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WEATHER

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MIN: 19.2°C
RH: 42%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY
MAX/MIN temp. 29/19°C

Brief Insights

Shinde Sena's Surprise RS Choice Triggers Discontent

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Thursday sprang a surprise by nominating Jyoti Waghmare, an activist from the Ambedkarite movement, as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls. Waghmare is the party spokesperson, who is vocal in taking on the rival Sena UBT leaders in the state. Ms. Waghmare's name was finalised by the party.

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Modi, Macron Call For Dialogue To Solve West Asia Crisis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron on the evolving conflict in West Asia and agreed to coordinate efforts for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region. Modi said he discussed the situation with Macron and stressed the need for dialogue and diplomacy. "Spoke with my friend President Emmanuel Macron today. We discussed our shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy. We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," the Prime Minister posted on X. India and France share close strategic and defence ties.



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Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Vem Narender Reddy file Rajya Sabha nominations From Telangana: P3

Nampally Station Revamp Deadline 2027, Says Kishan reddy: P2



Trump Seeks Role in Selecting Khamenei Successor

Iran Fires Missiles at Israel, US Bases as Middle East War Enters Sixth Day and Spreads Across Region

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Iran launched more missiles at Israel and US bases as the war in the Middle East enters a sixth day. The war has escalated each day, affecting an additional 14 countries across the Middle East and beyond. On Thursday, Azerbaijan accused Iran of attacking it with drones though Tehran denied that. Israel announced multiple incoming attacks early on Thursday and said it was intercepting the missiles. An Iranian state-owned newspaper called Iran reported bombings at a police station and a gym in Tehran as residents shuttled to grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations to buy supplies and fill their tanks. Across the capital, metro stations were less crowded than before the war, although trains continued running. Authorities said they were equipping dozens of subway stations to serve as bomb shelters, as they did during the 12-day war last June. Iran says 4 health workers killed and 11 hos-



Iranian news agency Tasnim and local media reported several explosions heard in Tehran on Thursday morning.

pitals damaged by US-Israeli strikes. Iran has fired more than 500 ballistic and cruise missiles, and 2,000 drones since the start of the conflict. Mobile phone users in Dubai received emergency alert (not sirens ring) warning of potential missile threats. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he needs to be personally involved in selecting Iran's next leader. "Khamenei's son is unacceptable to me. We want someone that will bring harmony and peace to Iran," Trump said.

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

US asked for Ukraine's support against Iranian drones: Zelenskyy

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says he received a request from the United States "for specific support" in dealing with Iran's Shahed attack drones. "I gave instructions to provide the necessary means and ensure the presence of Ukrainian specialists who can guarantee the required security," Zelenskyy wrote on



X. "Ukraine helps partners who help ensure our security and protect the lives of our people." Zelenskyy previously said in his nightly address yesterday that Ukraine remained in daily contact with US officials, including about the war in Iran.

Iran ready to confront US ground invasion: top diplomat

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is prepared to confront a potential US ground invasion, striking a defiant tone as the conflict with Washington and Israel deepens. Asked in a video interview with NBC News on Thursday whether he feared a possible invasion by the United States, Araghchi said Iran was ready.

"No, we are waiting for them," he said, adding that Tehran is confident it could confront US forces and that such a move would become "a big disaster" for Washington. The remarks come after US and Israeli strikes on Iran began on Feb. 28, attacks Iranian authorities say killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and several senior security officials. Despite the escalating conflict, Araghchi said Iran has not requested a



Iran targeted American oil tanker in the Gulf

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Thursday the country's naval forces had attacked an American oil tanker in the Gulf, further escalating the conflict in the wake of US-Israeli attacks on Iran. The Guards' Public Relations Department said in a statement carried by the state news agency IRNA that Iranian naval forces "successfully targeted an American oil tanker in the northern Gulf." No further details were provided and there was no immediate US comment on the Iranian claim. More than 900 people have been killed since the US and Israel launched a joint offensive on Iran on Saturday, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and top military officials. Iran has retaliated with drone and missile strikes targeting Israel as well as Gulf countries that are home to US military assets.

Pratap Shukla Is New Telangana Governor

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi has been appointed West Bengal Governor

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, on Thursday appointed Shiv Pratap Shukla as the Governor of Telangana, replacing Jishnu Dev Varma. Shukla is currently serving as Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Dev Varma has been appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra. He had assumed charge as the Governor of Telangana on July 31, 2024. In other appointments, Nand Kishore Yadav has been



appointed Governor of Nagaland, while Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain has been appointed Governor of Bihar.

R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been appointed Governor of West Bengal. Rajendra Vishwa-

nath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, will discharge the functions of Governor of Tamil Nadu. Kavinder Gupta, Lt Governor of Ladakh, has been appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lt Governor of Delhi, has been appointed Lt Governor of Ladakh. Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been appointed Lt Governor of Delhi. The appointments will take effect from the dates the appointees assume charge of their respective offices.

IAF Sukhoi Su-30MKI Missing in Assam; Search On

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A Su-30 MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force went missing on Thursday shortly after taking off from the Jorhat airbase in Assam, officials said. Communication with the Russian-origin aircraft was lost at 7:42 pm, they said, adding a search and rescue operation has been launched to locate the jet. "An IAF Su-30 MKI is reported overdue. The aircraft had taken off from Jorhat, Assam and was last in contact at 7.42 pm," the



IAF said on social media. "Further details are being ascertained. Search and Rescue mission has been initiated," it said. Su-30MKI is a two-seater multirole long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi. It is now built under licence by HAL for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The IAF operates a fleet of over 260 Su-30MKI jets.

India beat England, set to play the final



India celebrate winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup India & Sri Lanka 2026 Semi-Final match between India and England at Wankhede Stadium on March 05, 2026 in Mumbai, India.

US Senate Republicans Reject Bill to Halt War Against Iran

The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed on a 47-53 vote tally

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Senate Republicans voted down an effort Wednesday to halt President Donald Trump's war against Iran, demonstrating early support for a conflict that has rapidly spread across the Middle East with no clear U.S. exit strategy. The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed on a 47-53 vote tally. The vote fell mostly along party lines, though Republican Sen. Rand

Paul of Kentucky voted in favor and Democratic Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania voted against.

The war powers resolution gave lawmakers an opportunity to demand congressional approval before any further attacks are carried out. The vote forced them to take a stand on a war shaping the fate of U.S. military members, countless other lives and the future of the region. Underscoring the gravity of the moment,



Democratic senators filled the Senate chamber and sat at their desks as the voting got underway. Typically, senators step into the chamber to cast their vote, then leave. "Today every senator — every single one — will

pick a side," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said before the vote. "Do you stand with the American people who are exhausted with forever wars in the Middle East or stand with Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth as they stumble us headfirst into another war?" Sen. John Barrasso, second in Senate Republican leadership, said during the debate that GOP senators were sending a message that Democrats are wrong for forcing a

vote on the war powers resolution. "Democrats would rather obstruct Donald Trump than obliterate Iran's national nuclear program," he added. After launching a surprise attack against Iran on Saturday, Trump has scrambled to win support for a conflict that Americans of all political persuasions were already wary of entering. Trump administration officials have been a frequent presence on Capitol Hill this

week as they try to reassure lawmakers that they have the situation under control. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday that the war could extend eight weeks, a longer time frame than has previously been floated by the Trump administration. He also acknowledged that Iran is still able to carry out missile attacks even as the U.S. tries to control the country's airspace.

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ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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

Telangana Government Launches Ambitious “Prajapalana – Pragati Pranalika” 99-Day Action Plan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a decisive move to bring governance closer to the people, Telangana’s Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seetakka held a high-level video conference with senior officials to roll out the state government’s prestigious “Prajapalana – Pragati Pranalika” 99-day action plan. The initiative, which will run from March 6 to June 12, aims to accelerate rural development, enhance public awareness of welfare schemes, and improve essential services across villages in Telangana. Addressing officials, Minister Seetakka emphasized the importance of timely completion of pending works and the need to make sanitation and greenery drives a celebration in every village under the campaign theme, “Swachchhadanam – Pachchadanam.” She stressed that public engagement through



village meetings should be intensified to ensure awareness of flagship schemes such as Mahalakshmi, Indiramma houses, and the provision of 200 free electricity units for eligible households. Key Directives from the Minister Infrastructure Development: Officials were instructed to ensure seamless progress in CC road construction, Anganwadi buildings, and uninterrupted drinking

water supply through the Mission Bhagiratha program. Women’s Health Initiatives: Plans must be put in place to provide 30 types of medical tests for women, ensuring comprehensive health check-ups at the village level. Effective Monitoring: To ensure real-time tracking of progress, officers were urged to utilize a specially developed mobile app designed for overseeing the 99-day action

plan. High-Level Participation: The video conference saw participation from the top echelons of the Telangana administration, including: Sanjay Kumar, Special Chief Secretary Divya Devarajan, Director of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Krupaakar Reddy, Mission Bhagiratha ENCD District CEOs (ZPP), DPOs, and DRDOs Minister Seetakka set clear targets for each department, emphasizing coordination and active supervision to achieve measurable outcomes. She reiterated that the ultimate goal of the program is to bring governance to the doorstep of citizens and make the 99-day plan a model for participatory administration. The ambitious drive will culminate on June 2, coinciding with Telangana’s State Formation Day celebrations, marking a fitting conclusion to a quarter-century of transformative governance in the state.

