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RH: 23%
RAINFALL: 0MM

FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY
MAX/MIN temp. 37/19°C

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

Jan Vishwas Bill for Decriminalise 717 Offences

The Union government on Friday introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, proposing to decriminalise a range of minor offences to promote ease of doing business. The Bill, introduced by minister of state for commerce and industry Jitin Prasada, seeks to amend 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. Of the 784 provisions proposed to be amended, 717 relate to decriminalisation of minor offences and 67 are aimed at improving ease of living.

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

Markapuram Accident: Bus Owner, Driver Arrested

MARKAPURAM Wakeup telangana

In a major development in the Markapuram bus tragedy case, Andhra Pradesh police have arrested the private travel bus owner, Harikrishna Reddy, and the driver, Yuvraj. Fourteen passengers, including a five-month-old infant, were killed and 28 were injured on Thursday after a private bus collided with a gravel-laden tipper near Rayavaram village on the road leading to Podili, triggering a massive fire. There were 41 people in



KTR trains guns on Musi, Metro and Future City: P2

Modi Tells CMs He Is Confident Team India Will Overcome Crisis: P4

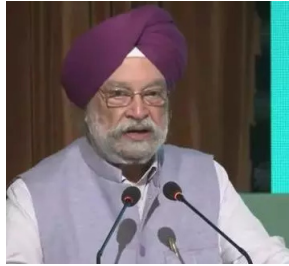
CM Revanth Presents Silk Robes For Sita Rama Kalyanam at Bhadrachalam: P3



Government Rejects Nationwide Lockdown Rumours

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Rejecting rumours of a nationwide lockdown, the government on Friday clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the government. The government's statement came when there were widely circulated rumours on social media that India may face another lockdown after Covid 19. Reacting to the reports, Union minister Hardeep Puri said that rumours of a lockdown in India are completely false. "Let me state this clearly



there is no such proposal under consideration by the government. In such times, it is important that we remain calm, responsible, and united. Attempts to spread rumours and create panic in such a situation are irresponsible and harmful," Puri said. Similarly, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also said there is no proposal to impose a lockdown in the country in the wake of the West Asia war, and asked politicians to refrain from rumour mongering and creating fear psychosis among the people. "The government will remain on its 'toes' to keep the fiscal deficit under check, while ensuring the burden of rising global crude oil prices does not fall on the common man. In keeping with the commitment of the last four years since the conflict in Russia-Ukraine started, the government decided to

take a hit on its own finances again to safeguard the Indian citizens. "The government has taken a huge hit on its taxation revenues to ensure very high losses of oil companies (approximately Rs 24 per litre for petrol and Rs 30 a litre for diesel) at this time of sky high international prices are reduced," he said. "At the same time, export tax has been levied as international prices of petrol and diesel have skyrocketed and any refinery exporting to foreign nations will have to pay export tax.

man also said there is no proposal to impose a lockdown in the country in the wake of the West Asia war, and asked politicians to refrain from rumour mongering and creating fear psychosis among the people. "The government will remain on its 'toes' to keep the fiscal deficit under check, while ensuring the burden of rising global crude oil prices does not fall on the common man. In keeping with the commitment of the last four years since the conflict in Russia-Ukraine started, the government decided to

Israel Warns Attacks on Iran Will Escalate as Trump Cites Ceasefire Progress

Israel Warns Iran of Escalation Amid Ceasefire

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Israel threatened to "escalate and expand" its attacks on Iran on Friday, even as US President Donald Trump claimed talks on ending the war were going well and gave Tehran more time to open the Strait of Hormuz. Iran, meanwhile, gave no signs of backing down. With stock markets reeling and economic fallout from the war extending far beyond the Middle East, Trump is under growing pressure to end Iran's chokehold on the strait, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil is usually shipped.

Iran has rejected a 15-point US proposal for a ceasefire that includes it relinquishing control of the strait, but at the same time has ordered thousands more troops to the region - possibly in preparation for a military attempt to wrest the waterway from Iran. Trump has said if Iran doesn't reopen the strait to all traffic by April 6, he will order the destruction



of Iran's energy plants. He said Thursday that talks on ending the conflict were going "very well." Iran maintains it is not engaged in any negotiations.

Israel targets Iran's weapons production, Lebanon capital

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Air raid sirens sounded in Israel and the military said it has been intercepting Iranian missiles on a daily basis. Defense Minister Israel Katz said Iran "will pay heavy, increasing prices for this war crime". "Despite the warnings, the firing continues," Katz said. "And therefore attacks in Iran will escalate and expand to additional targets and areas that assist the

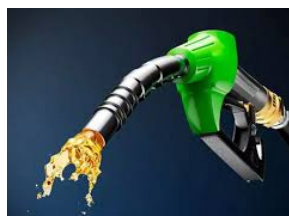
regime in building and operating weapons against Israeli citizens." Israel's military said its attacks Friday targeted sites "in the heart of Tehran" where ballistic missiles and other weapons are produced. It said it also hit missile launchers and storage sites in Western Iran. Smoke rose over Beirut after a pre-dawn strike, and Lebanon's Health Ministry later reported two people were killed.

Govt Cuts Petrol Excise to ₹3/litre, Scraps Diesel Duty

Petrol excise reduced from ₹13 to ₹3 per litre, while diesel duty is brought down from ₹10 to zero in a major tax relief move

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

In a huge relief to the common man, the government on Friday absorbed oil shocks, keeping petrol and diesel prices unchanged amid a sharp rise in global crude oil prices amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Though the government put a strain on the finances of oil marketing



companies, it decided to protect consumers from the rising cost pressure. In order to provide relief to oil companies, the government also cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each, at

an estimated revenue cost of Rs 1.75 lakh crore. The government said in a notification that special additional excise duty on petrol has been cut from Rs 13 a litre to Rs 3 and the same on diesel from Rs 10 per litre to nil. In a balancing act, it has also imposed additional export duties on diesel and jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF), a move aimed at ensuring adequate do-

mestic supply. "An additional duty of Rs 21.50 per litre has been levied on diesel exports and Rs 29.50 per litre on ATF exports," it said. However, unlike last time, there is no windfall tax that has been levied on domestic crude oil producers like state-owned ONGC. After the reduction in excise duty, it is,

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

EVs Future Of Telangana, Revanth Tells PM

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Emphasising that Telangana was switching over to utilising alternative energy, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his conference with CMs that Telangana was actively encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and increasing renewable energy generation, with the aim of reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The Chief Minister said that Telangana was extensively pro-



moting EV manufacturing and the development of a robust battery ecosystem. Revanth Reddy briefed PM Modi and the conference that the state had granted a 100 per cent exemption on road tax and registration fees for EVs. He explained that initiatives like the process of converting over 1.2 lakh

petrol and diesel autorickshaws in Hyderabad into electric vehicles (EVs) through retrofitting had begun. On the fuel situation, Revanth Reddy said that officials were continuously monitoring the stock levels and fuel prices. Legal action was being initiated against individuals involved in posting content on social media that spread misconceptions and created panic regarding shortages of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. The Chief Minister said that commercial gas cylin-

ders were being supplied to hospitals, schools, orphanages, and old-age homes on priority basis. Revanth Reddy explained that while the daily consumption of petrol and diesel in Telangana typically stood at 36,189 kiloliters on normal days, the state's current reserves amounted to 188,210 kiloliters. He stated that the state government had constituted a committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, to review and constantly monitor the supply of fuel. The Chief Minister said that commercial gas cylin-

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Red Fort Blast: NIA granted 45 More Days By Court To Conclude Probe

Special Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the agency additional time and also extended the judicial custody of several accused.

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

A Delhi court on Friday allowed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) an extension of 45 days to conclude its probe in connection with the blast near the Red Fort here on November 10 last year. Special Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the agency additional time and also extended the judicial custody of several accused. So far, the anti-terrorism agency has made 11

arrests in the case. Earlier, on March 23, the agency filed its plea seeking an extension, and one of the grounds was that it needed more time to probe the entire conspiracy because of the fresh arrests made in February. Last month, the NIA arrested Zameer Ahmad Ahangar and Tufail Ahmad Bhat from Jammu and Kashmir for their active involvement in the conspiracy related to the Delhi blast. An application filed by the agency

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

on the same day said that several accused were required to be confronted to interpret the "radical material" extracted from their digital devices. It said that an expert from Jamia Millia Islamia here had been requested to pro-

vide an interpretation report after thorough analysis of the radical material to ascertain the contents of the "fundamentalist or extremist nature" of these literatures and articles in the Arabic language, seeking to "promote or propagate violent jihad" and "preparation of bombs through household everyday articles and chemicals". The agency, in its application, said that the WhatsApp groups used by the accused persons had been

identified and the investigation pertaining to the identification of members of the WhatsApp group 'AGuH' (Ansar Gazwat ul Hind) was underway. It said that a technical analysis had been conducted, besides intercepting certain mobile phone numbers, including WhatsApp Legal Interception (VoIP), to identify other members subscribing to the radical or jihadi ideology of the terror module and to identify the potential associates and han-

dlers of the arrested accused. The plea said that details obtained from the "legal interception" would be confronted with the arrested accused. Detailing the investigation report regarding six accused persons, it said that Amir Rashid Mir procured the second-hand car, which was used by the deceased Dr Umar-un-Nabi. Nabi was driving an explosives-laden Hyundai i20 car that detonated outside

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaage baar baar aage

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

KTR trains guns on Musi, Metro and Future City

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

K. T. Rama Rao on Thursday launched a strong attack on the Congress government in the Assembly, questioning the transparency and intent behind key initiatives including the Musi Riverfront project, Hyderabad Metro Rail takeover, and the proposed Future City plan.

