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WEATHER

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

Brief Insights

India Sends Fuel Aid To Sri Lanka, Dhaka

India has supplied fuel to neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and Bangladesh following requests amid disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said. After a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake earlier this week, India delivered

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

BJP MLA Faces Allegation of Firing During Ram Navami Processions

Festivities marking Ram Navami in Odisha were marred by allegations of gunfire, instances of hooliganism, and widespread traffic violations, raising concerns over public safety and crowd management during large-scale religious processions. The most serious allegation emerged from Titlagarh, where local BJP MLA Nabin Kumar Jain was accused of firing shots during a Ram Navami shobha yatra. According to preliminary reports, the legislator allegedly discharged blank rounds while participating in the procession, triggering panic among attendees.

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J&K Assembly Approves 3 Bills By Voice Vote

JAMMU
Wakeup telangana

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday passed three key Bills through voice vote, marking a push towards governance reforms, social equity and strengthening the judicial framework in the Union Territory. The Bills were moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and put to a vote by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather. One of the legislations seeks to amend certain enactments to decriminalise and ra-



KTR alleges Rs 1.5 lakh crore Musi scam, accuses Revanth Reddy of intimidation: P2

Hyderabad Observes Al Baqi Demolition, Voices Rise for Rebuild: P8

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy Over Mining Allegations: P3



CM Revanth Reddy Lays Foundation Stone for Sri Omkareshwara Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that 'Dakshina Kasi' would be developed on the Musi banks by constructing Shiva temples as part of the ambitious Musi river rejuvenation project. The initiative would restore both spiritual and ecological significance to the region, he said. Speaking after laying the foundation stones for the Omkareshwara Swamy and Veerabhadra Swamy temples at Manchirevula on Saturday, the Chief Minister



described the occasion as historic and said the temples would be developed over an eight-acre site at a cost of ₹700 crore. "With the divine blessings of Lord Shiva, we have begun the construction of these renowned today," he

said. Revanth Reddy vowed that the government would complete the Musi project despite the hurdles being created by Opposition parties. He remarked that people would symbolically "perform Shiva

Tandavam" against those obstructing development. Emphasising religious harmony, he announced that a mosque and a church would also be constructed in the Musi catchment area at Nagole, calling it a testament to the government's sincerity and commitment to the people.

Highlighting the region's rich heritage spanning over 1,400 years, the Chief Minister said the government had taken up the responsibility of preserving its history for future generations.

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Revanth Orders CID Probe into Illegal Sand Mining

Revanth Reddy said the CID probe would focus on irregularities committed from June 2, 2014 till date

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday ordered a comprehensive inquiry by the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) into all mining-related irregularities in the state from the BRS government's on June 2, 2014, till date. The CM's announcement came



after heated exchanges between Congress members and the opposition BRS over allegations of illegal mining. BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao demanded the constitution of a House committee to

probe alleged irregularities by Raghava Constructions, which he claimed was linked to revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Mines minister G. Vivek and legislative affairs minister D. Sridhar Babu rejected the demand, stating that large-scale irregularities had occurred during the BRS regime between 2014 and 2023, particularly in sand and

granite mining. They instead proposed a broader probe covering the entire period since state formation. Unconvinced, BRS members staged protests and shouted slogans, stalling proceedings for nearly an hour. They insisted on a targeted inquiry into Raghava Constructions, but ministers maintained that it was not appropriate to single out one company

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A flight every 2 minutes, says PM Modi at airport inauguration

PM inaugurates Noida International Airport

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Phase 1 of the much-awaited airport in UP's Jewar. He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, UP governor Anandiben Patel, and Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu. Following the inauguration, PM Modi called the airport a symbol of "India's new spirit" and stressed on its potential to drive development in Uttar Pradesh.

He emphasised that the airport will serve as a catalyst for development, creating opportunities for the youth and farmers of Uttar Pradesh while benefiting surrounding regions like Agra, Mathura, and Ghaziabad.

Ahead of the inauguration, security was beefed up around Noida International Airport and traffic curbs were in place in view of the inauguration by Modi. The advisory will remain in force from 7 am to 11 pm on Sat-



PM Narendra Modi, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel, and others, during the inauguration of the newly constructed Noida International Airport, in Jewar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

urday, with arrangements made to ensure uninterrupted passage of emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire services.

The airport was finally opened after multiple delays and is set to become the second international airport serving the Delhi-NCR region, after the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). The two airports will function as an integrated aviation system that will ease congestion, expand passenger capacity, and position Delhi-NCR among leading global aviation hubs, the government said in a

statement earlier. The airport will serve as a primary international airport for major Uttar Pradesh cities such as Noida, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Mathura and Agra and It will also act as a gateway to several pilgrimage and tourist destinations.

A traffic advisory waws issued ahead of Modi's visit for the airport inauguration with entry routes being earmarked, parking zones segregated, and commercial vehicles diverted by the Gautam Buddha Nagar Traffic Police. The advisory will remain in force from 7 am to 11 pm on Saturday.

SC warns against revealing minor rape survivor

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court has deprecated in "strongest terms" the disclosure of identity of a girl in a rape case and directed all high courts to ensure that names of survivors and their family members are not mentioned in court orders. In its 2018 judgement in the Nipun Saxena case, the top court had said, "No person can print or publish in print, electronic, social media, etc. the name of the victim or even in a remote manner



disclose any facts which can lead to the victim being identified and which should make her identity known to the public at large."

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh attributed lapses in following the ruling to the general indifference of the courts and "possibly even" the lack of awareness of the deep stigma

that follows such offences. The top court said that the legislature in 1983 introduced a provision to the IPC seeking to protect the identity of the of the victim of the offence under Section 376 Indian Penal Code.

The amendment, it said, was made apparently to address a specific mischief that emerged starkly from the way sexual offence cases were handled: the public disclosure of a survivor's identity. The bench thus directed that a copy of the judgment be sent to all the high court

registrars general. It also mentioned Section 228A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which prohibits the disclosure of the identity of victims of sexual offences, including rape, to prevent social stigma.

"This has been the long-standing position in law, but it has not been followed. The primary reason there amongst, one supposes, is the general indifference of the courts below and possibly even the lack of awareness of the deep stigma that follows such offences," the bench said.

One Month into Iran war, Only Hard Choices for Trump

Analysts question whether Trump will escalate or wind down a voluntary conflict that has triggered the worst global energy supply shock in history

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

With global energy prices up and his job approval ratings down, Donald Trump faces stark choices after a month of war against Iran: cut a potentially flawed deal and get out, or escalate militarily and risk a prolonged conflict that could consume his presidency. Despite a flurry of diplomatic activity, Trump ends another week of the joint U.S.-Is-

raeli campaign struggling to contain a widening Middle East crisis as a defiant Iran maintains a chokehold on Gulf oil and gas shipments and continues missile and drone strikes across the region.

The central question now, say analysts, is whether Trump is ready to wind down or ramp up what critics have called a war of choice, one that has ignited the worst global energy supply shock in history and spread far

beyond the region. Trump has told aides he wants to avoid a "forever war" and find a negotiated exit, urging them to stress the four-to-six-week duration of hostilities he has outlined publicly, a senior White House official said, adding that such a timeline appears "shaky."

beyond the region. Trump has told aides he wants to avoid a "forever war" and find a negotiated exit, urging them to stress the four-to-six-week duration of hostilities he has outlined publicly, a senior White House official said,

adding that such a timeline appears "shaky." At the same time, Trump has threatened a major military escalation if talks fail. Trump's diplomatic overtures to Iran, including a 15-point peace proposal sent via a backchannel with Pakistan, appeared to demonstrate an increasingly urgent search for an off-ramp. But it remains unclear whether there are currently any realistic prospects for fruitful negotia-

tions. "President Trump has poor options all around to end the war," said Jonathan Panikoff, former U.S. deputy national intelligence officer for the Middle East. "Part of the challenge is the lack of clarity related to what a satisfactory outcome would be."

A White House official insisted that the Iran campaign "will conclude when the commander-in-chief determines that our objectives are met" and

that Trump had laid out explicit goals.

Apparently hedging his bets, Trump is deploying thousands more U.S. troops to the region and warning Iran of an intensified onslaught, possibly including the use of ground troops, if it does not yield to his demands. Analysts say such a show of force could be aimed at creating leverage for concessions from Tehran but risks drawing the U.S.

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ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

KTR alleges Rs 1.5 lakh crore Musi scam, accuses Revanth Reddy of intimidation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of indulging in intimidation politics against those who were questioning alleged corruption in the Congress government, especially in the Musi riverfront project. He said the Chief Minister was executing a massive Rs 1.5 lakh crore corruption plan under the guise of Musi riverfront development project. Addressing a gathering of the BRSV (student) wing at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Rama Rao said the government was inflating the Musi project costs to facilitate large-scale financial irregularities. He questioned how a government that claims financial constraints in ful-



filling election promises could propose such massive expenditure. He contrasted the proposed outlay with the previous BRS government's Musi river rejuvenation plan, estimated at around Rs 16,000 crore. He said the current administration shelved a more practical and cost-effective approach. The BRS working president said under the guise of river rejuvenation, the Congress government was planning for demolition of

hundreds of thousands of homes and acquisition of more than 3,000 acres, primarily affecting the poor. He accused the government of double standards, pointing out that while terming homes along the river as illegal, proposals were being prepared to develop commercial infrastructure in the same zones. Targeting the Chief Minister, Rama Rao said threats became routine whenever corruption was questioned, citing recent

tensions in the Assembly over mining allegations linked to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. "The BRS will not be intimidated," he asserted. He said the government lacked a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and was taking arbitrary decisions without transparency. Questioning the State's finances, he also said the government's claim of resource constraints contradicts its willingness to spend massive sums on

the Musi project. The BRS working president accused the Congress government of failing to implement key electoral promises, including job creation, student welfare schemes, and recruitment drives. He said even the Congress government's flagship Six Guarantees remain largely unfulfilled. On the occasion, Rama Rao said BRS would organise a roundtable with experts in early April and launch awareness campaigns across colleges and localities. He warned of intensified protests if the government proceeds without safeguarding public interests. Reiterating that the party supports scientific river cleaning, KTR said development should not come at the cost of displacing vulnerable communities.