Nampally Station Revamp Deadline 2027: Kishan

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union minister for coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy announced that the fully renovated Nampally Railway Station, featuring modern architecture and elevation, will be ready by the end of 2027. The ₹327 crore project currently underway will include a sprawling 6,500 sq ft central hall equipped with a restaurant, food courts and other stalls. Passengers will access platforms or exit the station through two distinct routes from this central hall. After inspecting the civil works at the station, Kishan Reddy stated that the new facility would feature 16 lifts and 8 escalators to help passengers reach platforms effortlessly. Basement 1 and Basement 2 will provide parking for over 150 four-wheelers. The station will



also offer ultra-modern retiring rooms and dormitories, with CCTV coverage for every inch of the premises. Highlighting the Modi government’s investments, Kishan Reddy noted that ₹5,454 crore has been allocated for railway works in the current financial year in the state, compared to just ₹258 crore in 2014. He added that the new Nampally station aligns with Telangana’s brand image and is designed to meet future demands. Currently, it handles only

20,000 passengers daily with just 20 trains. Kishan Reddy further stated that 346 km of new railway lines have already been laid in the state, while upgradation of 513 km—including doubling and tripling—has been completed. Works on doubling the Secunderabad–Mahabubnagar line, tripling the Raghavapuram–Mandamari section, and tripling plus electrification of the Kazipet–Vijayawada route are progressing briskly.

Young Talent Shines This Maha Shivaratri: Baby Sahasra’s Artistic Tribute to Lord Shiva

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of Maha Shivaratri, a remarkable piece of art by Baby Sahasra, a school-going child from Karchal Village, Raikode Mandal, has captured the hearts of the local community. The artwork features a striking depiction of half Lord Shiva and half Goddess Parvati, symbolizing the Ardhanarishvara—the perfect balance of masculine and feminine



energies. The vibrant and meaningful creation reflects not only technical skill but also a deep understanding of spiritual symbolism, making it exceptional for a young art-

ist. Residents and art enthusiasts have lauded Baby Sahasra’s talent, appreciating the creativity and devotion expressed through the painting. “This is truly inspiring,” said a

local teacher. “It’s rare to see such maturity in the artwork of someone so young. Her depiction of Shiva and Parvati is both attractive and profound.” The artwork has been widely shared in the community, especially during the Maha Shivaratri celebrations, and has sparked discussions about nurturing young talent in rural areas. Baby Sahasra’s creation stands as a shining example of how art can bridge devotion, culture, and creativity.

Women Ideathon 1.0 Grand Finale Held at CBIT

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Women Ideathon 1.0 Grand Finale to be Held at CBIT on March 6, 2026. Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), in association with AICTE IDEA Lab and IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) CBIT, is organizing the Grand Finale of Women Ideathon 1.0 on 6th March 2026 at the CBIT D-Block Seminar Hall, Hyderabad. Women Ideathon 1.0 is a flagship innovation challenge designed to empower young women innovators to transform their ideas into impactful, real-world solutions. The event promotes

interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship among women students. The ideathon focuses on five thematic areas, Health & Well-Being, Women, Entrepreneurship & Leadership, Women, Safety & Social Impact, Women, Technology & Innovation, Women, Sustainability & Climate Action. The competition received an overwhelming response with 227 teams participating. Following rigorous evaluation rounds, 70 shortlisted teams advanced in the Semi-Finals held on February 17th and 18th. An online mentoring session was conducted to guide the shortlisted teams in struc-

turing impactful idea-pitch presentations. Prof. Uma Kantha Choudary, I&I Advisor, provided valuable insights on lab-to-market strategies and business planning toward startups during mentoring. The Grand Finale, scheduled for March 6, 2026, will feature the top finalists competing for ₹90,000 in cash prizes, generously sponsored by AICTE IDEA LAB & Whats Next Overseas Education Services. Dr. S. Siva Priyanka, Faculty Coordinator, IEEE WIE CBIT, and Dr. B.V.S. Rao, Faculty Coordinator, AICTE IDEA Lab CBIT, are leading the coordination of the event. The Principal, Dr. C. V. Narasimhulu, appreciated the

efforts of IEEE WIE Club and AICTE IDEA LAB and their dedicated student team members—Sowmya, Hamsini, Vaishnavi, Madhulika, Samhitha, Thanvi Reddy, and Neena Varsha—for their continuous commitment and support in organizing the event. Hosted at CBIT, Women Ideathon 1.0 stands as a testament to the institution’s commitment to nurturing innovation and empowering women innovators. The campus is set to welcome an inspiring gathering of young minds ready to drive social impact and shape the future. CBIT is all set to host the Women Ideathon 1.0 Grand Finale.

Illegal Mining Like ‘KGF’ Near Himayatsagar: BRS

BRS Fact-Finding Team Inspects Alleged Illegal Mining Near Himayatsagar



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A fact-finding committee of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) visited alleged illegal stone-crushing and mining sites near Himayatsagar in Hyderabad and accused the state government of allowing large-scale exploitation of natural resources in the region. The delegation included MLC Dasoju Shrawan Kumar, BRS General Secretary R. S. Praveen Kumar, Rajendranagar party in-charge Patlolla Karthik Reddy, former SC, ST Commission chairman Erolla Srinivas, former corporation chairmen Krishank and

Vasudeva Reddy, former BC Commission members Upendra Chary and K. Kishor Goud, along with BRS leader Abhilash Rangineni. The committee inspected crusher units allegedly operating in survey numbers 66, 67, 68 and 69 around the reservoir area. According to the delegation, the region falls under the restrictions of GO 111, which prohibits mining and polluting industrial activities to protect the drinking water sources of the twin cities. BRS leaders alleged that illegal crusher units were operating without mandatory permissions such as mining lease, quarry permits, environmental clearances, gram pan-

chayat NOC and groundwater approvals. They also claimed that a stone crusher and RMC plant were being run illegally on assigned lands in Manasa Hills under Rajendranagar in the name of Raghava Constructions. The delegation estimated that the government may have incurred a loss of over ₹15 crore due to illegal mining and warned that penalties exceeding ₹150 crore could be imposed under mining rules. BRS leaders demanded an immediate investigation and strict action against those involved, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy of failing to prevent the alleged illegal activities.

Farmers’ Panel Studies Dryland Crops at ICRISAT

The Telangana Farmers Commission led by chairman Kodanda Reddy visited the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics at Patancheru near Hyderabad to study dryland farming practices and crop diversification. The commission members, along with government adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy, examined dryland crops being cultivated at the institute and interacted with scientists during the field visit.

The team reviewed crops that require less water and have shorter growing periods, including sorghum, groundnut, chickpea, red gram and several millet varieties. They also observed the cultivation of a new green fodder crop being developed at the institute. Later, the commission held discussions with scientists on crop diversification, dryland farming, water conservation, sustainable agriculture and measures to enhance farmers’ income. Scientists also explained cultivation methods aimed at reducing pest and disease incidence.

Police Launch CCTV Installation Awareness Campaign in Vatpally Mandal Villages

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The police department in Sangareddy District has launched an awareness campaign to encourage the installation of CCTV cameras in villages across Vatpally Mandal. The initiative was led by Sathaiiah Goud, along with Anil Kumar, Sub-Inspector Lava Kumar, and senior local leader M. Veerareddy, along with village sarpanches and other public representatives. During the campaign, police officials explained the security advantages of installing CCTV cameras at impor-



tant locations within villages. They highlighted how surveillance systems can help prevent crimes, improve monitoring, and assist police in quickly identifying suspects. Newly elected sarpanches and local leaders showed strong interest in installing CCTV cameras in their villages, as well as at their residences and workplaces. Officials noted that this move is particularly

important as incidents of theft and other crimes have been increasing in rural areas. Speaking on the occasion, M. Veerareddy emphasized that CCTV cameras play a vital role in investigating incidents and ensuring swift action against criminals. The awareness program has been conducted across all villages in Vatpally Mandal, with active participation from local authorities and community representatives, reflecting a collective effort to strengthen village security through modern surveillance technology.

One injured as speeding car rams into truck, bursts into flames in Hyderabad

A speeding car created panic on the Bairamalguda flyover in LB Nagar after crashing into a goods vehicle and catching fire on Sunday midnight. No casualties were reported. The incident occurred when the car reportedly travelled at high speed and rammed into the rear of a DCM truck. Following the impact, the vehicle lost control and hit the road divider, triggering a sudden blaze that engulfed the car within minutes. Locals who witnessed the accident immediately alerted the police and the fire department.

Panchayat Executive Key to Rural Development: Training Program for Ward Members Continues

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Effective coordination within the Gram Panchayat executive committee is essential for accelerating rural development and ensuring the successful implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level, said Mandal Praja Parishad Superintendent and In-charge MPDO Gaddam Gnanaprakash Reddy during a training program for ward members in Bommalaram Mandal on Thursday. The third day of the first-phase training program for ward members from 11 Gram Panchayats in Bommalaram Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district was conducted on Thursday as part of efforts to strengthen village-level governance and administrative capacity. Addressing the participants as the chief guest, Gnanaprakash Reddy emphasized that Gram Panchayats play a crucial role in achieving sustainable rural development. He stated that when the Panchayat executive body works in coordination, development ac-



tivities in villages can be implemented more effectively and at a faster pace. He explained that the Panchayati Raj system acts as the foundation for implementing government policies and welfare programs at the village level. Ward members, being the closest representatives of the people, have a significant responsibility in identifying local issues and ensuring that government schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. Highlighting the importance of capacity building, he said such training programs help

strengthen grassroots administration and improve the efficiency of elected representatives. He advised ward members to actively engage in identifying village problems and work collectively to implement development initiatives. “Most government initiatives begin at the grassroots level. Therefore, the efficiency and commitment of the Gram Panchayat executive body are crucial for the successful implementation of development programs,” he added. The training sessions focused on topics such as village governance, implementation of development schemes, and effective resolution of local issues. Participants were provided guidance to help them perform their duties more efficiently and contribute to the development of their respective villages. MPO G. Sreemalini, trainers, Panchayat secretaries, and ward members from various Gram Panchayats attended the program. Organizers stated that the training aims to enhance the capabilities of local representatives and encourage proactive participation in rural development activities.