During a late-night discussion, Rama Rao demanded clarity on whether a Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been prepared for the Musi Riverfront project. He challenged the government to table the report if it existed, alleging that failure to do so would in-



dicating that the Assembly was being misled.

Raising concerns over land and property issues, he questioned the government's claim of a 50-metre buffer zone along the Musi River. He pointed out that notices had reportedly been issued to over 10,000 properties spread across 3,796 acres, and alleged that buildings constructed with

official permissions were now being labelled illegal and targeted for demolition.

Accusing the government of selective action, Rama Rao alleged that properties linked to ruling party leaders were being spared, while those belonging to the poor and middle-class residents were facing eviction. He further questioned how residential

structures within the buffer zone were being declared illegal even as commercial developments were being proposed under the same Musi Riverfront project.

On the Hyderabad Metro issue, Rama Rao disputed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's claim that the takeover of Larsen & Toubro's ₹15,000 crore loan was unavoidable. He argued that during the previous BRS government's tenure, the Centre had permitted private participation in metro airport connectivity projects. He alleged that the current move could be aimed at gaining control over more than 280 acres of land leased to Larsen & Toubro.

Rama Rao also raised objections to the Future City proposal, questioning how the government planned to expand from 14,000 acres acquired for Pharma City to 30,000 acres. He noted that the land acquisition was conditional and could not be diverted for other uses. Responding to the criticism, Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the Musi DPR was currently under vetting by the Asian Development Bank and would be made public. He defended the eviction drives as lawful and humanitarian, justified the Metro takeover as beneficial with assets worth ₹27,000 crore, and dismissed allegations of any ulterior motives.

Grand Celebration of International Women's Day at Telangana Saraswati Parishad Hall

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and dignity at the Telangana Saraswati Parishad Hall, Bogulkunta, bringing together prominent community leaders and women from various walks of life. Former Corporation Rakesh Jaiswal graced the occasion as a distinguished guest, applauding the efforts of women in shaping society and emphasizing the importance of empowerment, equality, and education.

The event was organized under the leadership of Smt. Radhika, President of Sri Shakti Mandal, who played a pivotal role in coordinating the program. Her inspiring ad-



dress highlighted the strength, resilience, and achievements of women across different sectors. Several notable attendees, including Shailendhar Yadav, Sammia, Renuka, Buchamma, and Anusha, along with many other women participants, contributed to the success of the event.

Their presence reflected unity and collective commitment toward women's progress. The program featured engaging

speeches, discussions on women's rights, and recognition of contributions made by women in the community. The atmosphere was vibrant and inspiring, reinforcing the message of equality and empowerment. The event concluded on a positive note, with participants expressing their determination to continue working towards a more inclusive and supportive society for women.

Defunct Hand Pump Restored, Relief for Residents

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a welcome development for the residents of Tumbanda, Uppuguda (Jangammet) basti, a long-defunct hand pump has finally been repaired, bringing much-needed relief to the local community struggling for daily water needs over the past several years. The issue, which had caused significant hardship—especially during the scorching summer months—was brought to the attention of



HMW&SSB authorities through the persistent efforts of community leaders. Mr. Edla Pandarath, General Secretary of Bhagyanagar District, along with Mr. Sai Prasad (President) and Mr. Sai Kumar (Division Secretary), played a crucial role

in escalating the matter and ensuring prompt action. Responding swiftly to their appeal, officials and staff from the water board visited the locality and successfully repaired the hand pump. The restoration has now ensured access to clean water for the

residents, easing their daily struggles. The basti residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude and happiness over this timely intervention. Locals including Mahesh, Manta Sai, Aman, and others conveyed their appreciation to the leaders and authorities for addressing their long-pending concern. This initiative stands as a testament to the power of collective effort and responsive governance, bringing comfort and dignity back to the lives of the people in the community.

Telangana AAP Holds Sita Rama Kalyanam in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Sri Rama Navami was celebrated with great devotion by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Telangana unit, which organized a grand Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam at its state office in Hyderabad. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party leaders, workers, supporters, and devotees, reflecting a spirit of unity and cultural reverence. The Ceremony was led by AAP Telangana Working President Burra Ramu Goud and his



wife Durga, who performed the rituals as the ceremonial couple in accordance with traditional practices. AAP Telangana State Convenor Hema Sudarshan Jilozu also attended the ceremony and took part in the Prayer, seeking the blessings of

Lord Rama for the welfare of the people. Speaking on the occasion, Burra Ramu Goud emphasized the relevance of Lord Rama's ideals in governance, highlighting the importance of dharma, justice, and transparency. He stated that AAP strives



to establish "Rama Rajya," ensuring corruption-free governance. The event concluded with prayers and distribution of tirtha prasadam

Kavitha to Launch New Party on April 25

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha has announced the launch of a new political party on April 25 at Munirabad in Medchal district, unveiling its flag and agenda at a massive public meeting. The move signals a major shift in Telangana's political landscape, with Kavitha declaring the party's vision of "Sarvodaya Telangana," aimed at inclusive development and welfare for all sections. Addressing a press conference in Nizamabad after participating in Sri Rama Navami celebrations at Quilla Ramalayam, she stated that Telangana Jagruthi would transition from a socio-cultural organization into a full-fledged political force. She emphasized that the party would function independently and not act as a proxy for any existing political entity, with the ambition of emerging as the state's leading party.



ance, accountability, and public participation. She invited women, youth, backward classes, SCs, STs, minorities, and intellectuals to actively take part in the party's formation and future direction. Expressing concern over Telangana's current situation, she noted that even after 12 years since the formation of Telangana, key issues such as irrigation, employment, funding, and farmers' welfare remain unresolved. She pointed to recent incidents and governance challenges as evidence of systemic gaps, stressing the need for a credible political alternative. Reaffirming her commitment, Kavitha said the party's agenda would be practical, people-centric, and shaped through con-

sultations with experts and committees. She asserted that once an issue is taken up, the party would pursue it until resolution, combining grassroots activism with national-level advocacy. Highlighting Telangana Jagruthi's past efforts, she recalled its support to farmers' families and various marginalized communities. She also called on individuals across political backgrounds to join the initiative, emphasizing that politics should rise above ego and focus on public service. Kavitha concluded by expressing confidence that the new party would redefine Telangana's political future through integrity, inclusiveness, and determined leadership.

Grand Sri Rama Navami Celebrations Held at quilla Ramalayam, Nizamabad



The sacred festival of Sri Rama Navami was celebrated with great religious fervor and spiritual grandeur at the historic Killa Ramalayam in Nizamabad city. The highlight of the celebrations was the divine Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam, performed in a traditional and devotional atmosphere amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns and the presence of a large number of devotees. Nizamabad Mayor Mrs. Uma Rani Ramesh, accompanied by Telangana TPCC President Mr. Mahesh Kumar Goud, participated in the auspicious ceremony and offered special prayers to Lord Sri Rama. Their presence added significance to the event, reflecting devotion and cultural reverence. On this occasion, they prayed for the prosperity, peace, and well-being of the people across the state. They expressed hope that the blessings of Lord Sri Ramachandra would bring happiness, good health, and harmony to every family.

Srirama Navami -Seetha Rama's Kalyaanam at Mator

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated with great devotion and grandeur in Maturu village of Motakondur mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on March 27.

The highlight was the sacred Sita Rama Kalyanam, symbolizing the divine wedding of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita, which attracted a large number of devotees from nearby areas. Organized under the village panchayat, the ceremony began with special rituals performed by the Sarpanch



and spouse at the Anjaneya Swamy temple. In a unique tradition, village couples took on the roles of the bride's and groom's families, recreating a traditional Hindu wedding. Devotees offered prayers and symbolic gifts, seeking divine blessings. The Sarpanch couple

conveyed festive greetings, wishing prosperity and harmony. With active participation from elders, youth, and women, the celebration reflected strong cultural values, unity, and spiritual fervour, making it a memorable occasion for the entire village.

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 at 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.

Rama Navami Kalyanam Sees Huge Crowd in Bowenpally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A large number of devotees and local leaders gathered in New Bowenpally to witness the Sita Rama Kalyanamahotsavam on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami, with chants of "Jai Sri Ram" echoing across the area. The main ceremony was held at the Rajadhani Society Community Hall, where former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap participated in the rituals and offered Pattu



Vastrams to the deities. At the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in New City Colony, former Board Member Jampana Vidayavati also joined residents in celebrating the celestial wedding. Festivities were conducted across key temples in the region. Sri Rama Mandi-

ram at Kamsari Bazaar witnessed heavy footfall with special Alankaram, while Shivpanchayatana Hanuman Temple in Ward No. 6 hosted special prayers. In Nandamuri Nagar, spiritual discourses were organized at the Hanuman Temple following morning rituals. Speaking

on the occasion, Jampana Pratap highlighted the significance of chanting "Sri Rama," stating that it brings peace, prosperity, and strength during challenging times. The event saw active participation from residents of Rajadhani Society and nearby colonies. Organizers and prominent attendees included Sai Baba Yadav, Vijay, Prakash, Sangeetha, Shyam Goud, Bal Reddy, Santosh Reddy, Santosh Sharma, Naga Raju, Ramu Goud, Srinivas, Mallyaya, Nageswara Rao, and Madhu.