Kavitha's Telangana Jagruthi Offers Strong Political Alternative: Panduranga Reddy

Leaders Join Telangana Jagruthi, Rally Behind Bold Vision

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Jagruthi Party witnessed a significant boost as over 100 leaders and activists from various parties joined, strengthening its political base in the state. The event was held at the Telangana Jagruthi headquarters in the city on Saturday, in the presence of state Executive President Roop Singh, district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy, and district BC Cell president K. Shivashankar. New entrants from Chevella and Kalwakurthy constituencies were warmly welcomed by party leaders, including State Official Representative Nallamala Sreekanth Goud and state secretaries Dookuntla Naresh, Varalakshmi, and Srinivas. Addressing the gathering, district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy em-



phasized Telangana's need for a strong political alternative. He highlighted that under Kavitha's leadership, Telangana Jagruthi is poised to deliver progressive governance, focusing on solving grassroots issues rather than just slogans. He added that the party aims to empower youth, women, and marginalized communities, ensuring a development-oriented future for the state. Prominent leaders who joined included Sangeri Nagesh, Putnal Paramesh Goud,

Gunala Madhav Reddy, Gaurav Kumar, Gaurav Mallesh, Tummaluru Anjaya, Goll Raju, Veeresh, Sanjeev Reddy, Nagesh, Shanmukh Kumar, Vishal, Shivarama Krishna Reddy, Karthik Reddy, Anand, among others. The party expressed confidence that Telangana Jagruthi, inspired by Kavithamma's contribution to the Telangana movement and cultural preservation, will emerge as a strong political alternative in the state.

Incor Lake City buyers protest delay in handover of flats

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The people, who purchased apartment flats at Incor Lake City built close to the Saki Cheruvu in Patancheru, staged a protest accusing the management of delaying the handover of flats to them. The buyers gathered at the site on Saturday and staged a protest holding placards which highlighted the negligence of the management. They raised slogans against the management. The Incor management



took up the construction of 1,500 flats in multiple towers when they also launched free launch offers in 2019. Since the site is located very close to Patancheru, several people bought flats by

paying the initial installments. The management had assured buyers that the flats would be handed over within five years, provided payments continued. However, whenever buyers sought an

explanation, the management kept delaying and buying time. The management had set Dasara 2025 as the final deadline, but failed to honour the commitment. When buyers approached them, they received little response from the management. With no construction activity underway at the site, anxious buyers staged a protest on Saturday, warning that they would escalate the matter to TGRERA, HMDA and other concerned authorities.

Swimming Pool Inaugurated by Nirmala Jagga Reddy in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY
Wakeup telangana

The swimming pool at Rajiv Park in Sangareddy town was inaugurated on Saturday by TGHC Chairperson Nirmala Jayaprakash Reddy, along with Additional Collector (Revenue) Madhuri and Sangareddy Municipal Chairperson Kona Vanitha Santosh. Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jayaprakash Reddy expressed happiness over reopening the swimming pool for public use after renovation. She stated that the facility was refurbished at a cost of approximately ₹20 lakh as part of efforts to promote sports development. She emphasized that such infrastructure plays a crucial role in encouraging youth to take up sports



and adopt a healthy lifestyle. She further noted that swimming plays a vital role in developing sportsmanship among children and contributes significantly to both physical fitness and mental well-being. Sports Au-

thority official Akhilesh Reddy informed that the swimming pool has been made accessible to the public with fee structures in the form of monthly, quarterly, and half-yearly passes. He added that timings have been scheduled to suit people of all age groups. With the summer season approaching, he urged residents of Sangareddy—especially children and youth—to make use of the facility. He highlighted that swimming not only improves health but also helps in enhancing sporting skills. The event was attended by officials from various departments, sports staff, councillors including Srikanth and Ramesh, public representatives, sports enthusiasts, and local residents.

Nizamabad Approves Budget for Infrastructure, Governance

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step towards strengthening urban governance and infrastructure, the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation (NMC) approved its budget for the financial year 2026-27 during a special council meeting held on Saturday. The session was presided over by Mayor Dandu Uma Rani and attended by key public representatives and senior officials. Among those present were MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta, District Collector Ila Tripathi, and Municipal Commissioner Dileep Kumar. The meeting saw active participation from corporators who deliberated on key civic issues affecting their respective divisions. The Corporation opened with a balance of ₹9,471.33 lakh as of April 1, 2025. The revised income for 2025-26 was estimated at ₹13,717.11 lakh, bringing the total available funds to ₹23,188.44 lakh. For the year 2026-27, the Corporation projected a general income of ₹14,763.60 lakh, along with ₹9,937.00 lakh expected from plan and non-plan grants. The total expenditure has been estimated at ₹24,700.60 lakh, indicating a proactive approach towards expanding civic services and infrastructure development. The budget



was approved unanimously, reflecting consensus among council members. During the discussions, corporators raised several local issues including sanitation management, road conditions, drainage systems, and water supply challenges. MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized that development should rise above political differences and called for collective efforts to transform Nizamabad into a well-planned city. He noted that the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has responded positively to requests for special funding for the city. He also highlighted the importance of implementing a master plan to address the demands of the growing population and suggested consultations with corporators to refine the draft plan and ensure equitable development. District Collector Ila Tripathi stressed the need for efficient and accountable governance. She instructed officials to respond promptly to issues raised by corporators and maintain coordination with elected representatives. To ensure better

planning and execution, she proposed a dedicated review meeting within a month to assess division-wise issues and monitor progress on solutions. The Collector underlined the importance of increasing municipal revenues through systematic and transparent handling of layout regularization applications. She directed officials to conduct thorough field inspections before granting approvals to eligible applicants. In a move to improve service delivery, she recommended the use of WhatsApp groups for real-time monitoring of sanitation activities and directed the implementation of facial recognition technology to ensure proper attendance tracking of outsourcing staff. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment from all stakeholders to work in coordination for the city's growth. With a structured financial plan and focus on governance reforms, the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation aims to enhance civic amenities and ensure sustainable urban development in the coming year.

CM's Meet at Pippiri to Mark Bhatti Yatra

To mark three years of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's 'People's March' ahead of the Assembly elections in 2023, and the ongoing 99-day Praja Palana — Pragati Pranalka celebrations of the Congress government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will address a public meeting on April 6 at Pippiri in Boath constituency of Adilabad district. Pippiri is the village from where Bhatti had set out on his padayatra. Revanth Reddy will distribute documents related to the implementation of assurances given to various sections of people during the padayatra. Bhatti reviewed the arrangements for the public meeting with district collectors of the undivided Adilabad districts and senior officials. He directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the event. He instructed officials to make all necessary arrangements for the success of the meeting. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the Congress always fulfilled its promises. Accordingly, documents pertaining to the implementation of assurances made during the padayatra would be distributed by Revanth Reddy at the meeting.

Students to Get Lessons on Respecting Women, Road Rules

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

School textbooks could have lessons in social responsibility for students, with the government saying that it wanted to introduce chapters from the next academic year relating to road safety, and respect for women. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya announced the proposals during their replies to discussions on Budget grants for their respective departments. Transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar said



Telangana was seeing an average of 20 deaths a day in road accidents, and that this was a cause for concern. In a clear indication of the role parents play in the lives of school going children, Prabhakar said "from the next academic year, parents will have to provide signed affidavits that they will follow road safety rules." Indicating

that this would be mandatory, Prabhakar said there was a need to educate school-going children on road safety aspects. The government was holding Road Safety Council meetings once in three months involving all stakeholders but indicated that more was needed to be done to make roads in the state safer. Seethakka, who heads the women and child welfare ministry, said a proposal to include a chapter on respecting women must be included in school textbooks adding that such education was required to start early. "Textbooks

must have lessons on respecting women, and the punishments for disrespecting them. We live in a male dominated society and women are seen as playthings or as those confined to kitchens," she said, calling for the need to start teaching children early on respecting women. Seethakka, without mentioning the entertainment industry, said that some sections of 'media' are playing a role in the skewed portrayal of women, resulting in the present attitudes towards women in society.

CBIT Hosts ISRO Semiconductor Expert Talk

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), R&D Cell, in association with IEEE WIE CBIT, successfully organized an R&D Expert Talk Series on "Semiconductor Industry Frontier Technologies for ISRO Applications." The session featured Dr. Inguvu Gopinath, Former Senior Scientist at ISRO, SDSC, and member of SHAR Sriharikota, who provided an insightful overview of ISRO's journey from inception to its latest technological advancements,



including the integration of Artificial Intelligence in Chandrayaan missions. Dr. Gopinath emphasized the pivotal role of semiconductor technologies in space exploration and highlighted career opportunities for students, such as internships at ISRO, placement openings, and

project proposals through the RESPOND program. A special segment featured a student presentation by Tausif and Anas, second-year ECE students, on "Jet Noise Source Localization using AI," which received appreciation and guidance on effective real-world

data collection techniques. The session, attended by 140 faculty and students, was highly interactive, with participants from CBIT's Navigation Lab engaging in discussions on practical problem statements and potential collaboration opportunities with ISRO and allied industries. CBIT Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, Convener Prof. V. Barla, Dr. Sudhakar Babu, Dr. S. Siva Priyanka, and Dr. D. Sony lauded the event for inspiring research and innovation in space technology and semiconductor domains.

Nirmal SP Wins Skoch Award For Police Akka

Nirmal district SP G. Janaki Sharmila received the Skoch Award in New Delhi on Saturday for the Police Akka programme. She said the scheme's success lay in students overcoming fear and speaking openly about their problems. The initiative aims to support girl students who hesitate to approach police. As part of it, women officers stay overnight in KGBV schools, listening to students' concerns and counselling them on good touch, bad touch, the Pcoso Act and child marriage. More than 7,000 students and women are said to have benefited. Police also conduct village patrols and respond promptly to Dial 100 calls, providing speedy justice. DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy praised the programme, calling it a community policing model that has won nationwide appreciation. "Police Akka stands as an assurance to address complaints of harassment, domestic violence and cyber crimes faced by women and girls," he said.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy Over Mining Allegations

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao on Saturday accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of blatantly misleading the Telangana Assembly regarding the ownership of Raghava Constructions and leveling unfounded allegations against BRS leaders. Speaking to media-persons after the heated mining row in the Assembly, Harish Rao rejected the Chief Minister's claim that the company was unconnected to Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. He stated that the firm is directly linked to the Minister's family, with his wife Madhuri, son Harsha Reddy, and brother Prasad Reddy listed as directors. "How can immediate family be termed distant



relatives?" he asked, emphasizing that the company itself was named after the Minister's father. Harish Rao also accused the Chief Minister of indulging in diversionary politics by ordering probes into mining leases dating back to 2014 and targeting BRS leaders with allegations of involvement in mining businesses. He said the Congress government is evading accountability over alleged mining irregularities and demanded strict action against irreg-

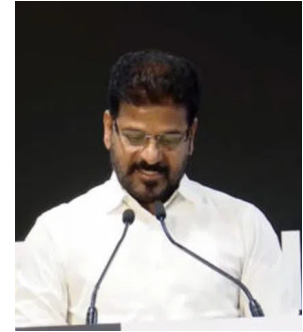
ularities in the sector. Supporting Harish Rao's statements, former Minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy said the government's move to investigate mining activities over the last 12 years amounted to intimidation. He condemned the attacks on BRS leaders, highlighting that the Congress had previously failed to substantiate claims against the party's senior leaders. Jagadish Reddy reiterated calls for a House Committee to probe illegal stone crusher

operations. "These attacks and threats are not new for us," Jagadish Reddy said, recalling that both the previous and current bosses of Revanth Reddy had targeted BRS President and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao during the Telangana statehood movement. "Now, Revanth Reddy is targeting BRS Working President KT Rama Rao and senior leader T Harish Rao," he added. The allegations come amid heightened tensions in the Assembly, with BRS leaders protesting what they described as politically motivated investigations into mining operations. Party sources said the matter could escalate if the government does not respond to demands for a House Committee probe.

