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

Brief Insights

Centre Calls All-Party Meet on Crisis

The Union government has convened an all-party meeting on the West Asia crisis at 5 pm on Wednesday. The call for an all-party meeting by the government comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi briefed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday on India's response and preparation to mitigate the impact of the West Asia war. The Opposition, led by Lok Sabha Leader of the Op-

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Modi Announces 7 Groups To Handle Long-Term Crisis Impact

The Centre has constituted seven empowered groups to address the potential long-term impact of the West Asia conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister said the groups would frame strategies to manage issues such as fuel, fertilisers, gas supply, inflation and supply chains, amid evolving global conditions. He said the situation in West Asia remains fluid and its effects could persist, requiring preparedness at all levels. Drawing a parallel with the COVID-19 response, he said expert groups would

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Iran Names Mohammad Zolghadr Security Chief

TEHRAN
Wakeup telangana

Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr has been appointed as the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Tuesday after Ali Larjani was killed in a strike last week.

Zolghadr was a former Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander. He had been serving as the secretary of Iran's Expediency Council.

The killing of the late Khamenei's main adviser, Ali Larjani, was a real blow to the ruling au-



thorities given his extensive experience, his ability to operate between Iran's different power centres and his skills negotiating with the outside world.

Hopes rose that the Iran war could begin winding down as US President Donald Trump said that his government was holding productive talks with Tehran, but fighting

showed no signs of slowing, and Iran denied there were talks.

Trump extended his deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, saying the US will hold off striking Iranian power plants for five more days to allow US envoys to hold talks with a "respected" Iranian leader. Iranian officials said that Trump had backed down "following Iran's firm warning".

The spokesman of Iran's top military command says that its armed forces will fight "until complete victory".

Pakistan Offers To Host US-Iran Talks

Pakistan has indicated its willingness to host potential talks between the United States and Iran amid reports that discussions could be held in Islamabad.

Reports suggested that Pakistan is positioning itself as a facilitator, with claims that Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir has been in contact with US President Donald Trump. There were also indications that senior US officials, including Vice President J.D. Vance, could travel to Islamabad if the talks materialise. Responding to the reports, White House press secre-

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SC Grants Pensionary Benefits to Women Officers Denied Permanent Commission

The judgment came on a batch of petitions, including those filed by Wing Commander Sucheta Egan and others, challenging the denial of Permanent Commission (PC) based on policy changes in 2019 and previous Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Flagging the denial of permanent commission (PC) to women officers in the armed forces as a consequence of a systemic framework rooted in entrenched assumptions, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force, who were denied PC due to "systematic disparity", are entitled to full pensionary benefits. The

top court delivered three separate judgments addressing challenges to the denial of PC based on the 2019 policy changes and earlier Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) rulings concerning the Army, Navy and Air Force.

In the Navy case, arising from a plea by Yogendra Kumar Singh, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh granted permanent commission to several groups of SSC officers, primarily

The court rejected the Army's argument of a fixed cap of 250 PC vacancies per year, stating that the limit was neither sacrosanct nor immutable and had been exceeded in exceptional situations such as the Kargil war.

women, as a one-time measure. The court dispensed with the requirement of a fresh selection board, noting that the officers had already undergone prolonged litigation spanning over 15 years. The dispute centred on the Navy's evaluation process. Around 25 officers

argued that their annual confidential reports (ACRs) were "casually graded" during a period when they were considered ineligible for PC. The court observed that assessments made under the assumption that officers had no long-term future in service inevitably affected appraisal outcomes from the outset, creating a cycle where earlier ineligibility translated into perceived unsuitability for career progression. As a one-time measure,

the court directed the grant of PC to in-service SSC women officers inducted before January 2009, as well as those inducted after January 2009 in eligible branches, excluding law, education and naval architecture. In the Army case, based on a plea by Lt Col Pooja Pal, the court ordered grant of PC to several batches of women officers and directed the government to extend pensionary benefits to those released during the course of litigation. It held that the

Army's evaluation process was "marred by inequality of opportunity" and rooted in systemic discrimination. The judgment examined cases of around 73 SSC officers, mostly women, commissioned between 2010 and 2012. It found that for nearly a decade, these officers were treated as ineligible for PC, leading to ACRs being recorded on the assumption of a limited 14-year tenure. This resulted in "casual" or average grad-

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Formula E case is just diversionary tactic, a political vendetta, Says KTR: P8

BRSV leaders arrested during protest near Assembly over education allocations: P2

BRS Cooked Up Budget By 22% Each Year, Says Bhatti: P2



Reopen Hormuz, Restore Peace, Modi Tells Trump

The call comes after Trump announced a five-day pause on military strikes against Iran

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday evening discussed the ongoing conflict in West Asia. During the conversation, Modi stressed the need for de-escalation, the restoration of peace in the region and keeping the Strait of Hormuz open. The outreach by the US to India is significant amid reports of backchannel diplomacy and peace efforts between the US and Iran through certain intermediaries such as Egypt, Pakistan and Turkey.

The Prime Minister dubbed his conversation with the US President "a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia". After the conversation, Modi, in a post on X, wrote, "India supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest. Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We agreed



to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability."

US ambassador to India Sergio Gor, who first announced in the evening on X that the conversation between Modi and Trump had taken place. He

posted: "President Donald Trump just spoke with Prime Minister Modi (and that) they discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open." The conversation between the Prime Minister and the US President took place just hours after two more Indian LPG tankers containing a total of about 92,000 metric tonnes of

LPG safely passed through the Straits of Hormuz and are expected to dock at different Indian ports over the next two to three days. India has been in touch with Iran for safe passage of Indian vessels amid the West Asian conflict.

Late on Monday night, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar spoke to US secretary of state Marco Rubio on "energy security concerns", marking the first high-level contact between the two nations since the conflict in West Asia broke out on February 28. "Had a detailed telecon this evening with US@SecRubio. Our discussions focused on the

West Asia conflict and its impact on the international economy. We particularly spoke about energy security concerns. Agreed to remain in touch," the foreign minister said.

Earlier in the day, Modi, in a statement in the Rajya Sabha, said the government has constituted seven empowered groups to evolve strategies on fuel, supply chains, and fertilisers, among others, to tackle the impact of the West Asia crisis. The Prime Minister said the war has created a serious energy crisis globally and also warned miscreants against taking advantage of the crisis while asking state governments to check black marketing and hoarding. He also asserted that the government is trying to procure gas and crude oil from all available sources, and efforts will continue in the coming days, while noting that necessary preparations have been made for the adequate supply of fertilisers.

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Revanth Reddy opposes increasing MPs, calls it wasteful government move

Delimitation To Make South Powerless: Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed serious concern over the Central government's reported proposal to announce the delimitation of constituencies to increase seats in all state Assemblies and the Lok Sabha by 50 per cent, and said such a move could politically disadvantage southern states. Terming the proposal as "anti-South India", Revanth Reddy warned that it could allow non-southern states — northern states — to largely determine who comes to power at the Centre, leaving southern states with a diminished role.

Speaking at an event in Delhi on Tuesday, Revanth Reddy alleged that a uniform 50 per cent increase in seats across all states appears to be a "conspiracy" by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to secure power at the Centre without depending on southern states. He said the proposal would further deepen the 'north-south divide', pointing out that northern states such



as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, which already have a higher number of parliamentary seats, would gain disproportionately more seats compared to southern states.

Revanth Reddy noted that at present, out of the total 543 Lok Sabha seats, southern states account for only 130 seats, while non-southern states hold 413. With a 50 per cent increase, he said, southern states would have 195 seats out of a total of 815, while non-southern states would command 620 seats. "In this scenario, who will give value to the southern states? With a 50 per cent seat hike, southern states will become politically irrelevant," he remarked, adding that the proposal would act as a "final bullet" to be fired at the south instead of being

slapped 10 times. He illustrated the disparity by citing that seats in Uttar Pradesh would rise from 80 to 120, while the combined seats of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry would increase only from 40 to 60. The current gap of 40 seats between them would widen to 60 seats after the proposed hike, he said. The Chief Minister suggested that if the Centre proceeds with increasing Lok Sabha seats, it should evolve a formula to maintain the existing balance between northern and southern states.

He also called for southern states to unite against what he described as "political discrimination," stating that he was ready to join hands with like-minded leaders. Revanth Reddy said that even if delimitation was done based on population, even then southern states will be at a loss, as they effectively controlled the population following the directions of the Centre, and now they will be punished for successful implementation of family planning measures.

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Hyderabad Fuel Rush Amid Rumors



Motorists were seen waiting in long queues at several fuel stations in Hyderabad, particularly in the Old City, on Tuesday.—Photo: Mir Zulfequar Ali

Govt Pushes Transgender Bill, Opp Demands Review

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday evening passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, by voice vote, despite opposition from several parties, including the Congress, NCP (SP), Samajwadi Party, RJD, Trinamul Congress, DMK and Shiv Sena (UBT). Amendments moved by opposition members were also rejected by voice vote.

The government said the objective of the Bill is to provide protection and benefits to transgender persons. However, the Opposition alleged that

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ESTD-1960
ASTORIA HOTEL
Hyderabad Laziz Biryani
ek baar khaoge baar baar aage
5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD
CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

BRSV leaders arrested during protest near Assembly over education allocations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Activists of the BRSV, the student wing of the BRS, attempted to besiege the Telangana Assembly on Tuesday, protesting alleged neglect of the education sector by the Congress government and demanding release of pending fee reimbursement dues. Police detained several BRSV leaders, including State president Gellu Srinivas Yadav and vice-president Thunga Balu, and shifted them to Punjagutta and Nampally police stations.