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.

CM Revanth Presents Silk Robes For Sita Rama Kalyanam at Bhadrachalam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sri Rama Navami was observed with great devotion and fervour across Telangana on Friday, as thousands of devotees thronged temples to offer special prayers and participate in religious ceremonies.

At the renowned Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy presented silk clothes and 'mutyala tambralu' during the celestial Sitarama Kalyanam of the presiding deity, following long-standing tradition. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, along with several ministers, also took part in the Ceremony at



the temple, popularly known as the "Ayodhya of the South."

Marking the occasion, the Chief Minister performed a 'bhumi puja' for the first phase of

temple development works estimated at ₹351 crore. The proposed projects include construction of ghats along the Godavari River at a cost of ₹75

crore, expansion and infrastructure development of the temple with an outlay of ₹180 crore, and overall improvement of the temple Parisar costing ₹96 crore.

Elsewhere, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy attended Ram Navami celebrations at Timmapur, while Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar participated in the Sitarama Kalyanam at the Maha Shakti Temple in Karimnagar.

In Hyderabad and several other towns and cities, vibrant 'Shobha Yatras' were organised, with devotees chanting hymns and celebrating the festival with traditional zeal

Congress govt cuts Rythu Bharosa allocation in Budget, sparks concerns

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Congress government has proposed a reduction of nearly Rs 4,000 crore in allocations for the Rythu Bharosa scheme in the 2026-27 Budget, raising concerns over its support for farmers. The government has also listed out a few eligibility conditions for farmers to receive assistance under the scheme.

During the Vanakalam 2025 season, the State released Rs 8,744 crore to 69.40 lakh pattadars. For 2026-27 financial year, an allocation of Rs 13,603 crore has been made for both crop seasons, as stated in the demand for agriculture budget presented in the Assembly. In comparison, the gov-



ernment had released Rs 8,744 crore for Vanakalam 2025 and Rs 9,000 crore for Yasangi 2025-26 season. The total disbursement across these two seasons stands at Rs 17,744 crore. Against this, the latest allocation reflects a reduction of around Rs 4,000 crore.

Since coming to power in December 2023, the Congress government has faced criticism over delays and changes in the implementation of the scheme. For the Yasangi

2023-24 season, the assistance released was based on funds allocated by the previous BRS government. However, no assistance was provided during the Vanakalam 2024-25 season, which drew criticism from farmers.

The government also faced backlash during the Yasangi 2024-25 season after reportedly restricting benefits to farmers owning up to three acres, departing from the earlier practice of no upper limit. Interestingly, Rs 8,744 crore was disbursed within nine days during the Vanakalam 2025 season, the Rs 9,000 crore for the Yasangi 2025-26 season is being released in three instalments over 45 days, with the government citing financial constraints.

Seetha Rama's Kalyanam in Kalakriti Apartments Tarnaka

On the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami, devotees gathered in devotion and joy to witness the sacred Seetha Rama Kalyanam — a timeless celebration of divine love, tradition, and faith.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated with great devotion and spiritual fervour at Kalakriti Apartments, Tarnaka. The highlight of the occasion was the traditional Seetha Rama Kalyanam, performed in a grand and well-organized manner within the gated community. Special offerings such as Vada Pappu and Paanakam, which are traditionally associated with Sri Rama Navami, were prepared and distributed to devotees. The sacred Seetha Rama Kalyanam was performed by Sri Chelloju Vaasudev and Bhagya Rekha on behalf of Varudu Ramuloru, and Dornala Chandra Shekhar and Shashi Rekha on behalf of Vaduvu Seethamma.

The ceremony was conducted with devotion and adherence to tradition, and everyone present watched the proceedings with great interest and reverence. Devotees came together to recall and



honor the timeless ideals of Lord Rama—his commitment to truth, devotion to one wife, obedience to his father, love for his brothers, and the devotion of Hanuman. The spirit of the Ramayanam was beautifully reflected throughout the celebration. Residents enthusiastically participated in the event, dressed in traditional attire, creating a vibrant and devotional atmosphere. People from different states residing in the apartment complex came together, showcasing unity in diversity. The association is known for celebrating both state and national festivals with equal grandeur and meticulous arrangements. Ms. Usha Sree Thalka, Executive

Member of the Kalakriti Apartments Association, shared that all festivals in the community are celebrated in a grand and befitting manner. This year's Sri Rama Kalyanam was no exception, with special arrangements and enthusiastic participation from all residents. A delicious lunch was arranged for all attendees, adding to the joy of the celebration. Devotees actively participated in the rituals and received the blessings of Lord Rama. The event concluded on a festive and spiritual note, with everyone extending heartfelt wishes for success, happiness, and prosperity on the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami.

Seetha Rama's Kalyanam in Kalakriti Apartments Tarnaka

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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Mohammad Moiz Appointed as TPCC Minority Department Observer for Wanaparthy District

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

Following directives from the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Minority Department, Mohammad Moiz has been appointed as Observer for Wanaparthy district, recognising his long-standing dedication to the Indian National Congress. In his new role, Moiz will oversee Minority Department activities in the district, focusing on addressing issues faced by minority communities and ensuring the party's manifesto



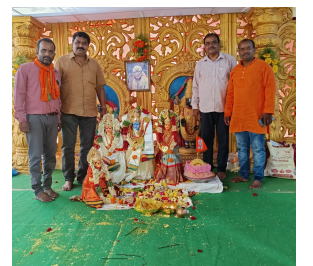
reaches every household. He will also play a key role in maintaining communal harmony, peace, and coordination during

major events, including the Ganpati Navratri festival and other upcoming programmes. Expressing gratitude, Mohammad Moiz thanked the party leadership for the opportunity and said he would work tirelessly to live up to their trust and further strengthen the Congress party at the grassroots level. Leaders, party workers, and supporters from Wanaparthy and Mahbubnagar extended their congratulations, celebrating the occasion with flower garlands.

Sri Laxmi Nivas Infra Developers Celebrate Sri Rama Navami

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sri Laxmi Nivas Infra Developers celebrated the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami with great devotion and enthusiasm. Chairman and Director Sri Hari, along with co-directors, staff, and clients, participated in the sacred Seetha Rama Kalyanam ceremony, which was beautifully arranged with floral decorations and adorned with a portrait of Sai Baba. On this festive occasion, heartfelt greetings were extended to all associates, wishing them success, prosperity, and happiness. Sri Laxmi Nivas Infra Developers, located in Boduppal, is known



for developing multiple ventures with a focus on quality and affordability. With extensive experience in the real estate sector, the company offers well-planned, low-cost ventures suitable for middle-class families. Several successful projects have been developed in areas such as Bhongir, Ammanbole, Wangapally, and other locations.

Prez Murmu Urges CPES, IES Officers to Drive Inclusive Growth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday urged officers of the Central Power Engineering Service (CPES) and Indian Economic Service (IES) to uphold dedication, innovation, and a commitment to nation-building while addressing them at Rashtrapati Bhavan. She highlighted that both services play a pivotal role in shaping India's growth, emphasizing that their decisions and policy contributions will directly impact inclusive and sustainable development.



Stressing accountability, she advised officers to approach their responsibilities with curiosity, continuous learning, and a passion for public service. Focusing on CPES officers, the President underlined the critical importance of electricity in driving industrial pro-

gress, improving living standards, and strengthening socio-economic development. She noted their vital role in ensuring efficient power generation, transmission, and distribution systems, while maintaining safety and reliability across the sector.

Addressing IES officers, she pointed out the increasing importance of economic planning in a rapidly evolving global and domestic environment.

She said their work would be key in managing inflation, boosting employment, reducing inequalities, and ensuring sustainable economic growth. She reminded them that every economic decision affects real lives, urging them to focus on outcomes that benefit citizens, especially the most vulnerable, rather than just statistical achievements.

Grand Sita Rama Kalyanam Celebrated in Sanath Nagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Devotion to Lord Rama echoed across the country on the occasion of Ram Navami, with chants of "Rama Nama" resonating from Ayodhya to Bhadrachalam. Reflecting this nationwide fervour, a grand Sita Rama Kalyanam was organized in Sanath Nagar's Victoria Ganj near Raniganj, drawing a large gathering of devotees.

The event, which marks a 25-year-old tradition, showcased deep-rooted cultural and spiritual



values upheld by the local community. Originally celebrated on a smaller scale, the has grown over the years, maintaining its significance while adapting to an urban setting with equal grandeur. Visuals from the captured vibrant decorations, beautifully arranged floral displays, and devotees immersed in prayer as the di-

vine wedding ceremony unfolded. Talasani Dharmendra Yadav, brother of former Minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, attended the event as the Chief Guest.

Speaking to the media, he highlighted the importance of such traditions in preserving cultural heritage and fostering unity

among people. He emphasized that faith-based gatherings like Sita Rama Kalyanam serve as a powerful reminder of shared values and collective harmony. The celebrations concluded on a devotional note, reinforcing the enduring spirit of tradition and togetherness among devotees.