Revanth Reddy suggests 'people credits' tax on AI companies, draws industry concerns

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's proposal to levy a special tax on Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies to compensate for job losses has triggered concern and confusion among industry stakeholders and experts. The Chief Minister announced the proposal while delivering a keynote address at an AI symposium organised by the Harvard Kennedy School in Boston via video conference on Friday night. Highlighting the impact of technological disruption, he said that just as the industrial revolution reduced human dependence in physical labour, the rise of AI now threatens human cognitive roles. He noted that AI



systems are increasingly capable of replacing a wide range of jobs. "We will also try to create policies similar to pollution. Like polluting industries pay for carbon credits, we will make laws so AI firms can be taxed for 'people credits'," Revanth Reddy said. He added that companies with massive valuations should compensate society for employment losses caused by technological advancements. The proposal, however, has raised concerns

within the technology sector, with industry observers noting that it runs contrary to prevailing global practices. Experts pointed out that many countries offer incentives to attract AI and technology investments, and imposing additional taxes could act as a deterrent. Concerns have also been raised about the feasibility of implementing such a tax at the State level. In the Telangana context, analysts warned that the proposal could prove counterproductive to the growth of the IT sector. With intense competition among States to attract investments, industry experts cautioned that such measures may discourage companies from choosing Telangana as an investment destination.

Telangana Assembly rocked by mining row; BRS demands probe.

Tensions flared in the Telangana Assembly on Saturday as BRS accused Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's family-linked firm of mining irregularities. The uproar disrupted proceedings, leading to budget approvals without discussion and the expunging of contentious remarks from Assembly records.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Heated confrontation broke out between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS in the Assembly on Saturday, over alleged mining irregularities linked to a private firm belonging to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's family. The uproar led to disruptions, protests in the well of the House, and the eventual passage of budget demands without discussion. BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao led the attack, accusing the government of shielding Raghava Constructions and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Demanding accountability, he called for either a probe by a sitting judge or constitution of a House Committee headed by opposition members. Raising the issue during the debate on Mining Department, Harish Rao alleged large-scale illegal operations, including running stone crushers with-



out mandatory permissions and violating environmental norms. He questioned the government's inaction despite official notices and inspections, and accused it of adopting double standards in dealing with opposition leaders and ruling party affiliates. His remarks triggered strong objections from treasury benches, with at least eight Ministers repeatedly interrupting his speech and demanding withdrawal of statements naming Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. While the BRS demanded a House Committee, the ruling side rejected the demand, with Mining Minister G Vivek Venkataswamy assuring that the government would conduct an inquiry if any wrongdo-

ing was found. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka criticised the opposition's conduct, calling the disruption unprecedented and urging members to allow proceedings to continue. Ministers D Sridhar Babu and others accused Harish Rao of making baseless and politically motivated allegations, insisting that he had no authority to name a Minister without proof. As tensions escalated, BRS members rushed into the well, raising slogans and insisting on a House Committee probe. Panel Speaker Balu Naik later ordered that the contentious remarks be expunged from the Assembly records.

Bandi Sanjay Slams CM Over Remarks, Flags Delays in Welfare Schemes

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of using derogatory language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attempting to provoke a North-South divide to cover up his government's failure to fulfil election promises. Addressing a press meet in Karimnagar, Sanjay al-



leged that the Chief Minister was "under pressure" over the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise and 33 per cent reservation for women. He asserted that delimitation is a na-

tional reform that would not disadvantage southern states, and said claims to the contrary were misleading. He challenged the state government to implement its 'Six Guar-

tees', questioning the delay in providing Rs 2,500 monthly assistance to women and the promised Rythu Bharosa for farmers. He also accused the Congress government of increasing debt while failing to deliver welfare schemes. Alleging a tacit understanding between Congress and BRS, Sanjay said no action had been taken despite alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project, for which he held former chief minister K. Chan-

drashekar Rao responsible. He claimed the state's communication to the CBI lacked key details for a proper probe. Highlighting the Centre's 'PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana', he showcased a solar power system installed at his residence and urged public representatives to adopt solar energy. He said the scheme aims to turn consumers into power producers, adding that his own electricity bill is expected to drop significantly.

Youth Must Lead in Social Service: Inspiring Example of 40-Time Blood Donor-Santhosh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Santosh Rao of T. Lingampalli, Regode Mandal, Medak district, is setting a powerful example of youth-led social service by donating blood for the 40th time. In an era where many youngsters are drawn to mobile addiction and online betting, his selfless commitment stands out. Rao, General Secretary of Lions Club Regode Mandal and District General Secretary of



the Indian National Human Rights Protection Council, reached this milestone at a mega blood donation camp organized by Lions Club Narayank-

hed. He urged youth to avoid harmful habits and engage in social service. "Blood donation is life donation," he said, encouraging regular donations to save lives. Through the Narayankhed Blood Donors network, a movement that began as a WhatsApp group, Rao has helped nearly 6,000 people across multiple states. His journey proves that compassion, commitment, and action can inspire meaningful change.

BRS opposes Secunderabad Cantonment merger with Malkajgiri civic body

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS leader Manne Krishank on Saturday strongly objected to Minister D Sridhar Babu's statement in the Assembly proposing the merger of Secunderabad Cantonment Board into Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. Questioning the lack of public consultation and disregard for citizens' sentiment, he demanded the immediate withdrawal of the statement in the Assembly. In a statement, Krishank said over 1.31 lakh residents had already expressed support through a signature campaign for merging the Cantonment with GHMC, not Malkajgiri. He termed the government's move un-

democratic and accused it of ignoring a long-standing public demand. The BRS leader raised concerns stating that the proposal ignored Secunderabad's historical identity as part of the twin cities and was announced without consultations with residents, stakeholders or civil society. "Such a major administrative decision cannot be taken unilaterally," he said. Krishank demanded that the government initiate a transparent public consultation process and align its decision accordingly. Instead of Malkajgiri, he suggested that the government consider the merger of Secunderabad Cantonment Board into GHMC.

Cyberabad Officials Highlight Special Sanitation Drive Progress

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation on Sunday evening highlighted key civic initiatives at the Serilingampally Zonal Office premises, with a focus on the ongoing special sanitation drive. Commissioner G. Srujana, IAS, along with Zonal Commissioner Hemanth Borkhade, IAS, addressed the media and elaborated on the objectives and progress of the sanitation drive being carried out across the corporation limits. The Commissioner stated



that the initiative aims to improve overall cleanliness, strengthen waste management systems, and enhance public health standards in the region. Officials noted that special teams have been deployed in multiple localities to ensure effective

implementation, with a focus on clearing garbage, maintaining roads, and addressing sanitation-related complaints. They also emphasized the importance of public participation in maintaining hygiene and keeping surroundings clean. During

the interaction, the officials also touched upon other civic issues and upcoming initiatives, assuring that the corporation is committed to improving infrastructure and service delivery. Media representatives from print and electronic platforms attended the interaction and sought clarifications on various civic concerns. The Office of the Zonal Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the interaction and reiterated its commitment to transparency and regular engagement with the media on public welfare initiatives.

Bowenpally Celebrates Cantonment Merger Victory with Congress

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Celebrations erupted in New Bowenpally after the State government signaled approval for merging Secunderabad Cantonment's civilian areas into the GHMC. Following the announcement by Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu in the Assembly, Congress leaders termed the move a "historic victory" for residents. At Ambedkar Crossroads in New Bowenpally, party workers led by Ward I president Maruthi Goud organized a rally marked by slogans



and excitement. A symbolic Palabhishekam was performed on portraits of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and MLA Sri Ganesh, expressing gratitude for supporting the long-pending demand. Senior Congress leader Jampana Pratap, attending as chief guest, paid floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and

addressed the gathering. He credited MLA Ganesh's sustained efforts, including protests and a hunger strike, for pushing the issue forward. "This is a people's victory. The State has acted in public interest," he said. However, Pratap clarified that the merger process is not fully complete. While

the State government has given its nod, final approval now rests with the Union Ministry of Defence. Residents remain hopeful that the Centre will soon clear the proposal. Locals believe the merger will bring improved civic amenities, better infrastructure, and uniform taxation under GHMC limits. The event witnessed participation from several leaders, including Madhukar, Sadanand, Narayana Raju, and youth representatives, reflecting strong grassroots support for the move.

Iranian Missile Attack Wounds 10 US Troops at Saudi Air Base

DUBAI
Wakeup telangana

Israel struck Iran's nuclear facilities hours after threatening to "escalate and expand" its campaign against Tehran on Friday. Iran vowed to retaliate and struck a base in Saudi Arabia, wounding U.S. service members and damaging planes. A month into the war, however, there appeared to be a breakthrough as Tehran agreed to allow humanitarian aid and agricultural shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, accepting a request from the U.N. Ali Bahreini, the country's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, said Iran



agreed to "facilitate and expedite" such movement.

The vital waterway usually handles a fifth of the world's oil shipments and nearly a third of the world's fertilizer trade. While markets and governments have largely focused on blocked supplies of oil

and natural gas, the restriction of fertilizer ingredients and trade threatens farming and food security around the world. "This measure reflects Iran's continued commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts and ensuring that essential aid reaches those in need without delay,"

Bahreini said on the social platform X. The U.N. earlier announced a task force to address the ripple effects that the war has had on aid delivery.

The Iranian attack on Prince Sultan Air Base wounded at least 10 American troops, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the situation. Two of them were seriously hurt, according to one of the officials. Both of the officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters. Several refueling aircraft were damaged. Israel strikes Iranian nuclear facilities Bahreini's announcement came just hours after Iranian state media said two nuclear facil-

ities had come under attack. Israel, which had threatened to "escalate and expand" its campaign against Tehran, claimed responsibility, and Iran quickly threatened to retaliate.

"Iran will exact HEAVY price for Israeli crimes," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said via X. Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said the Shahid Khondab Heavy Water Complex in Arak and the Ardakan yellowcake production plant in Yazd Province were targeted, IRNA reported. The strikes did not cause any casualties and there was no risk of contamination, it said. The Arak plant has not been operational since Israel attacked it last June.