TGGDA Condemns Suspension of Doctors in Jadcherla Incident

The Telangana Government Doctors Association (TGGDA) has condemned the suspension of doctors in connection with the Jadcherla hospital incident where a dog was seen nibbling at a body in the mortuary. It said the maintenance and management of a hospital mortuary was not responsibility of doctors who were accountable only for conducting postmortem examinations. The management, security and supervision of the mortuary fall under the jurisdiction of designated mortuary supervisors and supporting personnel, the statement by TGGDA state president Dr Narahari, general secretary Dr Lalu Prasad Rathod and treasurer Dr M.K. Raouf said. The association demanded immediate revocation of the suspension orders issued against the Jadcherla doctors. According to TGGDA, the mortuary was located in the old building and was in a dilapidated condition, allowing animals such as dogs and rodents to enter easily. The association believes that similar circumstances led to the present incident.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Vem Narender Reddy file Rajya Sabha nominations From Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi along with Telangana Congress leader Vem Narender Reddy filed their nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha elections from Telangana on Thursday. The nominations were submitted before Election Officer Upendar Reddy in the presence of several Ministers, Members of Parliament (MPs), MLAs and MLCs. Speaking on the occasion, Singhvi expressed gratitude to the party leadership for giving him another opportunity to represent the party in the Upper House. He said he felt fortunate to be entering the Rajya Sabha for



the second time and thanked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and K. C. Venugopal for reposing their trust in him. Singhvi, who is currently serving as a Rajya Sabha member, arrived in Hyderabad on Wednesday evening ahead of filing the nomination papers.

After a series of internal discussions and consultations within the party, the Congress high command finalized the name of Vem Narender Reddy as the second candidate from the state. Narender Reddy also thanked the party leadership for giving him the opportunity to contest the Rajya Sabha elections. He said he would strive to up-

hold the values of the Congress party and work for the welfare and development of the people. According to party sources, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy played a key role in recommending Narender Reddy's candidature and asked him to file the nomination. Earlier in the day, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud formally handed over the B-Forms to both candidates, enabling them to officially contest the Rajya Sabha elections from the state. Several senior Congress leaders and elected representatives were present during the nomination filing process, reflecting the party's strong support for both candidates.

Grand Wedding Celebration of Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's Son

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad witnessed a grand celebration as the son of Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Surya Vikramaditya, tied the knot in a lavish ceremony at the GMR Arena. The wedding drew a large gathering of political dignitaries, family, friends, and well-wishers, creating an atmosphere of joy and festivity. The event saw the presence of prominent leaders including Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who blessed the newlyweds. Telangana's Minister for Medical & Health and Science & Technology, Damarudhar Rajanarsimha, along with his wife, also graced the occasion and extended their heartfelt congratulations. Both leaders wished the couple a married life filled with happiness, harmony, and prosperity. The wedding was marked by traditional rituals per-



formed with grandeur, accompanied by vibrant cultural performances and live music, which added a spectacular charm to the event. Guests were treated to a blend of Telangana's rich cultural heritage and modern celebration styles, making the ceremony a unique experience. Among the attendees were several political figures, business leaders, and social personalities, all of whom extended their blessings and good wishes to the bride and groom. The family warmly welcomed the guests, ensuring a personal and festive environment throughout the day. A special attraction of the

ceremony was the elaborate stage decoration and cultural performances that showcased Telangana's folk arts. Guests enjoyed live music, traditional dances, and ceremonial customs, which created a mesmerizing ambiance and made the wedding a memorable event for all attendees. The event concluded on a high note, leaving the guests impressed by the perfect blend of tradition, culture, and celebration. The newlyweds embarked on their marital journey surrounded by love, blessings, and the support of family and friends.

Truth Wins, Kavitha Begins Tirumala Walk: Panduranga

Kalvakuntla Kavitha Undertakes Tirumala Foot Pilgrimage After Court Relief

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Jagruthi founder president Kalvakuntla Kavitha began a sacred foot pilgrimage from Alipiri Steps to Tirumala on Thursday to fulfil a vow after a court dismissed cases filed against her by central investigation agencies. The pilgrimage comes a day after the Rouse Avenue Court Complex dismissed the cases, which her supporters described as politically motivated. Telangana Jagruthi Rangareddy district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy said the verdict has brought immense happiness among party workers and supporters, who see the judgment as a victory of truth over false allegations. According to him, activists and leaders across the state celebrated the court's decision, stating that the dismissal of the cases has vindicated Kavitha. Following the legal relief, Kavitha commenced the traditional foot journey from Alipiri to Tirumala to seek the



blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The pilgrimage, leaders said, symbolises gratitude for justice and prayers for strength in the future. A grand welcome was organised for Kavitha at the Alipiri steps by Telangana Jagruthi leaders and supporters. Among those who received her were Rangareddy district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy, Kamareddy district president Sampath Goud, Medchal-Malkajigiri president Ramidi Venkat Reddy and Bhadradi Kothagudem district president D. Veeranna. Several other leaders, including Chalasani Vishnu Murthy, Kumari Sivashankar, Prakash, Undela Babu Rao and Srisailam, along with Rangareddy district

activists, participated in the programme. Leaders stated that the court verdict has strengthened Kavitha's position and marked a turning point in her political journey. They added that the foot pilgrimage is also meant to seek divine blessings as she moves forward with plans to shape a new political direction focused on public service. Kavitha, accompanied by a large number of followers, reached Tirumala after completing the Alipiri steps. She is scheduled to have darshan of Lord Venkateswara and perform special pujas on Friday morning. Leaders said the pilgrimage reflects both gratitude for legal victory and hope for the political path ahead.

Khammam CP Asks Sex Workers To Ensure Their Kids Avoid the Profession

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya and district welfare officer D. Padma Anil on Thursday said women who had taken up sex work due to unavoidable circumstances should ensure that the profession does not continue into the next generation. They were speaking at a programme organised to mark International Sex Workers' Rights Day under the Targeted Intervention Project of Sneha



Society for Rural Reconstruction. Addressing the gathering, they said many women entered the profession due to financial and family pressures. However, they advised

that people should not depend entirely on the profession for their livelihood and stressed the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children pursue better opportunities. The officials

said sex workers had specific rights and assured that the police department would protect their safety and rights. They added that the police, SHE Teams and the Bharosa Centre were available to provide assistance. They cautioned that some clients might approach them under the influence of drugs, ganja or other intoxicants and advised them to remain vigilant in such situations. The officials also warned that strict action would be taken against

those who assault or harass sex workers. Among those present were Sneha TI project director S. Siddhaiah, district adult education assistant director A. Purushottam, psychiatrist Dr A. Vikas, DPM Sudhakar, CPO Moeiz Ahmed, Sakhi Centre administrator Bhanupriya, Sneha Society governing body member Tati Veeresham Gupta, project officer (adult education) Venkateswara Rao, Sneha TI project manager Shiva and SSK manager Sravanti.

Gram Sabha and General Body Meeting Conducted at Mator Village

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A Gram Sabha was conducted at Mator Village in Motakondur Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District under the chairmanship of Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu. Following the Gram Sabha, a Panchayat General Body meeting was held with the participation of Panchayat Ward Members. The meeting was attended by the Panchayat Secretary,



IKP Indira Mahila Samakhyia representatives, public representatives, and local leaders. During the meeting, discussions were held on the implementation and successful execution of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Praja Palana Pragati -

99 Days Programme. The members also discussed the Summer Action Plan for drinking water supply in the village to ensure adequate water availability during the upcoming summer season.

92% of Hafeezpet Railway Station Renovation Works Completed

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hafeezpet railway station in Telangana is being upgraded at a cost of over Rs.29.21 crore. Ninety-two per cent of the works were already completed and once renovated, the station will offer modern, state-of-the-art passenger amenities and an improved travel experience. The works that were completed include 12m wide Foot-Over-Bridge with ramp, cover-over-platform, modern toilet, station

building, circulating area and platform resurfacing. The works that were pending include signages, two each lifts and escalator, Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a post on 'X'. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government remained committed to transforming India's railway infrastructure and enhancing connectivity across the nation, he added.

BC Leaders Seek Two Rajya Sabha Seats

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BC leaders have urged the Congress party to allocate at least two Rajya Sabha seats to Backward Classes (BCs) from Telangana, stating that it would ensure social justice and fair political representation. BC Aikya Vedika Telangana State president Bheri Ramachandra Yadav made the demand while speaking to the media. He said the two Rajya Sabha seats that are becoming vacant from Telangana should be allotted to BC leaders. According to him, BCs constitute nearly 56 percent of the country's population but continue to receive less than 15 percent representation in legislative bodies.



Ramachandra Yadav called on senior Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge to ensure justice to BC communities by prioritizing them in the upcoming Rajya Sabha nominations. He also urged Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Telangana PCC president Mahesh Kumar

Goud to take the initiative in recommending BC leaders for the Upper House. He emphasized that the Congress government in the state should select two capable BC leaders for the Rajya Sabha and demonstrate its commitment to social justice. Allocating both seats to BC candidates, he said, would send a strong message about the party's pro-BC stance. Ramachandra Yadav warned that ignoring BC representation in the Rajya Sabha nominations could lead to serious consequences. He reiterated that the Congress leadership must give priority to BC candidates in the list of nominees expected to be announced by the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

RO Water Plant Installed at Chiryal Ramalayam Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ramky Foundation - Serving Communities with Purpose Ramky Foundation, established in 2006 as the CSR arm of the Ramky Group, has been dedicated to sustainable development across India. With initiatives spanning 16 states, the foundation focuses on empowering marginalized communities and promoting self-sufficiency. The foundation actively works in key areas such



as Natural Resource Management, Women Empowerment, Education, Health, and Rural Development. Through its impactful programs, Ramky Foundation has planted more than 6 lakh saplings, organized over 500 medical camps bene-

fitting more than 50,000 people, and introduced innovative healthcare services such as tele-ophthalmology. In collaboration with organizations like NABARD and UNDP, the foundation has implemented Integrated Tribal Devel-

opment Projects and Plastic Waste Recycling Management programs. It also promotes self-reliance through skill development training in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and IT sectors. Continuing its commitment to community welfare, Ramky Foundation has recently installed an RO drinking water plant at Ramalayam Temple in Chiryal, providing safe and clean drinking water to devotees and local residents.