Modi Tells CMs He Is Confident Team India Will Overcome Crisis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed confidence that India, working collectively as "Team India," will effectively navigate the challenges arising from the evolving situation in West Asia. Chairing a virtual meeting with Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors, he reviewed the country's preparedness and emphasised the importance of coordinated action between the Centre and states. Highlighting the government's priorities, Modi stressed the need to maintain economic and trade stability, ensure energy security, protect the



interests of citizens, and strengthen domestic industry and supply chains. He noted that these measures are crucial to minimising the potential impact of geopolitical tensions on India's economy and daily life. The Centre has also constituted an informal group of ministers (IGOM), led by Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh, to closely monitor and address issues emerging from the West Asia conflict. Key members of the group include Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. This group will assess developments and recommend timely policy responses. During the meeting, Modi ap-

preciated the valuable suggestions shared by state leaders, stating that their inputs would play a vital role in shaping India's response strategy. He underscored the importance of vigilance, preparedness, and swift decision-making to address emerging challenges. Referring to past global crises, Modi recalled India's collective re-

sponse during the COVID-19 pandemic, when coordinated efforts between the Centre and states helped mitigate disruptions to supply chains, trade, and essential services. Drawing parallels, he reiterated that similar unity and adaptability would be key in handling the current situation. An Inter-Ministerial Group has been operational since March 3, continuously reviewing developments and taking timely decisions. The Prime Minister emphasised that ongoing monitoring and adaptive strategies will remain critical as the situation evolves.

Jan Vishwas Bill for Decriminalise 717 Offences

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union government on Friday introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, proposing to decriminalise a range of minor offences to promote ease of doing business. The Bill, introduced by minister of state for commerce and industry Jitin Prasada, seeks to amend 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. Of the 784 provisions proposed to be amended, 717 relate to decriminalisation of minor offences and 67 are aimed at improving ease of living.

Congress members K. Kavya and G.K. Padavi opposed the introduction, alleging that replacing imprisonment with fines would affect the basic structure of the Constitu-

tion. Padavi urged that the Bill be referred again to a select or joint parliamentary committee. "This is an administrative oversight. The Bill is arbitrary and encourages corruption, and it should be reexamined," he said. Om Birla sought clarification on whether a Bill could be resubmitted to a parliamentary panel. Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said there is no provision or precedent for sending a Bill back to a committee after its report has been submitted.

Responding to the objections, Prasada said only procedural and minor offences are proposed to be replaced with fines. "Major violations and serious offences have not been diluted in any manner," he said. He said the proposed changes exclude areas

such as national security, labour courts, armed forces and international obligations. "These are not under this purview. So, these are all minor offences that have been done away with," he said. He added that consultations had been held on the provisions and that the Bill aims to improve ease of doing business and living by revising penalties and providing for appellate mechanisms. "It proposes to amend 79 Central acts, administered by 23 ministries, or a total of 784 provisions, which are being proposed to be amended, out of which 717 provisions are being decriminalised to foster ease of doing business and 67 provisions are being proposed to facilitate ease of living," he said.

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 Bongaon 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 scammers, land scamsters, dowry accused, and active BJP loyalists as observers across Bengal.

DGCA Norms for Flying VIPs After Pawar Crash

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

From carrying out risk assessment before each flight to having experienced pilots and crew, the Director General of Civil Aviation has issued a special set of guidelines to the aviation industry while flying central, state and other dignitaries by aircraft. The guidelines issued on Friday also clearly mention that the crew should not be subjected to any undue pressure for undertaking a flight which may impact safety and that no last mi-



nute changes to the planned flight due to VIP requirements should be done with the crew directly. The guidelines come in the wake of the recent crash of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Mr Ajit Pawar who died in an air crash on January 28 this year. The orders issued by the DGCA Mr Faiz Ahmed Kidwai said an analysis of earlier acci-

dents and incidents associated with aircraft operations during election flying of VIPs has often revealed violation of instructions and safety was jeopardised. "It is essential that adequate measures are taken by all concerned to ensure the highest standards of safety for the operation of such flights," the DGCA said adding the Pilot In Command (PIC) of a non-scheduled aircraft flying dignitaries should have a total experience of at least 3,000 flying hours, and in the case of helicopters, it has to be 2,000 flying

hours experience. As per orders the aircraft operator should ensure that the flight operations are in accordance with the Aircraft Rules and instructions issued from time to time and flight crew are not subjected to undue pressure for undertaking a flight which may impact safety of operations. "Any last-minute changes to the planned flight due to VIP requirements should be coordinated through the organisation's management only, and not directly with the crew," the order said.

Mamata Banerjee Slams Election Commission of India Over Unpublished SIR List

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

On a day the EC is scheduled to publish the second supplementary list of voters in connection with the SIR exercise in West Bengal, chief minister Mamata Banerjee lashed out at the poll panel and the BJP for "not putting out in the public domain the full and final first supplementary list". Calling the non-availability of the list a "murder of democracy", Banerjee warned that "people will soon seek answers to such arbitrary exercise of power". "God's own mill grinds slow, but grinds sure. I say this on the day of Ram Navami," the chief minister told reporters at the Kolkata airport on Friday, implying people's retribution against the roll cleaning exercise. The first supplementary list of 'under adjudication' names was published online on March 23 without officially stating the number of deletions and inclusions. Top sources in the poll body have, however, claimed that some 40 per cent of the 32 lakh voters scrutinised by judicial officers so far were removed from the rolls. Converted into real figures, it means



around 13 lakh additional voters were deleted in the supplementary list, taking the total deletion figure to around 76 lakh and counting. Considering that the SIR exercise began with over 7.6 crore voters in Bengal, about 10 per cent of voters have already been deleted, bringing that number to around 6.8 crore at the present stage. "What's happening now will surpass (the doings of) super Hitlers. The entire exercise has become a vanishing washing machine of the BJP. They are vanishing democracy and people's rights. I feel hatred and for them and am ashamed. They have retained one member and removed four others from the same family. They deleted lakhs of names belonging to a particular community. Does BJP consider itself 'zamindars' of this country?" Banerjee said.

The chief minister alleged that people were picked and chosen for deletion. "I heard that in one of the blocks in Suti (in Murshidabad district), names of some 400 out of the 500 people in a particular booth were deleted. There are many such examples. In a block in Basirhat, 400 out of 600 voters in a booth were removed," she claimed. "Who did these things? People will ask for answers in future. Let people know who is included in the rolls and who isn't. Allow those who are omitted to approach the tribunals in their respective districts and get themselves enrolled. We will support them by providing free of cost lawyers. But no one has the right to take away democratic rights of citizens," she added. Accusing the poll body of "wanting to hold elections by taking away people's

Nayara Energy.....

However, unlike last time, there is no windfall tax that has been levied on domestic crude oil producers like state-owned oil and gas retailer ONGC. After the reduction in excise duty, it is, however, expected that the incidence of excise duty on petrol will be Rs 11.9 per litre (Rs 1.40 basic excise duty, Rs 3 special additional excise duty, Rs 2.50 agriculture infrastructure and development cess and Rs 5 road and infrastructure cess). On diesel the incidence will be Rs 7.80 per litre (Rs 1.80 basis excise duty, Rs 4 agriculture infrastructure and development cess and Rs 2 road and infrastructure cess). Soon after the announcement of excise duty cut, petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the government has chosen to absorb the financial impact rather than pass on the full burden of rising fuel costs to consumers. At the same time, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman also reacted to the imposition of additional export duties on diesel and ATF, saying that the duties were levied to ensure sufficient availability of these fuels for domestic consumption in the country. The excise duty cut also follows record losses that oil companies suffered from the surge in international oil prices. Prices of crude oil, the raw material for making petrol and diesel, have surged almost 50 per cent this month due to supply disruption in the West Asia war. Considering 175 billion litre of auto fuel sales

annually — 115 billion litres of diesel and 60 billion litres of petrol, the impact of the duty cut is estimated to be Rs 1.75 lakh crore per year. "However, the country's financial implications of reduction of excise duty on petrol diesel will cost the exchequer of around Rs 5,500 crore in 15 days," said CBIC chairman Vivek Chaturvedi in an interview. On the skyrocketing global crude surge, Puri further said that international crude prices have gone through the roof in the last one month from around \$70 dollars per barrel to around \$122. "Consequently, petrol and diesel prices for consumers have gone up all over the world. Prices have increased by around 30-50 per cent in Southeast Asian countries, 30 per cent in North American countries, 20 per cent in Europe and 50 per cent in African countries," he compared, saying that the government had two choices — either increase prices drastically or bear the brunt on its finances.

Red Fort Blast: NIA...

Nabi was driving an explosives-laden Hyundai i20 car that detonated outside the Red Fort in the national capital on November 10, killing 15 people and injuring several others. NIA's plea said that Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, was involved in preparing to commit a terrorist attack by testing weapons and explosives along with Nabi and other co-accused persons. It said the investigation revealed that Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay was an active member of AGuH (Ansar Gazwat ul Hind), an affiliate of a

proscribed organisation and that he motivated or radicalised youths to commit terror acts under the aegis of AGuH for self-sacrificial/ martyrdom operations. He also aided and abetted the deceased Nabi (since deceased) in the instant case and conspired and planned a terrorist act with others, the plea said. According to NIA's application, Dr Muzamil Shakeel Ganie was also a member of AGuH and conspired with Nabi by arranging logistics and procurement of raw material used in the blast, besides procuring and hiding weapons and fabricating or making explosives and IEDS which were used in the present case. It said that Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, another AGuH member, had a similar role to Ganie and had arranged arms and ammunition to wage war and commit terrorist acts against the country. The agency's application said that Dr Shaheen Saeed, also an AGuH member, provided logistics and "huge financial support" to Ganie and Nabi, besides arranging logistics and procurement of raw material used in the present "terrorist act". On February 13, the court had also granted 45 more days to the agency to conclude its investigation on the NIA's plea seeking a 90-day extension on the ground of probing further the financial and digital links of the accused.

