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Brief Insights

India, US Officials Discuss Bilateral Trade and WTO Agenda

The Department of Commerce on Wednesday said that Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held a meeting with Deputy US Trade Representative Joseph Barloon, and discussed issues related to the ministerial conference of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and ways to further expand bilateral trade ties between the two nations.

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Congress Candidate List Delayed Over Sonia Gandhi's Illness As Poll Violence Flares Up In Berhampore

AICC observer and former Jharkhand state minister Rakesh Thakur said at Berhampur "due to sudden illness of Sonia Gandhi west Bengal assembly congress candidates' lists are delayed, we hope lists will be declared on March 28." while addressing a press conference at Berhampore on Wednesday AICC observer Mr. Thakur said our leader Adhir Chowdhury might be a prosperous candidate It may be mentioned most of all parties declared their candidates but congress

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Harish Rao dares Revanth Reddy to contest from Siddipet: P3

Delay in double bedroom houses allotment triggers concerns in Assembly: P2

Congress govt admits filling only 16,978 jobs, contradicts Revanth 60,000 claim: P3



Govt Assures Energy Security, More Shipments on the Way

Enough energy security, more shipments on the way, govt assures at all-party meet

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

At an all-party meeting held on Wednesday, the Centre assured that India's energy security remains stable despite ongoing geopolitical tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. The government emphasized that there is no shortage of fuel or LPG across the country and that additional shipments have already been arranged. Officials noted that four vessels carrying energy supplies are expected to dock within the next four to five days, reinforcing the country's preparedness to meet demand.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju stated that leaders from all political parties actively participated in the meeting, raising concerns about the evolving geopolitical situation and its possible implications for India. He highlighted that opposition parties expressed solidarity with the government and assured full support in managing the situation, stressing the



importance of unity during this period of uncertainty.

Government sources further indicated that India has adequate energy reserves and has taken proactive steps such as advance procurement and diversification of supply sources to ensure uninterrupted availability. Concerns related to LPG supply chains and potential disruptions through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz were addressed, with officials maintaining that the situation is fully under control and there is no cause for panic among citizens.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar shared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his recent conversation with Donald Trump, conveyed a clear message that the ongoing conflict should come to an

end, as it is negatively impacting countries across the globe.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the discussion by emphasizing the need to prioritize the safety and welfare of Indian citizens. The Foreign Secretary also delivered a detailed presentation on the broader geopolitical developments, including tensions related to Iran and their potential impact on global energy markets.

Reiterating its stance, the government asserted that it is closely monitoring the situation and remains fully prepared, assuring citizens that "there is nothing to worry." It also downplayed concerns about Pakistan's mediating role, stating that such involvement is not new while firmly maintaining that India will not act as a "dalal nation."

Opposition Backs Government, Says Kiren Rijju

Kiren Rijju on Wednesday said that opposition parties have extended full support to the Centre following an all-party meeting convened to discuss the ongoing Middle East crisis involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. Addressing the media after the meeting, Rijju stated that the government had called the discussion to brief political leaders on the evolving geopolitical situation and its potential impact on India's national interests.

He emphasized that representatives from across the political spectrum participated actively and raised concerns about the safety of Indian citizens, energy security, and economic implications arising from the conflict. "All opposition parties have assured that they will stand with the government in every step taken as per the situation," Rijju said, according to ANI. He added that the government provided detailed and comprehensive responses to all queries raised during the meeting.

Rs 700-crore Shiva temple, 100-foot statue to come up at Manchirevula CM Revanth To Begin Musi Works With Shiva Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch the Musi river rejuvenation works by laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Omkareshwara Temple on the banks of the Musi at Manchirevula on March 28, marking a shift from the originally planned inauguration of the Gandhi Sarovar project at Langar Houz. The change in plans comes amid controversies surrounding the proposed acquisition of a portion of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments for the Gandhi Sarovar project. Initially, the Chief Minister had announced that the Musi development works would commence with the foundation for Gandhi Sarovar on March 28.

However, in view of the objections and the need for wider consultations, the government has decided to defer the Langar Houz component and instead begin works at Manchirevula. As part of the revised plan, the Chief Minister will lay the foundation for the con-



struction of a grand Omkareshwara Temple in the premises of the historic Veerabhadra Swamy temple, which has a legacy of nearly 800 years. The temple project, estimated at Rs 700 crore, will be built following the architectural guidance of the Sringeri Sharada Peetham.

The temple complex at Manchirevula will feature a towering gopuram, multiple mandapams and a sanctum tower measuring 14 feet in length and width and 64 feet in height. The project will also include the development of the ancient Veerabhadra Swamy temple and nearby Machilleshwara temple, which is believed to be over 1,400 years old. A 100-foot-tall statue of Lord Shiva will also be set up in the river. It will be surrounded by landscaped parks, with

boating and other recreational facilities. The government is also exploring participation from donors and private entities to execute the project.

Official sources said a Cabinet Sub-Committee comprising deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, IT minister D. Sridhar Babu, and transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar has been constituted to hold consultations with political parties, civic organisations and other stakeholders. The panel will deliberate on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Musi Phase-I, released by the Chief Minister on March 13, as well as on the Gandhi Sarovar project, and work towards resolving issues through consensus.

In a move aimed at promoting communal harmony, the government also plans to develop the Musi riverfront with places of worship representing multiple faiths. These include the Omkareshwara Temple at Manchirevula, a mosque near Puranapul, a gurdwara at Gowliguda and a church at Nagole.

Parliament Passes Transgender Rights Amendment Bill

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill to amend a law on protection and rights of transgender persons that proposes excluding social orientations from the ambit of the statute, with Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The bill, which seeks to amend Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act 2019, also provides for graded punishment based on the gravity of harm inflicted on such people. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.



Replying to the debate on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, in the Upper House, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said the proposed legislation is an effort to take along all segments of the society together. He said that the bill aims to provide protection to only those who face discrim-

ination due to biological issues. The minister asserted that the amendment will ensure that transgender persons continue to get legal recognition and protection.

The Modi government is committed to protecting all those people who are suffering due to biological reasons, he said adding that their rights will be protected. The minister opined that such persons should be brought into the mainstream so that they should not live in dejection. Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the welfare of

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No Fuel Shortage in Telangana, Say Petroleum

NEW DELHI
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The Telangana Petroleum Dealers Association has clarified that there is no shortage of fuel in the state. It stated that adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available with major oil companies such as HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL. The association emphasized that reports suggesting a fuel shortage are false and urged the public not to believe such rumours. It noted that long queues at petrol bunks are being caused by panic buying, as consumers rush to fill fuel fearing non-availability. The association added that such advance purchases are creating temporary inconvenience at some locations.

Opposition MPs Protest Over LPG Supply Issue

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Before of an all-party meeting on the West Asia conflict, opposition MPs on Wednesday staged a protest in the Parliament premises over the LPG supply issue. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has entered its fourth week, disrupting trade routes through the Strait of Hormuz. Tensions escalated after the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in joint military strikes by the US and Israel on February 28. In retaliation, Iran tar-



geted Israeli and US assets across several Gulf countries, further disrupting the vital waterway and impacting global energy markets and economic stability.

TMC MP Saugata Roy criticised the government, stating that it had failed to

handle the LPG crisis effectively. He said people were facing significant hardships and demanded a quick resolution to the issue. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut questioned India's role in the global crisis and said the opposition would present

suggestions if the Prime Minister attends discussions. He also criticised the government's approach to international diplomacy. Congress MP Pramod Tiwari alleged that the government was misleading the public about the LPG situation, claiming shortages were widespread during festivals like Navratri and Eid. He said the opposition would continue to raise the issue at Parliament. Meanwhile, two Indian LPG carriers, Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, successfully passed through the

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Iran rejects US ceasefire plan, escalates attacks across Mideast

Iran rejected a US ceasefire proposal and launched fresh attacks on Israel and Gulf states as the Middle East war escalated. The US is deploying additional troops while diplomatic efforts face major hurdles amid rising casualties and fears of a global energy crisis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Iran on Wednesday dismissed an American plan to pause the war in the Middle East and launched more attacks on Israel and Gulf Arab countries, including an assault that sparked a huge fire at Kuwait International Airport. Iran's defiance came as Israel launched airstrikes on Tehran and as the United States deployed paratroopers and more Marines to the region. Iranian state television's

English-language broadcaster, Press TV, quoted an anonymous official as saying Iran rejected America's ceasefire proposal. Press TV's report came after Pakistan transmitted the proposal to Iran.

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," Press TV quoted the official as saying. The official added Tehran will continue its "heavy blows" across the Mideast.

Earlier, two officials from Pakistan described the 15-

Iranian state television's English-language broadcaster, Press TV, quoted an anonymous official as saying Iran rejected America's ceasefire proposal. Press TV's report came after Pakistan transmitted the proposal to Iran.

point US proposal broadly, saying it addressed sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme, limits on missiles and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped. An Egyptian official involved in the mediation

efforts said the proposal also includes restrictions on Iran's support for armed groups. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet released. Some of those points were nonstarters in negotiations before the war: Iran has insisted it won't discuss its ballistic missile programme or its support of regional militias, which it views as key to its security. And its ability to control passage through the Strait of Hormuz represents one of its biggest strategic advantages.

Iran's attacks on regional energy infrastructure along with its restrictions on the strait have sent oil prices skyrocketing and sparked fears of a global energy crisis, in turn putting pressure on the US to find a way to end the chokehold and calm markets.

At least 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division will be sent to the Mideast in the coming days, three people with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

sensitive military plans. The paratroopers are trained to jump into hostile or contested areas to secure key territory and airfields. The Pentagon is also in the process of sending about 5,000 more Marines, trained in amphibious assaults, and thousands of sailors to the region.

