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### Brief Insights

#### Bill Cosby Ordered To Pay \$19m Over Sex Abuse Claim

A woman who said she was drugged and sexually assaulted by veteran US entertainer Bill Cosby was awarded more than \$19 million on Monday after a civil hearing in California.

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#### Iranian Navy Guided Indian Tanker Through Hormuz: Crew Member

The Iranian Navy guided an Indian liquefied petroleum gas tanker through the Strait of Hormuz last week, allowing the ship to pass on a pre-approved route following diplomatic engagement by New Delhi.

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#### ACB Files Chargesheet in Formula E Case, KTR Named A1: P2

#### BJP Telangana's Assembly Siege Bid Thwarted: P8

#### Stormy budget debate in Assembly as Harish Rao, Ministers clash over interruptions: P3



## Trump announces 5-day pause in attacks on energy sites

WASHINGTON Wakeup telangana

In a major breakthrough amid the ongoing war between the United States and Iran, the US President Donald Trump announced Monday that both the countries have been in talks over the past two days and that the US has agreed to pause attacks on Iranian energy sites for five days.

The US President said that based on the "tenor" and "tone" of the talks, Trump said on Friday, "Nobody wants to be a leader over there anymore. We're having a hard time. We want to talk to them, and there's nobody to talk to... And you know what? We like it that way."

Meanwhile, according to a report by Bloomberg published before Trump's latest Truth Social post, citing a person involved in direct, high-level contacts in Tehran, that the officials there were not willing to even discuss reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime trade route that controls a large chunk of the world's oil trade.



President came without much anticipation as both the sides had shown no signs of de-escalation till recently, Trump on Friday had expressed willingness to engage in talks with Tehran.

After much of Iran's leadership was killed in the current war, Trump said on Friday, "Nobody wants to be a leader over there anymore. We're having a hard time. We want to talk to them, and there's nobody to talk to... And you know what? We like it that way."

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## No Need To Panic Over War: PM Modi

A Covid Reminder In PM Modi's Rundown Of Middle East War Impact On India

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Drawing a parallel between the COVID-19 pandemic and the current geopolitical situation because of the war in the Middle East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said elements such as black marketeers and hoarders try to take advantage of such crises and urged all political parties and governments to stay united.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Lok Sabha on the Middle East conflict and the challenges it has created for India. Advising state governments to stay alert, he said that elements such as hoarders become active during such crises, and strict monitoring and swift action are required to tackle this menace.

"Because of this war, the difficult global situation may continue for a long time. Therefore, we must remain prepared and stay united. We have faced such challenges before as well by staying united



during the coronavirus pandemic. We must remain very careful and alert. Some people will try to spread rumours to take advantage of the situation. We must not allow such people to succeed," he said. "All agencies responsible for ensuring law and order have been put on alert, including coastal security, border security, and cyber security," the Prime Minister added.

global problems burden the farmers," he said. "Following the Covid pandemic and subsequent wars, fertiliser prices soared in the international market, leading to severe shortages. Despite these challenges, the central government made every possible effort to prevent a crisis in India. While a bag of urea costs Rs 3,000 internationally, our government provided it to farmers for only Rs 300. To make this possible, the government spent more than Rs 12 lakh crore in subsidies," he said.

The government, the Prime Minister said, is empathetic, alert and ready to extend every possible help to its citizens. It is also focused on minimising hardships for citizens, he said. Every Indian stuck in the war-affected region is being given all possible help, he said. "Sadly, many lives were lost, and many people were injured. Their families are being given the necessary help, and treatment is being ensured.

## Cabinet Approves Bill To Stop Hate Speech In State



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, on Monday approved four Bills aimed at preventing hate speech, ensuring welfare of gig workers, mandating support to parents and protecting legal professionals. The Bills will be introduced in the State Legislature for enactment.

The proposed law aims to check inflammatory speeches, social media posts and acts that incite violence, riots or communal tensions. The Cab-

net, which met at the Committee Hall in the Assembly premises, also cleared the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2026. The Bill proposes mandatory registration, creation of a welfare board and establishment of a welfare fund for nearly 4.2 lakh gig and platform workers in the state. The Bill seeks to grant legal recognition and social security to gig workers, ensuring protection of their rights. The Bill, which had Cabinet, has now been cleared with minor modifications in line with the Centre's Social Security Code. To address rising incidents of attacks on legal professionals, the Cabinet ap-

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## Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill Introduced in LS

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday introduced the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha, and later it was referred to the joint parliamentary committee (JPC) for further scrutiny.



The Union Cabinet had already okayed the proposed Bill, aimed at further easing the compliance burden on businesses and advancing the government's agenda of decriminalising minor corporate offences. The proposed amendments are expected to rationalise penalties, shift several minor procedural lapses from criminal

liability to monetary penalties, and streamline regulatory processes to promote ease of doing business.

Sitharaman said that this legislation has been brought after two years of full deliberation. The finance minister further said that the recommendations of the Company Law Committee (CLC) and its reports have been fully taken on board. "The CLC had representatives from industry chambers and professional institutes, legal and accounting experts.

## Amit Shah Open to CBI Probe in Randhawa Death

NEW YORK Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said in the Lok Sabha that he is willing to order a CBI inquiry into the death of Gagan Singh Randhawa, district manager of the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation, subject to a written request from Punjab MPs. The statement came after Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla raised the issue, alleging that Randhawa was under pressure from Punjab minister Laljit Singh Bhullar over tender allocations. Shah said he would act once a formal

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## Pilot, Copilot Killed in Jet-Fire Truck Collision

NEW YORK Wakeup telangana

Two people were killed and several others badly hurt when an Air Canada regional jet struck a fire truck on a runway while landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport, officials said. The pilot and copilot were killed in the late Sunday night collision, which crushed the nose of the aircraft, while around 40 passengers and crew members were taken to area hospitals, some with serious injuries. Most have since been released



from treatment, authorities said Monday. Two Port Authority employees who were traveling in the fire truck also suffered injuries that were not believed to be life-

threatening, aid Kathryn Garcia, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport. The airport was shut down and air traffic

was diverted, and on Monday morning operations also were halted at Newark Liberty International Airport in neighboring New Jersey. Air traffic controllers evacuated the tower because of a burning smell from an elevator, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The shutdowns happened during long waits for travelers due to the busy spring break travel season and a shortage of Transportation Security Administration officers because of a lack of routine fund-

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## After Trump's No-Strike Decision, Iran Media Bursts Out Laughing At Him

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Iran's main state-aligned media moved quickly today to call US President Donald Trump's decision to suspend strikes on the Islamic nation's power grid as evidence of US hesitation. Iran alluded that it wants to take the path of deterrence rather than concession as talks crept forward.

Trump's announcement about a five-day window in which the US would hold off on hitting Iranian power plants and related

infrastructure was met in Tehran's media ecosystem with a mix of derision and triumph.

Iran media Press TV reported there was no contact for talks with the US, whether direct or indirect. Press TV reported that a senior security official has said Trump withdrew the talks offer due to Iran's credible military threats and rising financial pressures in the US and the West. Negotiations are not happening and psychological warfare won't restore the Strait of Hormuz or stabilise energy markets,

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, in a post on X said, "Trump and America have backed down again. The field is still charging forward. Another defeat for the devil."

the official said, adding Trump's five-day ultimatum only underscores ongoing plans for attacks, which Iran will respond to with full-scale defence.

Mehr News in a post on social media said recent attacks on energy sites and Tehran's response had "forced" Washington to

reconsider. Mehr said Trump's threat was "a bluff", citing the postponement of US strikes as evidence.

Tehran Times hurled an insult directed at Trump, calling his strategy a retreat masquerading as diplomacy. Iran's state broadcaster IRIB followed with a pair of posts linking the pause to Iran's military warnings. It recalled the closure of the Strait of Hormuz until damaged plants were repaired, and strikes on Israeli energy and related infrastructure. IRIB indicated

Trump paused not out of goodwill but because Tehran had placed the region's power grid in the line of fire.

Press TV declared that Trump had "backed down again", placing the five-day halt in a sequence of supposed reversals. Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, in a post on X said, "Trump and America have backed down again. The field is still charging forward.

Another defeat for the devil." The Iranian media

reaction showed a unified voice to say that deterrence has worked fine for the country, escalation would remain mutual, and the energy grid would stay a battlefield. They did not mention any "productive conversations" that Trump had cited. Diplomatically, the space carved out by Trump's pause is narrow as five days offer little room for structured negotiation, especially with multiple fronts still active and each regional actor running its own clock.

ASTORIA HOTEL Hyderabad Laziz Biryani. ESTD-1960. ek baar khaoge baar baar aage. 5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## ACB Files Chargesheet in Formula E Case; KTR Named A1 Over ₹55 Crore Irregularities

According to the ACB's findings detailed in the chargesheet, ₹55 crore was illegally diverted to the foreign entity in strict violation of established rules and procedures

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a detailed charge sheet before a city court in the Formula E race case, naming K. T. Rama Rao as the prime accused. The case pertains to alleged financial irregularities of nearly ₹55 crore, involving payments made largely in foreign currency in violation of established procedures during the previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government.