EVs Future Of

The Chief Minister said that commercial gas cylinders were being supplied to hospitals, schools, orphanages, and old-age homes on priority basis. Revanth Reddy ex-

plained that while the daily consumption of petrol and diesel in Telangana typically stood at 36,189 kiloliters on normal days, the state's current reserves amounted to 188,210 kiloliters. He stated that the state government had constituted a committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, to review and constantly monitor the supply of fuel. The Chief Minister also told the Prime Minister that the committee was continuously reviewing the situation from the command control centre in Hyderabad. He informed the conference that committees had been established and nodal officers appointed across all 33 districts to oversee gas supply, petrol and diesel sales, and to curb black marketing.

Rs 2.38 Lakh.....

For the Indian Air Force, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was granted for procurement of medium transport aircraft, S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems, remotely piloted strike aircraft and overhaul of Su-30 aero engine aggregates. Officials said the transport aircraft will replace ageing AN-32 and IL-76 fleets to meet strategic and operational airlift requirements. Approval for additional S-400 systems follows their operational performance during Operation Sindoor, where they were reported to have engaged aerial targets at long range and curtailed adversary air activity. India had signed a \$5.43 billion agreement with Russia in 2018 for five S-400 squadrons.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

High Court Disallows MTP for Rape Victim, Orders State Support

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana



In a significant and sensitive ruling, the Telangana High Court declined permission for termination of pregnancy of a 16-year-old rape survivor at an advanced stage of gestation, citing serious risks to the minor's life. Justice Renuka Yara, while hearing the matter, observed that the proposed medical procedure would pose a grave and life-threatening danger to the victim, thereby making judicial intervention inappropriate in this case.

The court was adjudicating a writ petition filed by the victim's mother, who sought directions to constitute a medical board and grant permission for termination of the pregnancy. The pregnancy had reportedly resulted from repeated sexual assault

under the false promise of marriage, falling within the ambit of offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The petitioner argued that continuation of the pregnancy would cause severe psychological trauma and expose the minor to social stigma.

Acting on earlier directions, medical boards at the Government General Hospital in Mahabubabad and Gandhi Hospital examined the minor. Both boards submitted consistent opinions stating that

the pregnancy had exceeded 28 weeks. They cautioned that termination at such an advanced stage would require a major surgical procedure, which carries a high risk of maternal morbidity and mortality, especially given the age and physical condition of the minor.

Relying heavily on these medical assessments, the court held that although constitutional courts have, in exceptional cases, permitted termination beyond statutory limits, such discretion cannot be exercised when medical experts clearly indicate life-threatening consequences. Justice Renuka Yara emphasized that the safety and survival of the minor must take precedence over all other considerations, including the psychological and social implications of continuing the pregnancy.

While refusing permission for termination, the court acknowledged the deeply distressing circumstances faced by the survivor. It directed the state authorities to provide continuous counselling and psychological support to both the minor and her family to help them cope with the situation. Additionally, the court observed that after childbirth, the infant may be placed for adoption in accordance with legal procedures, subject to the informed consent of the minor and her mother, as well as approval from competent authorities. The ruling underscores the delicate balance courts must maintain between legal provisions, medical realities, and humanitarian concerns in cases involving minor survivors of sexual assault.

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 Swagratha Corporation Limited in cancelling the allotment of

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

Cops arrest fake dentist in Neredmet

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

2 rowdy sheeters get life term for boy's murder

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Rangareddy district court has sentenced two rowdy sheeters to life imprisonment in connection with the 2019 murder of a 14-year-old boy under Balapur police station limits. The IV additional district and sessions judge, L.B. Nagar, convicted Shaheen Owais, 27, an auto driver from Bismillah Colony, Shaheen Nagar, and Syed Jaffer Ali, 25, a painter from Achi Reddy Nagar, Falaknuma, under Sections 302 read with 120(B) of the IPC.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹500 each on the accused. According to police, the incident took place on July 19, 2019, around 11 pm, when the accused, along with a juvenile, murdered Mohd Moosa, 14, on the outskirts of Sultanpur village due to previous enmity. Investigators identified Owais as a rowdy sheetar under Balapur police station and Jaffer Ali under Bandlaguda police station limits. The probe was led by inspector V. Saidulu of Civil Supplies.

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.

Techie Loses ₹16 Lakh In Matrimony Scam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A 26-year-old software engineer from Madhapur has filed a complaint with the Cyberabad police after allegedly being duped of ₹16 lakh in an online matrimony scam. The complaint was lodged on March 23, and police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. According to the victim, she came into contact with the accused, identified as Chinthamreddy Venkata Karthik Reddy, through a matrimonial website. The ini-

tial communication was reportedly established through a person claiming to be the accused's father, who shared personal details and expressed interest in an alliance.

Following this introduction, the two began interacting frequently and developed regular communication. The complainant stated that in the early stages, the accused borrowed small amounts of money and promptly returned them, thereby gaining her confidence. Over time, he allegedly began requesting larger sums, citing various per-

sonal and financial emergencies.

The woman further alleged that he pressured her into borrowing money from friends and acquaintances to meet his demands. Trusting his assurances, she transferred a total of ₹16 lakh in multiple instalments to different bank accounts allegedly linked to the accused. The amounts reportedly increased gradually, starting from around ₹70,000 and rising significantly over time. However, when she later demanded repayment, the accused alleg-

edly refused and instead issued threats, warning of harm to her family if she pursued the matter. Disturbed by the threats and the financial loss, the victim approached the police. The complaint also includes several mobile phone numbers and an Instagram account believed to have been used by the accused during the course of the alleged fraud. Cyberabad police officials stated that further investigation is underway to trace the suspect and verify the financial transactions involved.

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.



₹200 Cr CSR Push: Piyush Goyal Unveils Malabar Gold & Diamonds Plan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday unveiled Malabar Gold & Diamonds ₹200 crore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives for FY 2026-27, with a major thrust on education, women empowerment, and social welfare. The announcement was made at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.

A key highlight of the programme was the launch of scholarships for 33,000 girl students across India, reinforcing efforts aligned with Narendra Modi's vision of empowering girls through initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.



Addressing the gathering, Goyal said the ₹200 crore CSR allocation would significantly contribute to inclusive growth, stressing that empowering women and youth remains central to India's development. He urged students to dream big and actively participate in the country's progress.

The CSR plan will be

implemented across more than 3,000 locations in 19 states, covering 15 initiatives and benefiting over two lakh people. Education remains the top priority, with ₹114 crore earmarked for programmes such as scholarships for girls and micro-learning centres for street children.

Other allocations in-

clude ₹30 crore for the Hunger Free World project, ₹25 crore for housing initiatives like the 'Grandma Home' project for destitute women, and ₹14.2 crore for health-care. Environmental protection will receive ₹10 crore, while ₹6.8 crore has been set aside for additional humanitarian efforts.

Chairman M. P. Aham-

mad said human resource development is critical for national growth, noting that investments in education help nurture talent and create long-term societal impact.

The company, through the Malabar Charitable Trust, will also expand its network of micro-learning centres run in partnership with Pratham Education Foundation from 1,543 to 2,500, increasing student enrolment to nearly one lakh. Marking its 33rd anniversary, the group said its CSR initiatives have already positively impacted over 1.8 million people, with a continued commitment to allocate 5% of net trading profit towards social development programmes.

Indigenous 25 kV Switch Boosts Make in India

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

RIR Power Electronics Limited has developed India's first indigenously built 25 kV high-voltage thyristor switch, marking a major step forward in the country's high-power electronics sector and strengthening the Make in India initiative.

The newly developed 25 kilovolt (kV) – 120 kilo-ampere (kA) capacitor discharge switch is designed for advanced pulse power applications and is expected to reduce dependence on imported technologies while enhancing India's global competitiveness in semiconductor manufacturing. At the heart of the system is a 125 mm silicon-controlled rectifier (SCR), capable of blocking voltages up to 8 kV, developed domestically for the first time. By integrating mul-

iple SCR units in a series configuration, the system achieves high-voltage performance with precise control over extremely high current pulses. The product has undergone rigorous testing at the high-voltage laboratory located at the company's manufacturing facility in Halol. Tests confirmed strong reliability and performance under demanding operational conditions, ensuring readiness for deployment in critical sectors.

The high-voltage thyristor switch is suitable for a wide range of applications, including defense systems that require controlled high-current pulses, advanced medical equipment, and precision-driven directed energy technologies.

This development is seen as a significant contribution to India's push for technological self-reliance

under the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. By enabling domestic production of high-power semiconductor components, the innovation strengthens supply chain resilience and supports the growth of a globally competitive electronics manufacturing ecosystem. Dr. Harshad Mehta, Non-Executive Chairman of the company, said the breakthrough reflects decades of expertise in high-power semiconductors and reinforces the company's commitment to innovation, efficiency, and national development. RIR Power Electronics Limited, listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange, is known globally for its high-performance semiconductor devices and energy management solutions, serving both established and emerging energy systems.