H-1B Visa Selections Begin Amid New \$10,000 Fee and Wage-Based Rules

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Several applicants, including many from India, have started receiving confirmation of their selection in the latest H-1B visa cycle, marking the beginning of the next stage of the process. Notifications were being issued towards the end of March, with employers informed through official online systems. Under the process, selected candidates should contact their employer, who should begin filing the petition for the applicant. The filing window is expected to run from April 1 to June 30, giving employers 90 days.

This year's H-1B cycle has also seen major changes, with the new costs linked to H-1B ap-

plications. A new application for H-1B visas has been pinned at \$1,00,000 which the employer must pay the US department of state (DOS), which has increased the financial burden on employers. Although the \$1,00,000 fee does not apply to candidates who are converting their visa status to H-1B, which a major portion of Indian applicants do, it nonetheless has placed a burden on companies.

An Andhra Pradesh-based candidate from Eluru, who requested not to be named, received confirmation for his H-1B application. "I was checking with my employer every day, and when I finally got the confirmation, it felt like a huge relief. Now I'll focus on getting the pa-

perwork right and preparing for the application", he said. In addition to the \$1,00,000 fee, the traditional random lottery system was replaced with a wage-based selection model, which gives preference to higher-paying job offers. This shift, according to industry experts, is expected to favour experienced professionals and large companies, while making it harder for entry-level applicants.

Meanwhile, visa appointment slots for H-1B stamping have gradually opened for the coming months, including May to August, at US consulates in Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai. This has brought some relief to applicants waiting to complete the final stage of the process.

BJP MLA Faces Allegation of Firing During Ram Navami Processions

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Festivities marking Ram Navami in Odisha were marred by allegations of gunfire, instances of hooliganism, and widespread traffic violations, raising concerns over public safety and crowd management during large-scale religious processions. The most serious allegation emerged from Titlagarh, where local BJP MLA Nabin Kumar Jain was accused of firing shots during a Ram Navami shobha

yatra. According to preliminary reports, the legislator allegedly discharged blank rounds while participating in the procession, triggering panic among attendees.

Though the firing was reportedly non-lethal, the incident occurred amid a dense gathering of devotees, prompting questions over adherence to safety protocols and the use of firearms in public religious events. No official statement confirming legal action had been issued at the time of filing this report. Else-

where in the State, including the capital Bhubaneswar, celebrations witnessed massive participation, with large processions, bike rallies, and public gatherings across multiple localities.

While the day largely reflected religious fervour and enthusiasm, several incidents of alleged indiscipline were reported.

Eyewitness accounts and local reports indicated that groups of youths engaged in risky motorcycle stunts, flouted traffic norms, and disrupted vehicular

movement on major roads. These actions not only caused inconvenience to commuters but also posed significant threats to public safety. The state administration had, ahead of the festival, issued detailed guidelines and deployed security personnel to ensure orderly celebrations. Authorities had stressed the need for discipline, particularly during processions and rallies, and had warned against any form of lawlessness.

India Sends Fuel Aid To Sri Lanka, Dhaka

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India has supplied fuel to neighbouring countries Sri Lanka and Bangladesh following requests amid disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said. After a telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake earlier this week, India delivered



38,000 metric tonnes (MT) of petroleum to Sri Lanka, including 20,000 MT of diesel and 18,000 MT of petrol, according to the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Modi said, "Spoke with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and discussed the evolving situation in West Asia, with

particular focus on disruptions affecting global energy security. We reviewed progress on key initiatives aimed at strengthening India-Sri Lanka energy cooperation and enhancing regional security. As close and trusted partners, we reaffirmed our commitment to work closely together in addressing shared challenges. Bangladesh, officials said India recently supplied 15,000 tonnes of diesel and is expected to deliver

another 40,000 tonnes next month. Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has indicated efforts to strengthen ties with India following a period of strained relations under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The MEA had earlier said that Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were among neighbouring countries that sought fuel supplies from India in view of the ongoing energy situation.

Amit Shah Leads a Massive Roadshow of BJP in Guwahati



NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday intensified the BJP's campaign in Assam, leading a massive roadshow in Guwahati and asserting that the party is poised to return to power with over 90 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls. Addressing supporters, Shah highlighted Assam's transformation into a hub for healthcare and education in the Northeast, adding that upcoming industrialisation projects, including a semiconductor plant, would generate

large-scale employment. The roadshow, which began at Arya Vidyapeeth Playground and moved through key areas, witnessed significant public participation and marked a strong start to the Bharatiya Janata Party's election push ahead of the April 9 polls. The event also saw former Congress MP Bordoloi, who recently joined the BJP, sharing the campaign platform with Shah, signalling growing political momentum for the party. Elaborate arrangements were made to mobilise party workers and streamline the rally. Shah is

scheduled to review campaign strategies with party office bearers later in the day. As part of his two-day visit, he will campaign on Sunday in Sonitpur and Nalbari districts, supporting party candidates Ashok Singhal and Chandramohan Patowary. He is also set to return on April 2 to campaign in Barak Valley, addressing rallies in Sribhumi and Silchar. Polling for the 126-member Assam Assembly will be held on April 9, with counting slated for May 4, 2026.

One Month into.....

Another possible scenario, experts say, would be for the U.S. to wage a final major air assault in "Operation Epic Fury" to further degrade Iran's military capabilities and nuclear sites, after which Trump would declare victory and walk away, saying his war objectives had been achieved. But such a claim would ring hollow unless the vital Strait of Hormuz is completely reopened, which Iran is so far refusing to allow. Trump has voiced frustration over European allies' refusal to send warships to help secure the waterway. Trump, who has repeatedly vowed to keep the U.S. out of foreign conflicts, is seemingly struggling to contain the expanding war that he started along with Israel. Even as he has continued issuing triumphalist assessments, he has increasingly geared his messaging to reassuring nervous financial markets, pressing senior aides to emphasize that the war will be over soon, according to the senior White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. But the lack of a clear exit strategy carries dangers both for Trump's presidential legacy and his party's prospects as Republicans scramble to defend narrow majorities in Congress in the November midterm elections. Trump's biggest miscalculation has been the extent of Tehran's retaliation. It has used its remaining missiles and drones to strike Israel and neighboring Gulf states and mostly close the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for one-fifth of the

world's oil, sending shockwaves through the global economy. "The Iranian government's bet is they can take more pain for longer than their adversaries, and they might be right," said Jon Altman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington. The White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trump and his team were "well-prepared" for Iran's response in the strait and are confident it will reopen soon. Even so, the clearest sign of Trump's growing anxiety about the war came on Monday with his dramatic climbdown from a threat to destroy Iran's power grid if it did not allow shipping to resume through the strait. In a move widely seen as intended to calm markets, he declared a five-day pause in carrying out his threat in order to give diplomacy a chance.

Red Fort Blast: NIA...

he questioned whether those hindering development had the moral authority to serve as public representatives and urged them to withdraw the petition. The Chief Minister also appreciated public representatives from the Musi region for extending support beyond political lines, while sharply criticising certain leaders for opposing the project. Referring to a case filed in the National Green Tribunal, he questioned whether those hindering development had the moral authority to serve as public representatives and urged them to withdraw the petition. Reiterating the government's commitment to

fulfilling people's aspirations, Revanth Reddy observed that civilisations flourished along river basins and economic growth thrived along coastlines. As Telangana is a landlocked state, he said the objective of the project was to rejuvenate the polluted Musi and Esa rivers, which had turned into dump yards due to human negligence. Warning that Hyderabad's historical legacy was under threat, he said rising pollution levels in the Musi had severely impacted public health, particularly in Nalgonda district. Drawing parallels with pollution challenges in major cities like Delhi, he stressed the need to act decisively on air and water pollution and accused Opposition parties of obstructing such efforts. Revanth Reddy further revealed plans to divert Godavari waters to ensure perennial flow in the Musi. "Work to divert 20 tmc ft of Godavari waters began eight months ago. This will ensure year-round flow in the Musi, provide drinking water to Hyderabad and release 2.30 tmc ft each into Osmansagar and Himayatsagar," he said, adding emphatically, "Come what may, this project will be completed. This is our vow. This is our Shiva Diksha."

Revanth Reddy.....

Mines minister G. Vivek and legislative affairs minister D. Sridhar Babu rejected the demand, stating that large-scale irregularities had occurred during the BRS regime between 2014 and 2023, particularly in sand and granite mining. They instead proposed a broader probe cover-

ing the entire period since state formation. Unconvinced, BRS members staged protests and shouted slogans, stalling proceedings for nearly an hour. They insisted on a targeted inquiry into Raghava Constructions, but ministers maintained that it was not appropriate to single out one company for a House committee or an investigation. Intervening in the debate, the Chief Minister accused the Opposition of indulging in "blackmail politics" and attempting to malign a minister with baseless allegations. He announced that the CB-CID probe would encompass all alleged mining scams. Taking a pledge to expose all those involved in the state's mining racket, Revanth Reddy said the CB-CID probe would cover the sand mafia from Nerella involving BRS former MP Joganapally Santosh Rao and his father J. Ravinder Rao; Sishra Geo Granites, Midwest Granites belonging to a BRS leader; illegal mining by Shwetha Granites linked to BRS legislator Gangula Kamalakar, which is under ED scrutiny after being pinned by a vigilance probe; Gayathri Granites of BRS Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra and also Raghava Constructions. Revanth Reddy stated that the Congress government had taken action against Raghava Constructions, issuing notices and collecting fines based on suo motu findings by the mining department, not on opposition complaints. "If we are biased towards our minister, could our government serve notices to Raghava Constructions and recover.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

How Hyderabad Cops Tracked Nepalese Gangs

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a pattern emerging from recent property offences, Hyderabad police have flagged the increasing role of women as conspirators in organised theft gangs from Nepal, even as these groups alter their escape routes from Uttar Pradesh to Uttarakhand to evade detection. The latest ₹2 crore burglary highlights both the evolving modus operandi and the calculated deception employed by such networks. According to sources, Mahesh Sai alias Prakash and Apsara alias Maya, both natives of Nepal, posed as a married couple to secure employment as domestic help in a city household. In reality, they

were separately married in Nepal with children. Meeting in Delhi while working at different places, they conspired to relocate to Hyderabad for targeted thefts. With the assistance of Padam, already employed at the complainant's residence, the duo was introduced to the homeowners as husband and wife. Gaining trust, they worked at the house for over 40 days. When the family travelled to Ooty, the trio alerted two associates. The five member gang then decamped with gold, diamonds and silver ornaments worth nearly ₹2 crore. Acting on commissioner V.C. Sajjanar's directives, senior officers including west zone DCP Ramana Reddy, additional DCP

Swetha, task force DCP Vaibhav Ghaikwad and additional DCP Ande Srinivas Rao and supervised the investigation, forming five teams to track the accused across states and borders. Investigators said the gang was calculative. "In a deliberate attempt to mislead, the accused first travelled by autorickshaw to the Secunderabad railway station but did not board any train. They later hired a cab to Nagpur, entered another station to confuse police, and then split into groups," an officer explained. Padam and an associate proceeded to Delhi with part of the stolen property, handing it to Kamal alias Naresh, while Mahesh, Maya and another fled towards Nepal. Task force officials noted

a significant shift in escape strategy. While earlier gangs crossed into Nepal via Uttar Pradesh, this group diverted through Uttarakhand to avoid heightened surveillance. In a dramatic cross border operation, a task force team comprising a sub-inspector and a constable spent 10 days in Nepal, coordinating with local authorities. The duo was traced to Dhangadi and apprehended by Nepal police, while Hyderabad officers secured recovery of stolen property worth ₹15 lakh. Technical evidence proved crucial — mobile signals, a discarded handset and forensic analysis led to Maya's original address and Mahesh's hide-out eight hours away.