Life Remains Disrupted in Kashmir Amid Protests and Restrictions

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Life across the Kashmir Valley remained severely disrupted for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday as sweeping security restrictions, communication curbs, and heightened deployments continued in response to widespread protests over the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in joint U.S.-Israel airstrikes. The Valley, along with parts of Jammu and Ladakh—particularly the Shia-majority Kargil district—had witnessed massive anti-America and anti-Israel demonstrations on Sunday, prompting authorities to impose stringent measures in vast Valley areas even though the initial protests were largely peaceful. The administration announced that precaution-

ary restrictions would remain in force across all districts of Kashmir on Friday as well, citing fresh protests reported from several areas. Officials said the decision was aimed at preventing any escalation and ensuring that the situation remained under control. According to senior officers, the overall atmosphere on Thursday was comparatively calm, but the risk of renewed gatherings—especially after Friday prayers—necessitated continued curbs. Security forces, including J&K Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel, maintained a heavy presence across the Valley. Concertina wires, barricades, and checkpoints were placed at key intersections, while Srinagar's city centre, Lal Chowk, remained sealed off for the fifth day. The



iconic Ghanta Ghar area was declared a no-go zone after thousands had gathered there on Sunday to mourn Khamenei's death. This marked the first time since August 2019 that such large-scale protests had taken place in the heart of the city. In several Shia-dominated localities, authorities enforced stricter movement controls to prevent processions or marches toward central Srinagar.

Communication restrictions remained a central component of the government's response. Internet services continued to be suspended or throttled, with mobile data restricted to 2G speeds. Pre-paid mobile services—including outgoing calls, data, and SMS—faced intermittent shutdowns. Officials described these measures as essential to curb the spread of rumours and

prevent mobilisation through social media. The administration stated that decisions on restoring services would depend on ground assessments in the coming days. Educational institutions across Kashmir—including schools, colleges, and universities—remained closed, with examinations postponed. Shops and business establishments in many areas stayed shuttered due to both restrictions and public apprehension. Reports from parts of Baramulla and Bandipora indicated sporadic clashes earlier in the week, including stone-pelting incidents that left several people, including a police officer, injured. Security forces used tear gas and batons to disperse crowds when protests turned confrontational. Dozens of protesters were detained.

India, Finland Bilateral Meet Discusses Skill Development, Entrepreneurship

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India and Finland on Thursday discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation in the areas of skill development, vocational education and workforce mobility here. The meeting came a day after Finnish President Stubb began a four-day visit to India on Wednesday with an aim to shore up bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade, investment and critical technology. The bilateral meeting between minister for skill development and entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary and Finland's minister of employment Matias Martinen reflected on the growing convergence between the two countries in building resilient and future-ready talent eco-



systems. "Both ministers discussed opportunities to deepen collaboration between institutions, industry and training systems in order to enhance vocational education and create pathways for skilled workforce mobility," an official statement said. "India's demographic strength and Finland's technological and vocational excellence create a natural partnership in the domain of skills. Our discussion focused on building practical bridges between training ecosystems, strengthening institutional cooperation and

creating pathways for skilled youth to access global opportunities while maintaining high standards of training and mobility," Chaudhary stated. "Finland values its growing partnership with India in the field of vocational education and workforce development. We deeply appreciate the contribution of highly-skilled Indian professionals who are working across different sectors and strengthening our workforce. "India's strong skilling ecosystem and its young talent present significant opportunities for further collaboration. By strengthening cooperation between our institutions and industries, we can address workforce challenges while promoting innovation, skills development and sustainable economic growth," Martinen said.

Raut Advised To 'Call Trump' Over US-Iran Conflict

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Shiv Sena minister Sanjay Shirsat on Monday mocked Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut asking the latter to directly take up his concerns with US President Donald Trump over the ongoing conflict involving Iran. Shirsat alleged that Raut has been assigned the task of defaming PM Modi. "Our PM is strong. Raut should keep out of international issues. Or he should call US President Trump and Israeli PM Netanyahu in connection with the war," Shirsat said in Chhatrapati

Sambhajanagar. Earlier, Raut had criticised the BJP-led central government's handling of the situation triggered by the US-Israel attack on Iran, questioning its implications for India's foreign policy and urging a clearer stance. He termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel last week as a "jolt to India's global policy" and dubbed Khamenei's killing as cruelty and bullying by Israel and the US. The Rajya Sabha MP also urged Modi to intervene in the Iran-Israel conflict and call for an end to the war. He criticised the gov-

ernment's silence over the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whom he described as a 'true friend' of India. "When such a leader is assassinated, India's Prime Minister and President should express grief. Who are they afraid of, Israel or President Trump?" Raut asked. "Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, was a personality respected across the world, except Israel. He was a true friend of India and there has been a traditional friendship between the two countries. In times of crisis, whether

during India-Pakistan wars or on the Kashmir issue, Iran always stood with India... When such a leader is assassinated, India should officially express grief," he added. Raut's comments come following a joint missile strike by Israel and the United States on Iran on February 28, known as Operation Roaring Lion/Operation Epic Fury. Both US President Donald Trump and Iranian state media have confirmed that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the strikes, along with his daughter, grandchild, daughter-in-law.

India Offers Condolences After Khamenei Killing

SRINAGAR
Wakeup telangana

India on Thursday broke its silence on the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with foreign secretary Vikram Misri visiting the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi and signing the condolence book in memory of the slain leader. Misri also met Iranian ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali during the visit. "The foreign secretary on behalf of the Government of India signed the condolence book at the embassy of Iran today," the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said.



External affairs minister S. Jaishankar also held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi to discuss the ongoing military conflict in West Asia. The developments came shortly after reports that a US submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean south of Sri

Lanka, in which more than 80 Iranian sailors were killed while over 30 others were rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy. According to reports, the warship had recently participated in the International Fleet Review hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam last month. Speaking to reporters in

the capital, the Iranian envoy accused the US of triggering the conflict by attacking Iran and ending ongoing negotiations. "Iran demonstrated sincerity in talks. But the US started the war. The duration of the war is in Iran's hands. Finishing and ending the war is in our hands," Fathali said. Responding to questions on alleged Iranian attacks on Arab Gulf countries, he denied the charge and said Iran had informed neighbouring countries that it would target only US military bases in the region. "We attacked only the US bases," he said.

Maha Govt. Assures Push for 'Bharat Ratna' for Savarkar

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra government on Thursday assured the legislative assembly that it would take up with the Centre the demand to confer the Bharat Ratna posthumously on freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar has moved a private member resolution in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly seeking 'Bharat Ratna' for Savarkar. The resolution highlighted Savarkar's "fiery ideology of patriotism" and described him as a "perpetual source of inspiration for revolutionaries". It cited his imprisonment in the Cellular Jail (Kala Pani) and his lifelong struggle for India's independence as key grounds for the honour. Speaking in support of the resolution, Mr. Mungantiwar said leaders across parties, including former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had acknowledged Savarkar's contribution to



the freedom movement. He noted that a postal stamp was issued in Savarkar's honour in 1970. The BJP leader also said Savarkar made significant contributions to social reform and the Marathi language, including popularising several Marathi terms that replaced English words. Replying to the resolution, Maharashtra Protocol Minister Jaykumar Rawal said the government would take the necessary steps to recommend Savarkar's name to the Union government for the country's highest civilian honour. "Savarkar was a great revolution-

ary, poet, thinker and social reformer who dedicated his life to India's freedom struggle," Mr. Rawal said. Mr. Rawal added that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier written to the Centre seeking the Bharat Ratna for Savarkar. "Considering the sentiments of people in Maharashtra and across the country, the state government will formally follow up the request with the Centre," he said. Following the government's assurance that the demand would be taken up with the Centre, Mr. Mungantiwar withdrew the resolution.

Iran Pounds US.....

"I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delcy in Venezuela," Trump said. The Israeli military said it began new strikes against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. The war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 100 in Lebanon and around a dozen in Israel, according to officials in those countries. Six US troops have been killed. Fewer commercial flights were cancelled Thursday in the Middle East despite continued military strikes, with more than 100 flights taking off from the United Arab Emirates, according to a specialist data firm. Another 60 flights left Oman's capital Muscat. However, no flights left the airports in Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar. Cirium said that the 43.1 percent of flights across the region were cancelled on Thursday. That is down from 61 percent on Wednesday, and more than 65 percent between Sunday and Tuesday. More tankers came under attack in Gulf waters on Thursday. A Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker was targeted by an Iranian remote-controlled boat laden with explosives while anchored near Iraq's Khor al Zubair port, according to initial assessments. A second tanker at anchor off Kuwait was taking on water and spilling oil after a large explosion on its port side. Nine vessels have come under attack since the conflict broke out between the US, Israel and Iran on Saturday. Iran launched a

wave of missiles at Israel early on Thursday and also sent drones into Azerbaijan, injuring four people. The escalation comes after a motion to halt the US attacks was blocked in Washington and as the son of Iran's slain supreme leader emerged as a frontrunner to succeed him, suggesting Tehran was not about to buckle under the pressure. Around 200 ships, including oil and liquefied natural gas tankers as well as cargo ships, remained at anchor in open waters off the coast of major Gulf producers, according to estimates based on ship-tracking data from the MarineTraffic platform. Hundreds of other vessels remained outside the Strait of Hormuz unable to reach ports, shipping data showed. The waterway is a key artery for around a fifth of the world's oil and LNG supply. Sri Lanka evacuated 208 crew members of an Iranian navy vessel on Thursday, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said, a day after a US submarine struck and sank another Iranian frigate. He said Sri Lanka's navy will also take over the second vessel and shift it to the northeastern port of Trincomalee for safe keeping amid fears that could be target for attack.