In a flash demonstration, BRSV activists appeared near the Assembly gates carrying placards and raising slogans against the gov-



ernment. Some climbed barricades, leading to a brief scuffle with police before being taken into custody. Several student leaders were also arrested during the protest. Addressing media before his detention, Srinivas Yadav criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for failing to prioritize education despite repeated

assurances. He said the Telangana State Education Commission had recommended allocating 18% of the state budget to education, but the government limited it to just 8%. Srinivas Yadav also highlighted the pending release of nearly 80% of last year's fee reimbursement funds, amounting



to over ₹8,000 crore, while the current budget allocates only about ₹4,000 crore. He alleged

that a majority of the education budget is being spent on salaries, leaving insufficient funds for student welfare schemes.

The BRSV demanded immediate clearance of fee reimbursement arrears, implementation of the job calendar, and restoration of student welfare programs, warning that protests would escalate if the government failed to address their demands.

BRS Cooked Up Budget By 22% Each Year: Bhatti

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday accused the previous BRS regime of inflating Budgets by 22 per cent annually over the past decade, leading to poor implementation of welfare schemes. In contrast, he said, the Congress government had presented a realistic budget with only a six per cent increase, aiming to balance revenue and expenditure within two years. Replying to the Budget discussion in the Assembly, Bhatti Vikramarka said debt servicing had risen from ₹7 crore in 2014-15 to ₹66,545 crore in 2024-25 due to BRS mismanagement. He noted that while the Congress government borrowed ₹1,59,165 crore over two years, it repaid



₹1,85,090 crore, clearing debts left behind. He alleged that BRS members staged a walkout to avoid exposure of their financial record. Bhatti further accused the previous regime of leaving thousands of crores in unpaid bills, including ₹4,600 crore in employee dues. The Congress government, he said, was clearing ₹700-730 crore monthly, with medical reimbursements and supplementary salaries fully settled.

On welfare, Bhatti Vikramarka said five of the six Congress guarantees had already been implemented, including Rajiv Aarogyasri, Rythu Bharosa, loan waiver, Indi-

rama housing and 200 units of free power. "Atmiya Bharosa" would be rolled out this year, he added. He criticised the BRS for neglecting education, noting that the Congress government had raised diet charges by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent, with funds released quarterly. Housing allocations of ₹22,500 crore under BRS had seen only ₹5,500 crore utilised, he said. On agriculture, Bhatti Vikramarka accused BRS of turning Rythu Bandhu into an election tool and failing to waive ₹1 lakh farm loans. In contrast, Congress waived ₹2 lakh loans in one go, depositing ₹20,600 crore directly into farmers' accounts. He concluded that the present government was committed to inclusive growth and welfare, unlike the BRS regime.

United Front Against TB: Mayor Leads Drive

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A World Tuberculosis Day awareness program organized by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Nizamabad brought together healthcare professionals, community members, and local leaders to emphasize the fight against TB. Mayor K. Uma Rani attended as the Chief Guest, stressing that eliminating tuberculosis requires sustained awareness and collective ac-



tion. She highlighted the global theme, "Yes! We Can End TB: Led by Countries, Powered by People," urging government authorities, doctors, and citizens to work to-

gether to eradicate the disease. Prominent IMA representatives, including Dr. Vishal Akula, Dr. D. Harish Swamy, Dr. K. Ramaneshwar, and Dr. K.

Srisailam, spoke on the critical importance of early detection, regular screening, and adherence to proper treatment protocols. The event, held at Sri Vishnu Super Speciality Hospital, concluded with a strong call for community involvement, personal responsibility, and continuous awareness campaigns, aiming to build a TB-free society in Nizamabad and inspire collective action nationwide.

BRS Veteran Gajjela Nagesh Detained, Sparks Political Outcry

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior BRS leader and former Chairman Gajjela Nagesh was reportedly detained by police at his residence earlier today, triggering widespread political backlash. The arrest comes ahead of a planned demonstration at the State Assembly, which authorities say prompted preemptive action to maintain law and order. According to sources, law enforcement arrived at Mr. Nagesh's private residence and



took him into custody, a move his supporters describe as "unlawful" and politically motivated. BRS officials argue the detention reflects a broader pattern of suppressing dissent, accusing the current

administration of using police powers to stifle opposition voices. "The arrest of a veteran leader like Gajjela Nagesh is an attack on the democratic fabric of our state. We demand his immediate release," said a BRS

spokesperson. The party's legal team is reportedly preparing a formal challenge to the detention, while supporters plan intensified protests. Opposition leaders insist that targeting senior figures at home is an attempt to derail the movement before it reaches the streets, asserting that democratic dissent cannot be silenced through arrests. This incident has sharply polarized the political environment in Telangana.

Garbage, Parking Chaos Hits Nature Cure Station Area

Garbage and Parking Woes Escalate Near Nature Cure MMTS Station, Yellamma Temple



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents and commuters near Nature Cure MMTS Railway Station and Yellamma Temple are grappling with severe difficulties due to improper garbage disposal and uncontrolled parking, raising public concern. Traffic congestion has become a daily problem, especially during events at nearby function halls. Vehicles are often parked haphazardly, blocking

roads and making it difficult for emergency services to pass. "Even walking on the road has become difficult. The garbage issue is making the situation worse," said a local resident. Sanitation in the area has deteriorated sharply. Large amounts of leftover food, plastic waste, and decorative materials are dumped along roadsides and open spaces. Stray animals scatter the waste further, creating foul odors and unhygienic con-

ditions. Commuters say evenings are particularly unbearable due to congestion and stench. Health risks are also increasing, as stagnant waste breeds mosquitoes, raising the threat of infectious diseases. Vendors and passersby litter indiscriminately, worsening the problem. Locals are urging the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and traffic police to act swiftly. They demand fines on illegal dumpers, strict regulations for function halls, designated parking areas, deployment of traffic personnel, CCTV installation, and continuous monitoring. Residents emphasize urgent action to improve public safety, sanitation, and traffic flow before the situation deteriorates further.

PACS General Body Meeting Scheduled in Aleru

The Aleru Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) will convene its general body meeting on Wednesday, March 25, at 12 noon at its office in Aleru, according to secretary P. Ramesh. The meeting is expected to deliberate on key issues concerning the farming community, including loan recovery, credit planning for the upcoming kharif season, and scrutiny of new applications under the Rabi support scheme. Officials have made it clear that attendance of members is mandatory, as crucial decisions regarding input supply and subsidy distribution will be finalized only if the required quorum is achieved. Farmer representatives are likely to raise concerns over delays in seed distribution and seek clarity on interest waivers. The meeting assumes significance in the backdrop of increasing demands from farmers for greater transparency and efficiency in the functioning of rural cooperative credit institutions.

Amberpet MLA Orders Bathukamma Kunta Cleanup

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

MLA Kaleru Venkatesh visited Bathukamma Kunta in Bagh Amberpet Division today to inspect the deteriorating conditions. He observed that stagnant, polluted water in the pond is causing mosquito breeding, creating health hazards, and inconveniencing residents and visitors in nearby colonies. The MLA instructed officials to immediately remove the dirty water and



refill the Kunta with clean water. He also directed improvements in surrounding cleanliness, the development of new roads, and installation of necessary infrastructure to make the area more accessible and hygienic.

Residents welcomed the initiative, noting that timely action would help prevent mosquito-borne diseases and improve the overall environment for morning and evening visitors.

DC spearheads Multi-Departmental "Convergence" Drive to Clear Urban Clog

In a decisive move to streamline urban management and resolve mounting civic grievances, the Zonal Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Miyapur Circle 48 chaired a high-level convergence meeting on Tuesday. The session focused on the immediate disposal of debris, green waste, and abandoned vehicles that have been stalling the circle's infrastructure progress. Following the recent Prajavani programme held on March 23, which saw a surge in town-planning and engineering complaints, the administration has shifted into "action mode" to ensure the Commissioner's recent Video Conference (VC) directives are met with 100% compliance.

Miyapur Circle 48 Clean-Up Drive Gains Momentum

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Miyapur Circle 48 is witnessing a focused cleanup operation as authorities move to remove extensive debris, green waste, and abandoned vehicles that have been obstructing public roads and pathways. In a convergence meeting with HMWS&SB, TGSPDCL, UBD, and Traffic Police, officials identified 416 locations clogged with construction debris, poles, pipes, and manholes. Of these, 155 spots fall under



the responsibility of HMWS&SB and the Engineering wing, while 120 unclaimed sites require immediate action from GHMC, and 76 households have been flagged for illegally storing construction material in public spaces.

The Electrical department is tasked with clearing 17 green waste locations, usually caused by tree pruning near power lines, and 40 abandoned vehicles are slated for towing to ease traffic congestion and improve road safety.

The Deputy Commissioner of Miyapur stressed strict accountability, inter-department coordination, and regular field inspections to ensure cleared areas do not become dumping grounds again. Departments have been instructed to comply with timelines set during the Commissioner's VC, leaving no room for delays. The DC emphasized that the ultimate goal is a clutter-free, safe, and accessible Miyapur, ensuring smooth traffic flow and safe pathways for residents.

KTR condemns arrest of BRSV leaders, demands immediate release

BRS working president KT Rama Rao strongly condemned the arrest of BRSV leaders during their protest near the Assembly, calling the police action atrocious. He said the government was suppressing dissenting voices akin to the Emergency era. He said the students were only demanding the release of pending scholarships, fee reimbursement arrears and fulfillment of the promise to fill two lakh government jobs. "Instead of clearing dues, the government chose to suppress dissent," he remarked. Rama Rao demanded the immediate release of the arrested leaders and urged the government to honour its commitments to students and unemployed youth. He accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of neglecting the education sector and failing to implement the job calendar promised during the elections. He alleged that the government was knowingly ignoring serious issues in residential schools, including the deaths of around 127 students, and creating uncertainty among students and their parents.