EDITORIAL

PUT PRINCIPLE FIRST OR LOSE STANDING AS PEACEMAKER

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Frankly, I do not care a fig whether a tinpot dictatorship like Pakistan, with a bankrupt economy and a defunct polity, gets a fleeting moment under a dubious sun to play the role of mediator, facilitator or whatever in the ongoing Iran war. That this is a slight to India is ludicrous. Pakistan is a failed state. India, on the other hand, while not without its problems, is the world's largest democracy, a major economy, a nuclear weapon state, a civilisational power and home to 1.4 billion people, with a legitimate claim to sit on the high table of the global community.

My concern, therefore, is about what India did or did not do in this unfortunate war. In this context, a new debate has emerged between so called 'realists' and 'idealists'. At first glance, the argument of the realists appears compelling. The world, they insist, is not a moral classroom but a competitive arena where power, not principle, determines outcomes. In such a world, they argue, the pursuit of immediate economic advantage and transient strategic leverage must override any abstract commitment to ideals. For relatively weaker nations, the logic is to be silent, speak softly, align cleverly, and survive. Idealism, in this view, is not merely naïve — it is a liability. Yet, this perspective, while pragmatic in tone, is impoverished in vision. It reduces nations to transactional entities, devoid of identity, memory or

moral imagination. It assumes that the currency of global respect is power alone, when history suggests a more nuanced truth: that enduring influence often rests on a combination of credibility, consistency, and conviction. For instance, the anti-colonial struggles of the 20th century were not won merely by military strength; they were sustained by moral arguments that exposed the hypocrisy of imperial domination. The articulation of principles — sovereignty, self-determination, equality — became, in time, instruments of power in their own right.

This is not to suggest that foreign policy should be conducted as a sermon. Nations must, of necessity, calibrate their responses to the realities of the world. But calibration is not capitulation. There is a difference between strategic flexibility and moral abdication. A nation that abandons its stated principles at the first hint of inconvenience risks eroding not only its credibility abroad but also its self-respect at home.

The assertion that weaker nations cannot afford a strong voice is, in fact, a deeply internalised form of defeatism. Strength in international relations is not measured solely in military or economic terms, which, of course, we must aspire to. It also resides in the clarity of a nation's positions and the consistency with which they are articulated.

When a country speaks with conviction — even if it cannot enforce its will — it contributes to shaping the normative environment in which global politics

unfolds. Silence, on the other hand, is seldom neutral; it is often read as acquiescence. The critique of idealism as inefficient and counterproductive similarly rests on a narrow understanding of national interest. Economic gains secured at the cost of long-term credibility may prove ephemeral. Nations that are perceived as opportunistic or supine may find themselves taken for granted, or excluded from a meaningful role in geopolitical equations. Conversely, those that demonstrate a principled approach, even when inconvenient, often command a moral authority that amplifies their influence beyond their material capabilities. It is in this broader context that one must examine our role when the US and Israel attacked Iran, and assassinated its leader.

The violation of sovereignty and the targeted elimination of a national leader raise profound questions about the norms governing international behaviour. India has friendly relations with America and Israel, but also diplomatic and age-old cultural ties with Iran. Regardless of one's assessment of Iran's policies, the blatant violation of its sovereignty and the targeted elimination of its national leader, should have led a country like India — with its long-standing commitment to the principles of sovereignty, non-interference and the peaceful resolution of disputes — to immediately express deep concern if not outright condemnation.

Arbitrary Freezing of Bank Accounts Violates Fundamental Rights: HC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has made it clear that although statutes empower investigative agencies to direct banks to freeze accounts during the course of an investigation, such powers cannot be exercised arbitrarily or indefinitely without due process and justification. Justice E.V. Venugopal noted that freezing a bank account in the absence of cogent reasons or a prima facie link to a cognisable offence would amount to a serious infringement of fundamental rights. The court held

that such actions violated the right to livelihood and the freedom to carry on trade and business under Article 19(1)(g), as well as the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. The judge was dealing with a petition filed by Khammam-based Bottle Restaurant and Bar, whose bank account had been frozen following instructions from the cybercrime wing police of Etawah district in Uttar Pradesh. The petitioner establishment contended that it had no connection with the alleged offence under investigation and that its name.

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 Swagrutha 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.

Undercover Women Cops To Curb Eve-Teasing At SSC Exam

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Police in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district deployed undercover personnel around examination centres during the ongoing Class 10 exams to ensure the safety of girl students. Tekumatra sub-inspector Amulya monitored the surroundings in plain clothes on Saturday, acting on instructions from superintendent of police Siriseti Sankar. The initiative aimed to prevent harassment and eve-teasing and provide a secure environment for students

appearing for examinations. Police personnel, both in uniform and in civilian attire, were deployed to maintain vigilance and identify suspicious behaviour near exam centres. Amulya said the safety of female students is a priority and warned of strict legal action against those found harassing students or causing disturbances. Police officials said staff have been directed to respond promptly to complaints and ensure smooth conduct of examinations, with continuous monitoring in and around centres.

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 Ande 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.

Demand For Ban On Lethal Herbicide Paraquat Growing

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Despite the Telangana government's order requiring a prescription for purchase of herbicide paraquat dichloride, lack of enforcement is a serious cause of concern. Easy access to the herbicide for farming community has made it the choice of suicidal or extremely stressed to end their lives. Hanamkonda District Agriculture Officer (DAO) Ravinder Singh pointed out that fertiliser dealers are strictly required to follow rules and sell paraquat dichloride based only on a formal prescrip-

tion issued by Mandal Agricultural Officer (MAO) or Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO) after a field inspection. Failure to comply with this condition can lead to immediate cancellation of the fertiliser dealer's licence. However, it has become common for farmers to reuse old prescriptions for repeat purchases. This is despite shop owners being prohibited from selling the herbicide on previous prescriptions. A new prescription for every purchase is mandatory, the DAO pointed out. Practical difficulties in enforcing this condition are evident in

erstwhile Karimnagar and Warangal districts. A local fertiliser dealer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they are struggling due to the prescription-based system. While some farmers bring formal prescriptions, a large number of them remain unaware. Many travel from distant villages to reach their shops. Considering this, the product is being sold to them. The deadly nature of paraquat dichloride has led to a decade-long study by Dr. Manjusha Yadla, Head of the Nephrology Department, Gandhi Hospital. She has analysed 400 cases and

found that 73.7 per cent of patients succumbed to the poison despite receiving medical treatment. 90 per cent of these cases are intentional ingestion driven by financial distress and social pressures, with the average age of victims being just 30 years. In Karimnagar, 24-year-old Katikareddy Sumanth used the herbicide to take his life over the inability to pay a motorcycle EMI. A 45-year-old farmer Mogili Laxman in Achannapalli village of Rajanna Sircilla district consumed paraquat dichloride at his field after falling into a debt trap caused by failed borewells.



EU Quota Cut And Tariff Hike Along With CBAM Challenges Exporters

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's steel and engineering exports to the European Union (EU) face a sharp setback as the bloc prepares to cut tariff-free import quotas by 47% and double duties on out-of-quota shipments to 50%, a move that could significantly squeeze shipments from India. The revised safeguard regime, expected to replace the existing tariff-rate quota (TRQ) system after June 2026, will cover about 20 steel and related items, including pipes, with higher tariffs kicking in once quotas are breached. According to Pankaj Chadha, Chairman of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, the quota reduction is part of the EU's broader effort to



curb imports and protect domestic industry, amid fears of trade diversion following higher US tariffs under Section 232. While the measure is not country-specific, India is likely to be "collateral damage," as restrictions aimed largely at China apply uniformly to all exporters. Though India has negotiated its quota levels under the proposed trade deal, the extent of relief remains unclear, with item-wise allocations yet

to be made public. The tightening of quotas comes alongside the implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), adding another layer of complexity for Indian exporters. Although CBAM reporting began in January 2026, financial implications will be felt only from 2027, when importers will start paying carbon-linked duties based on verified emissions data. A key concern,

however, is the absence of EU-accredited verifiers, which has left exporters in a regulatory limbo.

Indian exporters are currently getting emissions data verified by domestic agencies, even though these are not yet recognised by the EU. Accreditation is expected to begin around September 2026, but until then, exporters face uncertainty over compliance. Without verified data, they risk exclusion from European supply chains, as EU importers have made certification mandatory. The potential cost impact is significant. If default carbon intensity values are applied—estimated at 7.1 tonnes of carbon per tonne of steel—CBAM costs could rise to around ₹500 per tonne (₹50,000–₹60,000), severely erod-

ing competitiveness. Estimates suggest that up to 40% of revenues could be impacted in a worst-case scenario, though timely accreditation and accurate emissions reporting could mitigate losses.

Despite these headwinds, India's engineering exports have shown resilience. The sector is expected to close the current financial year at \$120–122 billion, surpassing last year's \$116 billion and achieving around 5% growth. This is notable given multiple disruptions, including US tariffs, EU regulatory changes, and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Engineering goods account for nearly 29% of India's total exports, and their growth has been critical in sustaining overall export performance,

Crude always oiled change for India

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In the last nearly 70 years, India has weathered many financial crises. It came close to ignominious bankruptcy. But every crisis was eerily bound by a common but surprising thread — imported essential goods. Initially, it was foodgrains till 1966, which was addressed by the Green Revolution. Later, crude oil became the perennial cause of trouble for Indian policy makers and the public and became one of the factors for India's economic pain. The current US-Israel attack on Iran in February has all but thrown India into another crisis. Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, Israel's bombing of Tehran's gas fields and Iran's retaliatory fire on Arab oil and gas facilities

have pushed the world into a totally uncharted territory. If West Asia continues on a mutually destructive agenda, India will face a multisectoral crisis, which is largely emanating from its dependence on imported fuel. It also highlights a dire need for India to free itself from energy dependence. For this, India needs to assess the threat and introduce urgent reforms to achieve energy independence to prevent history from repeating time and again.

