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Brief Insights

Mother Dies Saving Son in Markapuram Bus Accident

A heart-wrenching tragedy unfolded in Andhra Pradesh early Thursday morning when a private bus caught fire after colliding with a tipper truck near Rayavaram, close to Markapuram. The accident occurred shortly after 6 a.m. when the bus, carrying several passengers, was en route to its destination with about an hour of

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

TMC Targets 5 EC Observers for WB Polls Over Graft, BJP Links

Trinamul Congress has targeted Election Commission's five observers over their alleged links to corruption and BJP following their deputation to the Assembly Election in West Bengal in the last couple of days. On Thursday, TMC posted on X-handle, "We had all heard the old saying, 'set a thief to catch a thief.'" But what @ECIS-VEEP under Mr. Vanish Kumar is doing is "Set a thief to harass the innocent."

Referring to the assignment of IPS officer Jayant Kant, whose wife is BJP leader Smrity Paswan in Odisha, the ruling party claimed, "We already ex-

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4



Run Assembly First, Not Sports Meet, Says KTR: P3

Telangana Assembly Approves the GST Amendment Bill: P2

New Policy Soon for CSR Funds, Says Revanth: P2



Strengthen MMTS Train Service Network in Core Urban Region: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy emphasized that the MMTS services within the Core Urban Region (CURE) of Hyderabad should be strengthened to meet the growing transport needs of the people. The Chief Minister inquired about the declining number of passengers utilizing the MMTS train services in recent times. At a review of the MMTS services in Legislative Council hall today, the CM directed officials to increase the frequency of MMTS



trains during peak office hours and ensure that services are operated with punctuality. When the authorities brought to the notice of the CM the lack of direct RTC bus connectivity to MMTS stations, which are situated away from main roads, CM Revanth Reddy directed them to

explore the feasibility of operating mini-buses to facilitate seamless last-mile connectivity for commuters. The Chief Minister also instructed the officials to provide necessary amenities for passengers at all MMTS stations. Commuters will opt for MMTS services only when good amenities are provided, the CM said.

Reviewing the revenue generation from MMTS services, the Chief Minister suggested the enhancement of self-generated revenue sources. The authorities were ordered to conduct a study and sub-

mit a report on the increase in passengers and improve amenities, alongside strengthening last-mile connectivity.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, MA&UD Special Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, R&B Secretary Vikas Raj, CM's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, CM's Secretary Manik Raj, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, HUMTA (Hyderabad Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority) MD Jeevan Babu, and South Central Railway DCM Charan Naik participated in the review meeting.

14 dead 28 injured after private bus collides with lorry bursts into flames

14 Killed as Bus-Lorry Crash Sparks Inferno in AP

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

At least 14 people were killed and around 28 others injured after a private travel bus collided head-on with a lorry and caught fire in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district early Thursday, officials said. Several of the injured are reported to be in critical condition, raising fears that the death toll may increase. The accident occurred in the early hours when the bus, travelling from Jagtial in Telangana to Podili, crashed into the lorry.

The impact triggered a massive blaze within minutes, engulfing both vehicles and leaving passengers trapped inside. According to preliminary reports, 14 passengers were burnt alive in the fire, while many others sustained severe burn injuries.

Panic gripped the scene as flames spread rapidly, making rescue efforts challenging. Police and fire department personnel rushed to the spot immediately after receiving in-



A private bus travelling from Nirmal to Vingimuru collided with a tipper lorry carrying gravel chips from Chermakurthi to Markapuram, leading to an accident at Meekalavaripalli between Rayavaram village near Markapuram in Andhra Pradesh on March 26, 2026.

formation and launched rescue operations. Firefighters battled the intense blaze for a prolonged period before bringing it under control. The injured were shifted to nearby medical facilities, including Markapur Hospital, for treatment. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock over the incident.

He reviewed the medical care being provided to the injured and directed officials to ensure the best possible treatment. District authorities informed him that around 20 vic-

tims had been shifted to different hospitals. The Chief Minister also ordered a thorough investigation into the accident and sought a detailed report on its causes. Officials are currently working to identify the victims and extend support to the affected families. Authorities indicated that the exact cause of the collision and the rapid spread of the fire are under investigation. Rescue and relief efforts are ongoing as officials continue to assess the full extent of the tragedy.

PM Modi to Meet CMs on West Asia Crisis

Discussions to stress coordinated action and Team India synergy; poll-bound state Chief Ministers likely to skip the meeting

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold an interaction with Chief Ministers on Friday evening via video conferencing to review state-level preparedness amid the ongoing West Asia conflict. The discussions will focus on coordinated action and "Team India" synergy.



However, sources indicated that Chief Ministers of poll-bound states will not be attending the meeting. These include Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy. Amid concerns triggered by rumours of fuel shortages in parts of the country, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged people not to panic. Addressing reports of long queues at petrol

pumps in Jammu, Abdullah said, "My earnest request is that you stop camping outside petrol pumps otherwise, I will shut all the petrol pumps for the next few days." He termed the situation "regrettable," noting that while the government has clarified there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG, people continue to

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

BJP Bags 10x Donations of All Parties: ADR

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Donations to national parties surged by 161 per cent in 2024-25 compared to the previous fiscal, with the ruling BJP accounting for the overwhelming majority -- more than ten times the combined total received by all other national parties, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report, released on Thursday, said total donations above Rs 20,000 declared by the national parties stood at Rs



6,648.563 crore from 11,343 contributions in FY25. Of this, the BJP alone received Rs 6,074.015 crore from 5,522 donations, followed by the Congress with Rs 517.394 crore from 2,501 donations.

The BJP's declared donations exceeded the combined total of the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Com-

munist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and the National People's Party (NPEP) for the same period by more than tenfold, the report pointed out.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), meanwhile, declared that it did not receive any donations above Rs 20,000, as it has been doing so for the last 19 years.

Overall donations to national parties rose by Rs 4,104.285 crore in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. The BJP's collections alone jumped 171 per cent

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Trump Warns Iran to "Get Serious Soon" in US Talks

US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Iran "better get serious soon" in US talks to end the Middle East war. Iranian negotiators are "begging" us to make a deal, which they should be doing since they have been militarily obliterated," Trump posted on Truth Social. "They better get serious soon, before it is too late, because once that happens, there is NO TURNING BACK, and it won't be pretty!"

Nayara Energy hikes petrol Rs5, diesel Rs3

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Amid speculations about the fuel price hikes in the country, India's largest private fuel retailer Nayara Energy on Thursday hiked petrol prices by over Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 3 per litre. It is, however, expected that other private as well as government-owned oil marketing companies will follow suit soon. With this move, it may add more pressure on household budgets and daily expenses for common man



in the country, according to the sources.

Despite the government's measures to keep the fuel stock available and prices unchanged, some oil firms are forced to pass it on to consumers due to the recent surge in global oil prices following the war in the Middle East. But the leading state-owned fuel retailers, who control

about 90 per cent of the market, are learnt to have kept rates on freeze as of today. However, Nayara Energy's move comes at a time when it is reportedly preparing to temporarily halt operations at its Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, raising concerns about domestic fuel availability.

According to the report, Hyderabad recorded one of the highest petrol prices at Rs 107.46 per litre, with Mumbai and Kolkata also seeing rates above Rs 100 per litre. Similarly, diesel prices in Hyderabad

touched Rs 95.70 per litre. The fuel price rise, however, reflects global energy tensions following attacks on oil facilities and disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz due to the Iran-US conflict.

The sources also said that Nayara Energy, which operates 6,967 of India's 102,075 petrol pumps, has decided to pass on part of the increase in input costs to consumers. "Nayara Energy, majority-owned by Russia's Rosneft, hiked petrol price by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

India Has 60 Days of Fuel Stock, Govt Dismisses Shortage Rumours

Petroleum Ministry confirms petrol pumps nationwide are fully stocked, operating normally with no petrol or diesel rationing anywhere

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India has about 60 days of fuel stock cover, the government said on Thursday, adding that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG as it dismissed reports of shortages as a "deliberate misinformation campaign" aimed at triggering panic buying. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said all petrol pumps across the country are adequately stocked and operating normally, with no ration-

ing of petrol or diesel. India, the world's fourth-largest refiner and fifth-largest exporter of petroleum products, has structurally assured domestic fuel availability and continues to supply refined fuels to over 150 countries, the ministry said in a statement.

"Every Indian refinery (which turn crude oil into fuels like petrol and diesel) is running at over 100 per cent utilisation," it said. "Crude oil supplies for next 60 days have already been tied up by In-

Government assures no fuel shortage as petrol pumps nationwide remain fully stocked and operational without rationing. Refineries are running above 100 per cent capacity, and Indian oil companies have already secured crude oil supplies sufficient for the next 60 days, ensuring uninterrupted fuel availability

dian oil companies. There is no supply gap."

India, it said, has 74 days of total crude oil and fuel stocking capacity. "Actual stock cover is around 60 days right now (including crude stocks, products stocks and the

dedicated strategic storage in caverns) even as we are on the 27th day of the Middle East crisis," it said. "Nearly two months of steady supply is available for every Indian citizen regardless of what happens globally." With next two months of crude procurement already secured, India is completely secure for next many months and the quantity in strategic cavern storage becomes secondary in such a supply situation, it said.