Mediators are pushing for possible in-person talks between the Iranians and the Americans, perhaps as soon as Friday in Pakistan, the Egyptian and Pakistani officials said.

ESTD - 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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Delay in double bedroom houses allotment triggers concerns in Assembly

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators urged the Congress government to speed up allotment of pending double bedroom houses to eligible beneficiaries through a draw of lots. They raised concerns during Question Hour in the Assembly on Wednesday, stating that delays were leading to theft of doors, window frames, plumbing and electrical fittings at several housing sites. The MLAs also asked the government to complete allotments during the ongoing 99-day programme.

BRS MLA from Maheswaram, Sabitha Indra Reddy, said it has been over two and a half

years since the Congress came to power. She noted that many housing colonies still lack basic facilities such as lifts and drinking water. Officials plan to allot houses through Indiramma Committee approvals, but warned this could create disputes over beneficiary selection. She suggested continuing the draw of lots system followed during the previous BRS government.

BRS MLA from Qutbullapur, K P Vivekanand, said around 13,000 houses were built in his constituency, of which 9,000 have been allotted. However, infrastructure remains incomplete in several colonies. He added that shops built in these housing complexes re-



main vacant. Leasing them out could help residents fund maintenance through rental income. BJP MLA from Nizamabad, Dhanpal Satyanarayana, also flagged theft of fixtures from vacant houses. Similarly, BRS MLA from Sanathnagar, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, asked how many houses were constructed in Greater Hyderabad after the Congress came to power. He said the previous BRS government had allotted nearly

68,000 houses in the city through a transparent lottery system. He stressed that long-time local residents should be given priority, warning that allotments to outsiders were causing tensions. Responding to the legislators, Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said 2.31 lakh houses were sanctioned across the State, of which 1.62 lakh have been completed, barring minor infrastructure works at a few places. Within GHMC limits, 78,861 houses were constructed, though some colonies still lack basic amenities. The government has allocated Rs. 738 crore to complete pending works, he said.

The Minister added that out of 23,500 allotted

houses in GHMC, nearly 12,000 remain unoccupied due to distance concerns raised by allottees. The beneficiaries have been given two months to occupy them, failing which the houses will be re-assigned to eligible applicants within a five to nine km radius.

Speaker G Prasad Kumar directed the Minister to hold a meeting with all MLAs to address the issues. "I had asked you to convene the meeting with MLAs after the last session as well. Conduct the meeting soon after the budget session," Prasad Kumar said. The Minister, in reply, assured that erstwhile district-wise meetings would be conducted after the budget session.

No Fuel Shortage, says Minister Uttam Kumar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amid rising concerns over an alleged fuel shortage, Telangana Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has reassured the public that there is no need for panic, affirming that the state has adequate petrol and diesel reserves to comfortably meet demand for up to two months. Addressing the growing anxiety triggered by long queues at fuel stations, the Minister urged citizens to remain calm and avoid reacting to rumours or misinformation circulating on various platforms.

He emphasised that the government is maintaining a close watch on the entire fuel supply chain and is fully prepared to intervene with necessary measures to ensure uninterrupted availability across the state. The Civil Supplies Department, he said, is actively monitor-



ing the situation on a real-time basis to prevent any disruptions or artificial scarcity. Issuing a strong warning against panic buying and hoarding, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that storing petrol or diesel in large quantities—such as in drums, cans, or other containers—is strictly prohibited under the law.

He cautioned that such practices not only pose serious safety risks but also disrupt the supply balance, and violators would face stringent legal action. Meanwhile, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Raveendra highlighted that fuel demand in Telangana has seen a noticeable spike of nearly 25 per cent in recent days,

primarily driven by panic-driven purchases. To manage the increased demand, around 1,200 fuel tankers are being deployed daily to ensure timely replenishment of petrol pumps across the state. He also made it clear that any petrol bunk shutting operations without valid reasons would face strict action from the authorities.

Addressing concerns raised in other cities such as Ahmedabad, Surat, Nagpur, and Chennai, Raveendra reiterated that there are no credit-related issues affecting fuel stations and confirmed that the supply chain remains fully operational and stable. The government once again appealed to the public to act responsibly, avoid unnecessary panic buying, and cooperate with authorities to ensure smooth and equitable fuel distribution across Telangana.

Miyapur Gets Swift Infrastructure and Safety Overhaul

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a decisive move to enhance urban livability, the Zonal Commissioner has ordered immediate action on infrastructure, safety, and encroachments following a high-priority inspection of Circle-48, covering Mythri Nagar and the Srikara Hospital corridor.

Top priority has been given to enforcement and reclaiming public spaces. The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to launch a strict clearance drive against unauthorized parking on footpaths and service roads, a major cause of traffic congestion. Additionally, all schools and colleges in Mythri Nagar will



undergo rigorous verification of building permissions, with any violations set to face immediate legal action.

Focusing on public safety, the Commissioner ordered a "zero-pothole" mission and the urgent removal or securing of dangerous

hanging cables. The Forest Department will also be engaged to address the rising monkey menace reported by residents.

On infrastructure maintenance, officials have been instructed to prune tree branches for better visibility and repaint central dividers to improve road safety and aesthetics. The Commissioner also stressed cleanliness, directing Silver River School authorities to clear silt and maintain hygiene on nearby footpaths.

As part of beautification efforts, Mythri Nagar Phase 2 Park will receive theme painting, while parks will be optimized to create open play spaces for children.

Bowenpally Market Crisis: Board Assures Swift Action

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cantonment Board has assured swift intervention to resolve worsening sanitation and infrastructure issues at the busy Bowenpally Agricultural Market Yard following a formal representation by market leadership on Wednesday. Chairman Ragiri Anand Babu and Vice-Chairman D.B. Devender Devudu met Cantonment Board CEO Arvind Kumar Dwivedi and submitted a detailed mem-



orandum highlighting urgent concerns.

Key issues raised included the ongoing waste management crisis and the lack of adequate summer preparedness measures. According to the committee, uncollected garbage has piled

up across the yard, disrupting daily trade and posing serious health risks to traders, farmers, and consumers. With temperatures steadily rising, they also urged the Board to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and improve basic amenities

to protect people from heat-related stress. Responding to the concerns, CEO Dwivedi reportedly gave a positive assurance, stating that steps would be taken to streamline garbage clearance and address water supply issues.

The Board's response is expected to bring much-needed relief to hundreds of traders and thousands of daily visitors. Earlier, the leaders submitted their memorandum and felicitated the CEO, expressing hope for a timely resolution before peak summer conditions intensify.

Garbage Piles Up in Lalapet Area, Residents Raise Health Concerns

Civic Apathy Turns Vacant Land into Health Hazard Near Lalapet Bridge; Residents Demand Urgent GHMC Intervention

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A vacant plot near Lalapet Bridge in Secunderabad has turned into an unofficial dumping ground, leaving local residents grappling with foul odors, mosquito infestations, and potential health hazards. The empty spaces adjacent to multi-story residential buildings are littered with plastic waste, household trash, and other debris.

The situation has made walking near the area nearly impossible, and some residents report that people have started using the space as an open urination spot. "The smell is unbearable, and with stagnant waste, mosquito breeding is rampant," said a local resident. "We're worried about diseases like dengue and malaria, especially for children and the elderly." Officials note that some of these plots are public or private prop-



erty that remain unmaintained, which has allowed them to become informal dumping grounds.

Negligent disposal by passersby and nearby residents has worsened the problem, creating both environmental and health risks. Local residents, women's groups, and youth organizations are urging the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to take immediate action. They demand the area be cleared, properly main-

tained, and monitored to prevent future misuse. Awareness campaigns for proper waste disposal have also been suggested.

This growing crisis highlights the need for proactive urban waste management in rapidly developing city areas. Without timely intervention, residents fear that public health risks will escalate further. "A clean city is a healthy city," said a community leader, calling on authorities to act swiftly.

Condolence Gathering at Mator Village



Mator Sarpanch Janne Siddulu, Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu, Well-wisher Uday Kumar Battipally, and several others visited to console Mr. Tummala Keerthi Verdhan Reddy on the occasion of his mother's 10th day 'Dasha Dina Kharma' ceremony. Mr. Reddy, son of Mr. Tummala Pramod Reddy and Late Mrs. Tummala Prasanna Reddy, lost his beloved mother on March 15. On this solemn occasion, a well-organized gathering was arranged at his residence in Mator village, Motakondur Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Family members, relatives, near and dear ones, villagers, and well-wishers gathered to pay their respects. Lunch was arranged for all attendees. Although Mr. Reddy was born and brought up outside the village, he returned a few years ago to his ancestral place to take up agriculture. Since then, he has maintained cordial relationships with the villagers and is known for helping people in humanitarian grounds whenever needed. Rich tributes were paid to Late Mrs. Tummala Prasanna Reddy, and heartfelt condolences were expressed to the bereaved family.

Awareness on 'SIR' programme at Aleru

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Strengthening Democracy at the Grassroots: Awareness Program on Special Intensive Revision for BLOs in AleruA meaningful step toward reinforcing democratic integrity was witnessed in the Aleru Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, where a comprehensive training and awareness program was conducted for Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The session focused on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls—one of the



most crucial exercises undertaken by the Election Commission of India to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections. Addressing the gathering, Tahsildar V. Anjaneyulu emphasized that the right to vote is not merely a privilege but a fundamen-

tal responsibility of every citizen. Ensuring that this right is extended only to eligible individuals lies at the heart of the SIR process. He underlined that a clean and accurate electoral roll forms the backbone of a credible democratic system.