In the first two decades of free India — in the 1950s and most part of 1960s — crude oil was never a problem for India, for its price was artificially kept low at \$1.80 per barrel by seven multinational oil companies. As one could buy a US dollar for Rs 4.76 during these 20

years, coupled with lower vehicle ownership in the country, India had no problem footing the oil import bill. The first blackmail by the oil countries began in 1967. The crisis began after Egypt closed the Strait of Tiran for Israeli ships for the second time after the 1956 Suez Crisis. Israel responded with attacks on the three-nation Arab coalition comprising Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The war that lasted for six days ended with the defeat of the Arab coalition. However, it sowed the seeds of weaponisation of crude oil, with Arab countries imposing an oil embargo on countries supporting Israel. India had devalued the rupee by 57.5 per cent under pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June 1966.

NAR-India Announces New Leadership Team

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

NAR-India, the country's apex body representing real estate transaction advisors, announced its new national leadership team following the successful conclusion of its annual convention in Mumbai, an event that catalysed business engagements exceeding ₹3000 crore and reinforced the growing influence of organised real estate brokerage in India. Positioned as one of the largest gatherings of its kind, the convention brought together over 1,800 delegates from across the country, including realtors, developers, investors, finan-

cial institutions, retailers and corporate occupiers. The scale of participation translated into real, on-ground deal-making, strategic partnerships and cross-market collaborations across residential, commercial and retail segments. The event served as a high-value business platform, with structured B2B meetings, project showcases and investment discussions driving tangible outcomes. Leading corporate groups such as Reliance, Tata and Birla actively explored large-scale real estate opportunities, highlighting increasing institutional interest in working with organised brokerage networks

to enable faster, more transparent transactions. The convention also stood out for its diverse mix of industry voices and thought leadership. Insight-driven sessions led by stalwarts like Dr. Niranjan Hirani and Hafeez Contractor, along with inspiring addresses by personalities such as Boman Irani, Savji Dholakia and Jaya Kishori, created a balanced platform combining business, policy and human insight, further elevating the stature of the event. Hosted by the AREA Group, the event was executed by a 45-member organising team, setting a strong benchmark for future editions of the national con-

vention. New Leadership Team includes, Chairman: Mr. Sumanth Reddy; Vice Chairman & Global Ambassador: Mr. Tarun Bhatia; Immediate Past President: Mr. Amit Chopra; President: Mr. Chandresh Viethalani; President-Elect: Mr. Ashish Mehta; CEO: Mr. Samir Arora; Vice Presidents: Mr. Arvind Gupta, Mr. Ramkumar, Mr. Zakir Bhati, Mr. Santosh Avalaki; Hon. Secretary: Mr. Chetan Chopra; Joint Secretary: Ms. Sonia Sachdeva; Organising Secretary: Mr. Appom; Directors (Zones): East — Mr. Abhimanyu Modi, South — Mr. Sivalingam M, West — Mr. Udayan Mane, Central — Mr. Brijesh Patel.

Two Brothers Organic Farms Expands Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two Brothers Organic Farms expanded its retail footprint in Hyderabad with the launch of its clean-label food range at Ratnadeep Supermarket, Banjara Hills. The products are now available across all Ratnadeep outlets in the city, enhancing accessibility for consumers seeking natural and traditionally crafted foods.

The launch event was attended by actress Siri Hanumanthu, along with co-founder Ajinkya



Hange, who interacted with visitors and shared insights into the brand's farm-first philosophy. Consumers explored a curated display of products, including A2 Gir Cow Cultured Ghee, Khapli (Emmer) Wheat Atta,

cold-pressed oils, and chemical-free jaggery—known for their purity and traditional preparation methods. Founded by brothers Satyajit Hange and Ajinkya Hange, the brand focuses on regenerative agricul-

ture, indigenous seeds, and reviving heritage grains like khapli. Their mission is to reconnect consumers with food sources while improving soil health and farmer livelihoods. With expansion into Hyderabad and select Bengaluru outlets, the brand aims to strengthen consumer awareness around mindful eating and sustainable food systems. To share their daily work plans with local fire and traffic authorities to maintain operational awareness and prevent disruptions.

Divani Opens Hyderabad Flagship Celebrating Heritage Couture

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Luxury couture brand Divani has launched its first flagship store in Banjara Hills, marking a significant expansion rooted in the cultural heritage of the Deccan. The unveiling ceremony was attended by prominent personalities including Namrata Shirodkar, Shreedevi Chowdary, Divya Boppana, Sudha Reddy, and founder Sanya Dhir. Located in Banjara Hills, the flagship store reflects Divani's deeper connection with Hyderabad's rich sartorial traditions. Designed by Habitat Architects,



the boutique blends heritage craftsmanship with contemporary design. The space features classical arches, dark timber interiors, and crystal chandeliers, creating an ambiance that combines intimacy with grandeur. At the core of the launch is a couture collec-

tion inspired by Hyderabad nobility. Divani has revived iconic ensembles such as the khada dupatta and the farshi gharara, emphasizing traditional techniques like zardozi, tukdi, and chhattapatti. The collection also highlights legacy craftsmanship including kutki, motichoora, pharisha, and rangkat weaves, meticulously handcrafted using copper with options for silver and gold zari. Beyond fashion, Divani reaffirmed its commitment to preserving traditional crafts through The Zardozi Project, an initiative supporting over 500 artisans across key craft clusters. The project aims to sustain and revive the

intricate art of zardozi while creating long-term livelihood opportunities. Speaking at the launch, Sanya Dhir said the Hyderabad store embodies the brand's philosophy of reimagining heritage for the future. She emphasized that the space integrates architecture, craftsmanship, and storytelling to create a timeless yet contemporary experience. Founded in 2013, Divani has established itself as a custodian of heritage textiles, working closely with artisans in Lucknow, Kashi, and New Delhi to revive intricate handcraft techniques.

ASBL Celebrates Srirama Navami with Music, Drone

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

ASBL hosted a grand Srirama Navami Kalyanam Mahotsavam at its RTC X Roads premises, blending devotion, cultural richness, and community participation into a memorable spiritual celebration. The highlight-filled evening featured a soulful performance by renowned playback singer Sunitha Upadrashta and a spectacular drone show, both of which captivated attendees.

Led by ASBL Founder and CEO Ajitesh Korupolu, the event drew large participation and showcased a seamless fusion of sacred rituals and engaging cultural performances. The Sita Rama Kalyanam formed the spiritual core of the celebrations, followed by darshan, allowing devotees to immerse themselves in the divine atmosphere and seek blessings. The evening began with traditional lamp lighting



and Vedic chants, setting a reverent tone. A unique highlight was the ambitious attempt to write over one crore Rama Namas, symbolizing deep devotion among participants. Adding a theatrical touch, a 15-minute Sita Swayamwar act from the Ramayana brought the epic narrative alive on stage. Cultural performances enriched the experience further, including a graceful Kuchipudi recital by Nritya Priya and devotional music by students of Ramachari Garu. Interactive bhajan sessions energized the audience, while Sunitha's live performance elevated the spiritual fervor with her melodious renditions.

The event also witnessed the presence of several well-known personalities such as Suma Kankala, Aishwarya Rajesh, Lasya Manjunath, Himaja Mallireddy, and Alekhya Harika, among others, who joined devotees in celebrating the auspicious occasion. Expressing his delight, Ajitesh Korupolu said the initiative aimed to strengthen community bonds through shared cultural traditions and that ASBL looks forward to hosting more such events. The Mahotsavam stood out as a vibrant confluence of spirituality, art, and community spirit, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Hyderabad Hosts Successful Seminar on Income Tax Act 2025

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI), Hyderabad Chapter, in association with its Sathavahana and Warangal Chapters and in collaboration with the Income Tax Department, successfully conducted a one-day seminar on the "Income Tax Act, 2025" at Hotel Abode.



gating event focused on the latest tax reforms and their practical implications. Chief Guest Shahnawaz Ul Rahman, Commissioner of Income Tax, emphasized the importance of staying updated with the evolving tax framework and urged professionals to enhance their understanding of recent changes. A major highlight of the

event was the leadership of Khaja Jalal Uddin, Chairman of the Hyderabad Chapter, whose planning and coordination were widely appreciated for ensuring the seminar's success. The seminar also featured a virtual address by Rajendra Singh Bhati, Central Council Member and Chairman of the Direct Taxation Committee, who shared key insights on taxation developments. Expert sessions were delivered by A.V.N.S. Nagewara Rao and Mahesh Reddy Ramasani, who

provided in-depth analysis on inventory valuation and structural changes in the new tax framework. Other dignitaries present included K.C.H.A.V.S.N. Murthy, KVN Lavanya, Kirti Gupta, Phaniteja Pendyala, Anil Kumar, and Balguri Sharath Kumar. The event concluded on a high note, reinforcing ICMAI's commitment to continuous professional development and capacity building in the field of taxation.

Sai Pallavi Prioritizes Career, Confirms No Marriage Plans Soon

Sai Pallavi is widely recognized as one of the most disciplined and performance-driven actresses in Indian cinema. Known for her dedication to meaningful storytelling, she has consistently opted for strong, character-oriented roles, steering clear of glamorous parts even if it meant turning down big commercial offers. This commitment to substance over style has set her apart in an industry often driven by box-office appeal. Currently, Sai Pallavi is busy with several high-profile projects, including the mythological epic Ramayana.

During a recent public interaction, she addressed questions about her personal life, particularly regarding marriage. She clarified that she is not planning to marry anytime soon, emphasizing that her current focus is entirely on her film career. The actress also confirmed that



she is single at present. At 33, Sai Pallavi continues to prioritize her craft, while her younger sister has already settled into married life.

Professionally, the actress has an exciting lineup of films. She is playing the female lead in Mani Ratnam's upcoming project alongside Vijay Sethupathi and will also star opposite Junaid Khan in Ek Din, which is expected to release soon. Director Hemant Madhukar,

who recently worked with her, praised Sai Pallavi as one of the finest performers in Indian cinema. While he refrained from commenting on her personal choices, he noted that marriage is entirely her decision. He drew parallels between Sai Pallavi and legendary actresses like Savitri and Soundarya, highlighting their shared emphasis on performance-driven roles. Hemant further high-

lighted Sai Pallavi's natural and subtle acting style, which has consistently impressed audiences in Telugu films such as Fidaa and Thandel.

Her selective approach to scripts has helped her maintain a strong and credible filmography, solidifying her reputation as a versatile and committed performer.