Surender Reddy Elected Telangana HC Bar President



SCLA President Advocate Mir Qurram Ali congratulates Surender Reddy on his victory as President of the Telangana High Court Bar Association, along with all the newly elected members. Wishing you all great success in serving the legal fraternity

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Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

New Policy Soon for CSR Funds, Says Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced that the state government will introduce a special policy to ensure effective utilisation and increased mobilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from companies and industries operating in Telangana. At a review meeting held on CSR initiatives on Thursday, the Chief Minister directed officials to take proactive steps to encourage corporations to contribute more funds, including organis-

ing annual felicitation events to honour companies and representatives that make significant CSR contributions. He instructed that these awards be presented as part of the State Formation Day celebrations. As part of strengthening institutional mechanisms, Revanth Reddy approved the establishment of a dedicated CSR cell at the state level with a separate office. The cell will coordinate CSR activities undertaken by corporate entities across the state and compile a repository of projects from various government de-



partments that are suitable for execution through CSR funding. The Chief Minister also cleared the creation of a 'Telangana CSR Portal' to serve as a bridge between the government and corporate organisations. The portal will host detailed information on projects across departments that are open for CSR funding, enabling

companies to identify and support initiatives aligned with their priorities. He said that the portal should be designed in a user-friendly and engaging manner to facilitate seamless interaction and participation by corporates. During the meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that Telangana currently accounts for only about three per cent of the total CSR contributions in the country. Expressing dissatisfaction over the low share, Revanth Reddy stressed the need to significantly enhance both the inflow and

utilisation of CSR funds in the state. He directed officials to take concrete steps to ensure that companies operating in Telangana contribute more CSR funds and utilise them within the state. The Chief Minister also instructed officials to study best practices adopted by other states in mobilising CSR funds and incorporate effective strategies into the proposed policy framework to attract higher corporate participation. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and senior officials were present in the meeting.

Centre lauds T-FIBER implementation in TG: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said the Centre had appreciated the implementation of the T-FIBER project in Telangana. Speaking during Question Hour in the Assembly on Thursday, he said the Central Government was treating Telangana's T-FIBER rollout as a model for other States.

The T-FIBER initiative was launched during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government to provide affordable high-speed broadband to households, government offices and businesses across the State. The project uses infrastructure created under Mission Bhagiratha. Optical fibre cables are being laid along water pipeline routes already mapped across Telangana. Around 43,000 km of underground fibre network



is being developed as part of the project. Sridhar Babu said union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had appreciated the project, especially its last-mile internet connectivity in rural areas. He added that officials from several States were visiting Telangana to study its implementation. Amid his remarks, BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao asked who had originally introduced the T-FIBER initiative. However, the Minister continuing his explanation said in Andhra Pradesh due to commercialization of the initiative, the State was not achieving even 40

percent success. In Andhra Pradesh, optical fibre was being laid over the ground against the conventional practice. As a result, they were facing many challenges, the Minister said. "Andhra Pradesh is not an example to us. Infact, Telangana stands as an example for entire nation," Sridhar Babu said. The Minister added that internet connectivity had been extended to all Rythu Vedikas under the project. Around 4,000 government institutions, including the Secretariat, had also been shifted from private providers to T-FIBER services.

Telangana Assembly Approves the GST Amendment Bill

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Thursday approved the GST Amendment Bill. The posts of 'Commissioner of State Tax' and 'Additional Commissioners (Grade-I) of State Tax' have been

re-designated as 'Chief Commissioner of State Tax' and 'Commissioners of State Tax'. Minister Juppala Krishna Rao, who moved the Bill in the Assembly, said that the amendment involves no financial implications and will not result in any reduction of jobs. He af-

firmed that the state would incur no loss whatsoever as a result of this amendment. He said that though GST has been envisaged as 'one nation, one tax', there is disparity in the nomenclature between the department heads of the Centre and the state. He

added that states such as AP, Gujarat and Rajasthan have already changed the nomenclature of their HoDs. "For administrative convenience, certain functions were originally envisaged under the CGST Act to be performed by an officer one level below the cadre of the Chief

Commissioner of Central Tax. However, all such functions are now vested with the Commissioner of State Tax under the present nomenclature. Hence, redesignation of the posts will facilitate the smooth conduct of day-to-day operations," he explained.

Warangal Congress Leaders Step Up Lobby for Posts

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leaders from the erstwhile Warangal district have intensified lobbying for nominated posts as the government approaches the midway mark of its tenure, with many viewing it as a final opportunity before the next general elections. Several aspirants have moved to Hyderabad to seek appointments with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar

Goud, pressing their claims for positions. The renewed push follows recent appointments from the district, including Vem Narendar Reddy to the Rajya Sabha and Errabelli Swarna as State Mahila Congress president. These selections have prompted other senior leaders, particularly those active during the party's years in opposition, to seek similar recognition. Attention is focused on state-level corporation chairmanships, with multiple posts expected to fall vacant in

May upon completion of the two-year terms of current appointees. At the district level, the chairmanship of the Enumamula Agriculture Market Yard in Warangal has emerged as a key post, drawing interest from leaders in Vardhannapet, Parkal and Warangal East constituencies. In addition, with six district committees in the integrated Warangal region, yet to be fully constituted, leaders who missed district president posts are seeking roles such as vice-president and general

secretary. Party cadres report mixed sentiment, with senior leaders citing financial strain and legal challenges during the party's time in opposition. "We have waited for over two years since the government was formed. If we are not recognised now, our years of sacrifice will go unnoticed," said a senior leader currently in Hyderabad. Aspirants are also approaching state affairs in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan through recommendations from local ministers and MLAs.

Felicitations Mark Grassroots Leadership at Ravindra Bharathi

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant gathering celebrating grassroots governance and community leadership, an esteemed felicitation ceremony was held at Ravindra Bharathi on March 26, under the joint aegis of BC Times and BC Samaj. The event brought together a large number of public representatives from across the state, including sarpanches, ward members, and members of the Rajaka community, reflecting a strong spirit of unity and collective purpose. A key highlight of the event



was the honoring of dedicated sarpanches who have been instrumental in delivering public services at the village level. Among those recognized was Mr. Chakali Ravinder, Sarpanch of Bidekanne village in Jharasangam Mandal of Sangareddy district. He

was felicitated on stage with a shawl, bouquet, and memento in recognition of his commendable contributions to rural development and community welfare. Prominent speakers at the event emphasized the importance of unity among Rajaka public representatives,

noting that organized efforts could significantly accelerate social and economic progress. They underscored that strong leadership at the grassroots level serves as the foundation for broader state development. Organizers also highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen the organizational structure at district and mandal levels through elections and the formation of committees. They announced that a comprehensive roadmap for future initiatives would be unveiled soon, aiming to further empower the community and enhance coordinated action.

Bhadrachalam temple gears up for Sri Rama Navami celebrations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

All is set for Sri Rama Navami celebrations at Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam at Bhadrachalam in Kothagudem district. Sri Rama Navami, the celestial wedding of Lord Rama and Goddess Seetha Devi, would be celebrated in Abhijit lagnam on March 27 followed by Sri Rama Pattabishekam on March 28 as part of Bhadrachalam Temple Brahmotsavams. Devotees and volunteers prepared 'Talambralu' (akshintalu) starting on 'Holi Pournami' using rice mixed with turmeric, kumkum, ghee, bukka, gulal, attar and other aromatic substances. Devotees from Telangana and AP also presented several hundred kilos of 'Goti talambralu' (talambralu prepared by removing paddy husk with hands). The temple executive officer (EO) K Damodar Rao informed that nearly 300 quintals of rice were used this year for preparing the talambralu. Two



lakh packets of talambralu and one lakh laddus were prepared for distribution to devotees on Sri Rama Navami. Eight counters for distribution of talambralu and five counters for laddu prasadam distribution have been set up at the temple and other places in the town. Mithila Stadium, where the celestial wedding would take place, is decked up. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is scheduled to present silk clothes and mutyla talambralu to the deities on Sri Rama Navami. He would launch development works worth Rs 351 crore in the first phase of redevelopment and rejuvenation of Bhadrachalam Temple and town.

Expansion and infrastructure development of Godavari ghat, temple complex and surrounding areas would be taken up in the first phase. In all, Rs 586 crore would be spent for the purpose in three phases. Kothagudem SP B Rohith Raju informed that security arrangements with nearly 2,000 police personnel are being put in place to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations. A QR code and an online link <https://ramanavami.4sightai.com> were launched to help devotees locate and reach parking lots, Kalyana Mandapam, designated sectors and counters for laddus and talambralu.

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 on humanitarian grounds whenever needed. Rich tributes were paid to Late Mrs. Tummala Prasanna Reddy, and heartfelt condolences were expressed to the bereaved family.

Yadadri District Sarpunch forum Dy. President conveyed wishes on SREE

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

While speaking over the phone with the Wakeup Telangana Press Correspondent, Sarpanch Janne Siddulu shared his heartfelt Sri Rama Navami wishes with all villagers, public representatives, and leaders. He also expressed sincere gratitude to everyone who extended their wishes on his election as the Deputy President of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Sar-



panches Forum. He mentioned that a grand meeting was held on Wednesday at a private hotel in Bhongir, where he was officially nominated and announced as the Deputy President of the District Sarpanches

Forum. He further stated that he has also been included in the Executive Body of the State Sarpanches Forum. Janne Siddulu thanked MLA and Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah for his support and encouragement. He assured that he would work responsibly and follow the guidelines of the State Sarpanches Forum for the development of villages. He once again conveyed his warm Sri Rama Navami greetings to everyone.

Bandi Records Songs for RSS Centenary

Union minister of state for home affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has recorded a series of songs to mark the centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. A promotional video of the recordings was released on social media and has gained traction online. The visuals show the minister rendering songs associated with the organisation. The tracks are scheduled to be released as a programme in Karimnagar during Sri Rama Navami. Sources said the initiative is linked to the minister's association with the RSS. He has been associated with the organisation for several years. The event is expected to be attended by political and cultural figures.

Pratap Urges Corporate Hospitals to Serve the Poor

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap called for corporate hospitals to extend healthcare services to underprivileged communities during a Mega Free Medical Camp in Sanjeevayya Nagar. The event, organized by TMRPS leader Ramarao in collaboration with Raghavendra Hospital and the Lions Club, drew a large local turnout. Pratap, the chief guest, inaugurated the camp and highlighted the pressing need for af-



fordable medical access in Sanjeevayya Nagar, home to many hardworking families. "Healthcare is a right, not a luxury," he emphasized, praising the medical teams for their community focus and urging replication of this model across more neighborhoods. The camp offered

essential treatments at just ₹50, courtesy of Raghavendra Hospital, while the Lions Club provided free eye surgeries and spectacles for residents with visual impairments. Turning to youth engagement, Pratap spotlighted Ramarao as a role model, urging young people to follow his example of

selfless, service-driven leadership. Community participation was robust, featuring hospital staff Saran, Lions Club representative Arbaz Khan, and local figures Laddu, Vardharani, Varaprasad, Ashok Kumar, Yadavarao, Gomathi, Prabhugupta, Danaraju, and Chandu. The initiative concluded successfully, reinforcing hope for accessible, localized healthcare in Chinna Thokatta and setting a benchmark for corporate social responsibility in medical services.