BRS alleges misuse of TDR under Congress rule, vows to expose scam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's family members and his associates were buying Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) indiscriminately and setting the stage for a huge scam. "After our government returns to power, we will conduct a probe into this TDR scam. We will expose the role of Revanth Reddy's family members and relatives. They are buying TDRs from displaced persons for a pittance and selling them at exorbitant prices," Rama Rao said. He said every detail, including seller, the buyer and the transactions would be tracked in the TDR process. Everyone involved in the scam would face consequences, he stressed. The BRS working president reminded that during last year's budget session, he had mentioned that they were purchasing TDRs and would later bring in regulations making utilisation of TDRs mandatory. "As predicted, the Congress gov-



ernment has now introduced new real estate regulations, directing real estate companies to purchase TDRs," Rama Rao pointed out. He charged that under Revanth Reddy's rule, TDR had turned into "Tirupati Reddy Development Rights". "Revanth Reddy has turned this TDR into an ATM for his family. We will soon hold a press conference to fully expose this TDR scam," Rama Rao stated. **Government lacks planning on Musi project** The BRS working president strongly criticised the Congress government for its approach towards the Musi river development

project. There was complete lack of planning, financial clarity, and public engagement, he charged. "The State government is relying on expected funding from the Asian Development Bank, which has not materialised so far. Even the Detailed Project Report is not ready," Rama Rao said. Stating that the BRS had already presented its vision for the Musi project during a public presentation held at Gandipet, he said if required, the party was prepared to present the same to the Ministers. The BRS working president emphasised that discussions on such a critical project must not be confined to closed-door meetings in five-star hotels or within the Secretariat among a handful of officials. He asserted that the project should proceed only after building public consensus. Apart from senior officials, several prominent people, including social activist Medha Patkar and academician Prof Ghanta Chakrapani, had called for the Musi project to be implemented in accordance with the people's will, he stated.

Silencing Opposition Betrays Democracy: Dasoju Sravan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



BRS MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan has expressed strong concern over what he described as the deliberate suppression of debate in the Telangana Legislature, warning that silencing opposition voices is a betrayal of democratic principles. Speaking to the media, Dr. Sravan emphasized that democracy thrives on the free exchange of ideas and robust discussions. "Preventing opposition members from speaking is not just a political tactic; it is a direct assault on the spirit of the Constitution," he said. He warned that such actions erode public trust and undermine the very foundation of democratic governance. Dr. Sravan reminded lawmakers that legislative bodies are meant to serve the people, provid-

ing a platform to discuss public issues, deliberate on citizens' problems, and find solutions in the interest of society. "The legislature is not the private property of the ruling party," he stressed, "nor should it be run in an authoritarian manner." The MLC called for respect for differing opinions and open discussions in the House, saying that democracy cannot survive where dissent is stifled. He argued that encouraging debate strengthens governance, ensures accountability, and upholds the trust of the electorate.

"True democratic spirit is reflected when every voice, especially those of the opposition, is allowed to be heard," Dr. Sravan stated. He cautioned that continued suppression could weaken democratic institutions and damage the credibility of the government. Dr. Sravan concluded by urging the Telangana government to create an environment where legislators can engage in meaningful discussion, reinforcing constitutional values and ensuring that the Assembly and Council remain forums for transparent and inclusive governance. In his view, the health of democracy depends on tolerance of dissent and free expression, making it imperative that the voices of opposition members are never silenced in the name of political convenience.

Obstruction to Mahila Samakhya Building Work Sparks Protest in Mator Village

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A prestigious government initiative aimed at strengthening women's institutions at the grassroots level has encountered resistance in Mator village of Motakondur Mandal, triggering concern among local residents and women's groups. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Gram Panchayat of Mator village conducted the Bhoomi Pooja for the construction of a Gram Mahila Samakhya Building at a designated public site. The project, sanctioned by the Telangana State Government under MGNREGS grants with an estimated cost of ₹10 lakh, is part of a state-wide effort to provide permanent infrastructure for women's organisations. Several such buildings are being grounded across the state on a priority basis. Village-level Mahila Samakhya organisations in Mator are notably strong and well-organised, with women's groups maintaining sound financial practices. However, like many villages across Telangana, Mator lacks a permanent space to conduct Village Organisation (VO) meetings, making the proposed building a crucial asset for



community development and women's empowerment. According to Gram Panchayat authorities, the construction work faced sudden obstruction from a private individual, who allegedly objected to the execution of the government-sanctioned project at the identified site. The individual is reported to have refilled the excavated footing pits and behaved in an abusive manner towards village elders. In response, an emergency meeting was convened on Tuesday, March 24, at the Gram Panchayat premises. The meeting was led by Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and attended by Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu, ward members, the Panchayat Secretary, village elders, youth representatives, and Mahila Samakhya leaders, with large participation from the com-

munity. After detailed deliberations, the Gram Panchayat unanimously passed a resolution affirming that the disputed land falls under "Grama Khantam" and has been officially identified for public use by the Panchayat. Following the resolution, a formal complaint has been drafted to the Station House Officer of Motakondur Police Station, seeking immediate action against the individual responsible for the obstruction and requesting police protection to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted execution of the government-sanctioned work. The incident has raised widespread concern among villagers, particularly women's groups, who view the construction of the Mahila Samakhya Building as a vital step toward strengthening grassroots institutions.

Hyderabad Orthodontist Wins Coveted Dental Award

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr. Snigdha Gowd, Chairperson and CEO of Dr. Gowd's Dental Hospitals, has been honoured with the prestigious Aligner Specialist of the Year award at the Famdent Excellence Awards in Mumbai, widely regarded as the "Dental Oscars" of India. She is the only orthodontist from Telangana to receive this recognition, marking a milestone for the state's dental fraternity. An Indian School of Business (ISB) alumna and a recognized leader in the 10,000 Women Entrepreneurs initiative, Dr. Gowd blends clinical expertise with



strong business acumen. With over 25 years of experience, she specialises in advanced orthodontics, particularly hybrid orthodontic mechanics that combine

aligners and fixed techniques to deliver customised treatment outcomes. She is acclaimed for managing complex cases with aligner therapy, setting new standards in modern smile design. Dr. Gowd has also been a three-time Platinum Provider of Invisalign (2023, 2024, 2025), the only female orthodontist in India to achieve this distinction, reflecting her clinical excellence and patient trust. Speaking about the award, she said, "This recognition is a reflection of the trust our patients place in us and the dedication of our entire team. Orthodontics is not just about aligning teeth; it's about transforming lives with precision and care."

About Dr. Gowd's Dental Hospitals: With multiple centres, the hospital chain integrates cutting-edge technology with personalised patient care, continuing to set benchmarks in advanced dentistry. About Famdent Excellence Awards: Famdent recognises innovation, excellence, and leadership in dentistry, celebrating professionals who are shaping the future of oral healthcare in India. This award not only celebrates Dr. Snigdha Gowd's individual accomplishments but also highlights Telangana's growing prominence in the national dental landscape, inspiring the next generation of dental professionals.

Mator Village Pays Tribute to Late Tummala Prasanna Reddy; Tenth-Day Ceremony on March 25

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The family of the late Tummala Prasanna Reddy announced the observance of her tenth-day memorial ceremony on March 25, 2026, at their residence in Mator village, inviting relatives, friends, and villagers to join in paying their respects. Smt. Tummala Prasanna Reddy, who passed away on March 15, 2026, is remembered as a woman of simplicity, compassion, and strong moral values. Though she led a modest rural life, her thoughts and actions reflected remarkable wisdom and dignity. She was widely regarded as a guiding force



within her family and a source of inspiration for the local community. Known for her deep commitment to family values, social responsibility, and selfless love, her presence left a lasting impression on all who knew her. Her passing has created a profound void in the family, with members recalling her as a pillar of strength

and guidance. As part of the tenth-day rituals, a community meal (Sahapankti Bhojanam) will be organized on Wednesday afternoon. The family has extended an open invitation to well-wishers to attend the ceremony, offer floral tributes, and stand in solidarity during this time of remembrance. Family members emphasized that the gathering is not only a ritual observance but also an opportunity to reflect on her life, values, and the legacy she leaves behind. The event is being organized by Mr. Tummala Keerthi vardhan Reddy (SON) on behalf of the family.

Grand Victory in Telangana Bar Council Elections: Gokul Rama Rao Wins Amid Enthusiastic Celebrations



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Bar Council elections, conducted on January 30, reached an exciting conclusion today with the completion of vote counting, bringing an end to a highly engaging and closely followed electoral process. BJP Legal Cell State Convenor Gokul Rama Rao emerged victorious, marking a significant milestone in the election. The High Court premises witnessed jubilant scenes as advocates gathered in large numbers to celebrate his

success. The atmosphere was filled with cheer and pride, with lawyers honoring him with flowers and extending heartfelt congratulations. Speaking on the occasion, Gokul Rama Rao expressed sincere gratitude to all advocates who trusted him and supported his candidacy. He emphasized his commitment to serving the legal community, assuring that he would work tirelessly to address legal needs and contribute actively to the welfare of advocates, including strengthening the Advocates' Welfare Fund.