US Senate..... Rohit Pawar..... U.S. service members "remain in harm's way, and we must be clear-eyed that the risk is still high," Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the same press conference. Six U.S. military members were killed over the weekend in a drone strike in Kuwait. Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa acknowledged the human costs of the war in her floor speech. Two of the soldiers killed Sunday were from Iowa and a National Guard unit from her state was also attacked in Syria in December, resulting in the deaths of two other soldiers. "But now is our opportunity to bring an end to the decades of chaos," said Ernst, who herself served as an officer in the Iowa National Guard for two decades. "The sooner the better," she added. Trump has also not ruled out deploying U.S. ground troops. He has said he is hoping to end the bombing campaign within a few weeks, but his goals for the war have shifted from regime change to stopping Iran from developing nuclear capabilities to crippling its navy and missile programs. "We should be careful about opening a door into chaos in the Middle East when we cannot see the other side of it," Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware said in a solemn floor speech after the vote concluded. He said he was praying for "grace to find a path forward together where more do not needlessly join those who have already fallen in this new war in the Middle East."

party's base in socially backward classes. She hails from Solapur in western Maharashtra and is known as a prominent Scheduled Caste (SC) leader. Ms. Waghmare is seen as an active face of the Ambekarite movement in Solapur. She holds a PhD in English literature and is proficient in Marathi, Hindi, English, Telugu and Kannada languages. Her father, Nagnath Waghmare, was associated with the Dalit Panther movement in Maharashtra and later served as a corporator in the Solapur Municipal Corporation. She resigned her professorship in Solapur to enter active politics. After joining the Shinde-led Sena in April 2023, she quickly emerged as one of the party's prominent faces, strongly representing the party in television debates and public forums. She has also addressed the party's Dussehra rallies and is known for her sharp attacks on leaders of the Uddhav-led Sena (UBT), including Aaditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut and Sushma Andhare. Eknath Shinde said that by nominating Ms. Waghmare as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha, the party has sent a message to its workers that hard work does not go unrecognised. "A message goes among the workers that the party takes note of hardworking people. This is a party of common workers. Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb and Dharmaveer Anand Dighe raised common workers and we are moving forward with the same thought.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

HC orders fresh disability review in Singareni cases

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court observed that serious and identifiable medical conditions such as amputation, stroke-related paralysis, spinal injuries, or irreversible vision loss cannot be casually classified as “general physical debility” to deny dependent employment benefits to workers under the National Coal Wage Agreement VI. The panel, comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin, delivered a common judgment in a large batch of writ appeals filed by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). The appeals challenged the order of a single judge directing reconsideration of the

medical categorisation of employees seeking dependent employment under Clause 9.4.0 of the wage agreement. The dispute arose after a medical board at Gandhi Medical College and Hospital examined 127 employees and categorised only six as suffering from permanent disability, while placing the remaining workers under “general physical debility,” thereby restricting their eligibility

for dependent employment. While examining the appeals, the court observed that the wage agreement clearly distinguishes between permanent disability caused by injury or disease and generalised physical weakness. It noted that several cases involved grave disabilities such as amputation, stroke with hemiparesis, cervical spinal injury with quadriplegia, and irreversible optic nerve damage. According

to the court, such conditions cannot ordinarily be treated as mere general debility. Mechanical categorisation under Clause 9.4.0(ii) would defeat the purpose of the welfare scheme meant to provide social security to mine workers. The bench emphasised that although courts generally defer to expert medical opinions, such opinions are not immune from judicial scrutiny when the classification appears arbitrary or lacks reasoning. It also clarified that the responsibility for categorising employees under Clause 9.4.0(i) or (ii) ultimately lies with the employer, while the medical board only provides medical opinion regarding the nature and extent of disability.

MCC Case: HC Reserves Orders on Uttam's Plea

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Thursday reserved orders on four criminal petitions filed by N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, irrigation minister, seeking quashing of cases registered against him during the 2019 Huzurnagar Assembly bypoll 2019 for alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct. Justice K. Sujana reserved orders after hearing arguments from the public prosecutor and counsel representing the petitioner. The cases arise from four crimes registered against

Uttam Kumar Reddy and other leaders of the Indian National Congress during the bypoll campaign. In all four cases, Uttam Kumar Reddy was arrayed as accused No. 1 along with other party workers. Police alleged that the petitioner and other Congress leaders conducted roadshows and public meetings without obtaining prior permission and, in some instances, continued campaigning beyond the permitted time during the bypoll campaign in support of Padmavathi Uttam Kumar Reddy, the minister's wife.

Chain-Snatching: CCTV Visuals Help Police Arrest Two

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two persons have been arrested after they snatched the gold chain of a 65-year-old woman at her residence in Hanumanpet. According to Malkajgiri police, the two were Naggari Kiran and Naggari Pavani. The duo, along with a child, approached the house of Mahankali Lakshmitantam on March 4, posing as job-seekers and enquired if any domestic work was available. When they were told that there was no work, the woman asked for some drinking water for the child. As Lakshmitantam walked towards the refrigerator to

fetch water, the male associate came from behind, gagged her and snatched a gold chain weighing about two tolas from her neck and ran away. Following a complaint from the victim's daughter, the police registered a case and launched an investigation. Officials examined CCTV footage from surrounding areas and noticed a suspicious Honda Activa moving near the locality around the time of the offence. Based on the footage and technical clues, police traced the suspects to the Musheerabad area and arrested them. During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the crime.

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

The Langar House Police Station has registered a criminal case and apprehended the accused, Arif Khan, for allegedly using a forged registration plate on his vehicle. According to officials, the legitimate owner of a Honda Activa bearing registration number TS13EX3358 approached the traffic police after receiving illegal traffic challans against his vehicle. During the investigation, authorities found that the accused had replaced his vehicle's original registration number with TS13EX3358 to mislead authorities.

Cybercriminals Cheat Victims of Rs.88 Lakh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have registered multiple cases after victims were cheated by fraudsters on the pretext of trading and online job offers. In the first case, a 79-year-old businessman was duped of ₹55 lakh after being introduced to one Anish Mathew by Aarvi Reddy on social media. Mathew sent the victim a link to download an app and persuaded him to transfer funds for trading. The victim was also asked to recruit new customers with a promise of 30 per cent commission. When he demanded his money back, the accused switched off their phones.

In another case, a 49-year-old private school teacher was lured by a WhatsApp message from Preeti Sharma, who offered high-paying work promoting products online. After attending training sessions, the victim was asked to pay for registrations and clearances. She eventually lost ₹5 lakh before the accused stopped responding. A third case involved a 36-year-old private employee who was added to a WhatsApp group called 5 Nifty Core Capital Group. A man identifying himself as Vijay Lodha promised returns of up to 500 per cent within three months through Indian and US stock trading. The victim transferred ₹8.5 lakh and was cheated.

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

A man was booked for allegedly procuring and storing teak timber illegally in his house at Chintapalli village in Jannaram mandal on Friday. Timber worth over Rs.24,000 was seized from his possession. Jannaram Forest Range Officer Sushma Rao, in a statement, said a case was registered against Muthyram Venkanna from the village for procuring and storing the teak timber at his house. Venkanna was found to have stored the timber logs during a surprise raid conducted by the Forest officials, following a tip-off. The timber was shifted to the office of Jannaram FRO for further inquiry and legal action.

HC flags residence verification

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court directed authorities to conduct fresh verification of residence in a dispute concerning appointment to the post of Anganwadi helper in Wanaparthy district. The direction came in a writ petition filed by S. Janaki, who challenged the decision of authorities not to consider her candidature for the Angan-

wadi helper post in Manajipet village of Quila Ghanpur mandal, and instead appoint G. Janaki. The petitioner stated that she secured 354 marks in the selection process and belongs to the Scheduled Caste community. However, her candidature was rejected on the ground that she was not residing in the village during field verification by officials. She contended that she had delivered her third child on

March 23, 2018, and was temporarily away from the village when the verification was conducted. She also alleged that some individuals whose statements were used to conclude that she was not residing in the village were themselves not residents of Manajipet. The court noted that the respondents' counter-affidavit did not specifically deny this allegation. Observing that the issue concerned

verification of residence, the court directed authorities to conduct fresh verification. It further ordered that if the petitioner is found to have been residing in Manajipet at the relevant time, authorities must take steps to appoint the more meritorious candidate by setting aside the appointment of the fifth respondent. The entire process must be completed within three months.

EDITORIAL

SAFETY FIRST FOR MAKE IN INDIA

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Two devastating industrial explosions within two days — February 28 and March 1 — in two of India's most industrially advanced States have once again exposed the alarming gaps in safety regulation governing hazardous manufacturing units. The twin tragedies, which together claimed more than 40 lives, underline a persistent pattern of negligence, weak enforcement and systemic complacency in industries dealing with explosive and chemical materials. The first incident occurred at the Suryashree Fire Works factory in Vetlapalem, Andhra Pradesh, where a powerful blast reportedly took place while workers were manually mixing chemicals used in fireworks production. Such processes, known to be highly volatile, demand strict adherence to safety standards, specialised equipment and trained personnel. Preliminary reports suggest that basic precautions may not have been adequately followed, raising serious questions about monitoring mechanisms and compliance checks. Barely a day later, another deadly explosion struck the SBL Energy Limited facility at Raulgaon in Maharashtra's Nagpur district. The company manufactures mining and industrial explosives, making it a high-risk operation requiring rigorous oversight. While the exact cause of the blast is yet to be determined, the recurrence of such

accidents points less to coincidence and more to deep-rooted structural failures in safety governance across the sector. Data from the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) paints a disturbing picture. Between 2017 and 2020, industrial accidents resulted in an average of three deaths and eleven injuries every single day across the country. The situation appears to have worsened in recent years, with over 250 major explosions reported between 2023 and 2025. States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana — home to a large concentration of chemical and explosive manufacturing units — account for a significant share of these incidents. Investigations into previous explosions reveal recurring causes that are both predictable and preventable. Manual mixing of hazardous chemicals remains common despite safer automated alternatives. The use of cheap and highly reactive aluminium powder increases volatility, while poorly ventilated workspaces allow combustible dust to accumulate, turning factories into potential death traps. Compounding these risks are inadequately trained workers and the illegal storage of explosive materials beyond permissible limits, often driven by cost-cutting measures or production pressures. What makes these tragedies particularly distressing is that most of the triggers are well

known to regulators and manufacturers alike. Lives could have been saved if due safety processes were strictly implemented or if regulatory authorities had conducted frequent and meaningful inspections. Instead, the familiar cycle repeats itself: outrage follows an accident, governments announce compensation for victims, inquiries are ordered, and public attention gradually fades without structural reform. The consequences extend beyond immediate loss of life. Unsafe working conditions contribute to a growing perception that manufacturing jobs are dangerous and undesirable compared to employment in the service sector. This perception undermines India's broader economic ambitions. Initiatives aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing and creating large-scale employment cannot succeed if workers fear for their safety. For India's manufacturing sector to truly thrive, safety must become a non-negotiable priority rather than an afterthought. Stronger enforcement of regulations, adoption of modern safety technologies, mandatory worker training, and strict penalties for violations are essential. Without transforming factory floors into secure workplaces, policy slogans and investment drives alone will not attract skilled talent or sustain industrial growth. The recent explosions serve as a tragic reminder that economic progress cannot come at the cost of human lives.