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.

Nikhil Dey Praises Telangana Welfare Measures, Push for Transparency

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Social activist Nikhil Dey on Thursday commended the Telangana government's welfare initiatives, highlighting their strong emphasis on transparency, public participation, and protection of labour rights. His remarks came during a meeting with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Legislative Council, where a range of governance reforms and citizen-centric measures were discussed in detail. At the outset, Mr. Dey appreciated the government's efforts to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms through the Praja Vani (People's Voice) programme. He welcomed the proposal to expand the initiative from the State level to the revenue-division level, noting that decentralization would make the system more ac-



cessible and responsive to people at the grassroots. The Chief Minister, in response, directed officials to take necessary steps to operationalize the expansion, ensuring that citizens across regions can directly voice their concerns and seek timely resolutions. A key highlight of the meeting was the discussion on establishing a comprehensive Public Information portal for Telangana. Drawing inspiration from a similar model implemented by the Rajasthan Govern-

ment, the proposed platform aims to provide detailed, real-time information on all government schemes, including eligibility criteria, benefits, and implementation status. Such a system, Mr. Dey noted, would significantly enhance transparency and accountability while empowering citizens with easy access to crucial information. The IT Department has been entrusted with the responsibility of designing and developing the portal. Mr. Dey also expressed strong support for the Te-

langana Gig Workers' Bill, describing it as a progressive and potentially historic initiative. He emphasized that if effectively implemented, the legislation could serve as a model for other states by ensuring social security, fair working conditions, and legal protection for gig and platform workers, a rapidly growing segment of the workforce. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officials, including Planning Board Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, and other top bureaucrats such as Dana Kishore, V. Shehadri, B. Ajit Reddy, Manik Raj, Divya Devarajan, and Vemula Srinivasulu, reflecting the government's coordinated approach toward policy implementation and administrative reforms.

Run Assembly First, Not Sports Meet: KTR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Thursday criticized the Congress government for organizing sports events for MLAs during the ongoing Assembly session, alleging that it reflects a lack of seriousness toward legislative responsibilities. Speaking informally in the Assembly lobbies, he questioned the timing of the events scheduled for March 28 and 29, especially amid crucial budget discussions. He accused the ruling party of rushing through proceedings and deliberately avoiding in-depth debates on key sectors such as irrigation and public welfare. "They cannot run the House, but want to run sports meets," Rama



Rao remarked, taking a sharp swipe at the government. He alleged that the move was a diversionary tactic aimed at evading scrutiny and tough questions from the Opposition during an important legislative period. He further emphasized that elected representatives are expected to prioritize governance and address pressing public issues rather than participate in recreational activities while the Assembly is in session. Raising

concerns over legislative priorities, he questioned what message the government intends to send to the public through such actions. Rama Rao also stated that he had brought the issue to the notice of Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu, but claimed there was no response from the government. He alleged that the sports events were being used as a pretext to avoid answering uncomfortable questions and to curtail meaningful and detailed discussions in the House. Reiterating his criticism, he said the Congress government must demonstrate accountability and ensure that Assembly proceedings are conducted with due seriousness and transparency.

A Scholar's Journey of Impact

Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman's enduring contribution to higher education

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Households across HyAt a time when the role of educators is rapidly evolving, Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman has emerged as a significant force in shaping academic standards and nurturing research-driven learning. The senior academician, currently serving as Principal of Shadan Institute of Management Studies and Shadan Degree College for Boys, Khairatabad, has recently been recognised with multiple national awards, underscoring his sustained contribution to higher education. With more than three decades of experience, Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman has consistently focused on strengthening institutional frameworks while promoting academic inquiry. His work reflects a balance between administrative leadership and scholarly engagement—an approach that has helped build a culture of research and intellectual discipline within his institutions. Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman's academic output remains substantial. His body of work includes over 60 research papers published in national journals and more than 30 in international publications. He has actively participated in academic exchanges,

presenting papers at conferences across India and abroad, including in the United States. These engagements have contributed to widening academic collaborations and bringing global perspectives into local classrooms. As a recognised doctoral supervisor, he has guided 12 scholars to successful completion of their Ph.D. programmes, while continuing to mentor several others affiliated with Osmania University and CMJ University. His involvement in postgraduate and undergraduate research supervision further reflects his commitment to developing critical thinking and research aptitude among students. The recent honours conferred upon him—including the Bharat Excellence Icon Award (2026), National Excellence Achievers Award (2026), Best Principal of Tricentennial Award (2026), Best Academician Award (2025), and the APJ Abdul Kalam Global Icon

Award (2024)—highlight the recognition he has received from institutions associated with national bodies such as NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. These awards acknowledge not only individual merit but also broader contributions to institutional development and academic leadership. Congratulating him on the achievement, Dr. Mohammed Shah Alam Rasool Khan of Shadan Education Society noted that such recognition reflects the academic ethos cultivated within the organisation. He emphasised that Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman's accomplishments have brought distinction to the institution and serve as an example for both faculty and students. Colleagues and students have also acknowledged his role as a mentor and institution builder. They point to his emphasis on discipline, research orientation, and academic integrity as defining features of his leadership. In an educational landscape often challenged by changing demands and expectations, Prof. Ilyas-ur-Rahman's career offers a model rooted in consistency, scholarship, and institutional commitment—qualities that continue to shape the next generation of learners and educators.

Hatnoor Holds 16th Social Audit Darbar, Grievances Addressed

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



In a significant step toward transparent and accountable governance, Hatnoor Mandal in Sangareddy district successfully conducted the 16th phase of the Social Audit Public Darbar, providing a direct platform for citizens to voice their concerns and receive immediate responses from government officials. The event was organized under the leadership of Additional District Rural Development Officer Golla Balaraju and saw active partici-

tion from key officials, including Assistant Vigilance Officer S. Nageshwar Rao, MPDO Shankar, Cluster APD Madhulatha, APO Praveen, along with Panchayat secretaries, IKP staff, and members of the Social Audit teams such as SRP Sattayya and DRP

representatives. The Darbar primarily focused on works carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). During the session, residents raised several issues, including poor quality of work, delays in wage pay-

ments, discrepancies in work records in certain villages, and shortcomings in basic public amenities. Responding to the grievances, officials assured that necessary corrective measures would be taken promptly. Recovery procedures have already been initiated, and a comprehensive final report is expected soon. The Social Audit Public Darbar served as an effective model of participatory governance, strengthening transparency, accountability, and public trust in Panchayat administration. By en-

abling direct interaction between citizens and officials, the initiative emphasized timely grievance redressal and improved monitoring of rural development programs. Officials highlighted that such forums play a vital role in ensuring the quality, efficiency, and credibility of governance at the grassroots level, setting a strong example for participatory rural development. Final Report Highlights: Total Gram Panchayats inspected: 38 Recovery proposed: ₹2,32,933

Kavitha to Celebrate Sri Rama Navami in Nizamabad

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana



Telangana Jagruti President Kalvakuntla Kavitha will visit Nizamabad on Friday on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami, where she is scheduled to participate in religious ceremonies and later address the media. As per the itinerary, Kavitha, along with her husband Devanapalli Anil, will attend the Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam at the Sri Raghunatha Swamy Temple, popularly known as quilla Ram Mandir. During the relation he couple will offer

silk clothes to the deities as part of traditional rituals. Following the temple visit, Kavitha will hold a press meet at the Telangana Jagruti office in Nizamabad at 3:00 PM, where she is expected to make a significant announcement. Maintaining

an annual tradition, silk clothes will also be offered on behalf of the couple at several Rama temples across the region, including those in Dichpally, Bodhan, Armoor, Pochampad, Jagityal, and Korutla through designated representatives. Kavitha conveyed her wishes for peace, prosperity, and happiness among the people of Telangana on the auspicious occasion. A large number of Telangana Jagruti members are expected to take part in the celebrations alongside her.

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.

Popularenghar Wedding Celebrated in Simplicity

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The wedding of Muhammad Abdul Waseem Bilal, son of the renowned irrigation engineer Muhammad Abdul Rahim, to the daughter of Muhammad Yousuf from the Health Department, was celebrated in a dignified and remarkably simple manner. The ceremony stood out for its elegance and modesty, reflecting a heartfelt and joyous occasion for the families. Close family members,

friends, and prominent guests from political, social, and business circles attended, offering warm congratulations and best wishes for the couple's prosperous and happy married life. The gathering highlighted the importance of family bonds and community

goodwill, with everyone appreciating the simplicity of the arrangements. Among the attendees were close relatives of the late Muhammad Ibrahim and late Muhammad Hashim, who shared in the happiness of the occasion. Other notable guests included Sultan Zubair Ali,

Sheikh Ijaz Rasool, Muhammad Abdul Aleem, Muhammad Abdul Rahim (Salim) Sahib, Muhammad Abdul Waseem, Muhammad Yousuf Sahib, Muhammad Abdul Salim, Muhammad Shafi Ahmed, Muhammad Shehbaz, Muhammad Azhar Ahmed, and Muhammad Abdul Qayyum (Chacha), among others. The event successfully combined tradition with a personal, warm atmosphere, making it a memorable and cherished day for both families.

MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta calls for IT expansion in Tier-II

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta has urged the state government to prioritize the expansion of the Information Technology sector into Tier-II cities, stating that such a move is essential to address rising unemployment among educated youth. Speaking during the Assembly proceedings on IT and municipal affairs, the MLA expressed concern over the current state of the IT Hub in Nizamabad, which he said remains

largely underutilized. Built at a cost of around ₹45 crore during the previous government, the hub was intended to host nearly 23 companies. However, only about 10 firms are currently operational, and most of them are small-scale startups and BPOs rather than established multinational companies. He noted that

due to the lack of adequate local opportunities, many qualified youth are migrating abroad, particularly to Gulf countries, while others are forced to seek low-paying jobs in Hyderabad. He stressed that strengthening IT infrastructure in cities like Nizamabad would enable youth to find employment closer to home, reducing migration and improving livelihoods. In addition to employment concerns, the MLA also highlighted pressing urban issues. He informed the Assembly that major water bodies such as Ramarthi Che-

ruvu, Bondem Cheruvu, and Phulong Vagu are facing significant encroachments, with over half of their areas reportedly affected. He further recommended setting up fruit markets at two key locations within the city to improve access and reduce congestion. Calling for strict action against footpath encroachments, he said that proper implementation of the city's master plan would not only prevent illegal occupations but also enhance urban development and beautification in Nizamabad.

Women's Quota Law: Kharge Questions Timing, Demands Wider Consultation After Polls

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday, asking why the government was in a "great hurry" to amend the women's quota law. In his letter to Rijiju, Kharge also reiterated that an all-party meeting should be held on the matter after the current round of assembly elections is completed in April. Kharge's letter came in response to one from the Union minister to the Congress chief seeking a meeting with the party on plans to amend the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, for its implementation. "I have just received your letter on 26th March 2026. Opposition parties have already written to you on 24th March 2026, suggesting that an all-



party meeting be held after April 29th, 2026, to discuss the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023," the Congress president said. "I simply fail to understand why the government is in such great hurry to further amend a Constitutional Amendment Act, 30 months after it was initially passed. We are all extremely busy with the election campaign. That is the reason why we had suggested that the meeting be held after the election

campaign is over," Kharge said. Several opposition parties on Tuesday wrote to the government, asking for an all-party meeting to be convened to discuss the modalities of the implementation of the women's quota law. In a letter to Rijiju, the opposition leaders had said the meeting should be held after the current round of assembly elections is completed in April. "You may recall that I had written to you on March 16, 2026, requesting that an all-

party meeting chaired by the PM be convened at the earliest to discuss, as desired by you, the modalities and roadmap for the implementation of the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023," the letter written on Congress president Kharge's letterhead had said. The letter had signatories from several opposition parties, except the Trinamool Congress. It came after indications that the government was planning to bring bills to ensure that the women's reservation law is implemented before the completion of the delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies. The opposition leaders, in their letter, said that the government was planning a further amendment to the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill passed in September 2023. The law is officially known as the Constitution

(106th Amendment) Act. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress had on Wednesday claimed that the "U-turn Ustad" now wants to implement the women's reservation law without completing the delimitation and census exercises by passing amendments at a "special two-day session" of Parliament in the next fortnight. The opposition party had alleged that this was a "weapon of mass diversion" to change the narrative from the government's "foreign policy failures and setbacks and from the LPG and energy crisis facing the country". Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, had said the Modi government was also planning to increase the size of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas by 50 per cent.

India's Health Insurance Sector Grows At 9pc

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India's health insurance sector continues to witness robust growth, growing at a rate of around 9 per cent, with total health insurance premiums volume exceeding Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2024-25. This growth reflects increasing awareness, improved access to healthcare financing, and a rising demand for financial protection against medical expenses, according to a finance ministry statement. The ministry further said that in order to enhance efficiency and ensure timely support to policyholders, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has prescribed specific timelines for the processing of cashless health insurance



claims. "Time limit has been prescribed for cashless settlement including cashless pre-authorisation has to be approved within one hour and final authorisation within three hours. These timelines are aimed at minimising delays and ensuring that patients receive timely access to medical care," it said. As per the government, there has been an increase in health insurance premiums driven by factors such as ageing policyholders, higher coverage, enhanced features, among others. "Irdai's 2024 regulations specify that insurance products are priced fairly, based on all relevant risk factors, and remain viable and

value-driven, with periodic review by the appointed actuary using credible data and customer feedback," the government said in the statement. Further, as per Bima Bharosa portal of Irdai, it said, during 2024-25, 1,37,361 general and health insurance grievances were reported, of which 1,27,755 (93 per cent) were disposed of during the year itself. "Instances of claims disallowance or repudiation are largely attributable to specific policy conditions and limitations," it said, adding that some of the reasons for claims disallowance or repudiation include exceeding sum insured, co-payment clause, sub-limits in policies, deductible in top-up policies, room rent capping, proportionate charges, non-medical.

TMC Targets 5 EC Observers for WB Polls Over Graft

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Trinamul Congress has targeted Election Commission's five observers over their alleged links to corruption and BJP following their deputation to the Assembly Election in West Bengal in the last couple of days. On Thursday, TMC posted on X-handle, "We had all heard the old saying, 'set a thief to catch a thief.' But what @ECISVEEP under Mr. Vanish Kumar is doing is 'Set a thief to harass the innocent. Referring to the

assignment of IPS officer Jayant Kant, whose wife is BJP leader Smrity Paswan in Odisha, the ruling party claimed, "We already exposed how the husband of a senior Bihar BJP leader was appointed Police Observer in Malda." It then pointed out four tainted IAS officers from various states in the post. One of them is Dheeraj Kumar, General Observer for Gazole, who is an "accused in the massive Rs 8,000 crore ambulance tender scam while serving as Maharashtra Health Commissioner."

The next was Ajay Katesaria, General Observer for Bangan Dakshin who has been "accused of illegally transferring over 40 acres of government land to private parties while Satna Collector. Found guilty in the Rewa Commissioner's report and chargesheeted." Others were Gandam Chandrudu, the General Observer for Ballygunge who "faces a dowry harassment case from his tenure as Tribal Welfare Director in Andhra Pradesh" and Arindam Dakua, the General Ob-

server for Madhyamgram, who "served as Private Secretary to BJP CM Mohan Charan Majhi in Odisha, a clear political appointee." TMC stated, "These are the people the Election Commission has entrusted with ensuring free, fair, peaceful and impartial elections in Bengal. The Vanish Commission has become a recruitment agency for the @BJP4India, planting accused scamsters, land scamsters, dowry accused, and active BJP loyalists as observers across Bengal.

Mother Dies Saving Son in Markapuram Bus Accident

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A devastating road accident in Andhra Pradesh claimed a woman's life after a private bus caught fire following a collision with a tipper truck near Rayavaram, close to Markapuram, early Thursday morning. The incident occurred shortly after 6 a.m., leaving passengers trapped as flames engulfed the vehicle within moments. According to initial reports, the bus was nearing its destination with about an hour of travel remaining when it collided



with the truck. The impact triggered a massive blaze that spread rapidly from one end of the bus to the other, causing panic among passengers who struggled to escape the burning vehicle. Among those on board was 45-year-old Uppu Ramadevi, a resident of Mandadivari-palli village in Kanigiri mandal, who was travel-

ling with her son Manohar from Jagtial to their hometown. As the fire intensified and smoke filled the bus, Ramadevi acted swiftly to save her son. In a desperate bid, she pushed him out through a window, ensuring his escape. While her son survived the incident, Ramadevi was unable to get out. The flames spread rapidly, trapping her inside the bus and blocking any possible exit. She succumbed to the fire before rescue teams could reach and control the blaze. Several other passengers re-

portedly sustained injuries, though their condition is yet to be fully confirmed. Emergency responders rushed to the scene and managed to douse the fire after significant damage had already been done. Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the accident, including the circumstances leading to the collision and the rapid spread of the fire. The tragic incident has once again raised concerns over road safety and emergency preparedness in long-distance passenger transport.

Sarma Vows to Reclaim 5 Lakh Bigha, Opposition Cries Fear Politics

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Amid the ongoing campaign of Congress-led opposition alliance to drive out BJP led alliance from power for its alleged communal agenda, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday vowed to recover five lakh bigha of land from the alleged illegal possession of Bangladeshi nationals in the next term. Pointing out that his government has evicted and taken over 1.5 lakh bigha of land from illegal possession of Bangladeshi nationals, Mr Sarma while addressing an election rally in lower Assam's Barpeta district reiterated that the BJP led alliance government was not going to compromise its stand against Bangladeshi infiltrators. Asserting that the opposition has no agenda, Mr Sarma claimed that the people of the state are completely with the ruling party, except "Bangladeshi infiltrators". Accusing that the vision of the Congress party and its leader Gaurav Gogoi to form a new Assam is big a threat to the existence of indigenous Assamese, Mr Sarma



said, "We have completely turned around Assam. Today, people are seeing a new Assam, based on our strong culture and heritage. People are completely with the BJP, except Bangladeshi infiltrators. No local indigenous Indian people will vote for Congress." Taking a jibe at Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, he went on saying that Congress can't form a government in India. "They can form a government only in Pakistan or Bangladesh," he added. On the other hand, Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, who leads the opposition alliance, said that there is tremendous enthusiasm among the people because they can see that they are getting a historic opportunity to uproot the communal BJP government. He said, "The present re-

gime led by chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma practices politics of fear and intimidation and people of Assam are seeing this election as an opportunity to end this autocratic regime." Polling for all 126 constituencies in Assam will be held on April 9, with counting scheduled for May 4. In the 2021 assembly elections, the NDA, comprising the BJP, AGP and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), won 75 seats, with the BJP alone winning 60 seats. The Congress and AIUDF had formed a grand alliance along with the BPF and the communist parties, but the alliance performed poorly with 50 seats out of 126. One seat had gone to Independent candidate of Rajiour Dal Akhil Gogoi who contested the poll from jail and got elected.

Nayara Energy.....