Yeddla Prabhakar: Two Decades Leading Kukatpally's Progress

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With over 20 years in public service, Yeddla Prabhakar has emerged as a senior leader in the BRS Party, blending technical expertise with community dedication. Known for his hands-on approach, Prabhakar continues to prioritize the needs of Kukatpally residents while advancing state-wide development initiatives. Prabhakar began his career as a Congress Party Division President, serv-



ing a decade marked by accessibility, responsiveness, and results-driven leadership. Recognizing opportunities to drive broader impact, he transitioned to the BRS Party, where he now plays a pivotal role in shaping

policies for his constituency. Born on February 28, 1975, to Yeddla Ramulu, Prabhakar holds an ITI Electronics qualification, which informs his practical, problem-solving style. Representing the SC (Mala) community, he has consistently championed marginalized voices, ensuring their concerns are addressed at every level of governance. A committed family man, he and his wife Yeddla Harika emphasize education and excellence

for their children. Daughter Keerthana studies Business Management in Canada, while son Sakethkumar recently completed his Intermediate second year. As Kukatpally's senior BRS leader, Prabhakar's mission is clear: strengthen the party's vision, drive development, and ensure prosperity reaches every citizen in his constituency. His career reflects a balance of grassroots engagement, strategic leadership, and a legacy that inspires the next generation.

Former Cantonment VC Prays at New Bowenpally Sri Rama Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 68th Sri Seetharama Vasanthi Navaratri celebrations began with grandeur at the historic Sri Rama Temple in Kamsari Bazaar, New Bowenpally. On Monday night, former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap, along with his family, offered special prayers to mark the auspicious occasion. Speaking to the media, Pratap emphasized the spiritual significance of the nine-day festival, not-



ing that daily worship programs and discourses will continue from Ugadi until Sri Rama Navami. The festivities feature several key events: nightly archanas and pujas, the celestial wedding (Kalyanam) of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita on Friday, a massive An-

nadanam (free food distribution) following the Kalyanam, a grand Shobha Yatra procession on Saturday, and the sacred Sri Rama Pattabhishekam (coronation) ceremony on Sunday night, concluding the celebrations. The event also drew participation from prominent

community leaders and temple officials, including Jampana Vidyavati, Arun Kumar Goud (Temple Committee President), P. Nagaraju (Secretary), Santosh Sharma (Vice-President), and Devatha Madhu (Treasurer). The temple committee has invited all devotees from the Cantonment and surrounding areas to join in the daily rituals and seek blessings during these nine holy nights, ensuring a spiritually enriching Navaratri for the entire community.

Centre Calls All-Party Meet on Crisis

According to sources, defence minister Rajnath Singh will chair the all-party meeting. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar is also expected to be present.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union government has called an all-party meeting at 5 pm on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing West Asia crisis, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's briefing to the Rajya Sabha on India's preparedness and response measures. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to chair the meeting, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also in attendance.

The announcement comes amid sharp criticism from the Opposition. Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi attacked the government's handling of foreign policy, calling it a "universal joke" and alleging that Modi has made India's



foreign policy his personal agenda. Criticising the Prime Minister's reference to the Covid-19 pandemic in his recent parliamentary statement on West Asia, he said, "US President Donald Trump knows exactly what Modi can do and what Modi cannot do. If the PM is compromised, our foreign policy is compromised." He added that India's

foreign policy now follows directives from the US and Israel rather than serving national interests. Rahul Gandhi also stated he would be unable to attend the all-party meeting due to prior commitments in Kerala.

In his Rajya Sabha statement on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi detailed steps taken by the government to mitigate the cri-

sis, including the constitution of seven empowered groups tasked with strategising on fuel, supply chains, fertilisers, and other key sectors. He highlighted the global energy crisis created by the Iran-Israel-US conflict and assured that efforts are underway to procure gas and crude oil from all available sources. Modi emphasised that the government's meas-

ures aim to ensure that ordinary families face minimal disruption. He stressed the importance of a unanimous parliamentary voice on the issue to reinforce India's commitment to peace, dialogue, and diplomacy. Noting the significance of West Asia to India, he pointed out that nearly a crore of Indians live and work in the Gulf countries and many Indian crew members operate commercial ships in the region.

"The varied interests of India in West Asia necessitate a strong and united message from Parliament," the Prime Minister said, underlining the need for de-escalation and cessation of hostilities while safeguarding the country's strategic and humanitarian concerns.

NASA to Pause Orbital Lunar Station Project

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

NASA's chief on Tuesday said the US space agency "intends to pause" its Gateway project that would have created a space station in orbit around the Moon, instead shifting focus towards "building a lunar base." "The agency intends to pause Gateway in its current form and shift focus to infrastructure that enables sustained surface operations," Jared Isaacman said in a statement. "Despite challenges with some existing hardware, the agency will repurpose applicable equipment and leverage international partner commitments to support these objectives," he said. The European Space Agency among



other international organizations were partners on the planned Gateway project. Tuesday's announcement comes in the wake of NASA's shake-up of the Artemis program, which aims to send Americans back to the Moon and establish a long-term presence there, paving the way for eventual missions to Mars. The suspension of the Gateway orbital lunar project isn't entirely surprising: it had fallen under some criticism as wasteful or a distraction from other lunar ambitions. Isaacman, who took the helm of NASA late last year,

abruptly announced less than a month ago that it was shaking up its Artemis program that has suffered multiple delays in recent years, as it aims to ensure Americans can return to the Moon's surface by 2028. That goal remains unchanged, but the US space agency is shifting its flight lineup to include a test mission before an eventual lunar landing to improve launch "muscle memory," Isaacman said. That strategic revision comes amid repeated delays to the Artemis 2 mission, which was originally due to take off as early as February, but is now targeting early April. It is meant to see the first flyby of the Moon in more than half a century.

Modi Announces 7 Groups To Handle Long-Term Crisis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Centre has constituted seven empowered groups to address the potential long-term impact of the West Asia conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister said the groups would frame strategies to manage issues such as fuel, fertilisers, gas supply, inflation and supply chains, amid evolving global conditions. He



said the situation in West Asia remains fluid and its effects could persist, requiring preparedness at all levels. Drawing a parallel with the COVID-19 response, he said expert groups would guide both immediate and long-term measures. Mr Modi reiterated that dialogue and diplo-

macy remain India's position for resolving the conflict and said the government was in touch with all parties, including Iran, Israel and the United States, to emphasise de-escalation. He said the government was taking steps to ensure availability of essential commodities, including crude oil, gas and fertilisers, and warned against black marketing and hoarding. He called on states to act against such practices and maintain supply of es-

entials. The Prime Minister said an inter-ministerial group was already monitoring import-export challenges, and stressed that a coordinated "Team India" approach between the Centre and states would be essential to manage the situation. He also said ensuring the safety and livelihood of Indians in Gulf countries remained a priority and noted that several citizens had been brought back from the region.

Govt Pushes Transgender Bill, Opp Demands Review

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday evening passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, by voice vote, despite opposition from several parties, including the Congress, NCP (SP), Samajwadi Party, RJD, Trinamul Congress, DMK and Shiv Sena (UBT). Amendments moved by opposition members were also rejected by voice vote. The government said the objective of the Bill is to

provide protection and benefits to transgender persons. However, the Opposition alleged that the legislation undermines the right to self-determination of identity and demanded that it be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for wider consultations. Moving the Bill, Union minister for social justice and empowerment Virendra Kumar said it seeks to ensure that transgender persons can access the benefits of the law through a clearer definition. He said the Bill pro-

vides for the establishment of a medical board and empowers District Magistrates to issue identity cards. The amendment also increases the maximum punishment from two years under the 2019 law to 14 years' imprisonment, along with penalties. The Bill proposes to define "transgender" more precisely and excludes "different sexual orientations and self-perceived sexual identities" from its ambit. It introduces graded punishments for offences based on the sev-

erity of harm and the vulnerability of victims, particularly children. It also provides for the designation of an "authority", defined as a medical board headed by a chief medical officer or deputy chief medical officer, to seek expert advice where required. The Bill further clarifies that transgender persons include socio-cultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani and jogta, as well as persons with intersex variations or congenital differences in sex characteristics.

Brewers Warn of Shortages in India as Iran War Hits Cottle, Can Supply

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Global brewers operating in India are warning of price increases and supply disruptions as a shortage of gas due to the Iran war drives up the cost of glass bottles and shipping delays hit imports of aluminium needed by can makers. India is especially vulnerable to fuel availability as the world's fourth-largest importer of natural gas, relying heavily on the Middle East for shipments, sourcing about 40% of its supply from Qatar. Iranian attacks have partially disrupted Qatar's export capacity, tightening gas availability for Indian manufacturers. The Brewers Association of India, representing global brewers Heineken (HEIN.AS), opens new tab, Anheuser-Busch InBev (ABI.BR), opens new tab and Carlsberg (CARLB.CO), opens new tab told Reuters that glass bottle prices have surged around 20%, paper carton rates have doubled as well as other packaging materials such as labels and tape. Gas is essential to keeping furnaces and production lines running, and shortages have forced several glass bottle makers to partially or fully halt operations. Aluminium can



suppliers have also warned of possible reductions just as India heads into its peak summer season, when beer sales typically rise. "We are asking for price increases in the range of 12-15%," the association's director general Vinod Giri told Reuters. "We have advised our member companies to individually approach states." The rising cost of production is making some operations unsustainable, he added. Heineken's India unit United Breweries (UBB.WNS), opens new tab, Anheuser-Busch InBev and Carlsberg did not respond to Reuters queries. The market was worth \$7.8 billion in 2024, and is expected to double by 2030, Grand View Research says. Heineken alone accounts for roughly half the market, while AB InBev and Carlsberg each account for 19%, the association said. While the three companies dominate India's beer sector, many smaller players such as

Bira and Simba also operate in the market. Beer and liquor sales in India have grown steadily alongside rising urbanisation and a young, increasingly affluent population. The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies, which represents many domestic companies, said it has written to several states seeking price adjustments to offset rising freight, logistics and input costs. India's alcohol sector is tightly regulated, and raising retail prices typically requires approval. Around two-thirds of India's 28 states must authorise changes. "Brewers may find it difficult to maintain supplies in states that do not allow price increases," the association said. Some glass bottle vendors are warning their clients of reduced supplies and have increased their prices. Nitin Agarwal, CEO of Fine Art Glass Works in Firozabad, a glass-making hub in northern Uttar Pradesh state, said he has cut production by 40% at his glass bottle making factory due to gas shortages. His customers include many liquor companies as well as producers of juice and ketchup bottles. "We've cut production and increased prices by 17-18%," Agarwal said.