Tempest UNMASK Promotes Open Conversations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Tempest Advertising launched its CSR initiative "UNMASK" in Hyderabad on March 27, 2026, aiming to encourage open conversations around stress and emotional well-being. Coinciding with International Day of Happiness, the campaign sought to redefine happiness by urging people to openly address their everyday struggles instead of normalizing them.

The initiative featured a



combination of social media outreach and impactful on-ground activities at key metro stations, including Ameerpet. Eye-catching posters highlighted relatable daily

challenges, while passers-by were invited to participate in a symbolic "mask and unmask" activity, representing the act of expressing hidden emotions. This simple yet powerful

gesture resonated with many, fostering engagement and awareness. Stickers and bookmarks were also distributed as gentle reminders to prioritize mental well-being.

To extend its reach, Tempest set up a dedicated website along with a helpline, offering accessible support for those in need. Managing Director Turab Lakdawalla said the initiative is a step toward building awareness, encouraging meaningful conversations, and promoting emotional resilience in today's

Maharashtra Moves To Fast-Track PNG Coverage

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra government on Friday ordered the rapid expansion of the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network to tackle LPG supply constraints triggered by global energy disruptions. Acting on directives from the Centre, the state has rolled out a series of measures to expedite CGD infrastructure development, including deemed approvals for pending permissions, mandatory clearances within 24 hours and a waiver of key fees.

CGD companies have also been allowed to undertake round-the-clock work without requiring fire or traffic No Objection Certificates (NOCs). A nodal officer has been appointed to streamline coordination. The order, issued by Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar, will remain in force until June 30, 2026 and aims to expand access to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and promote cleaner energy alternatives across Maharashtra.

A senior official said the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had

written to the state on March 16, 2026, noting that global geopolitical developments had disrupted the energy supply chain, affected the availability of petroleum products and created LPG shortages. "To address this energy crisis, the Centre directed an accelerated expansion of PNG connections and the immediate rollout of short-term measures.

Accordingly, an order was issued today," the official said. According to the order, CGD companies may restore public property at their own cost,

subject to quality standards. If they are unable to do so, they must pay charges as per the Centre's latest notification. Seasonal restrictions on project work have been relaxed, and NOCs from fire and traffic departments will no longer be required for pipeline laying, digging and related activities. To ensure effective inter-departmental coordination, the state has designated the Controller of Rationing and Director of Civil Supplies as the nodal officer. CGD companies have been instructed.

BrandAux Unveils SIGNAL Framework in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BrandAux Smart Business Solutions has launched India's first neuromarketing-driven SIGNAL Framework, a six-phase system designed to enhance brand strategy through neuroscience and AI-powered insights.

Unveiled at an event in Madhapur, the framework aims to help businesses cut through digital clutter and build stronger emotional connections with consumers. The framework was introduced by



Founder & CEO Sagar Dutta, along with Vandana Dutta and team members including Pranith and Anushman. It is structured around six phases—Scan, Identify, Ground, Narrate, Activate, and Lock—each focused on improving how brands communicate,

engage, and convert audiences.

In an increasingly competitive digital environment where consumers are exposed to thousands of messages daily, BrandAux positions its approach as a solution to declining attention spans

and weak brand recall. The SIGNAL Framework uses neuromarketing principles, emphasizing that consumer decisions are largely emotion-driven and later supported by logic.

By applying psychological triggers such as trust, attention, and emotional resonance, the system aims to improve engagement and conversion rates. According to the company, the framework helps identify communication gaps, address low conversion challenges, and create clear, result-

oriented messaging strategies. It is designed for a wide audience, including students, entrepreneurs, and marketing professionals seeking advanced AI-driven marketing techniques. Speaking at the launch, Sagar Dutta said that modern brands struggle not due to lack of visibility but due to lack of meaningful connection with their audience. He added that the SIGNAL Framework aligns marketing strategies with how people think and feel, enabling brands to stand out in a crowded marketplace.

International Conference on Artificial Intelligence Concludes Successfully

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-day international conference on advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning concluded successfully in Hyderabad, bringing together leading academicians, researchers, and industry experts from across the globe. Organized jointly by ICAFI Tech and IFHE

Hyderabad's departments of Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Computer Science and Engineering, along with the Center of Excellence in Blockchain, the event served as a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and innovation.

The conference featured keynote addresses by distinguished speakers. Dr. Alejandro Masrur from the Technical University of Chemnitz, Germany, spoke on machine learning applications in train system automation and Wi-Fi sensing, highlighting opportunities as well as challenges such as scalability, reliability, and data privacy. Prof. Satish Kumar from IIT Roorkee discussed the use of AI in



Android malware detection, emphasizing its role in strengthening cybersecurity. Prof. Diptendu Sinha Roy from NIT Meghalaya elaborated on computational intelligence for smart distributed systems.

A major highlight was the panel discussion on "Redefining Human Intelligence: Emotional and Cognitive Diversity in AI," where experts stressed the importance of integrating emotional intelligence and cognitive diversity into AI systems. Discussions also focused on human-centered AI and the role of AI in building safer cities and communities. In addition to keynote sessions, the

conference hosted technical paper presentations and parallel sessions covering smart systems, cybersecurity, optimization techniques, and real-world AI applications, fostering academic dialogue and research collaboration. The inaugural session featured addresses by Vice-Chancellor Prof. T. Koti Reddy, Registrar Prof. S. Vijayalakshmi, and Director Prof. K. L. Narayana, who highlighted the institution's commitment to academic excellence, research, and global collaboration. The conference was coordinated by Dr. Sandeep Kumar Panda, Dr. Pawan Kumar, and their team.

Bhaskar Reddy Named GSTAT Vice President

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bhaskar Reddy Vemireddy, currently serving as a Judicial Member of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), Vijayawada Bench, has been appointed as the Vice President of the GSTAT, Andhra Pradesh State Bench. The appointment was made by the President of India as part of a nationwide designation to strengthen the functioning of GSTAT State Benches.

The decision comes under Office Order No. 01/2026 dated March 23, 2026, issued by the Government of India in exercise of powers under Section 109(7) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

As part of this order, 22 Judicial Members across the country have been elevated as Vice Presidents in their respective State Benches to enhance institutional efficiency and leadership within the Tribunal. Sri Bhaskar Reddy Vemireddy brings exten-



sive experience in tax laws and litigation. A respected legal professional, he has built a strong reputation in the field of indirect taxation, with expertise in Goods and

Services Tax (GST), Central Excise, Customs, Sales Tax, and other fiscal laws.

Prior to his appointment to the Tribunal, he had a distinguished practice in tax litigation and regularly appeared before High Courts and various judicial forums. In recognition of his legal acumen and standing in the profession, he was designated as a Senior Advocate by the High Court for the State of Telangana. His elevation reflects both his professional excellence

and contribution to the field of taxation law.

The designation of Vice Presidents is aimed at ensuring smoother functioning of GSTAT benches, strengthening state-level leadership, and facilitating faster resolution of GST-related disputes.

His appointment is expected to improve efficiency in appellate proceedings and contribute significantly to the effective administration of justice under the GST framework.

Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun Pen Birthday Notes for Ram Charan

Ram Charan, fondly known as the "Mega Power Star," celebrated his 41st birthday today amid an outpouring of heartfelt wishes from family, friends, and fans across the globe. The special occasion turned into a celebration of not just his cinematic achievements but also his personal values, humility, and strong family bonds that have endeared him to millions. Leading the wishes was his father, megastar Chiranjeevi, who shared an emotional note on social media, reflecting on his son's inspiring journey. Accompanied by rare and unseen throwback pictures, Chiranjeevi expressed immense pride in Charan's growth from a young boy holding his father's hand to becoming a role model for many.

In his touching message, he praised his son's ability



to balance a demanding film career with a grounded personal life, highlighting his discipline, deep-rooted values, faith in God, and sense of responsibility towards family. He concluded by wishing that divine blessings and the unwavering love of fans continue to guide Charan toward even greater success. Adding to the emotional tributes, his sister Sushmita Konidela

described him as the backbone of their family. In a heartfelt message, she called him their "strength, pride, and love," while praying for his continued happiness and success.

Sushmita had also participated in pre-birthday celebrations held at Hyderabad's Shilpa Kala Vedika, where fans and well-wishers gathered to mark the occasion with en-

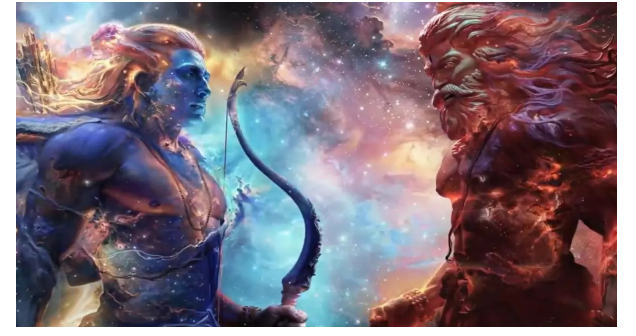
thusiasm. Extending greetings on behalf of her family, Anna Konidela, wife of Pawan Kalyan, conveyed warm wishes, hoping for Charan's continued strength and success in all his endeavors. Meanwhile, adding a playful twist to the celebrations, cousin Allu Arjun shared a witty message that caught fans' attention. With a clever pun referencing Charan's upcoming film Peddi, he wished him a "Peddi successful year," blending humor with affection. As fans eagerly await the release of Peddi on April 30, the birthday celebrations have further amplified excitement around the film. With unwavering family support and a massive fan base, Ram Charan continues to scale new heights, solidifying his place as one of Indian cinema's most beloved stars.