Addressing speculation about Sai Pallavi potentially replacing Deepika Padukone in the sequel to Kalki, Hemant Madhukar noted that while rumors are circulating, no official confirmation has been made. With her unwavering focus on her craft, Sai Pallavi continues to exemplify the value of dedication and discipline in Indian cinema, consistently delivering performances that resonate with audiences while staying true to her personal and professional priorities.

Karan Johar Lauds Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar: The Revenge

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Karan Johar called Aditya Dhar an "outstanding filmmaker" as he praised his latest directorial "Dhurandhar: The Revenge". The film released on March 19 and is a sequel to Dhar's 2025 directorial "Dhurandhar". Featuring Ranveer Singh, the film has earned over Rs 1000 crore at the global box office. Johar shared the poster of the film on his Instagram handle on Friday. He added a caption, narrating his experience of watching the film.

"The heart-wrenching backstory of Jaskirat... the heartbreaking sacrifices made for our motherland... The humanisation and layered back story even of the an-



tagonist... the impeccable craft... the soundscape and the all round cinematic prowess proves the brilliance and directorial command of ADITYA DHAR... what an absolutely astounding and outstanding filmmaker he is... he not only raises the mainstream bar but also creates a new one... yeh naya director hai," he wrote in the caption.

He also lauded Singh's performance in the film.

"Box office records todke ghusega bhi aur har record maarega bhi!! Aur aur aur @ranveersingh tu kya hai yaar???????? Your career BEST work and every tear of yours, every quiet stare, each time you walk with undeniable swag you prove you are one of the greats!!! You are and will always be an artist of huge calibre for the ages," he added. "True 'DHURANDHAR' MOVIE STAR!!! ...I went back to the days I watched pure solid Hindi cinema in single screens in the 70s... and came out satiated and dreamt of being a part of this business... today I am a part of the fraternity and Dhurandhar reminded me of how proud and grateful I am to be here today... @adityadharm @officialjostudios."

Twinkle Khanna Urges Youth to Embrace AI While Preserving Human Creativity



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Twinkle Khanna recently inspired a new generation of designers at an event held in Mumbai, sharing candid and thought-provoking insights on creativity, authenticity, and the growing role of artificial intelligence in the design world. Addressing young minds, she emphasized that while technology is evolving rapidly, creativity must remain deeply human at its core. Speaking about the increasing

presence of AI, Twinkle Khanna remarked that machines, no matter how advanced, cannot replace the soul and authenticity that human creativity brings. She underlined that AI should be viewed as a tool rather than a substitute for original thought.

According to her, authenticity is the strongest asset for any creator, something that cannot be replicated by algorithms or automated systems. Highlighting the risks of over-dependence on technology, she ex-

pressed concern that creativity could be overshadowed if individuals rely too heavily on AI. She pointed out that the younger generation possesses the ability to think in radically new and original ways—qualities that machines cannot imitate. It is this uniqueness, she said, that gives them an edge and hope in a rapidly changing creative landscape.

At the same time, she encouraged students and designers not to reject AI outright. Instead, she advised them to embrace it

wisely and use it to enhance their work. Acknowledging the capabilities of modern AI tools, she admitted that some of the installations she observed at the event were of exceptionally high quality, even surpassing expectations in certain aspects. Twinkle Khanna also spoke warmly about Gen Z, praising their energy, fresh perspectives, and willingness to experiment. She stressed the importance of listening to their ideas and supporting their creative

pursuits. Reflecting on the student presentations, she appreciated not just the designs but the thought processes behind them. One particular design using plastic materials stood out to her for its strong narrative centered on feminism. Concluding her remarks, she touched upon the broader topic of women's empowerment, noting that it remains an expansive and complex discussion that requires deeper dialogue and continued attention.

RCB beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2026 opener

BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

Devdutt Padikkal's 26-ball 61, filled with class, and Virat Kohli's masterly unbeaten half-century powered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a dominant six-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2026 season-opening match here on Saturday.

Padikkal and Kohli (69 not out, 38b) stitched 101 runs off just 45 balls for the second-wicket stand, lending strength to RCB's successful chase of 202 in only 15.4 overs. The hosts finished at 203/4 to start their title defence in spectacular style.

After Phil Salt was dismissed early, Kohli and Padikkal treated the Chinnaswamy crowd to a brilliant batting display.

Their approach to batting was as different as chalk and cheese. Padikkal was all wrists, feet and thunderous cuts, while Kohli played his favourite drives, shots on the 'V' and the swat flick.



Padikkal showed the left-hander's class even while hitting 6, 4, 6 off pacer David Payne and later striking spinner Harsh Dubey for a 4 and 6 off successive deliveries.

The Karnataka batter reached his fifty off just 21 balls with a four off Harshal Patel.

Kohli used his swat, a shot with minimum foot movement and a short arm-throw, against pacers Jaydev Unadkat and Eshan Malinga as runs flowed quickly. The team's 50 came in the fourth over, the Power Play produced 76, and

100 came in just 8.1 overs.

The free-flowing stand was broken when Padikkal was caught by Heinrich Klaasen, who had earlier dropped Kohli on 28 off Harshal at long-on. Kohli soon reached his half-century off 33 balls with a single off left-arm seamer Payne.

Skipper Rajat Patidar contributed to the smooth chase, scoring 31 off 12 balls.

The consecutive dismissals of Patidar and Jitesh Sharma were minor interruptions in an otherwise easy chase, led by Kohli's

sequence of 6, 4, 4, 4 off Harshal.

Earlier, stand-in captain Ishan Kishan smashed a blazing fifty as Sunrisers Hyderabad resisted Jacob Duffy's excellent spell but managed 201 for nine. Kishan (80, 38b, 8x4, 5x6) and his 97-run stand with Heinrich Klaasen (31) for the fourth wicket formed the core of the SRH innings.

The match had a different start after Patidar asked Hyderabad to bat first on a pitch that had not hosted top-level cricket for nearly 10 months.

The pitch was an unknown factor, and chasing appeared a better option. Duffy's spell (4-0-22-3) supported that decision.

The Kiwi pacer used his height well to generate bounce off the track, and Abhishek Sharma (7) looked uncomfortable despite hitting Duffy for a six over backward point.

The left-hander, often troubled by short balls, soon fell as his pull shot off Duffy ended in the gloves of Jitesh Sharma.

Mumbai Indians take on Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2026 opener

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A strong Mumbai Indians side will begin their bid to end a five-year title drought in the Indian Premier League when they take on a depleted Kolkata Knight Riders in their tournament opener here on Sunday.

It has been a while since Mumbai Indians, the joint most successful team in the IPL, last lifted a trophy, which they won five times between 2013 and 2020.

Last year, the Hardik Pandya-led side finished third after losing to runners-up Punjab Kings in Qualifier 2. However, Mumbai Indians will feel they have all bases covered to challenge for what would be a record-extending sixth title this year. A new-look Rohit Sharma will be keen to get back among the runs, while Mumbai Indians' all-round strength makes them a side to beat once again. The squad includes a big chunk of India's T20 World Cup-winning team in skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Pandya, Tilak Varma, and Jasprit Bum-



rah. MI's overseas talent bench features wicket-keeper-batter Ryan Rickelton, Sherfane Rutherford, Corbin Bosch, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner, Will Jacks, AM Ghazanfar, and Trent Boult, who will be expected to pair with Bumrah.

In Shardul Thakur and Deepak Chahar, MI have two experienced Indian bowlers, while Naman Dhir could continue playing the role of finisher, which he executed successfully last year.

The challenge will be to find the right playing combination, utilise the Impact Player rule effectively, and notch up early wins, as Mumbai Indians are notorious for slow starts in the IPL.

Visitors Kolkata Knight Riders carry some local

provide all-round options. Teams (from): Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Danish Malewar, Robin Minz (wk), Ryan Rickelton (wk), Sherfane Rutherford, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Atharva An-kolekar, Raj Bawa, Corbin Bosch, Will Jacks, Mayank Rawat, Naman Dhir, Mitchell Santner, Shardul Thakur, Tilak Varma, Ashwani Kumar, Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, Deepak Chahar, AM Ghazanfar, Mayank Markande, Mohammad Izharr, Raghu Sharma.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rinku Singh (vc), Finn Allen, Tejasvi Dahiya (wk), Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Ramandeep Singh, Sarthak Ranjan, Tim Seifert (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Daksh Kamra, Cameron Green, Sunil Narine, Rachin Ravindra, Anukul Roy, Vaibhav Arora, Saurabh Dubey, Kartik Tyagi, Blessing Muzarabani, Matheesha Pathirana, Navdeep Saini, Prashant Solanki, Umran Malik, Varun Chakravathy.

Blessing Muzarabani may play a key role in the bowling line-up, but much will depend on Varun Chakravathy. KKR also have former CSK players Rachin Ravindra, who should bolster their batting, and Matheesha Pathirana. Tim Seifert is the primary wicketkeeper-batter, while Cameron Green and Sunil Narine

Telangana Introduces Bill to Protect Elderly Parents

The state government on Saturday introduced The Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill, 2026 in the Assembly, which has provisions for punishing people for neglecting their elderly parents. The law, when approved, will be applicable to government employees, as well as those in the private sector, and aims to ensure a life of dignity, welfare, and financial security to senior citizens in the state.

Senior citizens can lodge complaints of neglect by their children to the respective district collectors who will be required to dispose such petitions within 60 days. If this does not happen, the applicants can approach a proposed Senior Citizens Commission (SCC) for redressal. If neglect of senior citizens by their children is proved, the Bill provides for deduction from the salary of the employee a sum of Rs.10,000 or 15 per cent of gross salary, whichever is less, each month and the amount will be deposited directly by the employer, whether government or private, into the designated bank account of the senior citizens.

The Senior Citizens Commission is to be set up in three months after the Bill is enacted, and the body will comprise a chief commissioner and two commissioners. While the commissioner will be a retired judge from the High Court, or in subsequent appointments to the post from the ranks of those who served as commissioners on the SCC, the commissioners will be picked from a pool of persons with knowledge and experience in law, social service, administration and governance and worked in the government either as a director, or a commissioner. There will also be a state level monitoring body to monitor the implementation of the Act, the government said in the Bill.

State Effectively Managed The Increased Load On Fuel Supply : Uttam

Civil supplies minister Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the Centre to increase gas allocations to the state for commercial use. He said the state government had effectively managed the increased load on the supply of LPG gas and petroleum products against the backdrop of the West Asia crisis. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the prevailing confusion among the public with regard to LPG supply stemmed from growing misconceptions which led to a sudden surge in public anxiety which had caused temporary difficulties. The government had immediately stepped in and implemented stringent measures, thereby effectively bringing the situation under control, he told a video conference convened by Union ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Pralhad Joshi to review the nationwide supply of cooking gas and petroleum products.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also brought the notice of Union ministers that the state government has cracked down firmly on those creating an artificial shortage and diverting supplies to the black market. He said that surveillance has been intensified, and cases have been registered against individuals involved in illegal activities, including the diversion of gas to the black market. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the supply of CNG was being expanded in the city through the Bhagyanagar Gas Corporation, and measures had been taken to ensure that CNG filling stations remained continuously available for autorickshaws, taxis, and private vehicles.