Similarly, diesel prices in Hyderabad touched Rs 95.70 per litre. The fuel price rise, however, reflects global energy tensions following attacks on oil facilities and disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz due to the Iran-US conflict. The sources also said that Nayara Energy, which operates 6,967 of India's 102,075 petrol pumps, has decided to pass on part of the increase in input costs to consumers. "Nayara Energy, majority-owned by Russia's Rosneft, hiked petrol price by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 3, the effective rate increase differs from state to state depending on the incidence on local taxes like VAT. In some places, the increase is as high as Rs 5.30 per litre for petrol," the source said. However, industry experts are of view that if crude prices remain elevated for an extended period, PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) may have limited room to avoid price hikes, raising the likelihood of broader fuel price increases across the country. Not only private players, but also state-owned OMCs are forced to increase their fuel prices due to mounting losses which have left them with little options for them," they said. With the development, Narara Energy issued a statement, saying that the disruption in crude oil supplies has created unprecedented challenges in the industry, impacting several aspects of fuel distribution and availability. "We assure our customers that we are fully focused

on meeting India's energy needs by maintaining a consistent supply of high-quality fuels. Our 7000+ retail network continues to operate normally, with no interruptions in service across our outlets," the company said. "Further our refinery turnaround has been meticulously planned and we remain fully equipped to ensure that there will be no shortfall in fuel supplies during this period. Nayara Energy is committed to being the nation's energy partner and prioritises operational stability and uninterrupted service for our customers," the company added. **PM Modi to Chair....** He termed the situation "regrettable," noting that while the government has clarified there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG, people continue to rely on misinformation circulating on social media. He further stressed that no directive has been issued to limit fuel usage and appealed to citizens to avoid panic buying. "There is a meeting of all CMs with PM Modi tomorrow online, and I will attend that," Abdullah added, reiterating that the supply situation remains stable. Earlier on Wednesday, an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was held in the national capital over the West Asia crisis, where the government briefed about the situation in West Asia and how India is dealing with its impact. All union ministers part of the Cabinet Committee on Security -- Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah,

external affairs minister S Jaishankar and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman -- represented the government. Health minister J P Nadda and parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju were also part of the meeting. A detailed briefing by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, along with remarks from External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, highlighted that India's energy security remains stable, with adequate availability of crude oil, LPG, and fertilisers. **BJP Gets Over.....** Overall donations to national parties rose by Rs 4,104.285 crore in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. The BJP's collections alone jumped 171 per cent from Rs 2,243.947 crore in the previous fiscal. Donations to the Congress increased by 84 per cent, from Rs 281.48 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 517.394 crore in 2024-25. Among other parties, the AAP received Rs 27.044 crore -- a 244 per cent increase -- the NPEP got Rs 1.943 crore, an increase of 1,313 per cent, the report said. Corporate donations dominated political funding, accounting for Rs 6128.787 crore, or 92.18 per cent of the total contributions, across 3,244 donations. Individual donors contributed Rs 505.66 crore through 7,900 donations, making up 7.61 per cent of the total. The BJP received Rs 5,717.167 crore from 2,794 corporate donations, more than 13 times the combined contributions received by all other national

parties, which stood at Rs 411.62 crore. It also received Rs 345.94 crore from 2,627 individual donors. The Congress received Rs 383.86 crore through 112 corporate donations and Rs 132.39 crore from 2,357 individual contributors during the fiscal year. **SC Voices.....** However, the fact remains that this menace is rampant in all courts now, not only in India rather throughout the world. Everyone needs to be careful about this. In fact, this court is already seized of this matter on judicial side," the bench said. The high court had noted in its order that the submissions of the appellant were generated using ChatGPT, including a judgement which had no citation in the real world. "The respondent has filed written submissions in February 2025 and April 2025. From the overall tenor of the written submissions and a few give-away features, such as green-box tick-marks, bulletpoint-marks, repetitive submissions etc., this court strongly feels that the submissions are prepared using an AI tool such as ChatGPT or alike. "A strong pointer is seen from a reference made to one alleged caselaw 'Jyoti w/o Dinesh Tulsi-ani Vs. Elegant Associates'. Neither citation is given nor a copy of judgement is supplied by the respondent. This court and its law clerks were at pains to find out this caselaw but could not find. This has resulted in waste of precious judicial time," the high court had said.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Nizamabad Police Announce Guidelines for Peaceful Festivities

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

In preparation for the upcoming Sri Rama Navami and Hanuman Jayanti festivities, a coordination meeting was held at the Command Control Hall of the Police Commissionerate in Nizamabad with rally organizers and members of various associations. Presiding over the meeting, Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, underscored the importance of maintaining peace, discipline, and communal harmony during the celebrations. He urged organizers to ensure that the processions are conducted in a spiritual atmosphere while avoiding any disturbance to the public. The Commissioner made



it clear that only the routes permitted in previous years would be allowed for the Shobha Yatra, and no deviations or new routes would be entertained. He also instructed organizers to deploy trained volunteers to manage the rallies effectively and to coordinate closely with the police. Highlighting safety and law enforcement measures, he told that DJ sound



systems and drone usage are strictly prohibited. Any violation of rules or engagement in unlawful activities will be dealt with firmly as per legal provisions. Organizers were given an opportunity to

raise their concerns and suggestions, which were duly acknowledged by the Commissioner.

The meeting saw the participation of Additional DCP (Admin) G. Baswa Reddy, ACP Prakash, Special Branch Inspector Sri-sailam, along with police

officials including CIs and SIs, and representatives from organizations such as Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Arya Samaj, Hindu Vahini, and ABVP.

Plea to Denotify Forest Building Contractor writ Dismissed by High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

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.

Special Court Acquits Jaggareddy and Kusuma Kumar in Human Trafficking Case

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A Special Sessions Court designated for the trial of MPs and MLAs has acquitted Jaggareddy (A1) and Kusuma Kumar (A3) in a human trafficking case, ruling that the charges against them were not proven. The court delivered its verdict on March 26, 2026, stating that there was insufficient evidence to establish the alleged offences. The case had been registered during the previous BRS government, which the defense argued was politically motivated. After hearing arguments, the court concluded that the prosecution failed to prove the charges under various sections of



the Indian Penal Code, including Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 409, and 370. The accused were also cleared of charges under Section 12 of the Passports Act and Section 24 of the Immigration Act. The verdict was pronounced through a special order in the presence of both A1 and A3. Advocate G. Santosh Reddy represented Jaggareddy and Kusuma Kumar in the case.

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.

Secunderabad Ganesh Temple Ticket Scam Exposed

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Allegations of a ticket recycling scam have emerged at the historic Sri Ganesh Temple near Secunderabad Station Road, sparking concerns over financial transparency and accountability. Social and RTI activist K. Nareshkumar has lodged a formal complaint with Secunderabad Cantonment MLA N. Sri Ganesh, following a prior submission to the Chief Minister's Praja-



vani portal (ID: 24032600001). The complaint names temple attenders Mr. Dayanand and Mr. Upender, accusing them of operating a parallel

economy within the temple premises. According to the allegations, devotees paying ₹100 for special entry tickets are not always issued fresh tickets. Instead, used tickets are reportedly collected and resold to select individuals, with proceeds allegedly by-passing the State Endowment Department. This practice, if verified, could represent a long-standing revenue loss to the state. Nareshkumar's complaint emphasizes sys-

temic lapses in transparency and governance within the temple administration. It calls for immediate action from authorities, including a detailed investigation, stricter monitoring of ticketing processes, and enhanced accountability of temple staff. The allegations have drawn public attention to the need for robust oversight in religious institutions to prevent misuse of donations and state-controlled revenues, ensuring that temple

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.



Alka Manoj Orchestrates Grand Bihar Diwas Celebration at Lok Bhavan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bihar Diwas was celebrated with grandeur and cultural elegance at Lok Bhavan's Darbar Hall, coordinated by Alka Manoj under the banner of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The event brought together dignitaries, government officials, and the Bihari community to showcase the rich heritage of Bihar.

The chief guest for the celebration was Governor of Telangana, Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by the first lady of Telangana, Jaanki Shukla. The program also saw the presence of Principal Secretary Dana Kishore, Vijay Kumar IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Shiv Kumar, DIG CISF, Avinash Kumar IPS, Paritosh Pankaj IPS, and eminent



members of the Bihari community. The ceremonial welcome, designed by Alka Manoj and Vinita Singh, featured traditional Bihari customs. The Governor and First Lady were greeted with chandan, sindoor, akshat, and rose petals, accompanied by a Bihari welcome song by Niva Jha with shahnayi music. Guests were honored with Mithila-style pag and silk stoles. Highlighting her expertise as a fashion designer, Alka Manoj gifted



the First Lady a Bhagalpuri silk saree adorned with Mithila paintings and a Matka silk waistcoat featuring traditional Mithila artwork. The formal proceedings

included speeches by Dana Kishore, Vijay Kumar IPS, and the Governor, celebrating Bihar's culture and achievements. A special video message from the Governor of Bihar was also presented. A vibrant cultural program followed, showcasing Bihar's traditions,

including a dramatization of Sita Mata and Ram Ji's wedding, with performances by Raunak Jha, Aditya Vikram Mahendru, Namita Prasad, Anuradha

Sharma, Sunita Singh, Vinod Singh, Hriday Bhusan, and others, bringing the spirit of Bihar alive at Lok Bhavan.

The event concluded with high tea featuring authentic Bihari cuisine. Signature dishes included Litti Chokha—one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's favorites, previously served at the G20 Summit and his oath ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan—along with Makhana Kheer, Kathal ki Sabji, Malpua, Aloo Chop, and other traditional delicacies, offering attendees a true taste of Bihar.

Through her vision and coordination, Alka Manoj not only organized a memorable Bihar Diwas celebration but also created a cultural bridge, bringing the essence of Bihar to Telangana in a grand and heartfelt way.

Over 50 pc Of Medical Travel Hit By Geo-political Tensions

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Over 50 per cent of the medical travel to India has been hit by the Middle East crisis. Hospitals are utilising telemedicine and teleconsultations to tide over the crisis, while postponing elective and semi-elective procedures.

According to Anupam Sibal, group medical director, Apollo Hospitals, over 50 per cent of the medical travel has been hit. "Africa is a good 40-45 per cent and the Middle East is about 8-10 per cent. So together they are responsible for more than 50 per cent. So it does have important ramifications," he said.