Reopen Hormuz.....

"The government is working with a comprehensive strategy to address every aspect of this crisis -- be it its short-term, medium-term, or long-term implications," the Prime Minister said. He further said the government has already constituted an inter-ministerial group, which meets regularly to assess any difficulties in import-export operations and consistently works on devising necessary solutions. "Much like the empowered groups, comprising experts and officials, that were formed during the COVID-19 pandemic to tackle challenges across various sectors, seven such new empowered groups were constituted just yesterday. These groups will be tasked with taking action, guided by both immediate and long-term strategies, on critical issues, such as supply chains, petroleum and diesel, fertilisers, natural gas, and inflation. I am fully confident that through these collective efforts, we will be able to effectively navigate the prevailing circumstances," Modi said. Noting that the West Asia crisis is of a unique nature, the Prime Minister said its solutions are being devised in a correspondingly distinct manner. "We must confront every challenge with patience, restraint, and a calm mind," he said and urged citizens "to remain prepared for every challenge that may arise" amid a constantly evolving situation. The Prime Minister said: "There is a strong likelihood that the adverse repercussions of this conflict will persist for a consid-

erable period. However, I assure the people of this nation that the government remains vigilant and proactive; it is formulating strategies with the utmost seriousness and taking every necessary decision." Stating that the welfare of the people of the nation is paramount, Modi said efforts must be made unitedly in tackling the crisis. The Prime Minister also asserted that the government is making all efforts to minimise the impact of the West Asia crisis on India while assuring farmers that it is standing with them in all situations. All efforts are made to ensure adequate availability of fertilisers for the upcoming sowing season, he said. Irrespective of the crisis, he said that "maintaining high economic growth is our responsibility". Modi said the war in West Asia is a cause of concern, and India wants peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy.

Delimitation To.....

Referring to efforts by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who had earlier convened a meeting of southern states on the issue, Revanth Reddy said the time had come to take the movement forward. On his political plans, Revanth Reddy said he would focus on Telangana politics for the next decade, adding that his party leadership would decide on any national role for him after 2034. He said his government had already implemented most of the six guarantees promised during the 2023 Assembly elections and as-

sured that the remaining would be fulfilled as the state's financial situation improves, blaming the previous BRS government for leaving behind a heavy debt burden. He also predicted that the BRS and the BJP could ally for the 2029 Assembly elections in Telangana but expressed confidence that the Congress would retain power for a second consecutive term.

Pilot, Copilot Killed....

Responding to the reports, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said, "These are sensitive diplomatic discussions, and the US will not negotiate through the press. This is a fluid situation, and speculation about meetings should not be deemed as final until they are formally announced by the White House." According to reports, Iran has acknowledged receiving messages from countries regarding possible US interest in negotiations. Israeli media have also reported on the possibility of such talks taking place in Pakistan. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country "stands ready and honoured to be the host to facilitate" talks between the two nations. US President Donald Trump also reposted the statement on his social media platform. The developments indicate preliminary diplomatic engagement, with no official confirmation yet on the venue or schedule of any proposed talks.

SC Grants.....

This resulted in "casual" or average gradings, while male counter-

parts were assessed for long-term progression. The court rejected the Army's argument of a fixed cap of 250 PC vacancies per year, stating that the limit was neither sacrosanct nor immutable and had been exceeded in exceptional situations such as the Kargil war. Invoking its powers under Article 142 to ensure complete justice, the court directed that all serving women officers who met the 60 per cent cut-off in the 2020 and 2021 selection boards be granted PC, subject to medical and disciplinary clearances. It further held that those released during litigation would be deemed to have completed 20 years of qualifying service and would be entitled to full pension with arrears from January 1, 2025. The court also directed the Army to review its evaluation methods, including ACRs and cut-offs, to eliminate any disproportionate impact on women. In the Air Force case, the court granted pensionary benefits to a batch of SSC women officers and criticised the force's performance assessment methods as "casual" and "arbitrary". The case involved women officers commissioned in 2007 who were denied PC under the 2019 policy that lifted restrictions on women seeking permanent roles. The court noted that their ACRs had been prepared during a period when they were expected to serve only short tenures, resulting in assessments that did not reflect long-term potential. While declining reinstatement on grounds of maintaining operational effectiveness, the court held that all SSC women officers considered.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

HC Relief to Hospital, Flags Procedural Gaps

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Justice Renuka Yara of the Telangana High Court suspended the operation of an order passed against Renova Century Hospitals in a case of alleged fatal medical negligence. The judge found prima facie that the impugned order was passed without issuing notice, conducting a hearing, or undertaking any proper inquiry. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Mr B. Napthi Kumar Reddy, who questioned the treatment of his mother, alleging negli-



gence and improper administration of drugs by the hospital. It was the case of the petitioner that despite specific representations seeking an investigation, the hospital failed to preserve crucial CCTV footage and allowed it to be automatically overwritten within a month, even though a coordinate bench had directed

that such footage be examined. Justice Renuka Yara observed that the failure to preserve material evidence such as CCTV footage raised serious procedural concerns. Counsel appearing for the respondents sought to justify the circumstances leading to the non-availability of CCTV footage. The

judge granted interim suspension, observing that such lapses undermined the integrity of the inquiry process. It further observed that, at this stage, it was concerned only with the legality and procedural correctness of the order under challenge. The judge emphasised that the absence of due process, including lack of notice and opportunity of hearing, weighed in favour of the petitioner. However, the suspension order would not preclude the authorities from conducting a proper inquiry in accordance with law.

Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

Cops arrest fake dentist in Neredmet

A case was registered by Neredmet police against a fake doctor for running a dental clinic without valid licence. Acting on a tip-off, a team conducted a surprise inspection at Anjalika Dental Clinic located in Satya Aditya Towers near Three Temple Street. During the inspection, it was found that the clinic was being operated for more than 10-year without obtaining permissions from the department concerned. Police identified the accused as Gupta Ramesh Kumar, who was found practicing modern dentistry without BDS degree. Officials said the accused was misleading the public by falsely claiming that he was holding a BDS degree and thereby putting the lives of patients at risk.

Gig Worker Dies After Bike Rams Into Truck

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A 23-year-old gig worker died after his two-wheeler rammed into a stationary truck on the service road of NH-44 near Peddashedapur village in Shamshabad on Tuesday morning. Police said deceased Tarun Kumar, 23, a ride hailing app driver from Nallakunta, was riding his bike from Shamshabad and heading towards Shadnagar at around 6 am when he rammed into the rear of a parked truck near a bus stop. The truck was registered in Maharashtra. Tarun sustained a severe head injury and died on the spot. The truck was parked on the service road without

any hazard warnings, police said. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Shivaji Bhoose, a resident of Maharashtra. According to the complaint lodged by the victim's mother, J Shilaja, 43, a housekeeping worker residing at Jubilee Hills, her son had informed her on March 23 (Monday), at around 10.30 am, that he was travelling to Tirupati, but later told her at around 9.30 pm that he was returning home. The family was informed of the accident by police at around 6.30 am on Tuesday. The family rushed to the spot and later lodged a complaint with the police. Based on their complaint, a case has been registered against the truck driver.

Spurious pickle unit busted in Jiyaguda

In a joint operation, the Task Force Golconda team and Kulsumpura police raided manufacturing units in Venkatesh Nagar, Jiyaguda, on Tuesday and arrested one person for producing and supplying spurious pickles. Raw material and property worth ₹3 lakh were seized. Police said K. Ravinder, 62, was manufacturing pickles without a valid licence, using low-quality ingredients in unhygienic conditions. Additional DCP Task Force Anand Srinivas Rao stated that stale mangoes and lemons were being preserved with rock salt and supplied to kirana stores, restaurants, and hotels. Officials warned that consumption of such pickles could pose serious health risks.

ITI on playground under HC lens

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the Telangana High Court admitted a writ petition challenging the proposed construction of a government ITI on a junior college playground in Khammam district, raising concerns over alleged procedural violations and impact on students. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by Kanakapudi Mallaiah

and another. The petitioners were seeking to declare the action of authorities in issuing a work order and executing an agreement with a private contractor for establishment of a new ITI in Madhira constituency by utilising the playground of a junior (Intermediate) college at Siripuram village. The petitioners contended that the construction is being undertaken without ob-

taining permissions, securing consent, or obtaining environmental clearance. It was further argued that the playground is essential for students' sports and physical development, and once construction begins, the facility would be permanently lost. It was also submitted that the project was being executed solely on the basis of an agreement between the government and the contractor, without fol-

lowing due procedure. On the other hand, the Government Pleader informed the Court that the district collector had already directed handing over of possession of the land and that a government order had been issued for construction of the ITI. The judge directed the respondents to file a detailed counter affidavit, particularly addressing the issues relating to permissions.

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 unveiled its much-anticipated Nova Series, introducing the Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra, which will be available on April 9, 2026, via Flipkart and select retail outlets. The remaining three devices — Nova 2 Pro, Nova 2 Neo, and Nova Flip — are scheduled to follow in the coming months.