Amazon Cuts More Jobs; This Time in Robotics Unit

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Amazon has laid off at least 100 white-collar employees from its robotics division as the company continues a broader restructuring aimed at improving efficiency and expanding the use of artificial intelligence across its operations. According to people familiar with the matter, the job cuts took place on Tuesday and affected staff responsible for designing warehouse automation systems, including robots and other conveyance technologies used in fulfillment centers.

The layoffs were first reported by Business Insider. In a statement, Amazon confirmed the workforce reduction but did not disclose the exact number of employees af-



ected. "We regularly review our organizations to make sure teams are best set up to innovate and deliver for our customers," the company said, indicating that such changes are part of ongoing operational adjustments. The robotics division plays a crucial role in developing automated solutions that support Amazon's massive logistics network. These technologies are designed to improve warehouse efficiency, speed up order process-

ing, and reduce physical strain on workers.

However, the latest cuts suggest the company is restructuring even its advanced technology units as it focuses on cost control and strategic priorities. The layoffs come only months after Amazon implemented a much larger round of job reductions in January, when about 16,000 positions were eliminated across several divisions. At that time, the company indicated that additional

workforce adjustments could occur as it continued to streamline operations. The robotics layoffs also follow Amazon's decision earlier this year to halt development of a warehouse robotic system known as Blue Jay.

The prototype, unveiled at an October event, featured multiple robotic arms capable of grabbing several items simultaneously. It was designed to assist workers in tight warehouse spaces and improve item handling efficiency. The project's cancellation reflects a shift in Amazon's automation strategy. Amazon has been gradually reducing its corporate workforce since October, when it began cutting around 14,000 white-collar roles. Combined with the January layoffs and other

smaller reductions over the past year, the company has trimmed roughly 30,000 corporate positions. Executives have linked many of these job cuts to efficiency gains driven by artificial intelligence and broader efforts to reshape internal processes and company culture.

The layoffs represent nearly 10 percent of Amazon's white-collar workforce. Despite these reductions, Amazon remains one of the world's largest employers with approximately 1.5 million workers globally. Most of those employees are hourly staff working in fulfillment centers, where robotics and automation technologies continue to play an increasingly important role in daily operations.

Rupee Recovers 55 Paise on RBI Intervention

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee on Thursday reclaimed most of the losses it made a day earlier, appreciating by 55 paise to close at 91.60, supported by suspected central bank intervention and a recovery in the equity market. According to forex traders, the RBI intervened heavily before 9 a.m. to ensure that the rupee opened at the 91.56 level in the spot market and continued to intervene throughout the day to prevent any sharp deceleration. Market participants remained defensive, with importer demand for dollars persisting through the session.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 91.56 to a dollar and traded within an intraday range of ₹91.40-₹91.6425 per dol-

lar before ending the session at 91.60. On Wednesday, the rupee had weakened past 92 per dollar for the first time, driven by a sharp rise in crude oil prices and a broader shortage of dollar liquidity in global markets amid the escalating conflict involving Iran, the US and Israel.

Experts said that the key variable to monitor now is the status of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for global oil shipments. The longer disruptions persist, the higher oil prices are likely to move, which in turn could push USD-INR further upward. An extended crisis would weaken India's macroeconomic outlook through elevated imported inflation, widen the current account deficit, increase the burden of external debt servicing, and amplify the impact of higher energy costs and lower GDP

growth. Brent crude has risen more than 13 per cent since the war broke out over the weekend.

Traders said there were sufficient dollar buyers who kept the rupee near the 91.63 level, but the RBI remained firm and did not allow any upward move. The dollar index was above 99 and oil prices also crossed \$84, yet the rupee remained largely unmoved. Premiums fell to 2.46 per cent in the one-month segment and 2.70 per cent in the one-year segment on heavy receiving by the RBI after it sold dollars during the day. The RBI also intervened in the bond market, bringing the 10-year yield below 6.65 per cent. "The rupee is expected to trade in the range of 91.25 to 91.75 tomorrow, which is the last trading day of the week," said a trader.

Aon Study: Systemic Barriers Limit Women's Progress to Senior Leadership Roles

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Aon plc, a leading global professional services firm, today released findings from its study, Gender and Leadership at India Inc, revealing that the leadership gap in corporate India is driven less by women's ambition and more by how leadership opportunities are structured and allocated. Based on a survey of 1,500 leaders, including over 400 women across

over 30 cities in India, the study provides a comprehensive view at how women and men progress through the leadership pipeline and identifies the structural barriers that limit women's advancement to senior roles.

Comparable ambition, different outcomes. The research shows that women and men demonstrate comparable levels of ambition and similar core career drivers, such as purpose, growth and leadership culture. Ho-

wever, when the data is segmented by age, differences are revealed, with seniority emerging as a particularly significant factor. Men aged 50+ in leadership roles are most likely to have built their careers within a single organisation, supported by systems that provide clearer career paths, equitable promotion processes and access to high-impact roles. By contrast, women aged 50+ in leadership roles are more likely to have

AON

advanced by moving between organisations, relying on a mix of internal and external opportunities.

The study found that by age 50, only 20 percent of women advanced within the same organisation, compared with 49 percent of men. Women also reported a higher number of total career transitions than men

(4.13 versus 3.17). As women's careers start out, they rely on clarity and fairness but as formal advancement pathways and processes become less accessible for them, they increasingly rely on supportive managers and organisational culture.

Limited access to critical core and commercial experience. A key driver of women's under-representation in senior leadership roles is limited access to key core and commercial roles that ac-

celerate readiness for top positions. Nearly half (49 percent) of women leaders work in enabling functions, compared with 37 percent of men, while men are more likely to hold core business and revenue-generating roles. Among leaders under 35, 38 percent of women are in enabling roles compared with 22 percent of men, a 16-point gap. While this gap narrows later in careers, the findings suggest that many women who eventually

reach senior levels have had to move out of enabling functions and into more core roles over time.

The sharpest experience gaps are in P&L responsibility and sales roles, widely regarded as stepping stones to senior leadership. The study found that 68 percent of women, versus 91 percent of men, have P&L experience, and just 45 percent of women have held sales roles, versus 90 percent of men. "The

data suggests that India does not have a shortage of capable women; it has a leadership design issue," said Nitin Sethi, head of Talent Solutions, India for Aon. "Organisations cannot expect different outcomes if the most impactful P&L and high-stakes roles continue to be filled using existing practices. If businesses are serious about sustainable growth, they need to make the placement of women in these core roles.

Study Says Safer Nicotine Alternatives Reduce Smoking Rates Globally

• **Smoking Declines And Public Health Improves In Countries Where Safer Nicotine Alternatives Are Allowed" Tholos Foundation Study.**

• **Moking drops to 30% and 5.6% in Japan and Sweden respectively; while India lacks independent scientific evaluation and continues to restrict consumer choice.**

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

An international white paper released by the Tholos Foundation states that countries allowing scientifically validated, safer nicotine alternatives are experiencing faster declines in smoking rates and improved public health outcomes. The report titled "Safer Nicotine Works" highlights how regulated access to less harmful nicotine products has helped several countries significantly reduce smoking prevalence.

According to the report, nations such as Japan and Sweden have achieved major reductions in smoking through consumer adoption of alternatives like heated tobacco products, snus, and nicotine pouches. In Japan, male smoking rates dropped below 30



percent in 2020 for the first time after tobacco-heating systems were introduced in 2016. The shift contributed to a 32 percent reduction in smoking within five years, reversing a period of stagnation.

Similarly, Sweden's smoking prevalence fell to 5.6 percent in 2023, placing the country close to achieving smoke-free status. The decline was largely driven by the growing use of snus and nicotine pouches, which entered the market around 2016 and gained

widespread acceptance among adult smokers seeking alternatives to conventional cigarettes.

The report emphasizes that these reductions occurred without banning cigarettes. Instead, governments allowed adult smokers access to regulated alternatives backed by scientific research showing they pose significantly lower health risks than combustible tobacco.

In contrast, the study notes that the public health potential of harm reduction strategies re-

mains largely unexplored in India. The country imposed a nationwide ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) in 2019, which also effectively restricted heated tobacco products despite them being different categories. According to the report, the decision was taken without extensive independent scientific evaluation within India.

The white paper further states that India has yet to fully consider growing global evidence from countries including the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, and France where regulated alternatives are part of broader tobacco-control strategies. As a result, adult smokers in India currently lack access to regulated, science-based alternatives that could potentially reduce harm. Commenting on the

findings, Lorenzo Montanari, Vice President of the Tholos Foundation, said safer nicotine products are already helping reduce smoking globally. He noted that the experiences of Sweden and Japan show that when safer options are available, many smokers voluntarily switch to them.

The report concludes that with India facing one of the world's highest burdens of tobacco-related disease, revisiting the blanket ban on reduced-risk nicotine products could open new avenues for public health improvement. It suggests that a science-based regulatory framework—one that protects youth while allowing adult smokers access to safer alternatives—could help reduce smoking-related harm and align India with evolving global tobacco control practices.