The international patients are currently deciding to delay their medical travel plans due to factors, which include disruption in the air transit points and cancellation of flights, higher airfares and uncertainty about travel timelines and treatment continuity. "Dubai, Abu



Dhabi, and Doha are very important hubs for patients to come from Africa who change flights. Though Air India flies to many destinations in Africa, patients usually rely on an airline with a transit. So all those airlines where the transit points are in the Gulf," he added. "Recent developments in West Asia highlight how closely global mobility, healthcare access, and services trade are interconnected. For India, medical value travel is an important component of the broader services export ecosystem, with West Asia historically serving as a key patient corridor," said Abhay Sinha, Director General, SEPC - Serv-

ices Export Promotion Council. However, the healthcare service providers are in touch with the patients with the help of technology. "What we are seeing at this stage is not necessarily a drop in demand for treatment, but a shift in travel timelines. At the same time, many patients continue to stay engaged with doctors through virtual consultations and treatment planning discussions while evaluating the safest and most convenient time to travel," Rajeev Taneja, Founder, GlobalCare Health.

Apollo already is using telemedicine and teleconsultation to keep in touch with their patients. The hospital has already started providing Artificial Intelligence-assisted healthcare services to reach out to patients in distant and remote areas. Patients who need elective procedures and semi-elective procedures and can wait for some time are deferring the travel.

Peddapalli Teacher Earla Sammayya Receives Telangana Seva Ratna Award

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Earla Sammayya, Headmaster of the Government Primary School in Oushannapalli village of Kalva Srirampur mandal in Peddapalli district, has been conferred the prestigious Telangana Seva Ratna National Award for 2026. The award was presented during the 33rd anniversary celebrations of the Vaidyula Global Foundation held

at Ravindra Bharati in Hyderabad on Thursday. The foundation representatives felicitated Sammayya with a shawl, memento, bouquet, and citation. They stated that the award was given in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the fields of education, literature, and social service, and expressed hope that he would achieve many more accolades in the future. As an educator, Sam-

mayya has brought remarkable transformation to the schools he served, including those in Srirampur, SC Colony, and Oushannapalli. He has improved academic standards, encouraged scientific thinking among students, and guided them to excel in state-level competitions. He has also worked actively to eliminate school drop-outs by motivating children who discontinued their education to return



to school. Special focus has been given to girls' education by facilitating their admission into

KGBVs, model schools, and residential institutions. Sammayya has contrib-

uted personally to the development of school infrastructure, often spending from his own resources. He conducts extra classes to support student learning and promotes adult education through open schooling initiatives in rural areas.

In the field of literature, he introduced a short poetry format titled "Madhurimalu" and has been encouraging writers across Telugu-speaking regions. Through Meghana

Sahiti Kalavedika, he has been organizing literary awards and promoting creative writing. He is also actively involved in promoting children's literature through the "Bala Vikaasa Tarangini" initiative.

On the social front, Sammayya has extended support to the underprivileged, including providing nutrition to thalassemia patients and distributing essentials

during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also assists poor students with study materials and raises awareness about government welfare schemes. Expressing happiness over receiving the award, Sammayya thanked the Vaidyula Global Foundation for recognizing his efforts. Teachers, public representatives, and villagers have congratulated him on this achievement.

Label Clues That Tell You If a Product Is Actually Good

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A large number of Indian consumers are unknowingly overlooking key food label indicators that reveal product quality, freshness, and processing methods. According to the latest STTEM 2.0 report by Godrej Yummiez, nearly 85% of Indians are unaware of what "IQF" (Individually Quick Frozen) means—despite it being a crucial marker of superior frozen food quality. IQF refers to a rapid



freezing technique where each piece of food is frozen separately. This ensures the product does not clump together, retains its natural moisture, and avoids becoming soggy.

Foods processed using IQF maintain their shape and texture, allowing for even cooking straight from the freezer—an approach widely adopted across Godrej Yummiez products.

Beyond IQF, several other abbreviations on food packaging offer important insights that can help consumers make better choices. One of the most common is BBE (Best Before Expiry), which indicates the period during which a product maintains its best quality in terms of taste and texture.

While items may still be safe to consume after this date, they may not deliver the intended experience.

Another important label is HPP (High-Pressure Processing), a preservation method commonly used for juices, dips, and ready-to-eat meals. HPP helps extend shelf life without using high heat, thereby retaining nutrients, flavor, and freshness.

Similarly, FD (Freeze-Dried) signifies that the product has undergone freeze-drying—a process

that removes moisture while preserving the food's original taste, color, and nutritional value more effectively than traditional air-drying methods.

With growing demand for packaged and convenience foods, understanding these abbreviations is becoming increasingly important. Experts suggest that a quick glance at these labels can help consumers distinguish between average and high-quality products, ensuring better value and healthier choices.

Interio by Godrej Revamps Hyderabad Store, Reveals Study on Home Comfort

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Interio by Godrej, a leading furniture brand from the Godrej Enterprises Group, launched its revamped 6,000 sq.ft. store in Hyderabad, unveiling the 'Moments That Matter' (MTM) study, which explores how everyday experiences at home shape emotional



well-being, comfort, and connection for modern urban Indians.

The MTM study revealed that nearly 9 in 10 Hyderabad residents (94%) sleep best in their own bed, emphasizing the importance of home as a sanctuary for rest. Additionally, 86% said Friday evenings are best spent unwinding at home, while 48% highlighted that quiet time alone in the early morning helps set a calm tone for the day. The findings point to a growing trend among urban consumers of centering their lives around home spaces. The study surveyed over 2,600 respondents across eight cities, including Delhi,

Lucknow, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad. The Hyderabad store, spread over 6,000 sq.ft., reflects Interio's vision of providing a one-stop destination for modern Indian homes. Customers can explore modular, configurable, and personalized furniture across bedroom, living, and dining categories, alongside a new range of soft furnishings.

Commenting on the launch, Dr. Dev Narayan Sarkar, Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Business (B2C) at Interio, said, "The MTM study highlights how design influences how people feel, connect, and unwind. Our revamped

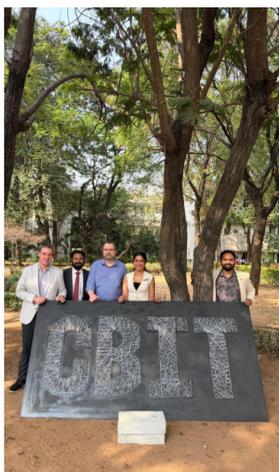
store in Hyderabad translates these insights into immersive experiences that help consumers create spaces aligned with their lifestyles. With plans to expand to 80 stores in Telangana by 2029 and target INR 550 crore revenue from South India in FY27, we aim to deepen our retail and omnichannel presence while delivering innovative products tailored to consumer preferences." Dr. Alisha Laljee, practicing psychologist and educator, added, "Thoughtfully designed home environments foster emotional balance and a sense of belonging, which is increasingly vital in fast-paced urban life."

Algoma University Delegation Visits CBIT Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Professors from Algoma University, Canada, visited Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, on Thursday as part of an academic outreach initiative aimed at strengthening global educational ties and expanding opportunities for students. The delegation interacted with students and faculty, offering insights into higher education in Canada, academic programs, research opportunities, and global career pathways.

They also conducted a detailed session on studying at Algoma University, focusing on admis-



sions, scholarships, and student support services. The visiting team comprised Brent Krmpotich, Associate Vice-President, International Affairs and Recruitment; Dr. Brett Goodwin, Interim Vice President, Academic and Research & Associate Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies; and Nisha Darmwal, Senior Manager, International Recruitment (South Asia and Africa).

The program was organized by VisaTree Consultants, Hyderabad. During the session, students actively engaged with the delegates, seeking clarity on international education prospects and research collaborations. The in-

teraction provided valuable guidance for those aspiring to pursue studies abroad.

The visit also opened avenues for potential academic collaborations, including student exchange programs and joint research initiatives between Algoma University and CBIT. CBIT management and faculty welcomed the delegation and appreciated VisaTree Consultants for facilitating the engagement. The initiative marks a significant step toward enhancing CBIT's global academic presence and creating broader international learning opportunities for its students.

'Dhurandhar' Action Director Defends Violence in Film, Says It's Not 'Mindless Action'

The violence and action in "Dhurandhar: The Revenge" is deeply rooted in emotional drama and influenced by the brutal realities of the criminal world, says action director Aejaz Gulab, who was given a "free hand" by director Aditya Dhar to design these sequences. Gulab has an impressive filmography of 500 titles including "Shootout at Lokhandwala", "Ek Villain", "Saiyaara", and OTT series "The Family Man", "Rana Naidu", "Guns & Gulaabs", but the action-director says "Dhurandhar" has finally given him his due.

"People used to praise action in South films. It feels good that action in Hindi films is finally being appreciated," Aejaz, who has been working in the industry for close to four decades, told PTI in an interview. Aejaz said he spent 135 days filming



action sequences in "Dhurandhar", preceded by 70 days of intensive prep. Unlike many Bollywood projects where action is rushed due to budget or time constraints, the action-director said Dhar gave him time to plan the action scenes.

"The action is part fiction, part reality. Aditya sir gave me a free hand to do whatever I wanted. We designed every action sequence keeping the story, character, and their angst in mind and then we would run it through him for his in-

puts," Aejaz, who was earlier set to team up with Dhar on his debut feature, "Uri: The Surgical Strike" but couldn't due to date issues, said. For "Dhurandhar", the action-director led a massive team including seven assistants, 12 stuntwomen, and nearly 300 stuntmen.

To achieve a global standard in action sequences, he collaborated with international stunt directors Yannick Ben, who has choreographed for Hollywood and Hindi films like "Transporter 3",

"Jawan", and Sea-Young Oh, best known for "Avengers: Age of Ultron", "War of the Arrows", and "Fighter". "Dhurandhar: The Revenge", the second part of Dhar's 2025 release "Dhurandhar", released on March 19. The story, set in Karachi's Lyari town, follows an undercover Indian agent (Ranveer Singh) who infiltrates Karachi's high-stakes criminal and political underworld to dismantle a terror network. The new film explores the dual identity of Singh's character, tracing his transformation from Jaskirat Singh Rangji into covert operative, Hamza Ali Mazari. It features Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, and R Madhavan. Aejaz, 54, said that the "brutality" seen on screen was a deliberate choice dictated by the script's heavy dramatic undertones. "The script demanded that we design

action sequences in a brutal way. The film is about underworld and gangsters, and these people are known for their ruthless acts," he said, justifying the criticism. "It's not mindless action; the action is backed by emotion. As an action director, I'm merely an executor of the director's vision," he added. Taking about the brutal killing of one of the gangsters at the hands of Rehman Dakaik (Akshay Khanna), Aejaz said his team spent days prepping a more "painful" end to reflect the "angst of a father avenging the death of his young son". "When we were planning the action scene, we thought since the scene is set in a market, what all heavy things could possibly be available, and one of the team members suggested we can use weighing stone.