Parking Policy Revival Pitched as Jobs & Traffic Fix

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The proposal to revive organized parking bids in Hyderabad is gaining traction as a multi-pronged solution to urban congestion and unemployment, while also advancing social justice concerns. Advocates argue that reversing the 2018 decision to make parking free in Greater Hyderabad could restore order on city roads and create sustainable employment opportunities. Since the cancellation of formal parking contracts,



delays for emergency services and public transport, raising concerns among commuters and authorities alike. The proposal also highlights the growing unemployment crisis among educated youth. Thousands of graduates and postgraduates remain underemployed, and structured parking systems could offer jobs in areas such as digital billing, security, and traffic coordination. A suggested 50:50 revenue-sharing model between the government and private contractors is expected to fund wages

while boosting state revenues. Social organizations like Mala Mahanadu are framing the issue as one of economic empowerment for marginalized communities. They are urging influencers and IT wings to amplify the demand for policy reform. Plans are underway to present the proposal to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Ministers Ponnampalabhar and Vivek Venkataswamy, seeking integration of labor welfare with urban development.

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.

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.

Harish Rao dares Revanth Reddy to contest from Siddipet

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

BRSVP deputy leader and former Minister T Harish Rao threw down the gauntlet at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to contest from Siddipet, in response to the latter's offer of a ministerial berth to any Congress leader winning Siddipet constituency. He predicted that the Congress government would not return to power in the next Assembly elections. "Why send someone else? Revanth Reddy himself should come and contest against me in Siddipet. Let the people decide," he said, adding that the present term would be Revanth Reddy's last. During an informal interaction with reporters at the Assembly on Wednesday, Harish Rao said the BRS would form the next government and party



president K Chandrashekar Rao would once again become the Chief Minister. "Even if Revanth Reddy stands on his head in penance, he will not become the Chief Minister again. The next government will be formed by the BRS," he declared. The BRSVP deputy leader accused the Congress government of deceiving all sections of society, particularly BCs, SCs, STs and minorities, by failing to implement its election guarantees. Citing replies given by the government in the Assembly, he said less than

two per cent of the funds allocated for community welfare corporations were actually spent, calling it proof of neglect towards weaker sections. "In the last two years, the Congress government spent Rs 6 crore of Rs 1,370 crore allocated to BC Corporation, Rs 52 crore of Rs 2,730 crore allocated to ST Corporation and Rs 74 crore of Rs 5,403 crore allocated to SC Corporation. Similar is the case of funds allocated to various communities in the State," he said, adding that the Budget disappointed every section of society, prompting BRS legislators to protest in the House. Harish Rao also said the government misled unemployed youth by taking credit for job appointments based on posts sanctioned during the previous BRS regime. Citing

reply to question raised by BRS working president and Sircilla MLA KT Rama Rao, he said the government admitted to have issued 16 notifications and filling 16,978 jobs since the Congress came to power. "This government only handed over appointment letters to 50,785 people and taking credit for work done by the previous BRS government," he said. Criticising the conduct of Assembly proceedings, the BRSVP deputy leader said discussions were being curtailed and key questions were not being taken up. He said even Zero Hour was not being conducted regularly. He demanded that the Budget session be extended by a week to allow proper debate on public issues. Welcoming delimitation and women's reservation, Harish Rao felt that an increase in Assembly seats.

Congress govt admits filling only 16,978 jobs, contradicts Revanth Reddy's 60,000

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Congress government has contradicted its public claims on job recruitment in the State. The government admitted in the Assembly that only 16,978 posts were filled through notifications issued after it took over the reins of power in the State in December 2023. This admission contradicts repeated assertions by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy that the government had recruited people for 60,000 jobs within a year. At a public meeting in Thungathurthy constituency of Nalgonda district in July 2025, he had declared that his government created a record of sorts by filling 60,000



jobs in one year. He had also promised to fill one lakh jobs by mid-2026. However, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented a different and starkly contrasting picture during Question Hour in the Assembly on Wednesday. Responding to a question raised by BRS MLAs, including KT Rama Rao, KP Vivekanand and Sabitha Indra Reddy, he said 16 recruitment notifications were issued to fill 31,798 vacancies across

departments after Congress came to power. He stated that the recruitment process for 67,763 posts had been completed so far. Of these, 16,978 posts were filled through notifications issued by the Congress and the remaining 50,785 posts were filled by completing recruitment processes initiated under the previous [BRS] government, the Deputy Chief Minister said in a written reply. The government also admitted delays in issuing fresh notifications as per the job calendar. The Telangana Job Calendar was issued through GOMs. No. 90 on August 8, 2024, to streamline recruitment and help aspirants plan their exam schedules.

Panic LPG bookings delay cylinder deliveries

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Households across Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana are facing delays of 5 to 7 days in receiving LPG cylinders, as an unprecedented surge in bookings has overwhelmed the distribution network. According to the Federation of LPG Distributors of India (FLDI), daily bookings have spiked by nearly 60 percent, rising sharply from the national average of 5.5 million to over 8.8 million. The sudden increase has created what officials describe as a "virtual queue," where even households with sufficient gas supply are placing advance refill orders out of fear, thereby delaying deliveries to those in urgent need. FLDI President P. Venkateshwar Rao stated that the surge in precautionary bookings



is the primary cause of the disruption. He emphasized that while delivery timelines have extended beyond the usual 48-hour cycle, no authorized gas distributorship has run out of stock. Authorities, in coordination with the government, are closely monitoring cylinder availability and pricing across Telangana and the country to prevent any irregularities. The Federation has urged consumers to avoid panic booking and instead rely strictly on digital platforms such as WhatsApp, SMS, or IVRS for placing refill requests.

Visiting gas agency showrooms in person, they clarified, does not speed up the delivery process and only contributes to unnecessary crowding. In addition, consumers have been requested to show patience and respect towards delivery personnel, many of whom are working extended shifts of 14 to 16 hours daily to clear the backlog and restore normal supply operations. Officials remain hopeful that with responsible consumer behavior and continued monitoring, the system will soon return to its standard delivery timeline.

Cement Debris Chokes Key Junction in Sec'bad's Education Hub

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A busy junction in one of Secunderabad's prominent educational corridors has turned into a major bottleneck, with heaps of cement and construction debris severely disrupting movement and raising safety concerns among students, commuters, and residents. The stretch, surrounded by several institutions from primary schools to postgraduate colleges, including St. Mary's Pharmacy College, along with a major hospital, witnesses heavy



traffic throughout the day. TGSRTC buses, school transport vehicles, and private commuters frequently pass through this route, making it a vital but already congested junction. The situation

becomes particularly alarming during school and college hours. At peak times—when students are arriving or leaving—the junction turns extremely crowded, leaving barely any space even for pedestrians to walk safely. Students

and commuters have urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to immediately clear the debris and restore normalcy. They have also stressed that given the limited space at this junction, further construction activity or dumping of materials should be strictly avoided. Citizens are calling on authorities to inspect the situation during peak student hours to understand the gravity of the problem and take urgent corrective measures in the interest of public safety and convenience.

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CC Road work grounded at Bidekanne village

SANGAREDDY Wakeup telangana

Bidekanne village in Jara-sangam Mandal of Sangareddy District has begun Cement Concrete (CC) road works under the MGNREGS scheme on a war-footing basis. These development activities are being led by the newly elected young Sarpanch, C. Ravinder, along with the support of village elders. It was stated that CC road works worth approximately ₹10 lakhs have been sanctioned under MGNREGS grants. The Sarpanch acknowl-



edged that the village currently faces several issues, and assured that development activities will be taken up on a priority basis. He further emphasized that, with the cooperation of public representatives, Mandal level, local

leaders, and government officials, more development works will be sanctioned in the future. He also appealed for the continued support and guidance of the villagers to ensure overall progress and development of Bidekanne village.

Anti-Mosquito Drive in Netaji Nagar

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A special drive to control mosquitoes and pests was conducted in Netaji Nagar colony under the leadership of colony president Beri Ramachander Yadav, with the support of GHMC staff and the entomology department. Measures such as fogging and spraying were carried out across the colony to curb mosquito breeding. On the occasion, Ramachander Yadav created awareness among residents, urging them to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings. He advised people not to allow stagnant water and to dispose of garbage only



through GHMC collection vehicles instead of dumping it in open areas. He warned that improper waste disposal leads to the spread of mosquitoes and flies, increasing the risk of diseases like malaria and dengue. Residents were appealed to stay alert and ensure a clean, healthy environment.

'Janne' says Paving New Paths for Rural Development

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a bid to strengthen local leadership and accelerate rural development, Bhongir district recently hosted a dynamic conference for Sarpanches at a private hotel. The event served as a platform for elected representatives to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and explore innovative solutions for the betterment of their villages. The conference was attended by Bhongir District Sarpanch Association Founder-Pres-



ident Bhoomanna Yadav, executive committee members, and Sarpanches from across the district. Both senior and newly-elected Sarpanches shared their insights, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in driving village development initiatives. Addressing the gathering, Mothakonduru

Mandal's young and educated Sarpanch, Siddu Jenne, expressed gratitude for being entrusted with a second term. "It is our responsibility to identify local issues and provide practical guidance for their resolution," he emphasized. Jenne underscored the power of unity and coordination among

Sarpanches, noting that collective efforts would help secure greater government funding for developmental projects. He also highlighted the critical role of Sarpanches in implementing central and state government initiatives, including the Indiramma Housing Scheme, Public Governance programs, and the 99-Day Progress Report scheme. "This platform gives us the opportunity to serve our people, and if we work systematically, their blessings will always accompany us," he added.