The launch represents a significant step in Ai+'s journey, marking its expansion into a comprehensive smartphone portfolio designed to cater to varied user lifestyles, preferences, and self-expression. At the heart of the lineup is the Nova 2 Ultra, described as the brand's most expressive smartphone to date. Its customizable back-panel lighting responds dynamically to



calls, messages, music, and notifications, transforming routine interactions into visually engaging, personalized experiences. The Nova 2 targets users seeking a reliable, no-compromise flagship device, emphasizing smooth performance, long-lasting battery life, refined design, and an intuitive, consistent user experience. "For some, smartphones are

primarily about performance and reliability. For others, they are an extension of identity and expression.

The Nova Series delivers both, without complexity, without compromise, and without barriers to access," said Madhav Sheth, CEO of Ai+ Smartphone and Founder of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. Since its launch in July 2025, Ai+

Smartphone has sold over one million devices, challenging the perception that premium technology must carry premium pricing. Kanchan Mishra, Vice President of Mobiles at Flipkart, emphasized the brand's commitment to making modern, accessible technology available to India's increasingly informed and aspirational consumers. The Nova Series estab-

lishes a blueprint for Ai+ Smartphone's future, combining five distinct devices with a cohesive design and camera philosophy. Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system, the series prioritizes privacy, reliable software performance, long battery life, and equitable access. It reflects Ai+'s broader vision of delivering user-owned, future-ready technology, while pioneering AIoT-enabled experiences within its connected ecosystem. The Nova 2 and Nova 2 Ultra will be available starting April 9, 2026, on Flipkart and select retail outlets, signaling a new era of immersive, customizable, and high-performance smartphones designed in India for the world.

"Dhurandhar Dominates Chetak Screen Awards Nominations; Saiyaara, Homebound Close Behind"

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Aditya Dhar's spy thriller Dhurandhar leads the nominations for the upcoming Chetak Screen Awards, receiving 24 nods ahead of the April 5 ceremony, followed by Mohit Suri's Saiyaara with 17 and Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound with 15. The awards, organized by The Indian Express Group's Screen Academy, celebrate the best of Hindi cinema and OTT content from 2025.

The nominations span 31 categories, including Best Film, Best Director, acting, technical, and OTT-specific awards, reflecting the growing diversity and evolution of contemporary Indian storytelling. Notable nominees for Best Actor (Male) include Ranveer Singh (Dhurandhar), Vicky Kaushal (Chhaava), and Siddhant Chaturvedi



(Dhadak 2), while the Best Actor (Female) category features Triptii Dimri, Yami Gautam Dhar, Konkona Sen Sharma, and Radhika Apte. OTT nominees include Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sanya Malhotra, and Radhika Apte among others. Established in 1995, the Screen Awards are administered by an independent, not-for-profit Academy comprising over 50 respected filmmakers, artists, and cultural voices. Over 95% of members participated in the evaluation, scoring entries with a rigorous, merit-based methodology and a

detailed rubric developed by Professor Priya Jaikumar from USC's School of Cinematic Arts.

For the first time in two decades, the awards will be broadcast live, partnering with YouTube for global access and airing simultaneously on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony Liv, marking a significant digital-first expansion for the iconic ceremony.

Other major nominations include Akshaye Khanna and Rakesh Bedi (Supporting Actor - Male) for Dhurandhar, Divya Dutta (Supporting Actor - Female) for Chhaava, and technical categories such as Best Cinematography and Best Editing featuring Dhurandhar, Homebound, and Saiyaara. The full slate of nominees highlights the range of theatrical and OTT productions that defined Indian storytelling in 2025.

Now Swiggy hikes platform fee by 17 pc to Rs 17.58 per order



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Food delivery platform Swiggy has increased its platform fee by 17 per cent, raising it to Rs 17.58 per order from Rs 14.99, days after rival Zomato implemented a similar hike. The revised charges, reflected in the app's billing, include pre-GST amounts and translate to an additional Rs 2.59 per order.

Swiggy stated that the increase is aimed at helping the company "operate and maintain the platform." With this revision, both major food delivery platforms now charge almost identical fees of around Rs 17.58 per order, including GST.

Zomato's current pre-GST platform fee stands at Rs 14.90 per order, up from Rs 12.50. The company initially introduced a

nominal Rs 2 per order fee in August 2023, gradually raising it across key markets. Its most recent revision occurred in September 2025, following a festive season increase earlier that year.

The latest fee hikes by Swiggy and Zomato come amid rising input and operating costs across the food delivery ecosystem. Factors such as higher energy prices, including LPG and

crude oil, have increased expenses for both restaurants and delivery partners. Analysts note that these adjustments reflect a broader trend of platforms recalibrating pricing to sustain margins in a competitive, cost-intensive environment.

On the stock market, Swiggy shares were trading nearly flat at Rs 273.40 on Tuesday, up 0.33 per cent on the

BSE. The stock has declined over 10 per cent in the past month, about 40 per cent over six months, and roughly 20 per cent over the past year.

In comparison, Zomato's parent company Eternal saw shares rise around 2 per cent following its platform fee hike announcement, indicating investor optimism amid the industry-wide pricing adjustments.

Gold and silver prices tumble over 4 pc as West Asia tensions

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp decline on Tuesday, even as hopes of de-escalation in the West Asia conflict weighed on safe-haven demand after the US President announced a temporary pause on potential strikes targeting Iran's energy infrastructure.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (April 2) fell as much as Rs 2,576 or around 2 per cent to hit an intra-day low of Rs 1,36,684 per 10 grams by 10:40 am. The yellow metal was last trading at Rs 1,37,100, down Rs 2,160 or 1.5



per cent. Silver (May 5) also plunged 4.73 per cent, or Rs 10,667, to Rs 2,14,500 per kg during the session. In the global market, COMEX gold was trading at \$4,368.76, down 1.6 per cent, after slipping to an intraday low of \$4,340. Meanwhile, COMEX silver declined around 4 per cent to \$66.56, after hitting an intraday

low of \$66.16. Precious metals came under pressure after the US President said Washington and Tehran had held "very good and productive conversations" over the past two days, adding that any military action on Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure would be deferred for five days, subject to further discussions.

However, Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf denied that any negotiations had taken place, calling such reports "fake news" aimed at influencing financial and oil markets.

According to analysts, COMEX

gold is currently trading in the \$4,300-\$4,380 range after a sharp correction, with the broader trend remaining weak despite intermittent safe-haven support.

Immediate resistance is seen at \$4,470-\$4,500, while a break below \$4,250 could trigger further downside toward \$4,100 levels. "MCX gold, which opened gap-down, is holding above Rs 1,36,000 but continues to exhibit a weak recovery within a broader bearish trend. Resistance is placed at Rs 1,39,000-Rs 1,40,000, while a fall below Rs 1,34,000 may extend losses toward Rs 1,30,000," according to them.

Govt to divert 90 lakh FCI rice to ethanol: Food Sec

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Centre is set to approach the Cabinet with a proposal to reduce the allocation of broken rice in grains distributed under the public distribution system from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, a move that would free roughly 90 lakh tonne of broken rice annually for the ethanol sector, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on Tuesday.

The move comes as global crude oil prices have jumped around 40 per cent in the past three weeks.

Chopra said India's ethanol blending in petrol has already reached 20 per cent, up from just 1.5 per cent in 2013, saving the country over Rs 1.63 lakh crore in foreign exchange and cutting crude imports by 277 lakh metric tonne since 2014.

While the disruption in crude oil has been partially offset through alternative sources, such as Russia, West Africa, the US and Latin America, gas and LPG supplies to industrial and commercial users have been curtailed.



fuel vehicles are all being actively considered, with decisions expected soon. Speaking at the All India Distillers Association (AIDA) conference here, Chopra said the broken rice proposal would fix a long-standing problem in 2023, a poor sugar harvest and fears over rice production had forced the government to restrict feedstock supply to distilleries, hurting the industry. "Climate change is a reality. We need to make sure the supply chain is not disrupted. A steady supply of broken rice to the ethanol sector will help ensure that," the food secretary said.

At present, broken rice comprises 25 per cent of the grains distributed free to around 80 crore people under the government's food scheme.

Under the new plan, this would be brought down to 10 per cent. The extra broken rice from 360-370 lakh tonnes distributed

each year would be sold through auction to ethanol makers, animal feed producers and others. A trial run has already been completed in five states.

From next year, the government will stop supplying whole-grain rice from Food Corporation of India (FCI) stocks to distilleries. Broken rice from the revamped food scheme will take its place as a reliable, year-round feedstock, Chopra said.

He also urged distilleries to speed up lifting of the current FCI rice allocation. Of the 52 lakh tonne set aside this year, only 21 lakh tonne have been picked up so far. A further 20 lakh tonne is available, but the discounted price expires on June 30.

Maize is being pushed as a second alternative feedstock, particularly varieties that grow on rain-fed land without irrigation. The agriculture ministry is developing high-yield varieties that can produce five to six tonnes per hectare. Around 40 per cent of ethanol supply already comes from grain-based sources, mainly maize, Chopra said.

India's strategic oil reserves at 64% capacity, says govt

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's strategic oil reserves, designed to provide cover for about 9.5 days of supplies during disruptions or price shocks, are currently sitting at only two-thirds capacity, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday. India, the world's third-largest energy consumer and heavily dependent on imports for about 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, has built strategic underground storage facilities with a total capacity of

5.33 million tonnes across three locations — Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka — to store crude oil used for producing fuels such as petrol and diesel.

"Quantity of the crude available in the caverns varies depending on market conditions," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply in the Upper House. "Currently, ISPR has around 3.372 million tonnes of crude stock available, which is around

64 per cent of the total storage capacity." Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPR) is the special purpose vehicle that established strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil at three locations, which can act as a buffer for short-term supply shocks.

"The actual reserve is a dynamic number depending on the stocks and actual consumption, both of which are not static," he said. The stockpile has been in focus since the

breakout of war in the Middle East snapped the supply of crude oil, natural gas and LPG from the Gulf countries to India. India spent USD 110 billion in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year on importing about 226 million tonnes (or 88.7 per cent of oil needs). Half of this came from countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE, which use a narrow seaway of the Strait of Hormuz for shipping the oil and gas.