Ramayana Glimpse of Rama to Drop on Hanuman Jayanti

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti on April 2nd, Namit Malhotra, producer of upcoming cultural epic 'Ramayana' has announced to release a glimpse of 'Rama' on the occasion. Many fans were anticipating a glimpse or a surprise announcement on the occasion of Ram Navami today, on 27th March, however, reports indicate that the makers have decided to go ahead with their Hanuman Jayanti plan.

Malhotra was supposed to hold large-scale event at India Gate to introduce the cast and team of the movie, which was later



postponed due to ongoing global tensions. The event was scheduled for Ram Navami on March 26, 2026, and was expected to bring together prominent names from politics, entertainment and sports. There were also reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi might attend the event, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah was said to have confirmed his presence.

The film 'Ramayana' stars Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Yash, Sunny Deol in leading roles. The scale of the film might make it the most expensive film in Indian cinema. With a budget of ₹4,000 crore (\$500 million), this film is India's most expensive film production. The movie is directed by Nitish Tiwari, and is going to be released this year on Diwali.

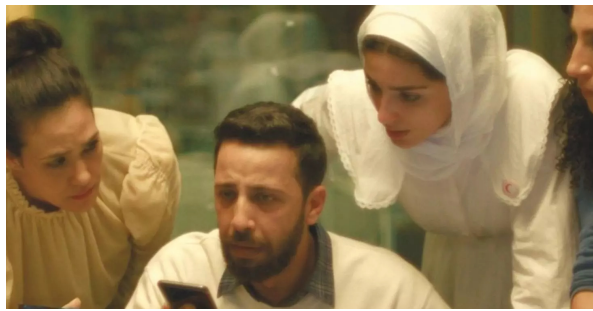
The Voice of Hind Rajab: Opposition MPs Request Ashwini Vaishnaw's Intervention

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Several opposition members of parliament have written to Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, seeking his intervention after the Central Board of Film Certification reportedly declined certification to the Oscar-nominated film 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' in an oral communication. In a letter, the ministers said, "We, the undersigned Members of Parliament, write to express

our deep concern regarding reports that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has orally declined certification to the internationally acclaimed film The Voice of Hind Rajab, thereby effectively preventing its public exhibition in India. We earnestly seek your good self's urgent personal intervention in this matter that bears significant implications for artistic freedom, institutional credibility and India's standing as a society committed to democratic values and cultural open-

ness." "The Tunisian-produced film, directed by Kaouthar Ben Hania, is an internationally recognized and Oscar-nominated work based on the real-life killing of a young Palestinian child during the 2024 Gaza conflict. The film has received wide critical attention globally, reflecting its engagement with a subject of contemporary humanitarian concern. However, reports indicate that the distributor in India has been orally informed that certification may not be granted. Such



an approach raises serious concerns as to whether considerations extraneous to the statutory framework governing film certification have influenced the decision-making process. The screening of a film is an exercise of artistic expression protected

within the constitutional framework and cannot be made contingent upon perceived diplomatic relationships," they added. The Voice of Hind Rajab is a 2025 docudrama produced as a Tunisian-French-Palestinian collaboration. The film

tells the story of a young Palestinian girl, Hind Rajab, who was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza last year, along with six of her family members. Lately, several reports surfaced online alleging that the CBFC blocked the film's release in India.

Speaking with Variety, the film's local distributor Manoj Nandwana revealed that 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' was submitted for certification in February, aiming for a release before the Oscar season. The initial release date was set for March 6,

allowing Indian audiences more than a week to view the film before it competed in the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars. However, the film was not approved by the CBFC for a theatrical release, allegedly owing to fears that it would "break up" ties between India and Israel. "I told them: the India-Israel relationship is so strong that it's idiotic to think this movie will break it," Nadawana added, further noting that "The Voice of Hind Rajab" has been released in the U.S., U.K., Italy,

France and many other countries that have a relationship with Israel." And now in the letter, Opposition MPs urged Ashwini Vaishnaw to look into the matter. "It is widely acknowledged that the above-mentioned film addresses issues of contemporary global relevance. Disagreement with the perspective presented in a film cannot, by itself, constitute a valid ground for restricting public exhibition. India's democratic strength lies in its confidence to permit diverse narratives to be examined.

Kohli's Bengaluru Begin IPL Title Defense In Somber Mood Following Victory Parade

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Virat Kohli and Royal Challengers Bengaluru begin the defense of their Indian Premier League crown with muted enthusiasm against Ishan Kishan and Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. Bengaluru's buildup to launching the latest IPL has been overshadowed since June by the deaths of 11 fans in a stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium during the team's victory parade. It took months for Bengaluru to receive permission from state authorities to host IPL matches, and state cricket officials will honor the dead by leaving 11 seats in the stadium permanently empty.

The 10-team league spans 74 matches, culminating in the final on May 31. Here's how the tournament shapes up. Can Bengaluru repeat? Bengaluru, a three-time finalist, broke through with its first title in 2025 on the back of bowling led by Australia



seamer Josh Hazlewood. Hazlewood hasn't played since November and is still recovering from hamstring and Achilles issues that forced him to miss the Ashes and the Twenty20 World Cup. In his absence, medium-pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar and spinner Krunal Pandya will shoulder the responsibility. Medium-pacer Yash Dayal is also absent owing to sexual assault allegations. Kohli heads the batting lineup with foreign flavor from Phil Salt and Jacob Bethell. Back-to-back titles have been achieved only twice by Chennai Super Kings in 2010-11 and Mumbai Indians in

2019-20. Chennai or Mumbai resurgence? Chennai and Mumbai dominate with a combined 10 titles and 18 final appearances in 18 IPLs but Chennai hasn't won since 2023 and Mumbai not since 2020. India's T20 World Cup star Sanju Samson is Chennai's headline purchase, acquired from Rajasthan Royals. Samson was the MVP in India's third T20 World Cup triumph and it would seem to be his time as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's influence fades. Chennai let go of long-time all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran while

also adding young guns Ayush Mhatre and Kartik Sharma to a lineup including skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, Dewald Brevis and Shivam Dube.

Mumbai's two playoff appearance in the last five seasons are not good enough for a franchise of its caliber. After finishing fourth last season, Hardik Pandya leads a squad bursting with big names such as Jasprit Bumrah, India's last two T20 World Cup-winning captains in Suryakumar Yadav (2026) and Rohit Sharma (2024), Proteas wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock, allrounder Shardul Thakur, and hard-hitting West Indian Sherfane Rutherford.

Another first-time winner? Three teams have never won the IPL and Punjab Kings, the 2025 runners-up, are the front-runners to end their drought. With Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting as guides, Punjab did well to retain its 2025 core. Iyer is the only IPL captain to guide three teams.

No Fans, No Fireworks As Pakistan T20 League Begins With A Hush

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Pakistan Super League got under way with a win for Lahore Qalandars against Hyderabad Kingsmen but without the usual razzmatazz accompanying cricket's shortest format -- or fans. Organisers of the T20 tournament last weekend said that matches would be played without spectators, and at just two venues instead of six, because of the war in the Middle East. Pakistan's government has introduced sweeping austerity measures designed to save fuel, with mounting concerns about supplies as the conflict drags on.

As a result, Thursday night's opening ceremony -- last year marked by spectacular fireworks -- was cancelled and the green and white seats of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium were empty. Fans such as Nadia Tufail, 40, had been eagerly awaiting the start of the 44-match tournament involving eight teams, which runs until May 3. "Watching a



match in the stadium has a completely different kind of enjoyment. There is a large crowd, you get to meet different people and the experience becomes even more exciting," she said as she watched the match at home.

"There is cheering, noise and celebration, which makes the atmosphere more lively and thrilling. In my opinion, the government's policy this time was due to the war situation, but such a policy should not be implemented every time. "People should be given the opportunity to go to the stadium and enjoy the match there because watching at home is not nearly as enjoyable." Be-

fore the game the normal bustle of spectators arriving at the ground was replaced by a hush, with only armed police and soldiers keeping watch.

Inside, ground staff prepared the pitch and television cameras were set up, with little of the hubbub of expectation and excitement from the gathering crowds. "For us as well it's a different experience without a crowd, and we will miss it," said Pakistan's former captain, Babar Azam, who plays for PSL side Peshawar Zalmi. "The fans will miss it too because they bring a different vibe and give players a big boost. Every team has its own fans, and you get a unique kind of support there. "We will try to play good cricket so that people enjoy watching on TV, and we encourage everyone to support their teams through television and social media." Irfan Khan Niazi, from Hyderabad Kingsmen, agreed but said there was no choice. "We can't enjoy the game the same way without a crowd but given the situation, we have to make the most of it," he said. Niazi was on the losing side on Thursday night as Lahore were easy winners by 69 runs.