T'gana AAP Alleges BJP-Congress Nexus Fueling Price Rise

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Burra Ramu Goud, State Working President of the Aam Aadmi Party (Telangana), on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre and the Indian National Congress (Congress) in the state, accusing them of colluding and burdening common citizens with soaring prices of essential commodities and fuel. Addressing a press conference, he alleged that artificial shortages of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas are being created, pushing



households into distress. He questioned the Union government's rationale of citing global crude price hikes while allegedly procuring cheaper oil from Russia without passing benefits to consumers. He further accused the BJP of favoring corporate inter-

ests at the cost of the poor. Criticizing the state government, Goud said the Congress had failed to fulfill its pre-election promise of providing LPG cylinders at ₹500 and instead disrupted supply. He also questioned why the state has not reduced VAT

on fuel to provide immediate relief. Highlighting public hardships, he noted long queues at petrol pumps and a steep rise in prices of vegetables and pulses, making daily survival difficult. The AAP demanded that the Centre halve excise duty on fuel and the state cut VAT to reduce prices by ₹10 per litre. It warned of protests, including "Chalo Secretariat" and sieges of BJP offices, if corrective steps are not taken. AAP leaders Darshan Ramesh, Kodangal Srinivas, and A. Rakesh Reddy were present.

Asia Looks To COVID-Era Playbook To Tackle Fuel Crisis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Countries across Asia are weighing up work-from-home policies and stimulus measures enforced during the COVID pandemic, as they scramble to respond to global fuel shortages triggered by the Iran war. Asia is at the frontline of the fuel crisis, buying more than 80% of the crude that transits the Strait of Hormuz, which has been almost totally blocked by Iran since the war broke out on February 28.

No country in the region has enforced work-from-home measures yet, but some have said they are on the table. "I think it is a good idea," South Korean Energy Minister Kim Sung-whan said on Tues-



day when asked about an International Energy Agency recommendation for people to work from home. The IEA, which agreed a record release of around 400 million barrels of oil from strategic stockpiles to deal with the crisis, has outlined proposals to ease oil price pressures such as working from home and avoiding

air travel. IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol repeated those calls at a conference in Sydney this week. "There were real-life tests, such as after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, European countries adopted these measures, and it was announced by the European governments. It helped them a lot to go through

these difficult times without Russian energy ... but keeping the lights on," Birol said. Industrial powerhouse South Korea on Tuesday launched a public campaign asking people to cut shower time, charge phones during the day and run vacuums on weekends.

"We will consult with relevant ministries and actively consider measures for work-from-home," Energy Minister Kim told a briefing. The Philippines, which relies heavily on Middle Eastern oil for its energy needs, shortened the work week in some government offices earlier this month. President Ferdinand Marcos declared a state of national energy emergency saying the conflict poses an "imminent danger" to

the country's energy supply. Pakistan closed schools for two weeks and said office workers would work more from home. The island nation of Sri Lanka declared a public holiday every Wednesday to help make its fuel supplies go further. Singapore, an Asian financial hub, urged people and businesses to switch to energy-efficient appliances, use electric vehicles and set the temperature higher on their air conditioners. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul ordered bureaucrats to suspend overseas trips, set air conditioning temperatures above 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit), avoid suits and ties, use stairs instead of elevators, and work from home.

Russia Launches 400 Drones on Ukraine, Signals Spring Offensive

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A major Russian drone and missile attack on civilian areas of Ukraine killed six people and injured at least 46, officials said Tuesday, while Moscow's army stepped up efforts to break through Ukrainian frontline defenses in what could be the start of an anticipated spring ground offensive. Russia fired almost 400 long-range drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's air force said, in its biggest attack in weeks. The onslaught continued into Tuesday as dozens of drones targeted the capital Kyiv during daylight. Russia launched



swarms of Iranian-designed Shahed drones, hitting at least seven cities, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X. Russia also launched 23 cruise missiles and seven ballistic missiles at Ukraine during the night, hitting at least 10 locations across the country, according to the air force. Daytime strikes injured 13 people, including three children, in the central Ukraine city of Dnipro, and another daylight at-

tack hit an apartment block in the center of the western city of Lviv, near the Polish border, where 13 people were injured, regional officials said.

The Lviv attack set fire to the city's 17th-century St. Andrew's Church, which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said. In the central city of Ivano-Frankivsk, the attack damaged maternity hospitals and about 10 apartment buildings, according to Svitlana Onyshchuk, the head of the regional military administration. Two people were killed and four injured, including a 6-year-old child, she said.

PM Modi Remains Most Popular Global Leader: Survey

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the most popular world leader globally, according to a recent global survey conducted by US-based data analytics firm Morning Consult.

The survey, which tracked public opinion between March 2 and 8, 2025, placed PM Modi well ahead of other global leaders.

According to the report, PM Modi recorded an approval rating of 68 per cent, the highest among



all leaders surveyed. Only 26 per cent of respondents disapproved of his leadership, while 6 per cent said they were undecided or did not express an opinion.

The survey is based on a rolling seven-day average of responses collected from adults in each coun-

try. Behind PM Modi, Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin secured the second position with an approval rating of 62 per cent.

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung followed closely, also with 62 per cent, placing him third on the list.

Other leaders in the top tier include: Andrej Babis (Czech Republic) - 57% Javier Milei (Argentina) - 56% Sanae Takaichi (Japan) - 56% Mark Carney (Canada) -

55%

The survey showed a significant gap between PM Modi and several prominent Western leaders.

US President Donald Trump recorded an approval rating of 39 per cent, hit by the recent war in Iran.

Further down, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer stood at 24 per cent, while Germany's Friedrich Merz had 20 per cent.

French President Emmanuel Macron ranked among the lowest, with an approval rating of just 17 per cent and a disapproval rating of 75 per cent.

Kim Jong Un Says Iran War Justifies North Korea's Nuclear Deterrence

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has defended his country's decision to maintain nuclear weapons, saying the ongoing war involving Iran demonstrates the need for a strong military deterrence, according to the South Korean state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). In remarks reported by KCNA, Kim on Tuesday, in a speech to North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, accused the United States of carrying out "terrorism and inva-

sions" across different regions, referring to Washington's ongoing conflict with Iran, though he did not directly mention US President Donald Trump.

"Dignity, interest and the final victory of a country can only be guaranteed by the most powerful might," the KCNA quoted Kim as saying. "Whether the enemies choose confrontation or peaceful coexistence, that's their choice, and we are ready to respond to any choice." He vowed to further advance North Korea's "defensive nuclear deterrence" and maintain a "prompt and precise" response posture

for its nuclear forces to address "strategic threats" to national and regional security, as reported by KCNA. North Korea "will continue to solidify its status as a nuclear weapons state ... while aggressively staging campaigns to crush any provocations by hostile forces," Kim said, as quoted by KCNA.

In the same address, Kim also escalated rhetoric toward South Korea, formally declaring it the "most hostile nation." North Korea "officially" recognised South Korea as the most hostile nation and will thoroughly ig-

nore and disregard it through the clearest remarks and actions," Kim was quoted by KCNA as saying, warning of "merciless" consequences if Seoul carries out any actions that provoke Pyongyang. Meanwhile, US President Trump had earlier confirmed that negotiations were on with Iran, claiming that the war was going to end. "We're in negotiations right now. I can tell you, they'd like to make a deal and who wouldn't if you were there? Look, their navy's gone, their air force is gone, their communications are gone.

Gen Z's Impact on Politics: Rejecting PM Meloni's Reform in Italy

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Young Italians voted overwhelmingly against the judicial reform proposed by Giorgia Meloni's government, playing a major role in its defeat in Monday's constitutional referendum. Generation Z, the youngest voters, voted against the reform more than any other age group, at 61.1 per cent, according to a Consorzio Opinio exit poll for public broadcaster Rai based on 40,000 voters. "It was wonderful to see how many Italians felt the need to defend the Constitution by going out to vote," said Valentina Alberti, a 24-year-old psychologist in Turin.

"I thought Meloni had a stronger influence. Turnout among people my age was very high. Many people around me stayed informed." The constitutional reform sought to separate the role of judges and prosecutors and reform their oversight, in measures that Meloni's hard-right government said were essential for judicial impartiality. The referendum mobilized Italians in large numbers, with a 55.7 percent turnout. But young people



participated the most, at 67 percent, according to an Ipsos poll.

That was all the more surprising given that many students remain registered in their hometowns and are not eligible to vote by proxy or by mail when away from home.

Voters over 61 and those in southern Italy also tipped the referendum in favor of a "no" vote. The reform, which was presented by the opposition as a vote on Meloni's leadership ahead of the 2027 general election. Vittorio Giorda, a 24-year-old software developer in Turin, had planned to abstain but ultimately voted "No".

"The idea of the Constitution in the hands of people whom I consider inadequate or dangerous, like those currently in power, really scares me. "This time, I felt like I could really make a difference by saying no." In the week before the election,

Meloni even appeared on a podcast hosted by rapper Fedez to try to convince young voters, a strategy that backfired, according to Giorda: "The intense pressure exerted by Meloni to push us to vote had the opposite effect."

Moreover, he said, given the tense geopolitical situation, many people, including his parents, saw a "No" vote as a way to show opposition to the government's policies beyond the justice system, specifically its closeness to US President Donald Trump. Roman Federico Giorgetti, 25, said for young people his age it was "very difficult to get to the heart of the matter". Giorgetti, a political science student who voted "Yes," cited the reform's technical aspects that made it confusing to many.

"The information circulating on Instagram is inherently polarizing; it tends to oversimplify, and the political class didn't make things any easier for us," he said. Surveys show that priorities for most Italians involve stagnant purchasing power and low wages, rather than justice reform.

Reopen Hormuz.....