The charge sheet also names senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar,



former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) chief engineer B. L. N. Reddy, and two other individuals. According to the ACB, the accused are booked under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code, including criminal misappropriation, breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy. The investigation fo-

cus on the organisation of the Formula E race and the financial transactions linked to it. While the inaugural race was successfully conducted in Hyderabad in February 2023, the controversy relates to payments made for the proposed second edition scheduled for 2024. Officials allege that due process was not followed in releasing funds to race organisers, rais-

ing questions about financial propriety and administrative oversight.

The second edition of the race was eventually cancelled after the Congress government came to power in December 2023. Subsequently, the ACB registered a case in December 2024 against Rama Rao, Arvind Kumar, and B. L. N. Reddy as part of its probe into the matter.

Before proceeding with prosecution, the investigating agency secured the required sanctions. Then governor Jishnu Dev Varma granted approval for prosecuting Rama Rao in November 2025. Additionally, the

Union government recently cleared prosecution of Arvind Kumar, enabling the agency to move forward with legal proceedings.

Reacting to the developments, Rama Rao has strongly denied all allegations. He stated that the decision to transfer funds to the Formula E race organisers was taken in good faith to promote Hyderabad's global image and attract international investment. He maintained that the initiative was aimed at positioning the city as a world-class destination and insisted that no corruption or wrongdoing was involved in the process.

## BRS walks out from Assembly on denial of retirement benefits issue

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) staged a walk-out from the Assembly in protest against the Congress Government's failure to give a clear assurance over payment of retirement benefits and pending DAs. The BRS also staged a protest in the House over the Government's response on rice exports to Philippines. During question hour in the Assembly, BRS member T Harish Rao charged that there was a big scam in the rice exports to Philippines. He sought a clear reply from the government over the status of 7500 metric tonnes of rice stock lying in the Kakinada Port for one year. Despite NAFED, a cen-



tral government organization expressing its willingness to make advance payments for rice exports, the Congress government had offered the contract to a private agency he charged. He sought to know why tenders were not floated and whether the contract was offered on a nomination basis. On the appointment of a person accused in different CBI and ED cases as a Government advisor, he sought an explanation over his appointment. "We demand constitution of a House Committee into these irregularities," Harish Rao demanded. Replying to Harish Rao,

Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy charged that the BRS member was leveling false and baseless allegations. The minister argued that the Government advisor in question was in no way connected to the rice exports contract to Philippines; However, the Government did not reply to the query on the appointment of the Advisor.

On the issue of pending arrears of Rs. 1200 crore to the farmers for Yasangi crops, the BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy sought a clear cut answer from the Government, but no specific reply was offered by the Civil Supplies Minister. The minister had however, assured that the government was committed to protect farmers interests.

## NAREDCO Welcomes Changes to Building Rules

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The NAREDCO Telangana has welcomed the state government's recent amendments to building rules issued under GO 95, describing them as a progressive step that could significantly ease project execution and improve overall efficiency in the real estate sector. In an official statement, the organisation noted that the revised framework is designed to simplify regulatory procedures while aligning them with evolu-



ing urban development needs. It appreciated the government's consultative approach in formulating these changes, highlighting that such collaboration reflects a better understanding of industry challenges. According to NAREDCO Telangana, the amendments have the potential to accelerate the next phase of urban

growth by encouraging fresh investments and streamlining project timelines.

The body further emphasized that key provisions introduced in the amendments — including revised building height norms, more flexible utilization of Transferable Development Rights (TDR), and phased payment structures — are expected to reduce procedural bottlenecks. These measures could improve liquidity during various stages of construction, thereby enhancing cash flow man-

agement for developers. Additionally, NAREDCO Telangana observed that the reforms may positively impact housing supply by enabling faster project completion and more efficient land use.

The changes are also likely to influence compensation mechanisms linked to land acquisition, making them more structured and practical. Officials indicated that the industry's positive response reflects growing confidence in the revised regulatory framework.

## Indiramma House Gruha Pravesham Held in Roop Singh Thanda

**VIKARABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Roop Singh Thanda, Pargi Mandal, Vikarabad District: A newly constructed Indiramma house was inaugurated on Monday with a traditional housewarming (Gruha Pravesham) ceremony held in Roop Singh Thanda.

The event witnessed the participation of local residents and leaders. Pargi Agriculture Market Committee Chairman Bhumannna Gari Parashuram Reddy attended the program following the suggestion of MLA Dr. T.



Rammohan Reddy. The house, built under the Indiramma housing scheme for beneficiary Renuka, was formally handed over during the ceremony. The local sarpanch and a large number

of thanda residents were present on the occasion. Speaking at the event, Parashuram Reddy encouraged beneficiaries to complete the construction of their Indiramma houses at the earliest, emphasiz-

ing that owning a home is essential for every family, regardless of economic status.

"A loan taken to build one's own house brings unmatched confidence and stability," he said. He also appreciated the government's initiative of providing free housing for the poor, calling it a commendable step. He further expressed hope that more Indiramma houses would be sanctioned with the continued efforts of the MLA and urged that ongoing construction works be expedited.

## Spirit of martyrs lives on: Youth inspired at Samarpan diwas in Nizamabad



**NIZAMABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A solemn yet inspiring Samarpan Diwas program was held in Nizamabad to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of India's young freedom fighters, with a strong message for today's youth to uphold unity, patriotism, and national responsibility. Nizamabad Police Commissioner Sai Chaitanya who attended as the chief guest, urged citizens to remember the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the country. He emphasized that their ideals of unity and brotherhood remain relevant even today, calling upon

people to live as one, beyond differences of caste, religion, and region.

The event marked the martyrdom day of legendary revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, whose courage and patriotism continue to inspire generations. The program was organized under the Mera Yuva Bharat initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports at the Polytechnic College auditorium. Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner reflected on the fearless spirit of the young martyrs, noting how they embraced death with pride for the sake of the nation. He stated that their sacrifice is a reminder of the

price paid for India's freedom and the responsibility every citizen carries to protect and strengthen the nation. He encouraged students and youth to read about the lives of such great leaders and draw inspiration from their dedication and courage.

"Their stories are not just history, but guiding principles for building a better future," he remarked. District Youth Officer Shailli Bellal highlighted various youth-centric initiatives being undertaken by the Central Government, encouraging active participation from young people to develop leadership and social responsibility.

The program concluded with a note of gratitude to the Police Commissioner for his presence and words of inspiration. The event witnessed participation from Principal Dr. Anuradha, faculty members, and a large number of students, reflecting the continued relevance of the values upheld by India's freedom fighters.

## Former MLA Chanti Kranti Kiran Blesses Family at Grand Ceremony in Regod



A grand and colorful family celebration was held at the Yellamma Temple in Regod village, where the family of former ward member Anja Goud organized a traditional ceremony for their daughter and son. Former Andole Assembly constituency MLA Chanti Kranti Kiran attended the event as the chief guest. He blessed the children and extended his best wishes to the family for happiness and prosperity. Several local leaders and community members were present at the event. Among them were BRS Mandal General Secretary Sunke Ramesh, PACS Chairman Raju Yadav, former co-option member Moiz Patel, former Sarpanch Narasimlu, BRS Regod village president Subhash, and current Sarpanch Sunder. Other leaders, including Raj Kamal, also attended. Media representatives and well-wishers such as Subhash Goud, Nandu Shet, Nagaraju, Raju, Ishwar Goud, Ramulu, and Jaipal Reddy were also in attendance.

## Development Works & Festival Arrangements in Chandrayangutta

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Few development works and arrangements for Sri Rama Navami and Hanuman Jayanti festivals, where more than temples are offering annaprashadam, include providing more than 20,000 drinking water bottles and sachets under Chandrayangutta Assembly—Jangammet, Lalithabagh, and Uppuguda division limits.

A representation was given to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy by Aedla Pandarinath, who highlighted key public needs. Discussions were held on development works in Tanaji Nagar, Bayyal Nagar,



and Maruthi Nagar areas, including sanction of new water pipeline works costing more than ₹18 lakhs, and a 100 mm dia pipeline for Jangammet-Uppuguda. MD Ashok Reddy responded positively. The team also met K. Suresh Kumar regarding the same.

## Three held for transporting 105 kg ganja from AP to Telangana

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

## Srinivas Goud Demands BC Census Inclusion

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Santosh chowdary

At a protest held at Jantar Mantar, former minister V Srinivas Goud demanded that Backward Class (BC/OBC) families be included in the first phase of the ongoing nationwide census, on par with SC and ST communities.

Participating in a dharna organized by the National Association of OBC Maha Sangh, he criticized the Centre's approach of prioritizing only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the initial 33-column



household survey. He argued that excluding BC families from the first phase and postponing their enumeration to a later stage was unfair and misleading. Goud stated that if SC and ST

families can be counted in the first phase, BC families should also be registered simultaneously. He termed the absence of a dedicated column for BCs as an act of

"cheating" and urged the government to immediately introduce a separate column (Column 34) to record their data. Highlighting long-standing issues, he pointed out the absence of a dedicated BC ministry and inadequate budget allocations over decades.

He stressed that a comprehensive BC caste census must be conducted without additional cost. Over 25 MPs from 16 states, including leaders from Nationalist Congress Party, participated, warning of nationwide agitations if demands are ignored.

