaining clean and healthy public spaces." The commissioner said in a post on X.

## AIMIM to contest Bengal elections with Humayun Kabir's party

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi, on Sunday, March 22, announced that the party will contest the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections in alliance with Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP). Owaisi said he would hold a joint press conference with Kabir in Kolkata on March 25 to announce further details of the alliance.

Earlier, AJUP founder Humayun Kabir said his party would contest 182 seats in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elec-

tions. He added that AIMIM would be a partner in the alliance and is expected to contest around eight seats. Kabir also announced three more candidates, taking the total number of nominees declared so far to 18. The West Bengal Assembly elections will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29, with the counting of votes scheduled for May 4. The state has a total of 294 Assembly constituencies, with the main contest expected between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The TMC, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has been in power in the state since 2011.

## Petrol Stations Switch Over To 'Premium', As Normal Petrol Stocks Get Depleted

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Panic buying and supply constraints have led several fuel outlets in Secunderabad and Hyderabad to suspend the sale of regular petrol and switch to premium variants, citing depletion of normal stock. At multiple stations, attendants informed customers that only premium petrol was available, as regular fuel had run out. The price difference between the two stands at Rs 10 per litre, with normal petrol priced at Rs 107 and premium at Rs 117. Station operators described the situation as unusual. "Generally, we don't run out of stock. But the panic buying has pushed the stocks to hit rock bottom. This is unprecedented in my career of about two decades. Scores of worried customers have approached here to enquire about the possibility of petrol running out due to the evolving situation in West Asia," said Md Irshad, the manager of Bharat Petrol Pump at Sangeet Junction in Secunderabad. Fuel stations supplying auto LPG have also reported shortages, displaying "out of stock" notices on dispensing units. Auto-

rickshaw drivers, who rely on auto LPG, were seen queuing at the few outlets still operational. "After visiting close to four to five stations in this part of the city, I am now standing in this long queue. Since most of the auto LPG stations across the city have already run out of stock, we are forced to stand in this queue. I fear that if even this gas station too runs out of stock, I may have to manually tow my auto home and leave it here. The prices have gone up drastically. Now they are selling it for close to Rs 100 per litre, instead of the earlier Rs 60," said K Shravan Kumar, a resident of Nampally, while waiting at a private petrol pump selling auto LPG at Lakdikapul. Dealers indicated that private operators were selling LPG at higher rates amid the shortage. "Before running out of stocks about five days back, we sold 8,000 litres per day, which peaked to 15,000 on average by the time the West Asia crisis struck. We have officially sold the gas at Rs 77 per litre. Though the Indian Oil Corporation is informing us that they have stock for 57 days, people are in panic," said a dealer operating an IOCL outlet in Begumpet.

## Revanth's lie on crop damage compensation left farmers in shock

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy left farmers in Siddipet stunned during a public meeting at Narmeta by claiming that the government had provided Rs 10,000 compensation for every acre affected by crop damage. However, local farmers say this announcement is far from reality. During the 2025 Vanakalm, heavy rains battered the district repeatedly, causing extensive damage to both agriculture and horticulture

the Siddipet constituency. Former Minister T. Harish Rao publicly wrote multiple letters to the Chief Minister, urging the release of funds for these ongoing projects. Despite these repeated requests, the projects remain stalled, deepening concerns among locals. Farmers argue that while the Chief Minister's words painted a picture of prompt government support, the ground reality tells a different story—one of delayed compensation and interrupted development work. The

disconnect between official statements and actual relief measures has left the farming community frustrated, raising questions about accountability and transparency in addressing agricultural losses. As Siddipet farmers continue to wait for promised aid and for stalled projects to resume, the gap between government claims and on-ground delivery remains a pressing issue, highlighting the challenges faced by the rural population during extreme weather events.

## Telangana to integrate vehicle services with Vahan from Monday

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The state government, from Monday, March 23, will begin integrating its transport service to the Vahan portal, a one-step digital platform for vehicle registrations and other services. This move will simplify problems, like administrative process delays, ownership details, RTO office visits, revenue tracking, paperwork and mainly, challenges faced by owners during inter-



state vehicle transfer. In the recently concluded state budget 2026-2027, Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced Telangana would expand digital transport services, with Sarathi and Vahan platforms within six months. The Vahan portal is maintained by the Union Ministry of Road and Transport.

## Hyderabad police raids illegal hookah parlour, 10 detained

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Ten people were detained by Mailardevally police on Sunday, March 22, during a raid at an illegal hookah parlour that was operating without necessary permissions in a residential area in Vatepally. The ones detained include Mohd Tanweer, 23, who runs the hookah place. He was taken into police custody for questioning along with nine



other people. Hookah pots, flavoured tobacco, coal boxes, hookah pipes, and a mobile phone were seized during the raid. Police have warned of strict action against illegal hookah centres and said that regular enforcement drives will be conducted to prevent such activities.