Meanwhile, two Indian LPG carriers, Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz carrying 92,612.59 MT of LPG. The vessels, with Indian crew members onboard, are expected to reach Indian ports between March 26 and 28 to support domestic supply.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for coordinated efforts between the Centre and states to address challenges arising from the West Asia conflict. He urged a united approach to ensure stability and support for citizens affected by the crisis. Addressing the Rajya Sabha, PM Modi described the situation as a "major test" for the country and stressed the importance of ensuring timely benefits under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, especially for the poor, workers, and migrant communities.

India, US Officials.....

In a social media post, the department under commerce ministry said that they had detailed discussions on the MC14 agenda and explored strategic ways to further deepen our economic cooperation and bilateral trade ties. The meeting was held in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. Both are in the African nation for the 14th ministerial conference (MC14) of the WTO. The four-day meet will start on March 26.

The meeting is important as the two countries have finalised a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. It

has not yet been signed. India and the US announced a trade deal on February 2. A joint statement for the same was released on February 7. India remains engaged with the US for a mutually beneficial trade agreement. According to the framework, the US had agreed to reduce tariffs on India to 18 per cent. However, the tariff architecture in the US has changed following its Supreme Court ruling against President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs. After that, the US President imposed 10 per cent tariffs on all countries for 150 days from February 24.

Parliament Passes....

The bill, which seeks to amend Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act 2019, also provides for graded punishment based on the gravity of harm inflicted on such people. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to the debate on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, in the Upper House, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar said the proposed legislation is an effort to take along all segments of the society together. He said that the bill aims to provide protection to only those who face discrimination due to biological issues. The minister asserted that the amendment will ensure that transgender persons continue to get legal recognition and protection.

The Modi government is committed to protecting all those people who are suffering due to

FROM FRONT PAGE

biological reasons, he said adding that their rights will be protected. The minister opined that such persons should be brought into the mainstream so that they should not live in dejection.

Highlighting the steps taken by the government for the welfare of the community, the minister said that transgender welfare boards have been set up in over 30 states. This bill will bring administrative clarity and protect rights of the transgender persons.

The bill was passed by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha after rejecting amendments moved by the Opposition. The House did not approve the demands by Opposition for sending the bill to select committee. The bill seeks to give a precise definition of the term "transgender" and exclude "different sexual orientations and self-perceived sexual identities" from the proposed law's ambit. It was introduced in Lok Sabha earlier this month.

AAP MP Swati Maliwal stated that gender inequality for transgender persons must be urgently corrected. She noted that the provision in the bill criminalising, alluring someone to present as transgender, is vague and risky. It is risky because it may target families, doctors and support system of the transgender community. "Instead of protection, we may create outright fear. Today we must stand up with those pushed to the margins for centuries. We must send this bill to select committee and hold larger consultations because dignity delayed is dignity denied," she said. JMM MP Mahua Maji

said that these persons are not getting equal rights. If they get opportunity then they are not less able than anyone, she stressed. Amar Pal Maurya (BJP) also participated in the debate in the bill.

Centre To Table.....

while addressing a press conference at Berhampore on Wednesday AICC observer Mr.Thakur said our leader Adhir Chowdhury might be a prosperous candidate. It may be mentioned most of all parties declared their candidates but congress yet to declare their lists... Meanwhile Berhampore remained tensed as one Congress worker named Jiten Saha was attacked allegedly by the Berhampore Trinamul congress candidate Narugopal Mukherjee and his associates on Tuesday evening at Khagra area and admitted at the Murshidabad medical College hospital.

On Wednesday Adhir Chowdhury and Mr.Thakur met him at the hospital and said "It will be not one-sided affair, we will also combat them, If situation arises Central paramilitary forces will be deployed at Berhampore for security reason, it is nothing but violation of model code of conduct a candidate and Municipality chairman attacked the aged voters. However, Narugopal Mukherjee said "I was on campaigning suddenly that congress noted criminal verbally abused me from a nearby tea stall and after a heated argument some disturbing incident took place, actually Adhir Chowdhury is trying hard to terrorise vote, we lodged FIR against him.

CRIME

GHMC Prajavani Failure: Illegal Building Row

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Serious allegations have surfaced against the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) over inaction on illegal construction in Masjid Banda, raising questions about the effectiveness of its grievance redressal system, 'Prajavani'. Residents of Kanthivanam Colony have accused Town Planning officials, including ACP Venkataramana and Chairman Mohan, of ignoring repeated complaints about an unauthorized high-rise building. Despite two formal grievances filed through Prajavani in February, no enforcement action or site inspection was reportedly carried out, allowing the



structure to be completed. The building, located opposite Moolamaluupu Wines, allegedly began as a five-storey structure but was illegally expanded with additional floors for commercial use. Today, it stands as a fully developed commercial complex with glass facades, reportedly operating without mandatory approvals. Local advocate Mallereddy, who raised the complaints, termed the

inaction a "mockery" of the Prajavani system. He pointed out that complaints filed on February 16 and February 23 went unanswered, even as construction activity continued openly. Residents say the issue has now escalated into a civic crisis. The structure allegedly includes an unauthorized cellar and lacks designated parking facilities. Spaces meant for parking have reportedly been converted into commercial establishments, leading to severe traffic congestion and daily inconvenience in the colony. With the building now operational, locals argue that authorities have effectively allowed a violation to become irreversible. They allege that the failure

of officials to intervene in time has emboldened illegal construction practices in the area. The community has demanded immediate corrective measures, including eviction of commercial units from parking areas and restoration of the building's original layout. They have also called for a formal inquiry into the role of GHMC Town Planning officials in failing to act on public complaints. The controversy has cast a shadow over Prajavani, a flagship initiative intended to ensure swift grievance redressal. Residents now await intervention from higher authorities to determine whether accountability will be enforced or if such violations will continue unchecked.

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.

Plea to Denotify Forest Land Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

Flat Building Contractor writ plea dismissed

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 Swagratha 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 Peddashapur 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.



Sreemukhi launches Fursat restaurant in Hyderabad with partners

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Popular television personality Sreemukhi has officially stepped into the hospitality sector with the launch of her multi-cuisine restaurant, Fursat, at Madhapur's Capital Park in Hyderabad. The grand opening, attended by distinguished guests and media, introduced a vibrant dining destination designed to blend diverse cuisines with a lively ambience.

Positioned as a one-stop destination for food and celebrations, Fursat offers a seating capacity of around 300 guests, along with banquet facilities aimed at hosting family gatherings, corporate events, and special occasions. The restaurant highlights signature offerings such as Nalli Gosht Bi-



ryani, alongside a wide range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, catering to varied culinary preferences at affordable pricing.

Speaking at the launch, Sreemukhi expressed her passion for food and her vision behind the venture. She noted that while she personally enjoys chicken dishes like biryani and homemade curries, she equally appreciates vegetarian cuisine. Emphasizing the concept, she

The venture is backed by partners Sravan, Anand, and Ravi, who bring a shared vision of quality dining and customer experience. Partner Sravan stated that the idea behind Fursat was to create a welcoming space where guests can enjoy consistent taste and service in a

city. Highlighting the culinary approach, Anand said the menu has been thoughtfully curated to combine traditional flavors with modern presentation. He stressed that every dish is crafted with attention to quality and authenticity, aiming to deliver a complete dining experience rather than just a meal.

Ravi underscored the broader vision, describing Fursat as a space designed for celebrations and large-scale events. He added that future plans include expanding the brand while maintaining high standards of service and customer satisfaction. With Sreemukhi's popularity and the team's combined expertise, Fursat is poised to establish itself as a prominent addition to Hyderabad's evolving food and hospitality landscape.



described Fursat as more than just a restaurant—calling it “a feeling and a vibe” where people can relax, unwind, and create memorable moments with friends and family.

comfortable environment. He expressed confidence that the restaurant would become a preferred destination for social and corporate gatherings in the

MSE Appoints Market Makers, Liquidity Push from April 1

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE) has completed the appointment of Market Makers for its Equity Segment, marking a significant step toward enhancing liquidity and improving trading efficiency. The exchange announced that, starting April 1, 2026, it will roll out a series of liquidity enhancement measures aimed at deepening mar-

ket participation and creating a more active trading environment.

The appointment of Market Makers is expected to play a key role in strengthening market depth, ensuring better price discovery, and providing investors with a smoother trading experience. By maintaining continuous buy and sell quotes, Market Makers help reduce volatility and improve overall market stability.

These initiatives under-

line MSE's continued focus on building a transparent, efficient, and competitive marketplace. The move is also seen as part of the exchange's broader strategy to attract more participants and boost investor confidence in its equity segment. With these developments, MSE aims to position itself as a more robust platform for equity trading, supporting both institutional and retail investors through improved liquidity and market mechanisms.

Tensions in West Asia To Delay Road Projects

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sustained geopolitical risks in the Gulf region threaten India's bitumen supply chain, which could lead to cost escalation and execution delay of state and regional road projects. India's state-level and regional road projects are highly vulnerable to geopolitical tensions in the

Gulf because of their heavy dependence on imported bitumen.

During FY21-FY26, bitumen imports have risen to 40 per cent from 30 per cent of the total demand. Almost 95 per cent of the imported bitumen is sourced from the Middle East region—primarily from the UAE, Oman, Iraq, and Iran. Any disruption in shipping lanes such

as the Strait of Hormuz can quickly tighten supply for contractors on state/regional projects, finds India Ratings and Research.

State and regional road works may experience notable slowdowns as the peak geopolitical uncertainty coincides with India's peak construction season from February to June.