Telangana CM proposes 'people credits' tax on AI firms displacing jobs



HARVARD

It is only fair our companies with trillions of dollars of valuation to compensate people and society whose jobs are lost," Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on Friday, March 27, proposing a "people credits" policy framework that would require AI companies to pay a levy for every job displaced by automation, drawing a parallel with carbon credits used to penalise polluting industries. Reddy was delivering the keynote address at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Symposium organised by the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education in Boston, USA. An alumnus of the school, he addressed the event virtually as the Telangana Legislative Assembly is currently in session. He was also the first Indian speaker at the symposium. While describing AI as "mankind's greatest invention," Reddy cautioned that it was a "double-edged sword" that could cause widespread harm without early and adequate safeguards. Acknowledging the particular vulnerability of Hyderabad, which hosts a large number of Global Capability Centres (GCC) focused on software, pharma and other sectors, he outlined his government's plans to get ahead of the disruption, including the development of a new Bharat Future City with a dedicated AI district and a push to scale up blue-collar employment in green energy, electric vehicles, tourism and manufacturing.

CBIT ECE Students Explore IMD Technologies



Hyderabad, Telangana, India
9899-wr9, Kokapet, Gandipet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500075, India

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), in collaboration with the IETE Students' Forum (IETE-ISF), organized an industrial visit to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Begumpet, Hyderabad, on March 24 and 25, 2026, through the Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC). The visit enabled second-year B.E. students to gain hands-on exposure to advanced meteorological systems and real-time weather monitoring technologies. At IMD, the national agency for weather forecasting and seismology, students explored the Doppler Weather Radar system and the exhibition hall. They learned about radar-based precipitation analysis, forecasting methods, and modern techniques used in meteorology. The visit provided practical insights into real-time data acquisition, signal processing, and the role of communication systems in weather prediction and disaster warning mechanisms. The initiative bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, enhancing students' technical understanding and industry readiness. It also highlighted the importance of meteorological services in sectors like avia-

Hyderabad Celebrates Sri Rama Navami with Grand Devotion



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A grand wave of devotion marked Sri Rama Navami celebrations across Hyderabad on Friday, with thousands of devotees participating in Sitarama Kalyanam rituals and the vibrant Srirama Navami Shobha Yatra held across the city. The main procession began from Sitarambagh Temple in Asifnagar, where Shiv Pratap Shukla, R. V. Kaman, and V. C. Sajjanar offered prayers before flagging off the yatra. The procession also commenced from the Aakashpuri Hanuman Temple and concluded at

Hanuman Vyayam Shala. Thousands joined the procession, chanting "Jai Sri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman," carrying saffron flags and idols of Lord Rama and Hanuman, turning the streets into a sea of devotion. To ensure smooth conduct, nearly 3,000 police personnel were deployed across the city. Authorities closely monitored the event using drones and CCTV cameras, while officials from multiple departments co-ordinated route inspections to prevent disruptions. Temples across Hyderabad witnessed heavy footfall, with devotees offering prayers and at-



tending Sri Sitarama Kalyanam ceremonies. A key highlight was the Ayodhya Temple, known as a unique 'Ekashila Temple.' It is among only four such temples worldwide and the only one in South India, featuring over 30 idols from the Ramayana and Vaikuntam carved within a single sanctum. According to temple priest Rajesh, devotees visit

the temple seeking blessings for health, education, longevity, wealth, power, and peace. The shrine houses idols of Lord Rama, Goddess Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, along with Garuda, Jambavan, Angada, Narada, Vibhishana, the Samanta Murthies, and the 12 Aiwars, making it a spiritually significant destination during the festival.

Silver Jubilee of Sri Seetharamachandra Swamy Kalyanam Celebrated with Compassion



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 25th Silver Jubilee of Sri Seetharamachandra Swamy Thiru Kalyana Mahotsavam was celebrated with great devotion and a spirit of service. Specially-abled individuals, elderly people, and residents of government hostels were invited as honored guests,

served meals, and received divine blessings during the sacred ceremony. The event was successfully organized under the leadership of Chairman Middela Chandrasekhar Reddy, Vice Chairman Mugganti Sushil Kumar Chari, and Treasurer Gundu Srikanth.

Grand Sita Rama Kalyanam Held in Hafeezpet



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam was celebrated with great grandeur at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple premises in Hafeezpet, attracting a large number of devotees. Organized under the leadership of Baling Gautam Goud, the event reflected deep spiritual devotion and a strong sense of community participation aimed at societal welfare. PAC Chairman and Serilingampally MLA Arikepudi Gandhi attended as the chief guest, along with former Madapur corporator Jagadeeshwar

Goud and Arun Guruswamy. The dignitaries took part in special prayers and conveyed their Greetings to devotees on the auspicious occasion. The ceremony was conducted as per Vedic traditions, with priests chanting sacred hymns, creating a divine and serene atmosphere. Devotees witnessed the celestial wedding of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita with devotion and joy. Teertha Prasadam was distributed, followed by a large-scale annadanam serving hundreds, promoting compassion, unity, and cultural values.

Sri Rama Navami Celebrations Held with Devotion in Kukatpally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

On the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami, grand celebrations were held across several temples in A & B Blocks of Kukatpally constituency, where devotees gathered in large numbers to witness the sacred Sri Sita Rama Kalyanotsavam. Dr. Satyam Srirangam, PCC Member and TPCC Official Spokesperson, attended the event as the Chief Guest upon invitation from temple committees. He actively participated in special prayer ceremonies along with local residents and later joined the Anna Prasadam distribution organized for devotees. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Srirangam emphasized that the life of Lord Rama stands as an eternal symbol of dharma (righteousness), duty, discipline, and self-restraint. He described Sri Rama as a truth-abiding ruler, an ideal human, and a compassionate leader embodying all noble virtues. He further stated that Sri Rama Navami signifies the protection and welfare of all beings, highlighting the divine mission of Lord

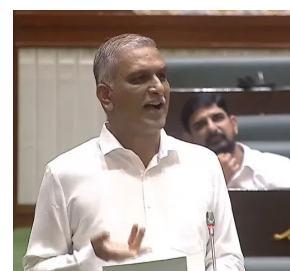


Rama in punishing evil and safeguarding righteousness. Referring to the epic narrative, he noted that Goddess Sita played a pivotal role in the destruction of evil forces, including Ravana, for the greater good of humanity. Dr. Srirangam also praised the sacred bond between Sita and Rama, calling it eternal and exemplary for future generations. He remarked that Sita Devi's life reflects unmatched strength, sacrifice, and moral excellence, making her an inspiring figure in every step of life. The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including Secunderabad District President Deepak John, former MLC Akula Lalitha, former corporator Narendra Achari, A Block President Nagireddy, Temple Committee Chairman Murthy, AMC Chairman Pushpa Reddy, Begumpet Srinivas Reddy, along with several local leaders, women, and devotees.

Harish Rao slams Congress over PRC delay

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao on Thursday accused the Congress government of undermining Assembly norms and failing on key promises during the discussion on the budget demands in the House. He said the extension of the tenure of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for State government employees by six months during the ongoing session violated legislative procedure. He said the move also contra-



dicted the poll promise to implement PRC and clear DA arrears within six months. Targeting the government over employment claims, Harish Rao said it was misleading with claims of providing 67,763 jobs. He stated that over 50,000 recruitments were initiated

under the previous BRS regime, while fresh notifications were issued by the Congress government for just 16,978 posts. He pointed to unfulfilled promises of 2 lakh jobs, unemployment allowance and welfare schemes. The BRSLP deputy leader criticised frequent transfers of officials, especially 140 IAS officers, including 20 Collectors, in the last two years. He said the administrative instability crippled governance. He also flagged lack of transparency, with over 82 per cent of government

orders kept offline despite High Court directions. He also pointed to declining transport revenues, pending RTC dues along with RTC merger in the government, and unfulfilled promises for auto drivers. Concerns were also raised over reduced police funding, pending allowances, vacancies, delayed benefits and rising crime. He stated that the police were being used to target BRS leaders raising their voice against the government on social media, instead of focusing on crime control.

Ganja, MDMA seized in Hyderabad in three separate cases, seven arrested

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Nearly three kilogram of ganja and 60 gram of MDMA was seized in Hyderabad on Friday, March 27, from three different locations, in which seven people were arrested. In the first case, four people, including two juveniles, were arrested by Sanathnagar Police for possessing 60 gram of MDMA worth Rs 6 lakh. The accused, Songapu Hemanth, 23, and Mukkagalla Nagendra, 21, and two juveniles are frequent consumers of alcohol,

ganja and MDMA, the police said. Two days ago, one of the juveniles had bought the MDMA from Aditya and Sai Nikhil Yadav of Chintal and intended to sell it to customers. However, they were arrested by the police before their plan could see fruition. In the second case, a Special Task Force of the Excise Department seized 2.1 kg of ganja and arrested two peddlers named Mohammed Arbaz and Syed Israruddin from Shiva Sai Nagar, Uppuguda.

GHMC urges residents to switch off lights for Earth Hour on March 28

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Friday, March 27, urged citizens to participate in Earth Hour 2026 by switching off all non-essential lights between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 28, as part of the global initiative to promote environmental sustainability. Observed under the theme #GiveAnHourForEarth, the annual event calls on individuals, institutions and organisations to take symbolic collective action against cli-

mate change and for the conservation of natural resources. GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan appealed to residents to join the cause. "Every small action counts. By dedicating just one hour to the planet, we can inspire meaningful change and contribute towards a sustainable future," he said. The civic body said it has been actively promoting eco-friendly initiatives across the city, including expansion of green cover, improved urban biodiversity and sustainable waste management, as part of efforts to build a climate-resilient Hyderabad.

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