**Ghatkesar Press Club Gets New Leadership, Focus Turns to Unity and Reform**



Lingala Bhupal, a journalist with Namaste Telangana, was unanimously elected president of the Ghatkesar Press Club on Monday, signaling a new phase for the local media body. Members hope the change will strengthen professional solidarity and move beyond longstanding factional divides. The new executive committee comprises Kuntolla Yadagiri (Mana Telangana) as vice president, Konda Srinivas Reddy (Sakshi) as general secretary, Salluri Narsing Rao (Prajapaksam) as joint secretary, and Lamba Raju Yadav (Surya) as treasurer. Senior journalists Medaboyin Narsimha (Vaartha), Potendar Ramakrishna (Eenadu), and Mekala Padma Rao (Visalandhra) have been appointed as advisors.

## Stormy budget debate in Assembly as Harish Rao, Ministers clash over interruptions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Heated exchanges were witnessed in the Assembly during the budget discussion on Monday, as repeated interruptions by Ministers led to sharp arguments between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS. BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao, who participated in the debate, accused the government of trying to silence the Opposition.

Harish Rao, who spoke extensively on the budget preparation, spoke for nearly two hours, but not without disruptions from the ruling party. Soon after he began his speech, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Ministers D Seethakka, Jupally Krishna Rao, D Sridhar Babu, Adhuri Laxman and Komati-reddy Venkat Reddy repeatedly intervened, triggering protests from



BRS members. Objecting to the interruptions, Harish Rao questioned why the government, which claimed to welcome constructive suggestions from the Opposition, was reluctant to let him complete his speech during the budget debate. BRS deputy leader Talarani Srinivas Yadav raised objections to repeated disruptions, accusing the government of denying adequate time to the Opposition. He said

the House announced a 15-minute tea break but resumed only after more than two hours. He also recalled that during the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address, BRS members waited patiently for nearly five hours for the Chief Minister to return from Delhi to reply. Minister D Sridhar Babu rejected the charge, accusing Srinivas Yadav of misleading the House. The BRS member shot back that the Opposition waited out of respect for the

Speaker and the Leader of the House, but was now being prevented from raising public issues. He also alleged double standards, pointing out that remarks made earlier by BRS member KT Rama Rao were expunged as unparliamentary, while abusive remarks by the Chief Minister against the Opposition were retained on record.

Bhatti Vikramarka maintained that the debate was being conducted democratically and said the Ministers were only clarifying points raised by Harish Rao.

The tense atmosphere briefly eased when Harish Rao said he skipped lunch and lost sleep preparing for the debate, prompting Sridhar Babu to quip that the Deputy Chief Minister had skipped even breakfast to reply to members, drawing laughter from both sides.

## Awakening the Buddha's Teachings: Dhammayatra Year 3 Concludes with Grand Success

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The third edition of the Dhammayatra, titled "Awakening the Buddha's Teachings: A Journey of Awakening - From Suvarnabhumi to Buddhahumi," concluded on March 23, 2026, marking the successful completion of a spiritually significant journey that spanned nearly two months. The initiative brought together monks, scholars, and devotees in a collective effort to revive and spread the timeless teachings of Gautama Buddha. The Dhammayatra commenced on February 2, symbolizing a sacred journey from Suvarnabhumi—often regarded as the "Golden Land" of early Buddhist influence—to Buddhahumi, the birthplace and nurturing ground of Buddhism. The yatra aimed to strengthen cultural and spiritual ties between regions historically connected through the spread of Dhamma. Throughout the journey, monks from various Indian states and international Buddhist communities participated with deep devotion. The yatra passed through several cities and towns, where prayer meetings, Dhamma discourses,



meditation sessions, and community interactions were organized. These programs focused on promoting values such as compassion, non-violence, mindfulness, and universal brotherhood—core principles of the Buddha's teachings. The concluding event on March 23 featured a grand Buddha Yatra from Mahendra Hills to Mettuguda, which drew large crowds and enthusiastic participation. The procession, led by saffron-robed monks chanting sacred verses, created a serene and spiritually uplifting atmosphere across the route. Devotees joined in large numbers, carrying Buddhist flags and symbols, reflecting unity and reverence. A special assembly held at Mettuguda marked the formal conclusion of the Dhammayatra. Senior monks and dignitaries addressed the gathering, emphasizing the continued rel-

evance of the Buddha's teachings in today's world, particularly in fostering peace and harmony amid social and global challenges. Cultural performances and devotional programs added to the significance of the occasion. Organizers described the Dhammayatra as a "journey of awakening," not only in a spiritual sense but also as a movement to reconnect people with ethical living and inner peace. Participants expressed that the experience was transformative, inspiring them to integrate the Dhamma into their daily lives. The successful completion of Dhammayatra Year 3 stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Buddha's message and the collective efforts of the global Buddhist community to preserve and propagate it.

## Railway push for Progress: MP Arvind Seeks Timely Clearances for North Telangana Projects

**NIZAMABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a renewed effort to accelerate infrastructure growth in North Telangana, Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind has strongly urged Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to fast-track approvals and execution of several long-pending railway projects. Emphasizing the growing needs of passengers and the region's development potential, Arvind pointed out that projects like the establishment of a pit line and coaching depot at Nizamabad Junction are not just infrastructural upgrades, but essential steps toward improving railway operations and services in the district.

He highlighted that improved rail connectivity would serve as a catalyst for economic activity, trade, and tourism across North Telangana. In this regard, he pushed for the extension of key train services and the introduction of new routes connecting important towns such as Nizamabad, Metpally, Korutla, Jagtial, and Karimnagar with Tirupati, catering especially to the large number of pilgrims traveling regularly.

The MP also drew attention to critical safety and traffic management concerns, urging the Ministry to expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) at Navipet and Indalvai, along with Road Under Bridges (RUBs) at Dichpally and Akannapet. He further called for the expansion of the Jankampet RUB to ease congestion and ensure smoother movement for both rail and road users. In a significant appeal, Arvind requested the introduction of Vande



Bharat Express services via Nizamabad, stating that it would place the region on the map of modern, high-speed rail connectivity and greatly benefit daily commuters and business travelers.

While pressing for pending approvals, the MP also acknowledged the Centre's support in sanctioning key projects such as the Yedpally ROB, the Foot Over Bridge at Dichpally, and the Armour-Adilabad railway line. He expressed gratitude to the Railway Minister for these initiatives, noting that they reflect a positive approach toward regional development. Reaffirming his commitment, Arvind stated that he will continue to pursue these projects until they are fully realized, ensuring that the people of North Telangana receive the infrastructure and connectivity they rightfully deserve.

## Assembly Siege Bid Foiled Amid Political Tensions in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tension gripped throughout state on Monday after a call by Ramachandra Rao to lay siege to the State Assembly triggered a massive police response, effectively preventing protesters from reaching the city.

Party leaders and workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party attempted to mobilize in large numbers, alleging that the ruling Indian National Congress had failed to implement its much-publicized "six



guarantees" promised during the Assembly elections. In anticipation of the protest, police launched a pre-dawn crackdown, sealing highways, blocking entry points, and detaining several party workers and

leaders across districts. Security was tightened across key routes leading into Hyderabad, with barricades erected at major junctions.

Preventive detentions were reported from multiple locations, including

parts of Sangareddy district, remote area Kangti Mandal where local leaders were taken into custody to thwart their participation in the siege.

Despite restrictions, sporadic protests and minor scuffles were reported in a few areas, highlighting the charged political atmosphere. Police maintained that the measures were necessary to ensure public order and prevent disruption in the state capital. The attempted siege has intensified the ongoing political confrontation between the BJP and the

Congress, with both sides trading accusations over governance and accountability. While the opposition continues to question the implementation of welfare promises, the ruling party has defended its record, asserting that steps are being taken to fulfill commitments. Though the Assembly siege bid was ultimately foiled, the episode underscores the growing political friction in Telangana, setting the stage for further agitation and debate in the days ahead.

## Sudha Reddy Launches Westbrook International School

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Sudha Reddy inaugurated Westbrook International School at Kavuri Hills, Madhapur, Hyderabad on March 23, 2026, marking a significant addition to the city's education sector. The institution, founded by Sanjana Reddy, focuses on curiosity-driven, student-centric learning aimed at holistic child development. The school offers an internationally aligned cur-



riculum with emphasis on personalized learning, strong academic foundations, and experiential education. It seeks to move beyond traditional teaching methods by prioritizing transparency and meaningful engage-

ment.

Speaking at the launch, Sudha Reddy highlighted the vital role of teachers and praised the founder's parent-driven vision. Sanjana Reddy stated that the school was inspired by her personal journey as a mother seeking better learning environments. Academic guidance is led by Koduru Madhusudhana Reddy and K. Padma Praveena, ensuring strong academic standards and progressive learning.

## 15th Social Audit in Andol Mandal Strengthens Village Governance

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The 15th round of social audit was conducted at the Employment Guarantee Office in Andole mandal, showcasing efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in village administration. The audit was overseen by G. Balaraju, Additional DRDA Officer, with participation from Asst. Vigilance Officer Nageshwar Rao, Rajesh MPDO, Cluster APD Madhulatha, and Additional Programme Officer Archana. The review, covering 24 gram panchayats, recorded recoveries of ₹64,072, which were distributed among local staff. The audit emphasized detailed scru-



tiny, coordination with panchayats, and transparency measures, strengthening rural development and public-service ethics under the NREGA scheme. Officials described the event as a "modest but firm step" toward responsive grievance redressal, giving the panchayat system renewed vitality and demonstrating that effective governance begins at the village level.