Gold, Silver Rebound on Wednesday but Pressure Remains

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Gold prices witnessed a rebound on Wednesday, but the overall trend remains under pressure as the yellow metal has corrected more than 13 per cent so far in March amid global uncertainty and shifting investor sentiment. The Gold prices opened on Wednesday with a surge of more than 3 per cent to Rs 143339/10 gram for 24 karats. On

the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold prices for 24 karats per 10 grams were at Rs 169300 at the beginning of March on 2nd. By March 25 (Wednesday), prices had declined by 13.69 per cent to Rs 144339 per 10 grams, reflecting sustained selling pressure during the month. Silver prices have seen an even sharper correction. Although silver surged more than 5 per cent on Wednesday, opening to Rs

236686 per kg on MCX, it has still corrected more than 20 per cent so far this month.

At the beginning of March on 2nd, silver was trading at around Rs 296000 per kg, which has now dropped significantly to Rs 236686 per kg. Market experts noted that despite the recent rebound, volatility in precious metals remains high. Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewelry said "The recovery in gold prices today,



breaking a brief phase of sharp correction, reflects the resilience of the yellow metal as a safe-haven asset. The recovery in gold prices is largely

driven by the cautious buying from the investors' community as a hedge against geopolitical conditions triggering economic instability. While

rising interest rates and a stronger USD had a temporary impact, the underlying affinity and dominance of the yellow metal remain intact. Many use such opportunities and follow the "buy the dip" pattern to book profits."

He also cautioned that one needs to be watchful of the developments in West Asia and take decisions in accordance, as we are sailing through troubled waters. Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money,

said, "MCX Gold opened with a gap up and is currently trading in Rs 1,43,000- Rs 1,45,000 resistance band, indicating underlying buying interest despite some intraday volatility. Price action suggests resilience at higher levels, keeping the broader tone constructive."

He added that Rs 1,48,000 remains a key resistance level, and a sustained move above it could push prices towards

Rs 1,55,000- Rs 1,57,000. On the downside, support is placed at Rs 1,37,000- Rs 1,40,000, with further downside risk toward Rs 1,30,000- Rs 1,32,000 if these levels are breached. Rajeesh Sharan, Head of Research at Brickwork Ratings, said, "Commodity markets corrected sharply last week, with both oil and gold retreating from recent highs. International gold prices also dropped over 10 per cent, marking the steepest

Immediate Admissions Urged at Girls' ITI College in Ghatkesar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister and Medchal MLA Chama-kura Mallareddy has called for immediate commencement of admissions at the newly constructed girls' Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Ghatkesar, highlighting the urgent need to make the facility operational. The ITI, built on two acres of government land in Kondapur with the support of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under CSR initiatives, was completed at a cost of approximately ₹8



crore. The institution was officially inaugurated in December 2024 by Duddilla Sridhar Babu, then the IT Department Minister and Medchal District In-charge, but admissions have yet to commence even after two years, leaving the facility underutilized. Speaking at a recent

meeting in his camp office in Bowinipalli, MLA Mallareddy urged officials to begin the admission process immediately, emphasizing the importance of providing young women in the region with technical education and skill development opportunities. In addition to the ITI, the Ghatkesar railway bridge

construction, which has faced delays, was also discussed. Mallareddy requested the government to resume work promptly, ensuring timely completion of this critical infrastructure project. The program was attended by key local leaders, including Bandari Srinivas Goud, Ghatkesar Circle BRS Party President, former Ghatkesar Cooperative Bank Director Resu Lakshmareddy, and former MPTC Mekala Nursing Rao.

The presence of these leaders underscores the strong local support for

these developmental initiatives. The operationalization of the girls' ITI is expected to provide crucial technical and vocational education to young women in Ghatkesar, empowering them for future careers. Concurrently, the completion of the Ghatkesar railway bridge will enhance connectivity and contribute to regional development. Local authorities and community leaders have called for swift action to ensure these projects benefit the residents without further delay.

Dr. Aravind Sai Kalinga: A Journey of Excellence, Resilience, and Public Health Advocacy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Dr. Aravind Sai Kalinga, a native of Kohir Mandal, now a municipality in Sangareddy District, recently had a heart-warming reunion with his school teacher, reflecting on the guidance and support he received during his formative years. Dr. Kalinga humbly credited his teachers for laying the foundation of his success, noting that their encouragement played a pivotal role in shaping his career. It's truly an honour to meet our beloved school teacher after decades. He expressed in views:

"Time may pass, but the values, lessons, and memories you gave us remain forever. Feeling grateful and happy for this beautiful moment." His former teacher blessed him and wished him continued success in all future endeavors.

Dr. Kalinga completed his medical degree at MNR College, Sangareddy District, and pursued a post-graduation in Pulmonology, earning a gold medal for his outstanding academic performance. Despite his accolades, he is known for his humility, kindness, and down-to-earth nature. Recently, Dr. Kalinga faced a major personal challenge when he was involved in a serious bike accident, sustaining multiple fractures in his leg. Thankfully, he



recovered fully and resumed his work in serving the community. He currently runs his private clinic, Tulasi Chest Clinic, located on Kalwakunta Road, Sangareddy, where he provides expert care in pulmonology and respiratory health.

On the occasion of Tuberculosis day he talked over phone with the Wakeup Telangana Buero. On 24th March, coinciding with World Tuberculosis Day, Dr. Kalinga led a public awareness initiative to educate the community about TB, one of the leading infectious diseases worldwide. He highlighted alarming statistics: in 2018 alone, 10 million people fell ill with TB, and 1.5 million lost their lives, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. He stressed that the day is observed globally to increase awareness about TB and efforts to eliminate it. Dr. Kalinga advised the public to remain vigilant but not to panic, emphasizing preventive measures: Avoid crowded public areas such as buses, subways,

and other closed spaces until cleared of TB transmission. Wear a mask when around others to prevent spreading or contracting the infection. Consult your doctor regarding alcohol consumption and other lifestyle factors during treatment. Isolation for suspected TB patients: Place patients in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) if available. If not, use a face-mask (if tolerated) and keep the patient in a closed examination room. He also shared important dietary and lifestyle advice for TB patients: Avoid processed/junk foods (chips, biscuits) as they weaken immunity. Limit sugary foods and drinks (soda, sweets), which impair immunity and affect blood sugar. Avoid fried foods, which increase inflammation and hamper digestion. Minimize refined grains (white rice, bread) due to low nutritional value. Through his professional expertise and community engagement, Dr. Kalinga continues to inspire Sangareddy's residents. His journey—from a schoolboy guided by dedicated teachers to a gold-medalist pulmonologist overcoming personal challenges—reflects a story of resilience, dedication, and compassionate public service. Dr. Kalinga's message is clear: with awareness, timely care, and lifestyle measures, tuberculosis is preventable and treatable, and together, it can eventually be eradicated.

CBIT Student Secures AIR 734 in GATE 2026

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Kaki Maneesh, a VI Semester student of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI&DS) at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, has secured an impressive All India Rank (AIR) 734 in the highly competitive Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2026, bringing pride and recognition to the institution. GATE is one of India's most prestigious national-level examinations for engineering



graduates, and securing a top rank reflects Maneesh's strong academic foundation, discipline, and consistent preparation.

His achievement stands as a testament to both individual dedication and the academic environment fostered at CBIT. Congratulating him on this mile-

stone, CBIT Principal C. V. Narasimhulu and Head of the AI&DS Department K. Radhika lauded his hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. They stated that such accomplishments not only elevate the reputation of the institute but also inspire fellow students to strive for similar success. The faculty expressed confidence that Maneesh will continue to achieve greater milestones in his academic and professional journey.

Maneesh's parents, Kaki Srinivasa Rao, Chief

Ticket Inspector with South Central Railway in Guntur, and Meenakshi, Head Constable with ACB in Vijayawada, conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the CBIT management and faculty for their continuous encouragement and support.

The institute reiterated its pride in Maneesh's success and extended best wishes for his future endeavors, emphasizing that such achievements reflect CBIT's commitment to academic excellence and student success.

Homebound Sweeps Top Honours at Critics' Choice Awards

At the 8th Critics' Choice Awards, filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's film *Homebound* emerged as the biggest winner, sweeping four top honours including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor for Vishal Jethwa, and Best Supporting Actress for Shalini Vatsa. The awards ceremony, organised by the Film Critics Guild in collaboration with WPP Motion Entertainment, celebrates excellence across films, web series, documentaries, and short films, with winners selected by 56 film critics from across India. In the web series category, Vikramaditya Motwane's crime drama *Black Warrant* dominated with four awards, including Best Web Series and Best Director. The show



also secured Best Supporting Actor for Rahul Bhat and Best Writing for Satyanshu Singh and Arkesh Ajay. Among feature films, Priyanka Bose won Best Actress for *Agra*, while Pasupathy received Best Supporting Actor for *Bison Kaalamadaan*, marking his second Critics' Choice win. Writing honours went to

Rohan Parashuram Kanawade for *Sabar Bonda* (Cactus Pears), a film that had also gained recognition at Sundance. In the web acting categories, Jai-deep Ahlawat won Best Actor for *Paatal Lok Season 2*, while Monika Panwar was named Best Actress for *Khauf*. Tillotama Shome secured Best

Supporting Actress for *Paatal Lok Season 2*. Technical awards saw cinematography honours go to Sunil Borkar for *Jugnuma*, and editing recognition awarded to Chaman Chakko for *Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra*. The FCG Gender Sensitivity Award was presented to *Sthal*. In the short film segment, Apurva Barda-

purkar's *Maaybaapache Aashirvaad* (Blessings) led with three awards—Best Film, Best Director, and Best Writing. Acting honours in this category went to Sunny Hinduja for *That's A Wrap* and Sheeba Chaddha for *Nighiyan Chhavan*. The Best Documentary award was won by Vivek Chaudhary for *I, Poppy*, while veteran actress Farida Jalal received the Extraordinary Contribution to Cinema Award, recognising her decades-long career. Speaking after his win, Ghaywan said the honour held deep meaning for him and his team, noting that *Homebound* reflects the lived realities of people often overlooked in society and serves as a tribute to their resilience in the face of adversity.