With Tensions On, Summer Travel Bookings to The West, Middle East Drop 90 Pc

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

While Iran tensions have hit Middle East travel almost 90 per cent, people are avoiding travel to the US, Europe and other parts of the western world as well. The summer travel bookings to the West and the Middle East have almost stopped, while travellers are increasingly choosing Eastern countries. Almost 95 per cent of flights have been cancelled to and from the Middle East since the Iran crisis started. However, slowly some of the airlines have started operating a few flights, but still around 85 per cent flights remain cancelled.

"Travel to not just the Middle East, but the US, Europe and in general the countries towards the West are affected. Flights are



getting cancelled, but people are neither cancelling nor booking to these regions," said Rikant Pitti, co-founder of EaseMyTrip. EaseMyTrip has been arranging multiple charter flights from UAE and Oman and bringing thousands of Indians back home and arranging free bus transfer from Bahrain to Riyadh/Dammam.

With the situation remaining tense, he expects travel to the West and Middle East to remain affected during the summer. "Summer travel bookings to the West and Middle East are down by 90 per cent. No bookings are happening to these regions. Many, who had

planned leisure travel during the summer, are choosing destinations like Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, Singapore and Australia. Even the travel costs to the West have gone up as flights have to take a longer route due to the closure of airspace of Pakistan and Iran.

"Travel bookings for summer in general are down by around 50 per cent. But people are not cancelling in the hope of peace returning soon. Bookings to safer places like Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines are happening," said Iqbal Mulla, president, Global Tourism Council.

Disha Patani to Have Better Screen Time in Kalki 2?

Disha Patani, who faced criticism for her brief appearance in the sci-fi epic Kalki 2898 AD, is expected to have a more prominent role in its upcoming sequel. The actress recently revealed that she will have significantly more screen time in the second installment, which is currently being filmed at a brisk pace. Speaking in a recent interview, Disha shared that her character in the sequel will be more dialogue-driven and closely connected to the main narrative. "In the first part, I had a song. But in the sequel, I have mostly talkie portions with key actors," she said, hinting at a stronger presence in the storyline.

The first film, directed by Nag Ashwin, featured a star-studded cast including Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan. While the



film was widely appreciated for its grand visuals and ambitious storytelling, Disha's appearance turned out to be far smaller than what many viewers had expected. In the first installment, the actress appeared only in the promotional song "Ta Takkara," and was largely absent from the main plot. This surprised audiences, especially since many assumed she would have at least a supporting role in the narrative. The limited screen pres-

ence led to disappointment among sections of the audience following the film's theatrical release. Soon after the movie hit theatres, Disha faced heavy trolling on social media. Her cameo in the song did not receive much appreciation, and several online users turned her brief role into a recurring joke across digital platforms. However, expectations are now rising for the sequel, which is expected to delve deeper into the film's

futuristic world and expand the arcs of several characters. Reports suggest the next installment will feature a stronger storyline and more elaborate character development.

The sequel will once again feature major stars such as Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, along with new additions including Sai Pallavi. With a bigger role promised this time, Disha hopes to make a stronger impression in the highly anticipated follow-up to Kalki 2898 AD. Interestingly, Disha joins several Bollywood actresses — including Priyanka Chopra, Janhvi Kapoor, Nora Fatehi and Mrunal Thakur — who have successfully expanded their presence in Telugu cinema, reflecting the growing collaboration between Bollywood and Tollywood.

Venkatesh to woo Keerthy in his next?

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

If industry buzz is anything to go by, Keerthy Suresh may soon share screen space with Venkatesh in Anil Ravipudi's upcoming entertainer, tentatively planned for a Sankranti 2027 release. "Talks are on but nothing is fixed yet," says a source.

This film is the fifth collaboration between Venkatesh and Anil Ravipudi, who have previously delivered hits like F2 and Sankranthiki Vasthanam. The film promises to be a major box office draw, featuring an ensemble cast, including Kalyan Ram as the second lead. Venkatesh is currently busy with Trivikram's Aadarsha Kutumbam House No 47, while Keerthy Suresh was last seen in Baby John alongside Varun



Dhawan. The Venkatesh-Anil Ravipudi duo is known for their winning formula, and this film is expected to follow suit. With Keerthy Suresh on board, the film is shaping up to be an exciting project. No official announcement has been made yet, but fans are eagerly awaiting confirmation.

The film's success is highly anticipated, given

the star-studded cast and proven director actor combination. Venkatesh has romanced Tammanah in F2 and two girls Aishwarya Rajesh and Meenakshi Choudury in Sankranthiki Vasthanam and would be working with another talented actress in his upcoming film, if everything falls in place.

Dhurandhar 2 and Ustaad Bhagat Singh Set to Clash



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The makers of Dhurandhar 2 have confirmed that the highly anticipated film starring Ranveer Singh will release as scheduled on March 19, 2026, putting an end to speculation about a possible delay.

Rumors had surfaced that the film's release might be postponed due to escalating tensions in parts of the Middle East, including Dubai and Kuwait. The speculation gained

traction after the release of Toxic, starring Yash, was shifted from its earlier Ugadi release plan on March 19 to June 4 to ensure better global reach.

However, the team behind Dhurandhar 2 has decided to move forward with the originally planned date. Adding excitement to the box-office battle, Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film Ustaad Bhagat Singh has also entered the Ugadi race. The film, which was earlier scheduled for release on March 26, will now hit theatres a week

earlier. Announcing the change on social media, the makers stated: "This Ugadi, Ustaad will dominate."

Our USTAAD arrives a week early to spark massive celebrations at the box office. Ustaad Bhagat Singh grand release worldwide on March 19, 2026." With both Dhurandhar 2 and Ustaad Bhagat Singh targeting the same date, audiences can expect a major box-office clash during the festive Ugadi period. Meanwhile, the promotional campaign for Dhurandhar 2 has begun gaining momen-

tum. The trailer of the film is scheduled to be unveiled on March 6, and the makers released a fresh set of posters on March 5, building excitement among fans.

Dhurandhar 2 is written and directed by Aditya Dhar and produced by Aditya Dhar, Jyoti Deshpande, and Lokesh Dhar. The film will be released in multiple languages including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, aiming for a wide nationwide theatrical run.

India Beat England to Set Up Title Clash With Kiwis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Sanju Samson was once again the star as defending champions India defeated England by 7 runs here on Thursday to slide into the final of the T20 World Cup. They will play New Zealand for the title in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The Wankhede Stadium went wild as centurion Jacob Bethell (105) was run out on the first ball of the final over bowled by seamer Shivam Dube, off which England needed 30. Three sixes on the last three legitimate deliveries did not matter as England put up a late fight to manage 246 for 7 while chasing India's 253 for 7, the fourth highest total in a T20 World Cup.

Opener Samson anchored the Indian innings yet again, scoring a whirlwind 89 that came off just 42 balls and included eight boundaries and seven sixes; Axar Patel was brilliant in the field, taking two breathtaking catches and masterminding a third that helped India grip the game while spearhead Jasprit Bumrah fired the ball consistently in the blockhole to bottle up English batters. England were never quite in the game, barring a 77-run stand for the fifth



wicket between Bethell and Will Jacks (35). Earlier, India's humongous total was built by cracking knocks down the order after opener Abhishek Sharma disappointed again with a 7-ball 9. Samson led the charge. He picked up from where he left against the West Indies at Eden Gardens, slamming England quick Jofra Archer for a boundary and a six in the very first over. The 31-year-old was fortunate to survive in the third over bowled by Archer though

as captain Harry Brook dropped an easy catch at mid-on. India were 24 for 1 and the batter on 15 then. Samson rubbed it in with a boundary and a six in the same over. Boundaries kept flowing from the blades of Samson and Ishan Kishan as India raced to 67 for 1 at the end of Powerplay. Very soon, the team 100 came up in the ninth over, in which Samson and Ishan rattled 20 runs. However, the latter fell in the next over, holing Adil Rashid to Will Jacks at long-

off after making a quick 39 that included four boundaries and two sixes. That also ended a 97-run stand for the second wicket and put India on course for a mountain of runs.

Next man Dube kept the scoreboard moving. He used the long handle to send the ball soaring out of the ground, four times, before being run out after a misunderstanding with Pandya towards the end. His 25-ball 43 accelerated the Indian total. Pandya himself was run out, on the penultimate ball, after making 27 in 12 balls, slamming three boundaries and two sixes. In between, Tilak Varma teed off, whacking three maximums in his 7-ball 21 before being castled by Archer. Surya couldn't quite settle down and departed, stumped by Jos Buttler off Rashid after contributing 11, hitting a six along the way. Will Jacks and Adil Rashid got two wickets apiece for England while Curran mixed it up well, disguising slower ones and blasting bouncers occasionally to baffle batsmen. He eventually went wicketless for 53 runs though. Earlier, England won the toss and decided to field first as Brook called 'tails' right. They lost their heads after that.

Charter Flight Arranged For West Indies Team To Return Home

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The West Indies cricket team, stranded in India for more than four days due to international air-space restrictions caused by recent US and Israeli strikes on Iran, will finally return home on a chartered flight arranged by authorities.

"A charter has been arranged for the West Indies to fly home," a source told PTI on Thursday, bringing relief to players and support staff who had been unable to leave since their exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. West Indies head coach Daren Sammy also confirmed the development on social media, tweeting: "Got an update. That's all WI wanted."

The Caribbean side had remained stranded in India after their elimination from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup following a Super Eight defeat against India on Sunday. Travel disruptions occurred as international airlines avoided parts of the Gulf region due to heightened security concerns triggered by the military escalation involving the United States, Israel and Iran.



Earlier in the day, Sammy publicly expressed frustration over the delay, posting on X that the team simply wanted clarity on when they would be able to travel. "I just wanna go home," the former West Indies captain wrote. A few hours later, he again urged authorities to provide information about the team's travel plans. "At least an update, tell us something. Today, tomorrow, next week. It's been five days," he added.

The uncertainty forced players to remain in India while officials worked on arranging a safe travel option. According to the International Cricket Council, the situation was being closely monitored in coordination with relevant authorities and Cricket

West Indies. A senior official of the Cricket Association of Bengal said the state association had no direct role in the arrangements. "It is completely handled by ICC. We have no update on the West Indies team's movement but as per the latest information they are still here and looking for a chartered flight," the official had said earlier.