## BC Rights Protest Gains Momentum in Rangareddy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A large protest and rally were organized in Serilingampally, Alwyn Colony, and Miyapur of Rangareddy district against the alleged injustice to Backward Classes (BCs). The programme was led by Rajyadhikara Party district president Advocate Ramesh Yadav and witnessed participation from several leaders, youth, and women.

BC Joint Action Committee president Beri Ramachandra Yadav and BC Federation president RK Sayanna Mudiraj were among the prominent leaders present. Addressing the gathering, Beri Ramac-



handra Yadav criticized the government for failing to implement the promised 42% reservation mentioned in the Kamareddy Declaration. He alleged that despite assurances of allocating ₹20,000 crore for BC welfare, only 3.85% was reflected in the budget, raising

concerns over its actual utilization. He also pointed out inadequate support for BCs in key sectors like education and healthcare.

Advocate Ramesh Yadav demanded that at least 33% of the state budget be allocated to BCs, highlighting that they constitute nearly 56% of the population. He expressed disappointment over the continued neglect and asserted that the Rajyadhikara Party would intensify its struggle until social justice is achieved.

Leaders called upon BC, SC, ST, and minority communities to unite and support the movement. The protest concluded successfully with a strong turnout.

## Karka Nagaraju Receives National Honour

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Karka Nagaraju, President of INTUC and PJR Foundation from Moosapet Division in Kukatpally constituency, has been conferred with the prestigious Rashtriya Gaurav Samman Award 2026 for his contributions to social service and trade union leadership.

The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at Behela Sarat Sadan Auditorium in Kolkata, where former Indian foot-



ball player Mehtab Hosain handed over the honour. Nagaraju was selected under the Social Service and Trade Union Leadership category, recognizing his consistent ef-

forts toward workers' welfare and community development.

Addressing the media after receiving the award, Nagaraju expressed immense and gratitude. He thanked the Human Rights Council of India for acknowledging his work in social service and labour rights through trade union initiatives. He said the recognition has increased his responsibility to serve society with greater commitment.

Calling the moment both proud and emotional, Na-

garaju stated that the award is not just a personal achievement but a collective recognition of everyone who supported him throughout his journey.

He described receiving the honour in Kolkata as one of the most memorable milestones in his life.

Nagaraju reaffirmed his dedication to continue working for the welfare of workers and society, striving to uphold the trust placed in him through this prestigious recognition.

# Iran Embassy Denies Claims of USD 2 Mn Fee on Vessels in Hormuz

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Embassy of Iran in India has officially dismissed reports suggesting that Tehran is imposing a levy of USD 2 million on vessels navigating the Strait of Hormuz amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East. In a post on X, the mission clarified its position regarding the strategic waterway through a formal statement addressing the allegations. "In response to certain claims regarding the alleged receipt of a sum of 2 million dollars by the Islamic Republic of Iran from vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, it is emphasized that such claims are unfounded," the Embassy



noted. The diplomatic intervention follows various media reports which attributed comments to Iranian lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi, suggesting that merchant vessels were being charged USD 2 million for safe passage through the "conflict-hit Hormuz." "However, the government has denied these reports, asserting that the legislator's remarks were not sanctioned by

the state. "The statements made in this regard merely reflect the personal views of individuals and do not, in any way, represent the official position of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the statement further clarified. This development occurs against a backdrop of severe regional instability, as Tehran recently threatened to "completely" close the Strait of Hormuz. The warning was issued

after US President Donald Trump set a "48-hour deadline" on Saturday for the reopening of the strait, specifically threatening to target Iranian energy infrastructure. The Iranian government responded by stating that the vital maritime artery for global oil and gas transport would be "completely closed" immediately if the US administration acts on the ultimatum to attack its power plants. The

tension was further inflamed by President Trump's declaration that a failure to open the strait would result in the US military destroying Iran's "various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!" In a direct counter-ultimatum, Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf posted on X that any strike against the nation's infrastructure would trigger a massive response. Qalibaf warned that if Iran's power plants are targeted, vital facilities across the region, including energy and desalination facilities, would be viewed as legitimate targets and subsequently "irreversibly destroyed."

# Bill Cosby Ordered To Pay \$19m Over Sex Abuse Claim

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A woman who said she was drugged and sexually assaulted by veteran US entertainer Bill Cosby was awarded more than \$19 million on Monday after a civil hearing in California. Donna Motsinger said she was working as a waitress more than 50 years ago when the performer began to target her. The hearing in Santa Monica was told how the comedian had initially come into the restaurant where the now-84-year-old Motsinger worked. One day when he picked her up in his limousine, Cosby gave her a glass of wine and what she thought was an aspirin. She began slipping in and out of consciousness and the



next thing she knew she was waking up at home, wearing only her underwear. "She knew she had been drugged and raped by Bill Cosby," the suit said. Attorneys said Cosby, 88, did not remember any sexual contact with Motsinger, but that any that had occurred had been consensual. The jury took three days to deliver its verdict, ordering Cosby to pay \$19.3 million, a figure that could increase if they add punitive damages. The case was heard in the same courthouse where a 2022 jury ordered Cosby to

pay \$500,000 in damages to Judy Huth after finding that he had molested her in 1975 when she was just 16 years old. The man formerly known as "America's Dad" was jailed in Pennsylvania for drugging and molesting a woman in a separate criminal case in 2018, but was freed in 2021 when his conviction was overturned on a technicality. Cosby was a towering figure in late 20th century American popular culture, including for his starring role in "The Cosby Show," which ran from 1984 to 1992. Dozens of women have accused Cosby of being a calculating, serial predator who plied victims with sedatives and alcohol before assaulting them over four decades.

# Assam Minister Nandita Garlosa Joins Congress

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a major jolt to the BJP, disgruntled party leader and cabinet minister Nandita Garlosa joined the Congress late Sunday night even after chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made last-minute efforts to change her mind. Ms Garlosa, a Cabinet minister in the outgoing state government, submitted her nomination to contest from Haflong. Ms Garlosa joined the party in the presence of its Haflong candidate, Nirmal Langthasa. Confirm-



ing the development, Congress party in a statement said, "We are very happy to announce that Ms Nandita Garlosa has joined the Congress party. She is the voice of Dima Hasao for the last five years and she always stood for her beliefs and principles. She paid the price for this in the BJP because Himanta Biswa Sharma is only interested

in selling the land of the tribals to large corporations. Congress declares her as our candidate for Haflong seat." The Congress party further said, "The BJP minister joined the congress party in presence of Mr Nirmal Langthasa, APCC General secretary and the candidate from Haflong. Ms Garlosa is set to contest the election in congress ticket from the Haflong seat as Mr Langthasa has proactively volunteered to vacate there seat in larger public interest. The formalities for the same will be duly

completed shortly." The BJP has fielded Ms Rupali Langthasa from the Haflong seat, replacing sitting MLA and former minister Nandita Gorlosa. Ms Rupali Langthasa is relatively new to mainstream electoral politics but has been steadily building her presence in local governance. She currently serves as an executive member in charge of higher education in the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), a key administrative body in Assam's Dima Hasao district.

# Govt Assures Stable LPG Supply As Panic Buying Eases

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The government on Monday said that India's LPG supply situation remains stable despite ongoing concerns, with panic buying easing and deliveries returning to normal. Besides, crude supply remains adequate with refineries operating normally, ensuring stable retail availability, according to the top officials. During an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, said that

1.9 lakh consumers have migrated from LPG to PNG so far. "Domestic LPG is accounting for 50-60 percent of present demand, adding that the government is picking up LPG cargoes from wherever available," she said. "PNG and CNG supplies continue for priority users, while industrial demand is met at 80 per cent. To boost PNG adoption, additional LPG allocation and policy support have enabled activation of around 3.5 lakh new domestic and commercial PNG connections in three weeks. LPG

supply remains under watch but deliveries continue," the official said. The government, she said, has further enhanced commercial LPG allocation, with up to 50 per cent volume placed at the disposal of states for priority sectors such as restaurants, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing units, community kitchens, and 5 kg cylinders for migrant workers. "So far, 20 states and UTs have lifted about 15,800 tonnes, while kerosene allocation has been issued to 15 states," she said. To curb black marketing,

the joint secretary said that 32 states and UTs have set up monitoring systems, with over 37,000 raids, 550 FIRs and 150 arrests, while oil companies issued 234 show cause notices, citizens are urged to refrain from panic booking and conserve LPG. Meanwhile, adding the updates on the supply of cooking gas, Rajesh Sinha, special secretary at the ministry of shipping, confirmed that two LPG tankers carrying a combined 92,000 metric tonnes are currently crossing the Strait of Hormuz and further updates.