Hema Malini to Attend Delhi's First International Film Festival

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Actor-Politician Hema Malini is looking forward to attending the International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026 that begins in the national capital on Wednesday. Speaking to ANI, ahead of the inauguration of the festival in the national capital, Malini shared that a special tribute would be held for her late husband, the iconic actor Dharmendra, at the IFFD. "I would like to congratulate Rekha Gupta ji for organising the International Film Festival in Delhi. It is going to be there for 4-5 days. She has also invited many artists. Many artists will be honoured at the festival. They are also paying tribute to Dharam ji... So, I will be there to receive it," Malini said. Kick-starting from Wednesday evening at Bharat



Mandapam, the festival will begin with a grand opening ceremony hosted by Arjun Kapoor and Nimrat Kaur. The evening will feature appearances by Vicky Kaushal, Sanya Malhotra, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Anupam Kher, and Lauren Gottlieb, setting the tone for a week defined by strong talent presence and cross-industry exchange. Organised by the Delhi Tourism & Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) in association with the Government of Delhi, with KPMG as knowledge

partner, the International Film Festival of Delhi is a government-led, city-wide festival showcasing Indian and international cinema while making film culture accessible to audiences across the capital. The week-long festival, running from March 25 to 31, 2026, will offer a series of screenings, discussions, and industry events across various venues in New Delhi, uniting filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences from around the globe.

Kumbh Mela girl Monalisa accuses director of 'misbehaving' with minor girls



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

A young woman who rose to national prominence during last year's Prayagraj Kumbh Mela has levelled serious allegations against a film director, accusing him of misconduct involving minor girls and seeking urgent protection from authorities.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, the woman, accompanied by her husband Farman Khan, claimed that the

director had "misbehaved with minor girls in the name of films" and subjected her to harassment after she refused to associate with him professionally. She alleged that she and her husband have been receiving continuous death threats, while her posters are being publicly burnt in an attempt to intimidate her.

The woman appealed to the Central government as well as the governments of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh to in-

tervene and ensure their safety. She also urged authorities not to spread or entertain "false allegations" regarding her marriage, which she said was conducted according to Hindu rituals at a temple.

Strongly rejecting the director's alleged remarks, she said, "Who wants to be a part of his films? He is such a bad and disgusting person," adding that she was ashamed to even take his name. She further accused him of attempt-

ing to create communal divisions by labelling her marriage as "love jihad."

Her husband, Farman Khan, echoed her concerns and alleged that he was being unfairly targeted because of his religious identity. "Just because I was born into a Muslim family, I am being branded a terrorist," he said, adding that the couple was being threatened and "trapped deliberately."

The couple maintained that their relationship is

based on mutual love and respect. "Is it wrong to be in love?" they asked, stressing that they respect all religions. Farman also stated that he follows the teachings of Sree Narayana Guru and that their marriage took place in one of his temples. In an emotional moment during the press conference, the woman broke down and warned that they might take extreme steps if adequate protection is not provided. "If anyone

tries to separate us, we will commit suicide. I cannot live without him," she said.

The woman, originally from Indore, had gained widespread attention after a viral video showed her selling rudraksha garlands at the Kumbh Mela. She recently married Farman in Kerala despite opposition from her family and had travelled to Thiruvananthapuram for a film shoot when the controversy escalated.

Indian Archers Claim Two bronze, Reach Two Finals in Asia Cup Stage 1



COMPOUND WOMEN'S TEAM

RECURVE MEN'S TEAM

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian archers delivered a strong performance on Day 2 of the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1 on Wednesday, securing two bronze medals and advancing to the finals in both the men's recurve and women's compound team events. Highlighting the day's success, the Indian women's compound team of Chikitha Taniparthi, Raj Kaur, and Tejal Salve reached the final, improv-

ing on their bronze-medal finish from the previous edition. The trio edged past Thailand's Kanyavee Maneesombatkul, Kanoknapus Kaewchomphu, and Chanidappa Thanaratpitanan 229-226 in a tightly contested semifinal. They will now face third-seeded Kazakhstan in the summit clash. In contrast, the experienced Indian men's compound team had to settle for bronze after a narrow semifinal defeat. Despite dominating the qualification round by occupying the top four

spots, Rajat Chauhan, Rishabh Yadav, and Uday Kamboj failed to defend their title, losing 233-234 to Vietnam in a dramatic finish. India started strongly with a perfect opening end but faltered in the second, scoring 57 while Vietnam responded with a flawless 60. The Vietnamese team maintained momentum with another perfect 60 in the third end, overturning a five-point deficit to take the lead. Both teams scored 59 in the final end, sealing India's heartbreak

loss. However, the Indian trio bounced back to clinch bronze by defeating Bhutan 234-232. The men's recurve team also impressed, storming into the final with a convincing 5-1 victory over Malaysia. The top-seeded combination of Devaang Gupta, Sukhchain Singh, and Juyel Sarkar dominated the contest, winning the first two sets 53-50 and 53-52. Although the third set ended in a 56-all tie, it was enough to secure their place in the final, where they will face Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, the Indian women's recurve team secured a bronze medal with a commanding 5-1 win over Malaysia. The trio of Ruma Biswas, Kirti, and Ridhi Phor delivered a consistent performance, taking the opening set 59-56 and the second 53-50. A 52-52 tie in the third set confirmed their podium finish, marking an improvement.

IPL 2026: Rishabh Pant Should Bat at No. 3, Faf du Plessis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis feels Rishabh Pant should bat at No. 3 position to maximise his impact, and also urged the hard-hitting wicketkeeper-batter to control his high-risk approach and aim for consistency in the upcoming IPL. Pant shuffled his batting position from being No. 4 to opener and also lower down the order in a woeful last season. But he finally produced his best at No. 3 -- a 61-ball unbeaten 118 in Lucknow Super Giants' last league match.

"Maybe there is an opportunity for Pant to bat at number three," said du Plessis speaking on JioStar's 'IPL Today Live'. "The numbers suggest that for him to be the best player he can be, number three looks good. I see him batting at number three for LSG this season with Nicholas Pooran sliding down to number four. "Looking at LSG's 2026 auction and their strategy around who they signed, you look at that



top-heavy batting line-up -- Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh and Pooran are the main ones alongside Pant," added the former RCB skipper. Pant heads into the new season with significant expectations after being bought for a record Rs 27 crore ahead of IPL 2025. However, his first stint as captain of LSG was underwhelming as they finished seventh. He endured an inconsistent campaign, scoring 269 runs in 13 innings at an average of 24.45 with a strike rate just over 133. "When I look at him, he is almost like a highlight player. I want him to be more of a high-impact player in terms of what he can give in his numbers," du Ples-

sis said. "He needs to figure out exactly what his game plan looks like to give himself the best chance."

The IPL 2026 begins with defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru facing Sunrisers Hyderabad in the opener in Bengaluru on Saturday, while LSG start their campaign against Delhi Capitals at home on April 1. Du Plessis highlighted the contrast between Pant's immense ability and his returns in T20 cricket. "The talent that Pant has is tremendous. You look at him playing Test cricket and you think, this guy has all the shots. When I look at his game, I feel he has too many options in his head. He feels like he can hit a six off every ball to any part of the ground. "But in T20 batting, you still need a method. You need a game plan for how you go about your business," he said. The South African pointed out that elite T20 batters operate with a clear mindset. "Look at all the great T20 players. You can almost have an idea of where they will score their boundaries and where they have slight weaknesses. They work their way through that. "With Pant, I feel he is always on the edge. When you watch him play, you feel he can get out at any time because it is almost frantic at times," du Plessis observed. Du Plessis also pointed out Pant's low strike rate vis-a-vis his shot-making range. "The surprising number for me is his T20 strike rate, which is around 130. How is that possible for a guy with so many shots? "Maybe it is because we watch him in Test cricket playing these extravagant, exuberant innings, taking the game on.

Telangana to expand TGSRTC services, improve connectivity in rural areas

In a bid to expand Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) services across Telangana, Transport Minister Ponnab Prabhakar is holding a three-day meeting with in-charge ministers, district ministers, MLAs, MLCs and senior RTC officials. The first meeting, held on Wednesday, March 25, at the Assembly Committee Hall-1, saw participation from Nalgonda, Medak, Rangareddy and Greater Hyderabad districts.

Representing Nalgonda along with several MLAs, minister Uttam Kumar Reddy proposed introducing night halt bus services, additional buses on key routes and modernisation of existing bus stations.

He also asked to increase bus frequency during school and college hours and to improve connectivity to rural and semi-urban areas. He proposed the construction of bus shelters in major Gram Panchayats along highways and asked to complete development works at Kodad and Huzurnagar bus stations.

Minister Ponnab Prabhakar clarified that there is currently no proposal for establishing new depots, but assured improvements in services and infrastructure.

Medak officials asked for the development of bus stations at Narayankhed, Pedda Shankaram Peta, while officials from Rangareddy and Greater Hyderabad put forward issues such as parking constraints, the need for temporary bus stations and increased services in high-density areas.

They also proposed modernisation of major bus stations and enhancing connectivity to new colonies and educational institutions.

Ponnab Prabhakar assured that appropriate steps will be taken to address the issues and strengthen RTC services across the state.