Trolls Don't Bother Me: Harish Shankar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Days after the release of Ustaad Bhagat Singh, director Harish Shankar addressed the growing wave of online criticism and the film's slowing box office momentum. The Pawan Kalyan-starrer had opened on a strong note but soon encountered stiff competition and mixed audience reactions, which affected its theatrical run.

Speaking during a recent fan interaction, Harish Shankar clarified his stance on criticism, emphasizing that he welcomes genuine and constructive feedback. He stated that comments on aspects like writing, screenplay, and pacing are valuable



if they contribute to his growth as a filmmaker. However, he drew a clear distinction between meaningful critique and anonymous trolling on social media.

"Trollers are free to troll anything... I take constructive criticism," he remarked, underlining that accountability is important when opinions are expressed. He further added that face-

less negativity does not influence him, as such remarks often lack credibility and intent to improve cinema. "I don't care about trolls or those bringing up collections," he said, asserting that he remains focused on his craft rather than online noise, while continuing to engage with audiences who offer thoughtful feedback.

Balakrishna Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Prominent actor and Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna has been honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades-long contribution to Indian cinema. The accolade was presented at the International Film Festival of Delhi 2026, which commenced in the national capital on Wednesday, celebrating excellence and legacy in the film industry. The grand award cere-

mony took place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, drawing an impressive gathering of political leaders and film personalities.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta presented the honour to Balakrishna, acknowledging his remarkable journey in cinema and his lasting influence on audiences across generations. Known for his powerful dialogue delivery, larger-than-life roles, and dedication to Telugu cinema, Balakrishna has carved a unique

place for himself in the industry. In addition to Balakrishna, Lifetime Achievement honours were also conferred upon veteran actress Sharmila Tagore and the late legendary actor Dharmendra. The recognition of Dharmendra was received by his family members, making it a poignant moment during the as the audience paid tribute to his iconic career and immense contribution to Indian films.

The festival was formally inaugurated with a traditional lamp-lighting cere-

mony led by Rekha Gupta. She was joined by prominent leaders including Kapil Mishra and Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, along with celebrated film personalities such as Hema Malini, Kangana Ranaut, and Sharmila Tagore.

The event highlighted the strong cultural connection between cinema and public life. Balakrishna's recognition has triggered widespread celebrations among his fans and colleagues, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Te-

langana, where he enjoys a massive following. Social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory messages praising his enduring legacy and achievements. On the professional front, Balakrishna has already commenced shooting for his next film with director Gopichand Malineni. The upcoming project is being described as a high-octane action-adventure entertainer, further raising expectations among fans eager to see him back on the big screen.

BCCI India Schedule: Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli To Feature In 9 Home ODIs

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Having hosted a Test match against South Africa in late November, Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium is once again among the five venues that will host the marquee series between India and Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the BCCI announced on Thursday. The Indian board released the calendar for the senior men's team's home season which will comprise five Tests, nine ODIs and eight T20Is. The ODI matches will certainly have a premium attached to it with the legendary white ball duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma expected to feature in all of them.

The series will start with the opening Test in Nagpur from January 21 followed by Chennai (January 29-February 2) with the third Test in Guwahati from February 11 to 15 after a eight-day



gap. The fourth Test in Ranchi will be played between February 19-23 while the final Test in Ahmedabad will commence from February 27. Among the five venues, as per rotation, Nagpur (last hosted Test in vs Australia 2023), Chennai (last hosted Test vs Bangladesh in 2024), Ranchi (last hosted Test vs England in 2024) have all got their due games. Ahmedabad hosted a Test match against the West Indies in October, 2025. However, it wasn't clear as to how Guwahati, which hosted India's last home Test series (vs South Africa in November 2025), again features in rotation while Mumbai and Kolkata are not part

of the marquee series. It is not known whether Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) or Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) didn't want to host a Test versus Australia. While the Australia Test series is the main attraction during the home season, India will also play host to West Indies, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. In fact, Zimbabwe will be playing in India in a bilateral series for the first time since 2002 when Sourav Ganguly was leading India. The season will comprise 22 international matches in 17 cities of the West Indies tour of India, starting on September 27, 2026. The tour will feature a three-match

ODI series followed by a five-match T20I series.

The ODIs will be played in Trivandrum (September 27), Guwahati (September 30) and New Chandigarh (October 3), before the action shifts to the T20Is, which will be hosted across Lucknow (Oct 6), Ranchi (Oct 9), Indore (Oct 11), Hyderabad (Oct 14) and Bengaluru (Oct 17). India will then host Sri Lanka in December 2026 for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is. The ODI leg will be played in Delhi (December 13), Bengaluru (Dec 16) and Ahmedabad (Dec 19) while Rajkot (Dec 22), Cuttack (Dec 24) and Pune (Dec 27) will host the T20Is. At the start of the new year, Zimbabwe will tour India for a three-match ODI series in January 2027. The matches will be held in Kolkata (Jan 3), Hyderabad (Jan 6) and Mumbai (Jan 9).

IPL 2026: 10 New Faces Who Are Ready To Own This Season

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre hogged the limelight in their debut IPL season last year and in the upcoming edition too, there would be quite a few who would like to justify the tournament tagline of "Where Talent Meets Opportunity". PTI takes a look at one rookie from each of the 10 franchises who are expected to make a name for themselves in the next eight weeks. The list comprises both Indian and Indian international names who either haven't yet made their IPL debut or have played less than five games so far.

Prashant Veer (Chennai Super Kings) There are plenty of cricketers in India who bowl slow left-arm orthodox and bat left-handed. But none of them are faced with the task of filling up the big boots of Ravindra Jadeja like the 20-year-old Amethi-born Prashant Veer. Never before has one witnessed Chennai Super Kings invest so heavily in youth. The franchise bagged him with



a Rs 14.20 crore bid, based more on potential and how the scouts felt after looking at him during trials. The 20-year-old has only nine Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) matches under his belt but with a bowling economy rate of 6.45 and a batting strike-rate of 167 plus, Prashant Veer is expected to play a big part for the 'Canary Yellow's' this season.

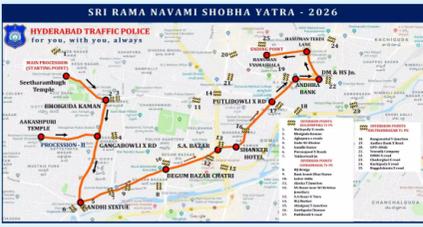
Auqib Nabi (Delhi Capitals) At 29, Nabi isn't a spring chicken and has a good eight years of domestic cricket under his belt but the anticipation surrounding his IPL debut would make DC fans believe that they are in for something special. After a stellar Ranji season during which he claimed 60-odd wickets to singlehandedly get the trophy for Jammu and Kashmir, the 'Bara-

back-up Indian pacers, Ashok could be looked at by head coach Ashish Nehra, especially after clocking 150 kmph at this year's SMAT.

Tejasvi Dahiya (Kolkata Knight Riders) Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Abhishek Nayar's protegee Angkrish Raghuvanshi is being prepared as the batter-keeper since he has already played a couple of IPL seasons. But the 23-year-old Dahiya, who hails from Delhi, is also a serious talent, who if persisted with, could give results in long run. He scored a half-century for Delhi during the last SMAT and a strike-rate of 168 makes him a good bet in the middle-order. Shivang Kumar (Sunrisers Hyderabad)

The 23-year-old from Madhya Pradesh bowls left-arm wrist spin that makes him a rare commodity. Unlike Kuldeep, who has an angular run-up to the crease, Shivang has a more orthodox straight run-up. He is also a handy lower-order batter, but it remains to be seen if SRH head coach Daniel Vettori can find a slot for him.

Traffic Curbs Across Hyderabad for Sri Ramanavami Procession



Hyderabad Traffic Police has announced elaborate traffic diversions in view of the Sri Ramanavami Shobha Yatra scheduled on March 27 from 9 a.m. onwards in Hyderabad. The procession will commence from Seetarambagh Temple and proceed to Hanuman Vyayamshala School via Bhoiguda Kaman, Mangalhat, Jali Hanuman, Puranapul, Gandhi Statue, Jummerath Bazar, Begum Bazar, SA Bazar, Gowliguda Chaman, Putlibowli and Sultan Bazar. According to the advisory issued by the Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, vehicular movement will be diverted in phases depending on the movement of the procession, and traffic will be restored after the tail end crosses each junction. Major diversions will be enforced at Mallepally X Roads, Aghapura X Roads, Ghode-ki-Khabar, Gandhi Statue, Puranapul X Roads, Takkarwadi Junction, Rani Avanti Bai Statue, Alaska T Junction, SA Bazar, MJ Market, Putlibowli X Road, Andhra Bank X Road, DMHS X Road and Sultan Bazar X Road. Heavy congestion is expected at Begum Bazar Chatri, Afzalgunj T-Junction, Shivaji Bridge, CBS, Rangmahal Y Junction, Putlibowli, Koti, GPO Abids, MJ Market, Chaderghat, Kachiguda X Road and Nimboliadda. Police advised commuters to plan travel in advance, use alternative routes and follow updates through official social media handles. Emergency travel assistance is available through the traffic helpline 9010203626.