Besides, USD 12.4 billion was spent on import-

ing half of the natural gas consumed in the country from April 2025 to February 2026. Also, 60 per cent of its LPG came from overseas. As much as 85-95 per cent of the gas came through the strait.

While the disruption in crude oil has been partially offset through alternative sources, such as Russia, West Africa, the US and Latin America, gas and LPG supplies to industrial and commercial users have been curtailed.

Hrithik Roshan, Ryan Gosling Collaborate in Exclusive Project Hail Mary Chat

In a landmark moment for the first time, Indian superstar Hrithik Roshan and Hollywood actor Ryan Gosling have come together for an exclusive virtual conversation — a meeting of two icons united by their shared passion for space, science, and the power of storytelling. The conversation builds on the extraordinary global momentum sparked by Hrithik Roshan's association with Project Hail Mary, following a collaboration video that captivated audiences worldwide. This newly unveiled exchange stands as one of the most exciting cross-cultural collaborations of the decade. Bringing together two of the world's most influen-



tial stars, the conversation offers fans a rare and candid glimpse into their creative worlds. At the heart of their discussion was the film itself, with both stars reflecting on what makes Project Hail Mary a singular cinematic experience, and what it means to bring this

story to Indian audiences. The conversation took a nostalgic turn as the duo drew compelling parallels between the film and Hrithik's beloved *Koi... Mil Gaya* — exploring how science fiction, at its best, transcends borders through emotional truth and universal wonder.

Beyond the film, the exchange was marked by mutual admiration, with both stars acknowledging each other's work and hinting at the possibility of future collaborations—leaving fans with much to look forward to. Directed by the acclaimed filmmaking duo Phil Lord

and Christopher Miller, Project Hail Mary follows Ryland Grace, played by Ryan Gosling, a lone astronaut who wakes up aboard a mysterious spacecraft with no memory of who he is or the mission that brought him there. The film also features a stellar supporting cast, including Sandra Hüller, Lionel Boyce, Ken Leung, and Milana Vayntrub. Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, Project Hail Mary releases in Indian cinemas on 26 March 2026, in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, across IMAX® and other premium large formats.

Akshay Kumar reveals he was first offered Suniel Shetty's role of Shyam in 'Hera Pheri'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Actor Akshay Kumar, who is all set to be seen in 'Bhoot Bangla', has revealed an unknown fact about his superhit film 'Hera Pheri' and his character Raju. Ahead of the release of his film 'Bhoot Bangla' Akshay Kumar and director Priyadarshan spoke about their long association, about horror-comedy genre, about 'Dhurandhar-2' and more. When asked about Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar's association and how it started with the film 'Hera Pheri', Priyadarshan said, "I was telling him about the role. It was a natural hero-heroine concept, and when I narrated the whole thing, he said, 'I don't want this. I will play the other guy.'" Further clarifying, Akshay Kumar added, "Ac-



tually, he wanted me to play Shyam's role because there was a heroine opposite him and everything was there." Priyadarshan continued the conversation and revealed, "Suddenly, he said, 'I don't want to play this role. Let Suniel Shetty be the hero; I will play the other guy.'" Akshay Kumar further added, "I told him I would play second fiddle to him. So, I played Raju's role." When probed further on why he chose to play Raju instead of Shyam in

'Hera-Pheri', Akshay Kumar answered, "Because I had never done such a role before, someone so mischievous. I had mostly done action roles and 'seedha' (gentle) roles in films like *Dhadkan* and *Ek Rishta*. When he was narrating 'Hera Pheri', I found that the character was crazy about money. So I requested him, 'Can I try this role?'" For the uninitiated, 'Hera Pheri' marked the first collaboration between director Priyadarshan.

Dhurandhar Was My Revenge To 26/11: Arjun Rampal



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actor Arjun Rampal has received nothing but praise and love from both audiences and critics for his role as the main antagonist in the Dhurandhar film duology. In both 'Dhurandhar' and 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', the terrorist attacks of 26/11 were showcased and mentioned several times. In the first film, 'Dhurandhar', the attacks of 26/11 were shown from the perspective of the

terrorists behind the call recordings. It was considered a memorable and haunting scene that stayed with the audience.

In the film, Rampal plays ISI Major Iqbal. In a key scene in the first part, Iqbal, portrayed as one of the main handlers behind the attack, is seen celebrating, dancing, and partying while speaking to the terrorists at the hotel. Actor Arjun Rampal recently said Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar helped him channel his "revenge" for what he endured during

the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The actor was felicitated at India Today's Hello! Hall of Fame Awards on Sunday in Mumbai. During his speech, he recalled experiencing the horrors of the attacks first-hand and how that trauma helped him perform a key 26/11 scene in the film. He said he had planned to go to the Taj Hotel, one of the attacked locations, to celebrate his birthday with friends. The actor said, "In 2008, during 26/11, I was in this hotel. I had come to pick up my

friends. We were on our way to the Taj Hotel because we were going to go and celebrate my birthday, and 26/11 also happened to be my birthday. One guy was getting ready. God bless him. We were at the bar, and we ordered a drink, and the first bomb went off near Mahim. I heard that sound and the whole glass kind of shook and rattled, and we were like, 'What the hell was that?'" Rampal said he was initially told it was the result of a gang war. He added,

"In 10 minutes, our phones were ringing and everybody said there was some gang war that had broken out in Colaba. In 20-30 minutes, the whole of Four Seasons (hotel) was cordoned off. Adarsh Jatia (Managing Director, Provenance Land, owner of Four Seasons Hotel) very gracefully gave me a suite and said, 'You could stay here for the night, but we can't let anybody go out, it's not safe. And on my birthday, I saw the horrors of 26/11 play out.'"

Anushka Sharma in India's T20I Women's Squad Against South Africa



NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Anushka Sharma on Tuesday received her maiden India call-up for the five-match away T20I series against South Africa beginning on April

17. Durban, Johannesburg, and Benoni will host the series. Sharma was signed by Gujarat Giants for Rs 45 lakh ahead of the WPL 2026 where she made an instant impact with the bat. The 22-year-old was

part of the India A squad that featured in the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Bangkok last month.

From the squad that featured in the 2-1 win over Australia, Sneha Rana, Amanjot Kaur, G Kamalini and

Vaishnavi Sharma don't find a place in the line-up for the South Africa series. Pacer Kashvee Gautam, who has played Test and ODIs for India, has been included in the T20 squad led by Harmanpreet Kaur. The series is part of India's preparations for the T20 World Cup in the UK in June-July.

Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Sree Charani, Shreyanka Patil, Kashvee Gautam, Bharti Fulmali, Uma Chetry (WK), Anushka Sharma.

Approx Rs 7 Crore Invested to Improve Crowd Management at Chinnaswamy: RCB CEO

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Royal Challengers Bengaluru CEO Rajesh Menon on Tuesday said the franchise has invested nearly Rs seven crore to enhance the crowd management infrastructure in and around the M Chinnaswamy Stadium which witnessed the death of 11 fans in a stampede during the team's IPL trophy celebrations last year. RCB and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) were forced to enhance security measures after the stampede on June 4, 2025 near the stadium.

During the upcoming IPL, the reigning champions are scheduled to play five matches here, starting with this season's inaugural match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. "We have invested approximately Rs 7 crore towards enhancing crowd management infrastructure, including multiple baggage scanners and command centres,"



Menon said in the pre-season press meet here. He said the RCB will ensure a safe and seamless match-day experience for fans at the Stadium, even though the hugely popular pre-season 'Unbox' event has been cancelled.

"We have significantly strengthened crowd management measures. We have implemented AI-led CCTV solutions across the stadium, including inside, the concourse, and surrounding areas, powered by an AI tool called Jarvis. "This system provides real-time alerts, including stand-specific crowd counts, to ensure better monitoring and control. These CCTV feeds will also be accessible to the Commissioner's office

for real-time monitoring," he said. Menon said the franchise has adhered to all the parameters laid down by the Karnataka state government and the High Court.

"I would like to thank the government for making this possible. It has been a long journey since June 4, and everything has been executed on a war footing. We have worked to follow the SOPs provided by the court and ensure all protocols are in place," he assured. Menon then gave details of the revised framework governing the stadium. "Under the updated agreements between the BCCI, KSCA and RCB, the state association will serve as the lead organiser along with the

franchise, and will implement the standard operating procedures, including emergency planning protocols, and indemnify any breach of the stadium agreement.

"These SOPs will be followed by both the franchise and the state association, with specific guidelines also in place for victory parades," he said. In the previous agreement, the IPL franchise was solely responsible for organising the event while the KSCA acted as venue provider. Menon said the entry points to the stadium have also been reworked to manage the rush at the gates. "The stadium will also see reworked entry, exit and fan movement protocols based on recommendations from local authorities. Ticket holders will also be entitled to metro access on match days. Parking can be pre-booked, and all stadium gates will open four hours prior to the match," he added.

Telangana's Mudumal Menhirs set for major archaeological dig

For centuries, they withstood the vagaries of time and elements of nature. Now, excavations will unravel the mystery of menhirs, upright stones of a kind erected during the prehistoric era, in Narayanpet district.