To mark the first anniversary of the sannabiyam scheme, civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will be hosting a lunch, prepared with 'PDS Sannabiyam', at the Assembly for the members of both Houses on Monday. Lunch will be hosted for media personnel at the Assembly media point. The PDS sannabiyam scheme was benefiting 3.39 crore beneficiaries, almost 86 per cent of the state's population, and had heralded a new era in comprehensive food security, Uttam Kumar Reddy noted in the invitation.

Hyderabad Observes Al Baqi Demolition, Voices Rise for Rebuild

Hyderabad rally marks Baqi demolition anniversary, calls for urgent rebuilding and global attention

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Thousands of members of the Shia community participated in a large procession in Hyderabad on Saturday, marking over 101 years since the demolition of Jannat-ul-Baqi in Saudi Arabia, while strongly demanding its reconstruction.

The rally began from Alawa-e-Bibi in Dabeerpura and concluded at a replica (Shabeeh) of Jannat-ul-Baqi at Chaderghat. Organisers said thousands of devotees joined the six-hour-long procession, observed annually on the 8th of Shawwal to commemorate the destruction of the sacred graves of the family of Prophet Mohammed in Madina in 1925.

A detailed teak wood replica of Jannat-ul-Baqi, depicting its original structure before demolition, was carried throughout the procession. Participants recited mourning hymns (Noha) while passing through key localities and places of worship, with refreshments arranged along the route.

The Hussaini Organisation, which has been organising the event for the past 21 years, stated that the procession serves as both a remembrance and a peaceful protest. The organisation, along with participants, raised a strong and unified demand for the rebuilding of Jannat-ul-Baqi.

Organisers highlighted the historical and religious significance of the cemetery in Madina, which houses the graves of several members of the Prophet's family. They noted that the site faced destruction attempts in 1221, was restored by Ottoman rulers in 1818, and renovated between 1848 and 1860, before being demolished again in 1925 (8th Shawwal, 1345 AH) after



Shia Muslims held a candlelight mourning rally across Hyderabad demanding reconstruction of Jannat al-Baqi in Medina —Photo: Mir Zulfequar ali

cal and religious significance of the cemetery in Madina, which houses the graves of several members of the Prophet's family. They noted that the site faced destruction attempts in 1221, was restored by Ottoman rulers in 1818, and renovated between 1848 and 1860, before being demolished again in 1925 (8th Shawwal, 1345 AH) after

Wahhabi control of the Hijaz. Expressing concern over ongoing restrictions at the site, organisers said visitors are still not allowed to freely pay their respects. They stressed that rebuilding Jannat-ul-Baqi is not only a religious demand but also a matter of preserving Islamic heritage.

NHAI Clears ₹1,734 Cr NH-167 Upgrade

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued a letter of award for the four-laning of the Gudebellur-Mahbubnagar section of NH-167. The 80-km project, part of the Hyderabad-Panaji economic corridor, has been awarded to KNR Constructions Limited at a cost of ₹1,734 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Model. Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in February, the project will include five major bridges, 36 minor bridges, 260 culverts, 11 vehicular underpasses, 22 light underpasses, a railway overbridge/underbridge, 48 km of service roads and a 56-km slip

road. The stretch currently faces severe delays, especially through towns such as Gudebellur, Magnoor, Makthal, Marikal, Devarkadra, Jaklair, Yeligandla and Banderpally. The upgrade is expected to ease bottlenecks, improve safety and ensure smoother freight and passenger movement. On completion, the highway will connect three PM Gati Shakti economic nodes, nine social nodes and seven logistics nodes, while boosting access to Hyderabad's industrial hubs, SEZs, pharmaceutical clusters and medical centres. It will also link Mahbubnagar, Narayanpet, Raichur and Hyderabad, improving connectivity to religious and tourist destinations.

Chicken Prices Surge To ₹370 in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chicken prices in Telangana have surged to ₹350-₹370 per kg, up from just over ₹200 a month ago, amid supply constraints linked to seasonal changes and bird mortality. Industry representatives said rising temperatures and fluctuating weather have hit poultry production, with birds unable to withstand heat and succumbing to diseases. K. Mohan Reddy noted: "In summer the bird weight will be around 1.5 kg as they eat less grains and drink more water." He added that hot mornings and cooler evenings were causing further deaths, forcing farmers to cut production.

Despite higher prices, demand has remained steady, though consumers are buying smaller quantities. Telangana consumes over 11 lakh kg of chicken daily, with prices expected to stay high for



another month. Avancha Ramulu, selling chicken at ₹370 per kg, warned prices could rise to ₹400 next month during the wedding and holiday season. Consumers said the surge has strained household budgets. Shoubhit remarked: "A kg chicken is usually sold between ₹170 and ₹220. It is even lower during Shrawan and Karthika Masam, but prices have shot up in the last two months." S. Swetha added: "Gas prices have already increased, burdening common people. Now chicken prices have also risen." Meanwhile, egg prices have dropped to ₹4 per unit after exports to Gulf countries halted due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

RTC Plans Mini Bus Services in Old City

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Transport minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar on Saturday said the TGRTC would operate mini-buses on routes where Setwin (Society for Employment Promotion & Training in Twin Cities) was running its services using smaller buses, particularly in the Old City. They would also be used to link with MMTS stations. The minister, during his reply to the discussion on demands for budgetary grants to his department, was responding to a question from AIMIM MLA Jaffar Hussain, who sought introduction of mini



buses in the Old City where larger buses cannot move freely. Prabhakar said the RTC was in the process of procuring the mini-buses, and these will also be used to provide last mile connectivity to and from MMTS train stations. He said the new vehicles would not be handed over to any other department but would be operated by the RTC itself. Ponnampalapati Prabhakar told the

Assembly on Saturday that law and order in Telangana was being maintained "very properly" and that religious conditions were "completely peaceful." Responding to the debate on Budget demands of the Home department, he lauded the services of police personnel who risked their lives during floods and ensured strong security at major festivals including Sri Rama Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, Bonalu, Ganesh immersion, Ramzan, Moharram and Medaram Jatara. He noted that several Maoists, including top leaders Devji and Mallu Rajireddy, had surrendered, reflecting the changing situation in the State. He added that the Future City commissionerate had been established in line with the capital's expansion.

Prabhakar highlighted innovations such as C-Mitra, a virtual help desk for cyber-crime victims, and the T-Safe app for women. He said international events including Miss World, the Global Summit, and a football match featuring Lionel Messi were conducted with strong security. He pointed out that Shamirpet police station was ranked the seventh best in the country for its "Very Fast App" used in passport verification.

Bhu Bharati Bought In ₹1,518 Cr In Record Time

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Bhu Bharati portal, introduced by the state government in April last year as a replacement for the Dharani portal of the BRS government, has generated a revenue of Rs.1,518.64 crore through transactions. According to a report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Saturday, the portal has facilitated over 6.17 lakh registration slot bookings and enabled property registrations worth Rs.12,443.64 crore up to January in the 2025-26 financial year.

The government has set a target of mobilising Rs.16,021 crore through property registrations during the upcoming financial year. The report also highlighted that the portal recorded 4.33 crore hits, with a target of reaching 5 crore hits in 2026-27. The Bhu Bharati system was introduced following the enactment of the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights in Land) Act, 2025, aimed at addressing long-standing land record issues and modernising record keeping. While the Act was launched on April 14, 2025, the portal be-

came operational the following day. It replaced the Dharani portal that was introduced during the BRS regime on October 29, 2020. Backed by a legal framework under the Record of Rights (RoR) Act and Rules, Bhu Bharati offers several citizen-centric features, including a user-friendly interface, an AI-powered chatbot 'Bhu Mitra' for assistance, and modules for appeals and revisions to correct land records. The system also generates automated notices for updates and provides support through helpdesks, FAQs, and user manuals. The portal comprises six transactional modules and five informational modules, and has been developed and is maintained by NIC Telangana under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. The government has proposed a comprehensive re-survey across the state using digital survey technology to create integrated digital land records. Plans are also underway to digitise village maps and geo-reference them to ensure accurate identification of land holdings.

Cotton Godown Near Shadnagar Burns

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A major fire broke out at a Cotton Corporation of India godown in Nandigama, near Shadnagar, at around 7.30 am on Saturday. Operations were still on to completely douse the flames when reports last came in. According to Nandigama police, four fire engines were on the spot. Authorities received a fire call from the security guard at the godown in the morning and rushed immediately.



There were no employees present in the unit when the fire broke out. "Our teams have been on the job since morning but cot-

ton seems to have intensified the fire," a Nandigama police officer said. So far, no case was registered. The exact cause of

the fire is yet to be ascertained. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Sri Lankan Minister Calls for Global Peace at Buddhavanam Visit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sri Lanka's minister for buddha sasana, religious and cultural affairs, Hini-duma Sunil Senevi, on Saturday stressed the need for the restoration of peace in the world in the present global context. Accompanied by Buddhist monks from 21 countries who had come to attend the International Buddhist Peace Conference in Hyderabad, he visited Buddhavanam at Nagarjuna Sagar in Nalgonda district and participated in prayers.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that much could be learnt from Buddhism, particularly the importance of peace. In the current global situation, he said, restoring peace was an urgent necessity. Noting that several Buddhist monuments in Telangana enjoy international recognition, he described Buddhavanam as a major Buddhist centre. He added that the Sri Lankan government is considering establishing a modern Buddhist centre similar to Buddhavanam in Sri Lanka.

Four arrested for murder of 23-year-old in Chandrayangutta

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Four accused have been apprehended on Friday, March 27, in the brutal murder case of a 23-year-old plumber, Mohammed Salman, in Chandrayangutta. While returning from a Ramzan party on March 23, Salman and his friend Irfan were stopped by one of the accused, Abdullah, after which Irfan transferred Rs 200 to Abdullah. The accused allegedly stopped them a second time, where Abdullah initiated a quarrel with Salman over a previous grudge. Abdullah then struck Salman

in the face using a knuckle-duster. Aman hit Salman with a stone on his head, leg and shoulder, while Mateen and Sarver punched Salman repeatedly. The accused fled the scene after locals and the victim's mother intervened, and the police arrived. However, before escaping, Abdullah allegedly threatened to kill Salman and used abusive language. The victim's friend Irfan and his mother Sajeeda Begum filed a police complaint against the four assailants for their unprovoked attack after Salman was shifted to the hospital.

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