# Iranian Navy Guided Indian Tanker Through Hormuz: Crew Member

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana



The Iranian Navy guided an Indian liquefied petroleum gas tanker through the Strait of Hormuz last week, allowing the ship to pass on a pre-approved route following diplomatic engagement by New Delhi, according to a senior officer onboard the vessel. The officer asked for anonymity, as the crew of his vessel — one of two Indian ships that made the crossing — were not permitted to talk to the media. His account appears to confirm analysts' views that Tehran is trying to impose a traffic control system through the strait, permitting safe passage for friendly vessels while leaving others fearful of attack. During the crossing, the officer's ship was in contact with the Iranian navy by radio, he said. The Iranians took details of the ship's flag, name, origin and destination ports, and the nationality of the crew members — all of whom were Indian — and guided them on an agreed course. "It seems that Iran is allowing select vessels to transit Hormuz after verification which takes place during the ships' transit inside Iranian waters," said Martin Kelly, head of advisory at

EOS Risk Group. "While ships are being allowed to transit, it is mostly only to the benefit of Iran." Iran's threats to ships passing through the strait gave the government in Tehran leverage over global energy markets, pushing up prices and creating fears of shortages of oil, natural gas, cooking fuel and fertilizer. Around a fifth of the world's oil normally passes through the channel. Since the beginning of the war in late February, several ships have been struck by missiles or drones in the strait, at least two seafarers have died, and insurance costs have soared. There have been reports that Iran has mined the waterway. Before they entered the strait last week, sailors onboard the LPG tanker prepared their life rafts, the officer said. They had been anchored in the Persian Gulf for around 10 days when they were told on the morning of Friday

March 13 that they had been granted permission to make the transit that night. Over the past week, several ships have transited via a narrow gap between the Iranian islands of Larak and Qeshm, and tracked close to the Iranian coast. They include two bulk carriers that had called at Iranian ports, and a Pakistani-flagged vessel, the Karachi. The officer on the Indian LPG ship declined to give specific details of their route. They traveled with their automatic identification system, or AIS, system switched off, according to the officer and AIS data analyzed by Bloomberg, turning it back on after they were safely out into the Gulf of Oman. The officer said the ship was also unable to use GPS, which has been subject to widespread interference since the beginning of the conflict. That meant the crossing took hours longer than usual.

# Telangana Cabinet...

To address rising incidents of attacks on legal professionals, the Cabinet approved the Telangana Advocate Protection Bill. The legislation is intended to ensure safety for advocates, particularly in the wake of past incidents such as the murder of advocate couple Vaman Rao, and aims to provide a secure working environment. The Cabinet also approved a Parents Support Bill mandating that public representatives, as well as government and private employees who neglect their elderly parents, will have 15 per cent of their salary or ₹10,000, whichever is lower, deducted and paid to their parents as support. The Cabinet also decided to expedite the process of taking over the existing 69-km metro rail network in Hyderabad from Larsen & Toubro. A sub-committee has reported that the government would need to pay around ₹15,000 crore, including debt liabilities, to acquire the Phase-I project. Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited has been entrusted with handling financial transactions and designated as the nodal agency for the takeover. The Cabinet also approved the report of the independent expert committee constituted to study the caste survey conducted in the state. The committee, headed by retired Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy, examined findings of the social, economic and caste survey carried out between November 6 and December 25, 2024. In another key decision, the Cabinet approved the formation of a min-

isterial sub-committee under Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to frame guidelines for the proposed Rohith Vemula Act aimed at preventing caste discrimination in educational institutions. Ministers Damodar Rajanarasimha, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar will be members. **Trump announces....** While the fresh move by the US President came without much anticipation as both the sides had shown no signs of de-escalation till recently, Trump on Friday had expressed willingness to engage in talks with Tehran. After much of Iran's leadership was killed in the current war, Trump said on Friday, "Nobody wants to be a leader over there anymore. We're having a hard time. We want to talk to them, and there's nobody to talk to... And you know what? We like it that way." Meanwhile, according to a report by Bloomberg published before Trump's latest Truth Social post, citing a person involved in direct, high-level contacts in Tehran, that the officials there were not willing to even discuss reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime trade route that controls a large chunk of the world's oil trade. Terming Trump's announcement as "retreat", the Iranian Embassy in Afghanistan said that the US President "backed down" after Iran's threat. Iran threatened that if the US attacks Iran's energy infrastructure, the former will target the energy

infrastructure of the entire region. "After the Islamic Republic threatened that in the event of any U.S. attack on Iran's energy infrastructure, it would target the energy infrastructure of the entire region, Trump backed down and stated that he had issued an order to postpone the attack," the embassy said in a post on X. **Pilot, Copilot Killed....** The airport was shut down and air traffic was diverted, and on Monday morning operations also were halted at Newark Liberty International Airport in neighboring New Jersey. Air traffic controllers evacuated the tower because of a burning smell from an elevator, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The shutdowns happened during long waits for travelers due to the busy spring break travel season and a shortage of Transportation Security Administration officers because of a lack of routine funding for the Department of Homeland Security. Pilot and copilot were based out of Canada, Garcia said during a news conference. The airport will remain closed until at least 2 p.m. Monday to facilitate the investigation, which is being led by the National Transportation Safety Board. "Two pilots were killed and dozens injured in this tragedy. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and everyone affected," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul posted online. The fire truck was traveling across the runway to respond to a separate

incident aboard a United Airlines flight, whose pilot had reported "an issue with odor," said Garcia, who deferred additional questions about the sequence of events leading up to the crash to the NTSB. **Centre To Table.....** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said in the Lok Sabha that he is willing to order a CBI inquiry into the death of Gagandeep Singh Randhawa, district manager of the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation, subject to a written request from Punjab MPs. The statement came after Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla raised the issue, alleging that Randhawa was under pressure from Punjab minister Laljit Singh Bhullar over tender allocations. Shah said he would act once a formal request is submitted. Bhullar has resigned from the Punjab Cabinet following directions from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Aujla alleged that Randhawa was coerced to issue tenders in favour of the minister's father and faced threats and assault. Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu supported the demand for a probe and urged MPs from Punjab to jointly seek a CBI inquiry. Bittu termed the matter serious and called for justice, alleging that threats were extended to the deceased's family. According to reports, Randhawa, 45, died after consuming a toxic substance at his residence in Amritsar in the early hours of Saturday.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

# High Court Refuses Interim Order on Name, Gotra of Bhadradi Rama

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana



The Telangana High Court on Monday indicated that it would examine the maintainability of a batch of writ petitions filed in 2022 and later raising a religious and legal dispute concerning ritual practices at the Sri Seetha Ramachandraswamy Temple at Bhadrachalam. Justice Surepalli Nanda heard the petitions challenging alleged deviations in the manner the presiding deity, Lord Sri Rama, was addressed during the annual Kalyana Mahotsavam during Sri Rama Navami. According to the petitioners, temple authorities have been referring to the deity as “Ramanarayana” in recent years instead of the traditionally accepted “Sri Ramachandra Swamy,” and have cor-

respondingly altered the Gotra and Pravara invocations recited during the ceremony. Senior counsels D.V. Sitharam Murthy, V. Hariharan and Kowturu Pavan Kumar contend that such changes depart from long-standing temple traditions and affect the religious identity of the institution.

The counsels argued that, for over three centuries, the deities have been worshipped as Sri Ramachandra Swamy, the son of King Dasaratha of Vasishtha Gotra, and Goddess Sita, daughter of King Ja-

naka. After the change, which allegedly took place in 2012, the deities are referred to as “Ramanarayana” and “Seeta Mahalakshmi,” along with corresponding changes in lineage invocation, which was described as a significant departure from established practice.

They also emphasised the historical and devotional legacy associated with the temple, including references to Bhakta Ramadas, to argue that the identity of the deity as the son of King Dasaratha is central to the temple’s traditions. Any omission or alteration of such references, particularly in ritual invocations, was argued to amount to a distortion of established custom. They informed the court that the executive officer of the temple and the commissioner of the endowment department —

despite the court’s order — have neither submitted a report on this issue nor filed the counter-affidavits so far.

They brought to the notice of the court the contempt petition filed against the authorities for non-compliance with the court orders. They requested the court to issue orders as the Kalyanosthavam is going to be held on March 27. K. Raghavacharyulu, the counsel appearing for the temple’s Sthanacharyulu, argued that Lord Rama has shatakoti names (an innumerable number of names) and he was called as Vykunta Rama. Even he was also called Jaganmohini on Brahmotsavam and on Chiluka Dwadasi. He also submitted that the Valmiki Ramayana did not mention Gotra or Pravara that could be used during the Kalyanotsavam.

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

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

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

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

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

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

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

# Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

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

# Man Loses ₹84.81 Lakh In Fake Trading App Scam

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A 44-year-old private employee from Petbashaeraabad was allegedly cheated of Rs 84.81 lakh by fraudsters through a fake online trading platform promising high returns. According to police, the victim came across a social media advertisement and joined a group claiming association with ‘5 Paisa Capital Limited’. He was contacted by persons posing as investment advisers and customer support executives, who directed him to download a trading application. The accused allegedly persuaded him to invest in stock trading activities, including block trades, upper circuit stocks and IPO allot-

ments, assuring profits and zero commission. He initially transferred Rs 10,000 and subsequently deposited larger amounts into multiple bank accounts provided by the accused. Police said the victim was shown virtual profits and fake IPO allotments, and was added to a WhatsApp group where purported members displayed fabricated gains. The complainant stated that he was allowed to withdraw Rs 5.10 lakh initially, which increased his confidence. However, when he attempted to withdraw a larger amount shown in the application, he was asked to pay additional charges towards brokerage and taxes.