With an aim to secure UNESCO World Heritage site tag, the Telangana Heritage Department is set to undertake excavations at Mudumal Menhirs, a megalithic burial site, in Mudumal village of Narayanpet district. These menhirs have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

"We have received necessary permissions from the Archaeological Survey of India for excavation, which will commence in the second week of April," said Prof K Arjun Rao, Director, Heritage Department. The archaeological site, which is home to 80 big menhirs, is one of the important areas in the State that reflects people's culture, tradition and astronomical knowledge who lived here some 3,000 years ago. Originally spread across about 80 acres, each menhir is about 3 metres and 5 metres tall. In addition, there are several thousands of aligned boulders of about 1 metre to 1.5 metres in width and breadth, with a height of 0.5 to 1 metre. The site also has several megalithic stone circles, which are under the department's protection. Following the excavation, DNR samples from the site will be sent to CSIR-CCMB to ascertain who the people were and their ancestry. "Thermoluminescence, a technique to find out how old objects are, will be carried out in collaboration with NGRI. The samples will be sent to Beta Labs, US, for Carbon-14 testing that estimates the age of burial. This scientific study will be submitted as a dossier to the UNESCO seeking World Heritage site tag for Mudumal Menhirs," said Dr P Nagaraju, Excavation Director and Deputy Director, Heritage Department. As per the department's preliminary study, menhirs of Mudumal are in patterns known as Alignments (single rows) and Avenues (two parallel rows), suggesting they were placed to track sun's movement and mark summer and winter season, besides creating calendars.

Dr. Kavita Reddy Seelam Takes Charge as IHFW Chair



Dr. Kavita Reddy Seelam, newly appointed Chairperson of the Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare (IHFW) on March 16, received a warm felicitation from public representatives and community leaders in Hyderabad. Congress Corporator Mohd Ahmed, along with former corporators Md. Aqeel and Saber Ali, personally met Dr. Kavita Reddy to congratulate her on assuming the prestigious role.

They presented her with flower bouquets and expressed confidence in her leadership, emphasizing expectations of significant progress in public health and family welfare under her tenure. During the meeting, leaders lauded Dr. Kavita Reddy Seelam's dedication to strengthening healthcare systems, highlighting her focus on improving service accessibility and quality for the general public. They noted that her extensive experience and vision would be instrumental in enhancing institutional efficiency and expanding outreach programs.

In response, Dr. Kavita Reddy Seelam thanked the leaders for their encouragement and support. She reaffirmed her commitment to advancing healthcare delivery, implementing effective policies, and promoting welfare programs that benefit all sections of society. The interaction concluded on a positive note, with all participants expressing optimism that under her guidance, IHFW will achieve new milestones in public health and family welfare across the state.



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Bar Council Election Update

Advocate Zakeer Hussain Jawed Secures Hat-Trick Victory



Advocate Mir Quram Ali, Chairman of the Society for Civil Legal Aids, felicitated Advocate Zakeer Hussain Jawed for his third consecutive Bar Council win at City Civil Court, Hyderabad, in the presence of advocates Syed Abdul Farooq, Ahmed, and other legal fraternity members

H yderabad Wakeup telangana Advocate Zakeer Hussain Jawed M has registered a decisive hat-trick victory in the 2026 Telangana Bar Council elections, securing a third consecutive term as a Bar Council member and reaffirming his stronghold within the legal fraternity. Jawed emerged as the sec-

ond candidate to be declared elected after crossing the cut-off mark of 1,085 votes. He secured 784 preference votes, reflecting widespread and consistent support from advocates across the state. The development was shared by Mir Quram Ali, Chairman of the Society for Civil Legal Aids and a practicing advocate at the Telangana High Court, during the

ongoing counting process. Jawed's re-election is being viewed as a clear endorsement of his sustained commitment to the legal community. Known for his accessibility and leadership, he has played a pivotal role in mentoring young advocates while also extending guidance to senior members of the profession. Over the years, more than thousands of advocates have enrolled under his guidance, contributing significantly to strengthening the legal framework and professional standards in Telan-

Speaking on the occasion, Quram Ali described Jawed as a dependable and influential figure who has consistently worked towards the welfare of advocates. "His leadership ensures that both new entrants and experienced lawyers receive the necessary support and direction," he noted. Jawed's latest victory further consolidates his position as a key voice in Telangana's legal landscape, underscoring the deep trust and confidence reposed in him by the legal fraternity.



Advocate Zakeer Hussain Jawed

Iran Consulate in Hyderabad Praises Public Solidarity

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana



The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad has expressed sincere gratitude to the people of Hyderabad, Telangana, and across India for their strong support and solidarity during the ongoing conflict affecting Iran. The Consulate described the response as a powerful humanitarian gesture reflecting compassion, unity, and enduring friendship between the two nations. In an official statement, it acknowledged contributions from individuals and organizations, including financial aid and other assistance, highlighting the spirit of kindness shown by the public during this challenging time. To facilitate donations, the Consulate has shared the official bank details of the Embassy of Iran and a QR code for direct transfers. The infor-

mation is being circulated through platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram to ensure easy access for well-wishers. **Bank Account Name:** Embassy of Iran **Account Number:** 45027539287 **IFS Code:** SBIN000691 **IFSC Code:** SBIN000691 People willing to contribute can also visit the Consulate office in Hyderabad. Those unable to transfer funds online may send their contributions through trusted representatives. The Consulate reiterated its appreciation for continued support and goodwill.

Two held for performing bike stunts near Telangana Secretariat

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Saifabad police arrested two men on Tuesday, March 24, for allegedly performing dangerous bike stunts near the premises of Telangana Secretariat and Lumbini Park. Police said that Mohammed Akeel, 19 and Mohammed Ateeq, 22, were making Instagram reels. They have been

sent to judicial remand. Police seized a motorcycle, a scooty and two mobile phones. A case under Section 184 (dangerous driving) of the Motor Vehicles Act (amended 2019) and Section 281 (rash driving), 125 (rash or negligent acts that endanger human life or personal safety) and 191 (public nuisances) of the BNS was registered.

BRS walks-out just before Telangana Dy CM's reply in Assembly

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators, on Tuesday, March 24, staged a walkout from the Telangana Assembly session when Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka rose to discuss the state's budget. Earlier, Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao raised a point of order, accusing the Congress government of not running the house in



order, delaying House proceedings for hours on Monday and Tuesday, and not furnishing the budget books on time. And then, BRS members walked out. Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu immediately responded, saying

there was no need to behave in such a way. He opined that since the opposition had no counterarguments against Bhatti's clarifications and answers, they walked out. Bhatti, too, condemned the way the BRS MLAs "tore the budget papers and put them in their ears" while walking out. "I appeal to the Leader of the Opposition (KCR) to stop insulting the democracy and the people of Telangana by encouraging such

acts," Bhatti said to the BRS chief, who was absent. In a question dipped in sarcasm, the Finance Minister asked whether they walked out because the state government was implementing accidental insurance of Rs 1.2 crore for all government employees, cashless healthcare for government employees, or planning to implement life insurance schemes for its citizens.

Formula E case is just diversionary tactic, a political vendetta: KTR

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday, March 24, alleged that the revival of the Formula-E case was part of diversionary politics by the Congress government, aimed at shifting public attention from key issues. Terming the case "baseless" and lacking substance, he said the timing of the charge sheet was intended to counter the BRS demand for legal backing to the "Six Guarantees" through a Private Member Bill. He made the remarks during an informal interaction with the media. KTR claimed that even the government's charge sheet did not indicate any wrongdoing. Alleging a political vendetta, he said officials were being pressured to target him. "The Rs 45 crore transferred from a Telangana bank remains surakshit in the designated account. No funds have been diverted," he said, adding that the government was inflating the amount to Rs 600 to Rs 700 crore to mislead the public.



He also questioned why no beneficiary was named in the charge sheet and maintained that the funds could be retrieved at any time. Defending the Formula-E race, the former MA&UD minister said the event was aimed at enhancing Hyderabad's global image and attracting investments in the electric vehicle sector. Citing a Nielsen report, he said the event generated around Rs 700 crore in economic activity within a week. The BRS leader accused the Congress government of selective action and wasteful spending, alleging that Rs 100 crore was spent on a football event linked to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Rs 10 crore was misused from Singareni Collieries Company Limited, without any cases being registered.

Panic Buying Triggers Fuel Queues in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad witnessed long queues at several petrol pumps on Tuesday as panic buying led to temporary disruptions, though authorities clarified there is no fuel shortage in Telangana. Officials from the Civil Supplies Department stated that adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, and LPG are available across the state, urging citizens not to believe rumours or indulge in panic purchasing. They confirmed that the supply chain from refineries to local depots is functioning normally and is being closely monitored. Despite these assurances, multiple fuel stations across the city displayed "No Stock" boards, primarily due to a sudden surge in demand. In areas like Jeera in Secunderabad, motorists reported waiting for over 25 minutes amid heavy rush. Commuters, especially middle-class workers dependent on two-wheelers, expressed concern over the situation. A similar scenario unfolded at the Burma Petrol Station in Hyderabad, where vehicle queues extended onto main roads, disrupting traffic between MLA Quarters and Basheerbagh. Many consumers were seen moving from one fuel station to another in search of petrol. According to official data, the GHMC region has around 900 to 1,000 petrol pumps, while Te-



Motorists were seen waiting in long queues at several fuel stations in Hyderabad, particularly in the Old City, on Tuesday after some petrol pumps displayed "No Stock" boards, as panic buying triggered by rumours caused inconvenience, even though authorities clarified that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG in Telangana.

langana has nearly 3,600 outlets. Daily fuel consumption in the state is estimated at 45 lakh litres of diesel and 35 lakh litres of petrol, supplied through depots operated by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and Bharat Petroleum

Corporation Limited (BPCL). Industry sources cited delayed weekend supplies and changes in credit policies by oil companies as contributing factors. Dealers said companies recently shifted to advance payment systems, causing temporary supply challenges at

the retail level. Authorities, however, reiterated that the situation is stabilising, with coordinated efforts by the state government, oil companies, and police to ensure smooth and equitable fuel distribution across all districts.