Telangana Plans 10,000 New Hospital Beds in Hyderabad, Warangal

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday, March 26, said the completion of multi-specialty hospitals in Warangal and the state capital will add 10,000 beds to the state public health system. These hospitals will be constructed at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Sanathnagar, Alwal, LB Nagar, and Warangal Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS). Speaking during the Question Hour in the assembly, Reddy also said the health department is



developing a website where non-resident Telangana doctors can register to volunteer their services to hospitals in the state during their visit home. "A new Osmania hospital is being constructed in Goshamahal (in Hyderabad) on 30 acres with a cost of Rs 3,000 crores. Work on Telangana Institutes of Medical Sciences (TIMS) hospitals is being

accelerated. So additionally, 10,000 beds will be made available for patients. We are correcting the mistakes made in the past (during the BRS regime)," the CM told the House. Taking on the BRS party, Reddy said the previous regime left Aarogyasri scheme dues to the extent of Rs 627 crore, and while bearing the burden, the Congress government doubled the insurance coverage from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. He also said that between 2014 and December 6, 2023, the average monthly spending under Aarogyasri was Rs 52 crore whereas from De-

ember 7, 2023, to March 25, 2026, it increased significantly to Rs 89 crore per month. He said after the Congress came to power in December 2023, Rs 2,046 crore had been disbursed under the CM Relief Fund, while Rs 2,400 crore had been spent on the Aarogyasri Scheme. "In total, about Rs 4500 crore has been spent by our government for the healthcare of the poor." He highlighted that there were many irregularities in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheque distribution earlier, and cases were registered against the perpetrators. Additionally, officials were asked to rectify engineer-

GHMC to take up desilting, road works in view of monsoon

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner RV Karnan on Thursday, March 26, asked officials to take on desilting and repair of drainage systems on a war footing in preparation for the monsoon (post June). Holding a meeting with Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sanjanar at the Old Police Commissionerate Office in Basheerbagh, the GHMC chief asked field-level staff to ensure permanent solutions are provided to the worst affected waterlogging points in the city. Officials were further asked to securely cover all open manholes to prevent any threat to public safety and to remove encroachments from footpaths. Additionally, officials were asked to rectify engineer-



ing defects on roads to prevent accidents and to ensure free flow of traffic near ongoing flyover and underpass construction sites. "Ensuring that there is no loss of life or property during the monsoon is the primary responsibility of officials. GHMC will work closely with the police department to further improve urban infrastructure, with special focus on road maintenance and city beautification." the GHMC Commissioner said, adding that Rs 25 crore will be allocated exclusively for traffic improvement-related works in all zones.

Hyderabad Residents Snatch LPG Cylinders Amid Panic Rumours

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Panic over a rumoured LPG shortage triggered chaos in Hyderabad's Shaikpet area on Thursday (March 26), with residents attempting to snatch gas cylinders from a delivery vehicle outside a local agency, even as the Telangana government reiterated that supplies remain adequate and uninterrupted. A video circulating on social media captured the tense scene, showing a man trying to carry away a cylinder on his head before being stopped by agency staff. The situation quickly escalated as bystanders gathered, with several others attempting to grab cylinders, creating

a commotion at the spot. Consumers present at the agency claimed they had not received their booked cylinders, fuelling frustration and contributing to the disorder. The incident reflects growing public anxiety driven largely by unverified reports of a supply crunch. However, the Telangana Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department has firmly denied any shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) across the state. Officials stated that the supply chain—from oil refineries to local distribution points—is functioning smoothly, with sufficient stock available to meet daily demand in all districts. According to the department, the long



queues and "no stock" notices seen at some outlets are a result of panic buying rather than any real disruption in supply. Authorities noted that consumers rushing to secure additional cylinders unnecessarily have led to temporary imbalances at the retail level. The government also clarified that recent changes in advance-payment systems

by Oil Marketing Companies caused only minor logistical adjustments for some dealers and have no impact on the overall availability of LPG. Meanwhile, both state and central authorities, along with oil companies and law enforcement agencies, are closely monitoring the situation. Officials warned that strict action will be taken against hoarding, black-marketing, or illegal diversion of domestic LPG cylinders. Citizens have been urged to remain calm, avoid panic purchases, and rely solely on official sources for information, as the government continues efforts to maintain steady and equitable distribution of essential fuel supplies.

Hyderabad woman loses Rs 30L to Instagram gaming ad, police bust Rs 26 cr fraud

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cyber Crime Police arrested four people, including a woman from Goa, for their alleged role in a financial network that processed over Rs 26 crore through illegal online gaming and betting platforms, officials said on Thursday, March 26. The accused were identified as Rajesh Venkata Raman, 48, a Hyderabad-based businessman, Bhamidipati Abhishek, 27, an operations manager from Hyderabad, Augustene Williams, 38, a support staff from Ernakulam in Kerala, and Manmeet Sharma alias Sonya, 40, a web designer and digital marketer from Goa. The case came to light after a 24-year-old Hyderabad woman lodged a complaint saying she had

lost nearly Rs 30 lakh after clicking on a deceptive Instagram advertisement that led her to an online casino platform called y1 game. According to the police, the victim was first contacted over WhatsApp and lured in with bonuses and early successful withdrawals, which is a classic trust-building tactic. Convinced the platform was legitimate, she began depositing increasing sums through multiple UPI transactions from her Bank of India, State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Bank accounts. By the time she realised the fraud, her accounts had been frozen and lien-marked by banks flagging suspicious transactions, leaving her stripped of her savings.

BC Sub-Plan or budget sleight of hand: Talasani corners Congress govt

BRS deputy floor leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav tore into the Congress government in the Assembly, accusing it of reducing the BC Sub-Plan to a budgetary illusion marked by tall claims and negligible spending. He said the ruling party deceived the Backward Classes with the Kamareddy BC Declaration, promising 42 per cent reservations and massive welfare outlays, only to abandon them after assuming power. During the debate on BC welfare demands on Thursday, Srinivas Yadav drew a sharp distinction between promises and performance. He argued that while 42 per cent BC reservation might have legal and Central constraints, key areas such as the BC Sub-Plan, fee reimbursement, welfare funds and the MBC ministry lie squarely within the State's control. "The BJP never promised 42 per cent reservations. The Congress did. It must own that promise instead of shifting blame," he said, adding that even the party's protests in Delhi failed to draw support from its own high command. The former Minister questioned the credibility of the government's promise of allocating Rs 20,000 crore annually for BC welfare under the BC Sub-Plan. "You allocated Rs 800 crore in the first year but spent barely anything. In the second year, Rs 11,000 crore was shown on paper, but actual spending was just Rs 3 crore. Is this governance or deception?" he asked. Contrasting this with the previous BRS regime, he said Rs 45,000 crore was spent on BC welfare over nine years, alongside the expansion of residential schools, colleges, fee reimbursement and overseas scholarships. He also cited enhanced political representation for BC communities during the BRS regime. Srinivas Yadav flagged a glaring mismatch between allocations and expenditure under the Congress rule, alleging manipulation of budget figures.

T'gana govt mulls pilot project to address nutrition deficiencies in kids

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to examine the feasibility of implementing the recommendations proposed by eminent economist Karthik Muralidharan across 29 government school complexes under the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) to address nutritional deficiencies in pre-primary and primary-level children as a pilot project. Muralidharan met the Chief Minister at the Legislative Council Hall on the sidelines of the ongoing Assembly session, where he discussed nutritional deficiencies and learning ability gaps among children aged 0 to 10 years in the state. He highlighted the future health complications that may arise from nutritional deficiencies during early childhood, as well as the psychological distress students may endure later in life if they do not receive proper care at the primary level. He suggested measures that need to be taken to overcome these challenges. Revanth Reddy informed Muralidharan that they



have already been paying special attention to these specific issues. He explained that budgetary allocations have been made to provide breakfast in schools, in addition to mid-day meals. Muralidharan also suggested that, along with the existing workers and helpers in Anganwadi centres, an additional staff member could be appointed specifically for the purpose of providing nutritious food to the children. Officials informed that there is a possibility of appointing an additional person, designated as "Poshan Sakhi," to provide nutritious food to children at Anganwadis. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to prepare a comprehensive report on the matter in collaboration with Muralidharan.

Hyderabad Fuel Rush Eases, Traffic Normalises

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's petrol pumps returned to near-normal operations by late morning on Thursday (March 26, 2026), following two days of intense queues and widespread traffic disruption across the city. Fuel stations that had been under severe pressure due to panic buying since Monday night reported a noticeable decline in crowds. The rush eased significantly, with fewer vehicles lining up and fuel distribution be-



coming smoother and more organized. This shift brought much-needed relief to both commuters and authorities. Traffic conditions, which had been heavily impacted by

long queues spilling onto main roads, also improved steadily. Key stretches that witnessed congestion earlier in the week began to clear, restoring regular vehicular movement ac-

ross most parts of the city. Police personnel, who had been deployed extensively to manage the situation and maintain order, reported a reduction in crowd management challenges. With the situation stabilizing, their presence was gradually scaled down in several areas. The easing of pressure at fuel stations marks a return to routine for Hyderabad residents, after days of uncertainty and inconvenience caused by the sudden surge in demand for petrol and diesel.

Man held for manufacturing, selling expired Blue Bells ice cream

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The newly launched Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-Fast) on Wednesday, March 26, arrested one person for selling expired ice cream in Musheerabad. The H-FAST officials, along with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Food Safety Officer B Sahithi, conducted a surprise inspection at Blue Bells Ice Cream store in Babuji

Nagar. The owner, Pattala Ashok, was arrested for operating the store without a valid licence in unhygienic conditions and using expired products, posing a serious health risk to consumers. The store engaged in large-scale manufacturing and sale of adulterated and unhygienic ice cream products, officials said. The adulterated products were sold to wholesale and retail customers under false claims of being good-quality ice creams, resulting in illegal profits.

I want to lick: Uber driver booked for obscene text to passenger in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A Hyderabad woman's unsettling experience with her Uber driver is currently making rounds on the internet. A message saying "I want to lick are you interested" is something that would send chills down anyone's spine. And while some would just cancel the ride, this passenger bravely approached the police to make sure the offender faces consequences. After she received the message on Wednesday, March 26, the woman, whose name the po-

lice refused to reveal, registered a complaint over WhatsApp to the Cyberabad SHE Teams. The police registered a case under Section 292 (public nuisance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Gachibowli Women's Police Station. "After receiving the complaint last night, we nabbed the driver named Nagaraju and presented him before a court. He was let off after a fine and will be called back in two days for counselling," Cyberabad SHE Teams Inspector Hanuman Goud told

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