# 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.

# Telangana HC Issues Notices to Speaker, Danam Nagender

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Monday issued notices to the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender in a writ petition seeking his disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin adjourned the matter to April 16 for filing of counter-affidavits. The petition was filed by

BJP MLA and Floor Leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, challenging the Speaker’s order dated March 11 dismissing a disqualification plea against Nagender. The petitioner sought setting aside of the order and a declaration that Nagender has incurred disqualification. Senior counsel Vivek Reddy, appearing for the petitioner, contended that Nagender, elected in 2023 on a BRS ticket, had voluntarily given up party membership by contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-

tions on a Congress ticket without resigning. Citing the Supreme Court judgment in Mahachandra Prasad Singh v. Bihar Legislative Assembly, he argued that such conduct attracts disqualification under Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule. It was submitted that the Speaker’s view, limiting consideration to conduct within the House was contrary to settled legal principles. Nagender had contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket against the BRS candidate after being

elected as an MLA in 2023. The petitioner contended that this amounted to defection. Advocate General A. Sudershan Reddy accepted notice on behalf of the Speaker and informed the court that a counter affidavit would be filed. The petitioner also sought consequential directions, including recovery of salary and benefits received by Nagender as MLA from April 23, 2024, and making actions taken by him subject to the outcome of the case. The matter will be heard next on April 16.

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.



## Ai+ Smartphone Unveils the Nova Series: Flagship 5G Lineup Set to Launch on April 9, 2026

**Hyderabad**  
Wakeup telangana

Ai+ Smartphone today announced the launch of its highly anticipated Nova Series, with the Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra set to debut on April 9, 2026, across Flipkart and other channels of distribution. The remaining three devices in the series, Nova 2 Pro, Nova 2 Neo, and Nova Flip, will follow in the months ahead. The launch marks the next phase of Ai+'s evolution as it expands into a full-spectrum smartphone portfolio, built around distinct user needs, lifestyles, and self-expression. The Nova Series is not just an upgrade, it is a statement of intent bringing together bold

design, intelligent performance, and deeply personal experiences in a way the category has not seen before. At the center of the lineup is the Nova 2 Ultra - Customisable Technology that responds to you, the most expressive device Ai+ has ever built. Its customisable back-panel lighting responds to calls, messages, music, and notifications turning everyday interactions into something visual, personal, and immersive. The Nova 2 is crafted for users who want a no-compromise flagship experience grounded in reliability and everyday performance. It focuses on delivering what matters most — seamless speed, dependable



battery life, refined design, and a user experience that is intuitive and consistent. With the Nova Series, we are expanding what a smartphone can mean to people," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. "For some, it is about reliability and performance. For others, it is about identity and ex-

pression. This lineup is built to deliver both without compromise, without complexity, and without creating barriers to access." Since its launch in July 2025, Ai+ Smartphone has consistently challenged the idea that premium technology must not come at a premium cost. With over one million devices sold in under a year, the brand has focused on building pro-

ducts that combine thoughtful design, strong performance, and honest pricing. Kanchan Mishra, Vice President Mobiles, Flipkart, added, "India's smartphone consumers today are more informed and aspirational than ever. Ai+ Smartphone focuses on providing modern technology at accessible price points. We are looking forward to bringing the Nova Series to millions of customers across the country through Flipkart." The Nova Series marks a defining step in Ai+ Smartphone's journey from proving a point to building a complete, future-ready portfolio. With five distinct devices, a clear point of view on de-

## KFC Unveils Giant Sand Bucket at RK Beach

**VISAKHAPATNAM**  
Wakeup telangana

Fast-food giant KFC marked the opening of its new Beach Road restaurant in Vizag with a striking sand installation at RK Beach, drawing large crowds and social media attention. The larger-than-life sand sculpture, modeled after KFC's iconic bucket, was created by renowned sand artist Akunuru Balaji Varaprasad. Crafted over 48 hours using more than seven tonnes of beach sand, the installation quickly became a major attraction for visitors, with many stopping to capture photos and videos. The sculpture celebrates the launch of KFC's 14th outlet in the city, strategically located on Beach Road. The new 70-seater restaurant spans 2,280



square feet and features a design inspired by Vizag's coastal charm. With boat-themed interiors, a bamboo-clad exterior, and sea-facing seating, the outlet offers a relaxed dining experience tailored for beachgoers.

Known for its signature offerings such as Hot & Crispy Chicken, Zinger Burgers, Hot Wings, and

Chicken Popcorn, KFC aims to attract visitors looking for a quick meal after spending time along the shoreline. Akunuru Balaji Varaprasad, a four-time winner of the Konark International Sand Art Festival, has created over 700 sculptures across India and represented the country at global competitions.

## Indian Curls Salon Launches Grandly in Manikonda Hyderabad



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Premium hair transformation salon Indian Curls was officially launched in Manikonda, marking its entry into the city's growing beauty and grooming segment. The grand opening attracted notable attention with the presence of several film and television personalities, adding glamour to the event. The inauguration cere-

mony, held at 12:00 PM at the salon premises opposite Ambience Courtyard, was graced by actors including Himaja Reddy, Nayani Pavani, Sri Satya, Manjula Paritala, Nirupam, Bejawada Bebakka, Vishwa, Haritha Thota, and Anjali & Pavan, who extended their support and appreciation for the new venture. Founded by Kankanala Balakrishna, Indian Curls positions itself as a spe-

cialized salon focusing on hair styling and extension services tailored to Indian hair textures. The salon emphasizes detailed consultations, precision techniques, and personalized care to deliver consistent and long-lasting results for clients. With a strong background in business development and international training, the founder has introduced a structured, systems-driven approach to salon services. The

brand operates with trained professionals and standardized methods, ensuring uniform quality and reliability across all customer interactions. Speaking at the launch, Balakrishna highlighted the salon's commitment to professionalism and trust. He stated that the goal is to provide clients with the right guidance, suitable techniques, and dependable services in a transparent and comfort-

able environment. Indian Curls also focuses on ethical sourcing practices and carefully designed service processes, reinforcing its commitment to quality and sustainability. The event concluded on a positive note, receiving encouraging feedback from attendees and marking a promising beginning for Indian Curls in Hyderabad's competitive beauty industry.

## AI Training Boosts Young Entrepreneurs' Productivity Skills

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A five-day Advanced Skill Development Programme on "Leveraging AI for Improved Work Productivity and Business Efficiency" was successfully conducted by the National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in collaboration with the NALSAR University of Law. Held from March 11 to 17 at the university's Shamirpet campus, the initiative focused on equipping young entrepreneurs with practical Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills. A total of 24 participants from diverse



sectors completed the programme, gaining hands-on exposure to AI tools aimed at improving workplace productivity, streamlining operations, and enhancing business effi-

ciency. The sessions emphasized real-world applications of AI, enabling participants to adopt technology-driven solutions in their ventures. The programme featured interactive

learning modules, discussions, and practical demonstrations, ensuring active engagement and skill-building among attendees. Participants also explored innovative strategies to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving digital business landscape. The course was directed by Dr. A. Sai Kiran, Assistant Professor at the Department of Management Studies (DoMS), who ensured effective delivery of the curriculum. Organizers stated that such initiatives aim to empower entrepreneurs with future-ready skills and promote digital transformation across small and medium enterprises.

## Lore Resorts Launches Near Statue of Equality

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Lore Resorts & Conventions was officially inaugurated on Monday near the Statue of Equality, Shamshabad, emerging as Hyderabad's newest destination for weddings, corporate events, and large-scale celebrations. The launch ceremony was conducted in the presence of His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Chinna Jeyar Swamiji, marking the beginning of a new entrant in the city's hospitality and events landscape.

The inauguration featured traditional rituals including the lighting of the lamp and a pooja ceremony, attended by distinguished guests, invitees, and well-wishers from across Hyderabad. The event formally opened the venue to the public, positioning it as a versatile space designed to cater to a wide range of event requirements. Spread across an expansive and thoughtfully planned landscape, Lore Resorts & Conventions offers infrastructure capable of hosting both intimate gatherings of



around 100 guests and large-scale events accommodating up to 5,000 attendees. The venue integrates indoor and outdoor spaces, providing flexibility for weddings, social functions, and corporate engagements. Strategically located near Hyderabad's international airport and key landmark destinations, the property ensures accessibility and convenience for both local and outstation guests.

The design combines modern architecture with curated landscapes, focusing on aesthetics, functionality, and seamless event execution. The project has been spearheaded by entrepreneur Lohitha Reddy, an alumna of NIT

Warangal and Stanford, with an MBA from Australia. With experience across construction, hospitality, and education sectors, she has envisioned the resort as a destination that goes beyond conventional venues. Speaking on the occasion, Lohitha Reddy emphasized that the concept behind Lore Resorts & Conventions is to create meaningful and memorable experiences, aligning with its brand philosophy, "Live Your Lore." With its scale, infrastructure, and guest-centric approach, the venue is set to establish itself as a prominent hub for celebrations and events in Hyderabad.