Advocate Gokul Rama Rao Wins Second Term as Bar Council Member



Advocate Sri Gokul Rama Rao and Advocate Vasa Madhusudhan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Advocate Sri Gokul Rama Rao has been elected for the second consecutive time as a member of the Bar Council of Telangana, reaffirming his strong support among the legal fraternity. He

secured victory in a tough contest, emerging with a significant majority against his rivals. His re-election highlights the confidence reposed in his leadership and contributions to the legal community in the state. Members of the Civil Legal Society and sev-

eral senior advocates congratulated him on his success. Vasa Madhusudhan, President of the Civil Legal Society, along with Chairman Advocate Mir Quaram Ali, extended their wishes to Gokul Rama Rao at the High Court, praising his continued commitment to the

welfare of advocates. His consecutive win is seen as a testament to his active role and influence within the Bar Council, and expectations are high for his continued efforts in strengthening the legal profession in Telangana.

Bar Council of Telangana Poll Results Declared After Nine-Year Gap



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

After a prolonged gap of nine years, the results of the Bar Council of Telangana elections, held on January 30, were officially declared on Tuesday, marking a significant development in the state's legal fraternity. A total of 23 advocates, including five women, have been elected to the council. Ponnab Ashok Goud emerged as the first candidate to cross the cut-off mark of 1,085 votes, securing 870 first-preference votes. He was followed by Zakir Hussain Javed, who polled 784 preference votes.

In a closely contested election, Rama Rao Gokul registered a notable victory, winning with a strong majority. This marks his second consecutive win in the Bar Council elections, underlining his sustained support

among advocates despite stiff competition across Telangana. Other candidates elected in the general category include Mahesh Kumar Akula, Ananthasen Reddy Akula, T. Hanumantha Reddy, K. Sunil Goud, Kiran Kumar, Venkat Yadav Chelakani, Raghunath Verose, Sahoder Reddy M, Ram Reddy Samula, Madhusudhan Rao Dhanwada, MAK Mukheed, Anil Kiran Kumar G, Srinivasa Rao M, Jagadishwar Rao D, Ramarao Gokul, and Raghavulu D. In a notable highlight, five women advocates have secured positions in the council, reflecting increasing representation in the legal field.

The elected women members are Bhanu Chandrika Ch., Sailaja Ch., Priyurna Shanigaram, Sujatha Pasham, and Sunitha B. According to officials, additional members will be co-opted in line with Supreme Court

guidelines, after which a formal Gazette notification will be issued.

Subsequently, elections will be conducted to appoint the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the representative to the Bar Council of India from among the total 25 members. Meanwhile, congratulatory messages poured in for the winners. On behalf of the Civil Legal Society, its President Vasa Madhusudhan, Advocate at the High Court of Telangana, and Chairman Advocate Mir Quaram Ali extended their wishes to Rama Rao Gokul at the High Court, praising his achievement and leadership. The declaration of results is expected to usher in a new phase of governance and reforms within the Bar Council, with renewed focus on the welfare and professional development of advocates across Telangana.

Grand Celebration Marks 25th Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy celestial wedding

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 25 March Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Thiru Kalyana Mahotsavam was celebrated with great devotion and spiritual grandeur, bringing together devotees and community leaders in a sacred and festive atmosphere. On this auspicious occasion, gold ornaments (bottu) were ceremoniously offered to Lord Rama, Goddess Sita, Lord Lakshmana, and Lord Hanuman, symbolizing deep faith and reverence. The ritual was performed following traditional Vedic practices, enhancing the spiritual significance of the event. The program was attended by key members of the organizing committee, including Chairman Middela Chandrasekhar Reddy, Vice Chairman Muni-ganti Sushil Kumar Chari, Treasurer Gundu Srikanth, and Secretary Bonakurthi Mohan, who played an active role in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the



Mahotsavam. The gold offerings were generously sponsored by donor Chandrasekhar Chari, a resident of Uppuguda, whose contribution added special significance and grandeur to the celebrations. Devotees participated in large numbers, chanting sacred hymns such as "Om Gam Ganapataye Namah" and "Jai Shri Ram," creating a spiritually vibrant environment. The event concluded with prayers for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all. The celebration stands as a shining example of the community's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

Telangana Assembly erupts over Indira Gandhi's name dragged in liquor branding



The Telangana Assembly witnessed uproar on Wednesday, March 25, after former prime minister Indira Gandhi was mentioned during a discussion on branding ipphah (mahua) liquor by the Congress government. The reference was made by a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator, triggering protests. It can be recalled that on Tuesday, March 24, the mention of Nathuram Godse and Mahatma Gandhi led to angry exchanges between the BJP and Congress legislators. A little earlier, Congress MLA from Jadcherla J Anirudh Reddy spoke about the benefits of encouraging the extraction of ipphah liquor, which is extracted from the ipphah flowers found exclusively in forest areas. Referring to various naturally derived liquors, including tequila extracted from a species of cactus and consumed in over 130 countries, Anirudh Reddy argued that ipphah (mahua) liquor, too, could be positioned as an organic beverage that does not adversely affect health if consumed in moderation.

He also stressed that it will become a revenue generating source for the tribals living in the agency areas of Telangana. BJP MLA from Armur P Rakesh Reddy, who spoke in support of Anirudh Reddy's proposal, appreciated the idea, as he felt it will address the problem of adulterated toddy claiming the lives of the poor in the northern Telangana region.

Hyderabad MLM Scam Busted: Two Arrested, Mercedes Seized



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Rein Bazar police arrested two youths for allegedly running an illegal money circulation scheme that duped dozens of youngsters with promises of quick income.

The accused, Mohammed Akram (22) from Edi Bazaar and Mohammed Nouman Raza (22) from Karimnagar, were caught at Etebar Chowk in Mirchowk. Police said Akram operated an Instagram account, akram_dreams, flaunting a lavish lifestyle to attract followers. He had earlier invested Rs 30,000 in a direct selling business and later set up an office named "Achievers Club" at Karmanghat.

The duo reportedly recruited around 40 people, mostly aged 18-25, through social media reels. Victims paid Rs 200 as a

joining fee and were persuaded to invest Rs 30,000 in products with promises of high commissions.

However, the accused allegedly neither delivered products nor returned the money. Police seized a Mercedes-Benz car, mobile phones, an iPad, a Mac-Book, and documents. A case has been registered, and both were remanded to judicial custody. The operation was conducted under the supervision of ACP Mirchowk Division G. Shyam Sunder, as per the guidance of DCP Charninar Zone Khare Kiran Prabhakar, IPS, and Addl. DCP MD. Majeed. The arrests were executed by Inspector Ch. Nethaji, Detective Inspector Md. Nayeemuddin (Rein Bazar PS), SHO Kondal Rao (Mirchowk PS), along with SIs G. Linga Raju, Anil Kumar (PC 1758), and Harish Kumar (PC 30513).

Fuel Panic Triggers Queues, Officials Assure Supply

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Queues stretched across Hyderabad for a second consecutive day on Wednesday as rumours of a fuel shortage pushed motorists to petrol pumps. Police were deployed with barricades at several outlets even as officials insisted supplies remained normal. "We have stock. This is not a concern from our end. Tankers are arriving and refuelling is underway, but people are panicking and rushing to pumps," said Anand, man-

ager at a Nanakramguda outlet, where police presence and barricades were maintained throughout the day.

Similar scenes unfolded across neighbourhoods from afternoon into peak hours. Lines of vehicles ran three to four rows deep, slowing traffic on adjoining roads. Uppal, a Swiggy delivery worker waiting at Nanakramguda, said he had been in line for over half an hour and had stopped taking orders. "There were at least 70 to 100 bikes ahead of me, and that was not even

peak hour," he said. Traffic pressure intensified later in the day. Ravi Dikshit, an IT professional, described conditions as near gridlock. "A large portion of the road was taken over. It was difficult to move even on a bike," he said, adding that the usual CNG queue had spilled into multiple lanes on the main road. Police officers were stationed at the site, and Dikshit chose to skip refuelling altogether.

Officials moved to address both panic and violations. Police

commissioner V.C. Sajjanar warned of strict action against those spreading misinformation and against the sale of fuel in bottles or cans. "We are surveilling social media... such individuals will be dealt with severely," he said. Civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated there was "no shortage of any petroleum product in the state," adding that temporary 'no stock' boards at some pumps were due to delayed tanker arrivals, not a lack of fuel.

State Scraps TVVP With DSH

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In an attempt to strengthen public health-care delivery, the state government on Thursday replaced the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) with the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (DSH). Moving the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (Repeal) Bill in the state Assembly, health minister Damodar Rajanarasimha said that the government's decision to transform the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana

Parishad into the DSH will not only benefit employees but also ensure that the people of the state receive higher-quality medical services.

He described this decision as one that delivers maximum benefit without incurring any additional expenditure. He stated that the government took this decision to provide improved medical services to people. He said this is not merely an administrative change, but a reform aimed at strengthening the public health system.

Rotten eggs used to make cakes in Hyderabad, manufacturers arrested

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Three people were arrested by the Mailardevpally Police on Wednesday, March 25, for allegedly preparing cakes and doughnuts with rotten eggs. The raid was conducted at "Madhurai Meenakshi Food Company" at Katedan. Apart from rotten eggs, police also flagged the use of sodium benzoate, sorbic acid and polyglycerol polyricinoleate (PGPR) liquid, and

overall unhygienic conditions. The accused have been identified as Afridi Ansari, 22, who works as a supervisor and is a native of Jharkhand, Yaseen, 32, who works as a manager, and another man named Khatreshan. A large quantity of spoiled eggs, chemicals, bakery products, synthetic colours and flavours and machinery was seized during the raid. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

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