## Hiwaga Luxury Beauty Clinic Opens New Kompally Branch

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The luxury beauty brand "Hiwaga" expanded its presence with the grand opening of its new clinic in Kompally, marking its 8th branch across the country. The launch highlights the brand's growing footprint and commitment to providing advanced, affordable beauty and wellness services.

Founded three years ago with its first branch in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, "Hiwaga" has steadily



gained recognition as one of the country's leading luxury beauty clinics. The newly inaugurated Kompally branch is the

second outlet in Hyderabad, further strengthening its regional presence. Speaking on the occasion, CEO Haritha

Reddy Sathi expressed happiness over the expansion, stating that the journey from a single clinic to eight branches has brought both pride and increased responsibility. She emphasized that the clinic offers a comprehensive range of skin and hair treatments for both men and women, all conducted under the supervision of experienced dermatologists to ensure safety and quality results.

The clinic provides services including permanent makeup, bridal makeup,

and permanent hair removal, along with customized treatment packages tailored to individual needs. Haritha Reddy highlighted that every client undergoes prior health counseling, ensuring informed and effective treatment plans. Coming from a middle-class background, she stressed the brand's focus on affordability without compromising quality. She also revealed expansion plans in Tirupati, Bhimavaram, and Kakinada.

## Hania Aamir gets trolled brutally for opting 'bold outfit' on Eid

Pakistani actress Hania Aamir is once again making headlines, this time for her Eid-ul-Fitr look that has divided social media. The actress, who was recently seen in the drama Meri Zindagi Hai Tu, which concluded on March 22, is now trending for her festive outfit choice.

For Eid, Hania opted for a saree paired with a sleeveless blouse, keeping her overall look minimal with simple makeup and a traditional parandi hairstyle. While some fans appreciated her elegance, a section of social media users expressed disappointment, stating that the outfit did not align with typical Eid fashion.



ion.

Several users took to social media to share their opinions. While a few praised her beauty, others criticised her styling choices, suggesting

that the look lacked the traditional 'Eid vibe.'

"What kind of Eid look is this? Is this what we call having the best sense of fashion? Tauba, bhai.

Hania was cute, but recently I don't know what she's done to herself, I don't like this at all," one X user wrote.

Some comments pointed out that sarees are not commonly associated with Eid celebrations, while others felt her overall appearance could have been styled differently for the occasion.

Another commented, "She looks pretty as usual, but for Eid, she should have worn something else or draped her saree a little differently." One netizen commented, "saree isn't very appropriate for Eid in my opinion. And she could have at least done her hair well" Another wrote, "Indian fans k Liye in-

dian look krliya but this is not Eid look" "This is not giving the Eid vibe, you could of done better," a third one wrote

"Pathetic not according to eid," another commented.

Another social media user wrote, "Eid outfits should be traditional & somehow religious as it's a festival related to the religion."

Despite the mixed reactions, Hania continues to remain one of the most talked-about celebrities, often grabbing attention for both her on-screen performances and off-screen appearances. On the work front, the actress was last seen alongside Bilal Abbas Khan in Meri Zindagi Hai Tu.

## 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.

## Viral claim: Did SRK say he's 'dying to work' with Aditya Dhar?



MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar: The Revenge, also known as Dhurandhar 2, continues to dominate conversations globally, with audiences and celebrities praising its scale and storytelling. However, amid the film's growing buzz, a viral social media post allegedly shared by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has created con-

fusion online. A screenshot circulating on social media claims to show the superstar praising the film on his Instagram story. The post includes a lengthy note appreciating the performances, scale, and emotional depth of the film, while also mentioning that he hopes director Aditya Dhar offers him a project in the future.

The viral note reads: "JUST WATCHED DHURANDHAR 2...

And honestly, it stays with you. A film full of pride, power & Every moment hits straight to the heart—that's cinema. Brilliant performances, stunning scale & storytelling that makes you feel everything. @ranveersingh @rampal72 emotion Big love to the entire team. Hope Aditya Dhar offers me a film someday... Dying to work with him."

However, the post has now been confirmed to be fake. A cross-check

by Siasat.com revealed that Shah Rukh Khan has not shared any such story on his official Instagram account. The viral image appears to have been digitally created by a social media user.

Netizens were quick to spot inconsistencies, with many pointing out that the post was edited. Several users on X (formerly Twitter) flagged it as fake, with comments like "Fake and edited image" and

"SRK did not post this story" gaining traction. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Shah Rukh Khan is busy with his upcoming film King, directed by Siddharth Anand. The film boasts a star-studded cast including Abhishek Bachchan, Suhana Khan, Rani Mukerji, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Arshad Warsi, Raghav Juyal, and Jaideep Ahlawat.

## I Don't Like It: Axar Patel on the Impact Player Rule in IPL

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Indian all-rounder Axar Patel has joined the growing list of cricketers voicing concerns over the Impact Player rule in the Indian Premier League, stating bluntly that he does not like the regulation and believes it affects the development of all-rounders. Speaking ahead of his second season as captain of Delhi Capitals, Axar said the rule diminishes the importance of multi-skilled players. "I don't like this rule as I am an all-rounder myself," he said, adding that earlier teams relied on all-rounders to balance both batting and bowling responsibilities. However, with the Impact Player provision, franchises now prefer to pick specialists instead of versatile



players. The rule, introduced in 2023 and set to remain in place until at least 2027, allows teams to substitute any player in the playing XI with one of five designated substitutes at any stage of a match. While it has added a tactical dimension to the game, several players feel it has come at the cost of nurturing genuine all-rounders. Axar's views echo those of senior Indian cricketers like Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya. In 2024, Rohit had expressed his dissatisfaction

with the rule, saying it hampers the growth of all-rounders in Indian cricket. A season later, Hardik also raised concerns, noting that it has become increasingly difficult for teams to include all-rounders unless they are equally proficient with both bat and ball. Despite his reservations, Axar acknowledged that players must adapt to the regulations. "Rules are rules. We have to follow them. But personally, I don't like it," he reiterated. Addressing his reduced bowling workload in the pre-

vious IPL season, Axar clarified that it was due to a finger injury rather than the Impact Player rule. He revealed that the issue began after the Champions Trophy when his spinning finger suffered a cut, which worsened due to repeated contact with the ball's seam. This limited his ability to apply pressure and generate turn. "I was bowling only when required and nursing my finger. After seven games, it became better, and I bowled more frequently," he explained. As Axar gears up to lead Delhi Capitals in the upcoming season, his focus remains on guiding the franchise to its maiden IPL title, even as the debate around the Impact Player rule continues within the cricketing fraternity.

## India Is The Anchor Market of World Cricket: ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

India remains the "anchor market," but cricket is becoming "incontrovertibly" globalised, said ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta, as he applauded the "fearless" performance of associate countries during the recent T20 World Cup, describing their growth as a "signal of a maturing" global sport. India won the tournament, which featured 20 teams and was dotted with gutsy showings by lesser-fancied sides like tournament debutants Italy, USA, Nepal, and Zimbabwe.

India is indeed the anchor market of world cricket. Its enormous fan base, financial strength, and time-tested affinity for the sport provide a platform that benefits the entire ecosystem. What is in-



controvertibly evident at ICC events, however, is that the ship is sailing far beyond any single location, he wrote in a column for 'WPP Media Sporting Nation XIII Edition'. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 saw spirited performances from Associate Nations... Countries such as Nepal, Italy, and the USA captured global attention by playing fearless cricket. At the same time, traditional competitors like Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe demonstrated their too often-overlooked pedigree by storming into the Super 8s. Such

moments are more than just upsets on the field; they are signals of a maturing global game, he added.

During the tournament, Zimbabwe ousted former champions Australia, Nepal gave another former champion, England, a massive scare, and Italy also made an impression with some resolute performances, even in lost causes.

Gupta said that with India's triumph in the women's ODI World Cup last year, the game can expect to grow rapidly going forward as it has fully unlocked an

influential market. "...India's triumph at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, in the 50-over format and secured on home soil, carried with it enormous value. When a market of India's scale and influence embraces women's cricket with such passion, the ripple effects are felt far and wide," he observed. "For the ICC, this growth is not merely a parallel track to the men's game; it is central to the sport's future and part of a much bigger picture," he added. There has been widespread debate about the future of ODI cricket amid a T20 boom and the established following for Tests. Gupta reiterated that all three formats have their own unique charm.

## Telangana Joins Centre's Vahan Portal

Transport minister Ponnampallam Prabhakar on Monday announced the integration of the state transport department's data with the Centre's vehicle database through the VAHAN portal, enabling all vehicle-related services to be processed digitally. The minister also announced the removal of an additional two per cent tax on second vehicle purchases. The VAHAN national register, launched in 2011, integrates Regional Transport Office data, with the current VAHAN 4.0 platform offering services including ownership transfer, fitness certification and tax payments. Vehicle registration at showrooms will also be processed through the portal.

"Telangana is getting connected to the Vahan and Sarathi 10 years after the entire country was connected to it. Last year, we joined Sarathi, and today, we have integrated with Vahan. This will help interstate transfer, NOC's information or anything on the transport department," the minister said. The system was launched at a showroom in Begumpet. "From today onwards, the two per cent additional tax, which was levied on the second vehicle in Telangana, is being removed; now people can buy any number of vehicles without this additional tax," he said.

He said the government had undertaken reforms, including the removal of 15 check posts, a vehicle scrappage policy, and measures to ensure transparency in registrations. Hyderabad RTO official Purushotham Reddy said registrations carried out at showrooms since January under CFST will now be processed through the VAHAN portal. "The vehicle registrations at the showrooms which rolled out from January onwards, was under CFST, from today onwards the vehicle registration will be through 'Vahan portal' It enables online applications for registration renewal, fitness certificates, no objection certificates (NOC), and change of address. The platform eliminates the need for multiple visits to the RTO, allowing users to submit forms, pay fees, and upload documents from home."

## T'gana Congress to Boost Women Representation



TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Monday asserted that the Congress party gives the highest priority to women's empowerment, urging women leaders to work diligently and strengthen the party at all levels.

Addressing the Women's Congress Working Committee meeting, he said positions in the party are earned through hard work and dedication, not merely sought after. He emphasized that such roles should not be treated as decorative posts but as responsibilities that require active contribution to party growth.

Goud called upon women leaders to expand the Congress base among women and take the party's message to the grassroots. He expressed confidence that women will get increased representation in the upcoming legislative assemblies, adding that opportunities would be given not only as per reservations but also to capable leaders based on merit.

Highlighting governance, he said the Praja government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has launched several welfare schemes for women. He urged leaders to ensure these benefits reach deserving sections and use them to further strengthen the party.

## GHMC clears path for new flyover, excavation work underway near KBR Park

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Works related to earth excavation are progressing at a rapid clip along the two-kilometre stretch between the KBR Park main entrance and Jubilee Hills check post, as GHMC clears the way for a major new flyover. The flyover project, which extends towards the Basavarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, Banjara Hills, aims to significantly reduce commuter traffic coming from Jubilee Hill check-post.

While the KBR park footpath has been a popular route for daily walkers and underwent a facelift only a few years ago, municipal officials maintained that the current digging is essential for pillar construction. Soil testing along the route is already complete, and GHMC engineers expect the primary excavation phase to wrap up by the end of this week. The earth excavation



work is mainly to build pillars for the flyover, a GHMC official said, adding that the digging work will be completed this week. The official said soil testing on the route has already been completed.

Deep earth excavation work near Park Hyatt is also progressing at a brisk pace for infrastructure projects, including flyovers and an underpass, the official said.

In response to the heavy machinery and ongoing works, the Traffic Police have issued a formal advisory for the KBR Park area. Commuters are being urged to utilise alternative routes to avoid the inevitable bottlenecks

caused by the narrowing of the carriageway during this intensive construction phase.

Traffic diversion at Uppal was inevitable for the upcoming elevated corridor works between Uppal (Ramanthapur) and Narpally, police said.

Traffic police in Uppal prepared a blueprint for traffic diversion and alternative routes in view of the elevated corridor works.

Uppal Traffic Inspector Ashok said the traffic diversion may likely start in a week in the Uppal area. The plan for the diversion of traffic was in the final stage.

An elevated corridor project near Ramanthapur

was part of the GHMC's Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) aimed to reduce traffic congestion at Uppal junction, featuring a 440-metre flyover with a steep curve from Ramanthapur towards Uppal Stadium Road. Simultaneously, a major traffic shift is looming on the other side of the city as the Uppal elevated corridor project enters a critical stage.

Local police have finalised a blueprint for diversions between Ramanthapur and Narpally to facilitate the upcoming construction of the 440-metre flyover. According to Uppal Traffic Inspector Ashok, these diversions are likely to be implemented within a week. This project, a key component of the Strategic Road Development Plan, features a steep curve from Ramanthapur toward the Uppal Stadium Road and is specifically designed to bypass the chronic gridlock at the Uppal junction.

## GHMC cracks down on property tax defaulters, seals Khairatabad hotel

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Deputy commissioners of 30 circles under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation have started seizing property tax from defaulters.

In one such raid on Monday, March 23, officials sealed Katriya Hotel in Khairatabad for evading tax amounting to Rs 6.16 crore since 2017.

Other establishments were also checked. Aurora College in Narpally and Sarna Transport in Goshamahal have been pending a tax of Rs 1.28 crore and Rs 43.78 lakh, respectively, since 2016. Sony Center in Goshamahal has arrears of Rs

39.68 lakh since 2018, Shameem Sultana Cloth Mall in Banjara Hills has Rs 35.27 lakh pending since 2014 and Synfosys Business Solutions located in Nagarjuna Circle has dues of Rs 17.94 lakh since 2012.

Recently, Commissioner RV Karnan had urged property owners within the Greater Hyderabad limits to clear their pending property tax dues immediately through the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, and avail a 90 per cent rebate on the interest component. Online payments may be made through 'www.ghmc.gov.in (click here)' or MyCURE app. Mee Seva Centres or Citizen Service Centres.

## Hyderabad election officer seeks all-party cooperation for SIR

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad District Election Officer (DEO) RV Karnan on Monday, March 23, convened a meeting of political party representatives ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Karnan, who is also the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner, along with Additional Commissioner (Elections) K Chandrakala, asked parties to ensure appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLA) for all 4,062 polling stations in the city by March 30. He also sought their cooperation in organising training for BLAs and said field-level workers could be utilised to step-up voter awareness. On concerns raised over deletion of names from the rolls, Karnan

said entries of deceased voters and duplicate registrations would be removed strictly in accordance with procedure.

He said the revision exercise would be carried out transparently and in line with guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The DEO urged political parties to cooperate to ensure the smooth conduct of the revision process. Representatives of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Community Party of India (Marxist), Congress, Telugu Desam Party (TDP), All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) attended the meeting, officials said.

## BJP Telangana's Assembly Siege Bid Thwarted

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao was taken into custody on Tuesday along with several party leaders and cadres while attempting to lay siege to the State Assembly during a protest against the Congress government over alleged unfulfilled poll promises. The protest, titled "Assembly Siege,"



Telangana BJP leaders and workers, led by State President N. Ramchander Rao, were taken into police custody during the Assembly siege protest organized to demand that the state government immediately implement its electoral promises.

was organized by the BJP to highlight what it de-

scribed as growing public anger against the ruling

government. Police intervened and detained the protestors before they could proceed towards the Assembly.

In a statement, Rao said his arrest reflected the government's attempt to suppress dissent. "I was arrested for standing up against the betrayal, deception, and cheating inflicted on the people of Telangana through false promises," he said in a post on X.

## KTR blames Congress govt for farmer suicide

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Congress government of neglecting farmers, holding it responsible for the suicide of a farmer in Adilabad district who had allegedly been facing distress due to the delay in crop procurement.

Calling it a State murder, he vowed to raise the issue in the ongoing Assembly session.

Rama Rao recalled his visit to the Adilabad market yard on November 18, along with party leaders, after receiving complaints from farmers that their produce was not being purchased. He referred to the case of Tudum Ganapathi, a farmer from Arli (B) village, who reportedly waited for several days at the market yard for the procurement of his soybean crop.

Ganapathi expressed anguish before the media over mounting debts and lack of support, including



non-receipt of loan waiver and Rythu Bharsa assistance. He died by suicide three days ago.

In a separate statement, Rama Rao also criticised the Municipal Administration authorities over alleged lack of safety precautions during flyover works at Bachupally. He was reacting to a video circulated on social media, where welding work was being carried out on the flyover with sparks falling on commuters who were passing underneath. "Is there no one in the government who cares about the safety of our people? Highly reckless and irresponsible behaviour of the Municipal department," he remarked.

## Telangana Cabinet approves Gig and Platform Workers Bill

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Cabinet has approved the draft Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025, during a meeting held on Monday, March 23.

According to a NITI Aayog report, Telangana has around 3 lakh gig and platform workers engaged in sectors such as transport, delivery, home services and logistics.

The key features of the Bill include providing

legal recognition for gig workers by issuing them identity cards, which will make them eligible for state welfare schemes and protections.

The Bill intends to provide social security and welfare for the gig and platform workers by establishing a 20-member multi-stakeholder board chaired by Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy. The members of the board will include representatives from the government, platform companies, workers, civil society and technical ex-

perts. They will remain in the position for a term of three years.

Right to registration, access to welfare schemes, right to safe working conditions and transparency in payments, deductions, ratings and algorithms are being extended to the gig and platform workers through the Bill.

There is a mandatory registration requirement for the workers, who can self-register. Platforms would have to share the worker data with the government within 60 days. Aggregators would have to reg-

ister with the government within 45 days.

There will be a dedicated welfare fund and financing mechanism, which comprises a welfare fee on aggregator payments (as notified by the government), government grants, corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions, donations and individual contributions enshrined in the legislation. As per the Bill, the platforms must disclose how algorithms influence task allocation, incentives and ratings, along with any automated decision.

## Eerlapalli Shankar Assumes Charge as OBC Cell Chairman



MLA Eerlapalli Shankar assumed charge as Chairman of the OBC Cell at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, in the presence of TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers, Whips, and other senior Congress leaders.

## Mir Qurram Ali Meets Harish Rao on Eid



On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Advocate Mir Qurram Ali had the honour of meeting and receiving blessings from former minister and MLA T. Harish Rao.

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