Cricket West Indies had also issued a statement confirming that the team's departure had been delayed due to international air-space restrictions affecting several commercial flight routes. The board noted that airlines had been forced to alter schedules as a precaution amid security concerns in the Gulf region.

Asad Uddin Owaisi Questions MHA Move On Iran Preachers



Asaduddin Owaisi criticised the reported advisory issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) asking states and Union Territories to monitor speeches by pro-Iran radical preachers and deploy rapid-response teams against inflammatory remarks.

Responding to a news report on X, the AIMIM chief questioned the rationale behind the directive and alleged that the move exposes the "double standards" of the government led by Narendra Modi. According to reports, the MHA has directed authorities to closely track speeches that could incite tensions in the backdrop of the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict.

Owaisi argued that similar action has not been taken against individuals who allegedly deliver hate speeches targeting Muslims. In his post, he said there is a "baba" who has repeatedly violated bail conditions and made speeches inciting violence against Muslims, yet no advisory has been issued in such cases.

He further alleged that the Central government had even funded a conference where speakers called for the overthrow of India's Constitution. Owaisi also claimed that the number of anti-Muslim hate speeches referencing Israel's actions in Gaza has increased since 2023.

The Hyderabad MP said that whenever such incidents occur, the Centre maintains that "law and order is a state subject." He asserted that the reported advisory against pro-Iran preachers highlights what he called an inconsistent approach in dealing with hate speech and communal rhetoric in the country.

Hyderabad Pays Tribute to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Delegations Pay Respect to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at Iran Consulate

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hundreds of Shia and Sunni Muslims gathered across Hyderabad on Tuesday night to protest against Israel and the United States, condemning the reported martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The demonstrations marked the third consecutive day of protests in the city, reflecting widespread anger and grief among participants. Two major protest marches were held at different locations, drawing thousands of people, including AIMIM legislators and representatives associated with the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad. Participants



Advocate Mir Quram Ali and Muslim scholars strongly condemn the unlawful attack on Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and express condolences at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hyderabad. Among those present were Sahebzada Qari Syed Muddassir Hussain Sahab, Syed Saad Hussain Sahab, Hafiz Abdul Rahman Sahab, Advocate Mir Fourqan Ali, Advocate Riyaz Monossri and others, showing unity of the Muslim community.

raised slogans condemning the alleged Israeli-US airstrikes and demanded justice while expressing solidarity with Iran. The first protest march began at Darbar-e-Hussaini and proceeded towards Darul Shifa X Road, where AIMIM legislators joined large

crowds in a powerful demonstration. Protesters voiced strong opposition to the attacks and called for global accountability. Another rally organized by Yakutpura youth started from Moula Ka Chilla and concluded at Alawa Bibi in Dabeerpura. The procession wit-

nessed significant participation from local residents, community leaders, and youth groups. Demonstrators said the gatherings symbolized unity between Shia and Sunni communities during what they described as a tense political moment. Slogans echoed throughout the routes as participants expressed grief, solidarity, and resistance. Protests in Hyderabad have continued since reports of Khamenei's martyrdom first surfaced, with daily demonstrations taking place across parts of the Old City. Organizers stated that the protests were peaceful and aimed at conveying a collective message against the attacks while highlighting communal unity.

Telangana SSC exam hall tickets 2026 released – Know how to download

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The Telangana Board of Secondary Education (BSE) has released the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam hall ticket 2026, which students can download online. The exams are scheduled to begin on March 14.

The admit cards is available on the official website of the Directorate of Government Examinations (click here).

Telangana SSC exam hall ticket 2026 download on WhatsApp
For the first time, students can also access their SSC hall tickets through WhatsApp.

By sending a "Hi" message followed by "SSC Hall Ticket March – 2026" to the number 8096958096, candidates can receive their admit cards directly on their mobile phones.

Earlier, Director of Government Examinations, PV Srihari, stated that hall tickets have already been sent to the respective schools via speed post.

Additionally, they are uploaded to the official website on March 5.

This year, a total of 5,28,239 students have registered for the SSC Public Examinations. The exams will be conducted across 2,676 centres throughout the state and will continue until April 16.

The examination timing is scheduled from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Apart from option to download Telangana SSC exam hall tickets 2026 online, a 24/7 control room has been established at the Directorate of Government Examinations to help students and parents. For any queries or assistance related to SSC exams 2026, they can contact the helpline number 040-23230942.

Flights to West Asia from Hyderabad Cancelled Again

Flight cancellations on West Asian routes continued for the sixth consecutive day on Thursday following the escalation of the US-Iran war, leaving hundreds of Indian passengers stranded. Hyderabad has extensive connectivity with the UAE, particularly through Dubai International Airport, with six to eight flights operating daily under normal conditions. On Thursday, 31 international flights — 16 arrivals and 15 departures — from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport were cancelled.

Some airports in West Asia have allowed special flights, but a full-fledged resumption of air services has not happened. A Hyderabad-based family said they were anxious as a woman, who had travelled to Dubai to visit her husband, a medical practitioner, has been unable to return home to her children. Speaking to Goneh Solomon Raj from Musheerabad, one of those stranded in West Asia, said missile attacks and bombing were continuing near Bahrain. He said a group that had travelled to Bahrain on February 24 was waiting at Bahrain International Airport on February 28 at about 2.30 pm local time when bombing began and airport operations were suspended.

2 Die, 3 Injured in Scaffolding Collapse

According to police, when five persons were erecting a bamboo scaffolding between the sixth and seventh floors at around 4 pm on Thursday, the wooden panels broke, and all five persons fell from the 60-foot height of the under-construction building.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two workers died, and three were grievously injured after a bamboo scaffolding collapsed at a seven-storey under-construction building at Al Hasnath Colony in Toli-chowki in the Mehdiptanam police limits on Thursday. The construction, according to revenue officials, was illegal. The owner and the builder of the building were booked for negligence. The de-

ceased were identified as Adinarayana Rao and Tirupati, both natives of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, and the injured are R. Ramesh from Srikakulam, M. Ramesh from Odisha and Ahmed from Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.

According to police, when five persons were erecting a bamboo scaffolding between the sixth and seventh floors at around 4 pm on Thursday, the wooden panels broke, and all five persons fell

from the 60-foot height of the under-construction building. Asifnagar ACP B. Kishan Kumar said the police received information at around 4.30 pm and rushed to the spot. Adinarayana Rao and Tirupati received multiple injuries and died on the spot. Of the three injured, one person's health condition is stated to be critical.

A tea vendor, Ghouse, who was moving towards the stretch, heard a loud scream from the building.

"At the accident spot, two persons fell on the road lying in a pool of blood. Some persons sought water to sip, and requested them to shift them to the hospital," he said. The Asifnagar ACP said that they found the owner and the builder guilty of negligence. Sachin Tiwari, a security guard at the private school, said he noticed at least 15 workers in the under-construction building, and they began work after taking an afternoon nap.

Hyderabad to witness 36-hour drinking water supply disruption

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents in several parts of Hyderabad are set to witness a 36-hour disruption in drinking water supply from Saturday, March 7.

In an official release on Thursday, March 5, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) mentioned that the disruption is due to the 35-year-old HT (High Tension) electrical panels in the pump house of Manjira Phase-3, Peddapur Pump, which supplies drinking

water to Hyderabad, being removed and replaced with new panels. The HMWSSB has identified several areas that will be impacted by the drinking water supply disruption from 8 am on Saturday, March 7.

These include Manikonda, Kokapet, Narsingi, Manchirevula, and other areas.

Normal drinking water supply is expected to resume at 8 pm on Sunday, March 8. To minimize inconvenience, residents in these areas are advised to use water judiciously, the release said.

City police launches guidance initiative for women, children

To reinforce support systems for women and children, the Hyderabad Police launched a community guidance initiative called "Margadarshak" on Thursday, March 5.

The initiative aims to guide victims during any minor or major crises. Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said during the launch that a trained group consisting of police officials, legal services and counselors will provide victims with institutional support.

The initiative was implemented through the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) and aims to connect minor situations and formal complaints by giving aid. Margadarshak will also empower victims to report early in cases of intimidation and harassment.

GHMC official demands Rs 40K bribe for processing retirement file, arrested

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday, March 5, nabbed an Account Examiner of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for allegedly demanding a Rs 40,000 bribe.

According to the ACB, the officer, Surya Vamsi Santosh, posted at the Secunderabad Zonal Office, had demanded a bribe from the complainant to forward his retirement benefits file to the GHMC

head office to get it sanctioned.

He was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 35,000 at his office, the ACB said. The ACB urged the public to file a complaint in case any public servant demands a bribe for official work. Aggrieved individuals can contact the agency on the toll-free number 1064, or through its website and social media platforms, ie, WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telangana ACB) and X (@TelanganaACB).

2 Ganja Peddlers Jailed for 20 Years

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Khammam District First Additional and Sessions Court on Thursday sentenced two persons to 20 years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh each after convicting them in a ganja smuggling case. According to a media release issued by the office of the Khammam Police Commissionerate, the accused, Bodavala, 26, a resident of Ananeyulu Thanda in

Mahabubabad district, and Bojja Vamshi, 22, from Sarapaka in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, were arrested by Raghunathapalem Police on April 7, 2021 while illegally transporting 194 kg of ganja in a car. Cases were registered against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. After trial, the court found them guilty and awarded 20 years' rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹2 lakh each.

Hyderabad Police Host Grand Dawat-e-Iftar at Chowmahalla Palace

Event highlights Hyderabad's communal harmony and strong police-public relations during Ramzan.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad City Police organised a grand Dawat-e-Iftar at the historic Chowmahalla Palace in Hyderabad on Thursday, March 5, bringing together ministers, senior police officials and community leaders to mark the holy month of Ramzan and promote communal harmony.

Ponnam Prabhakar, Telangana's Transport Minister, and Mohammad Azharuddin attended the gathering as chief guests. Prominent attendees also included Asaduddin Owaisi, president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin, Shivadhar Reddy, and Hyderabad Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar praised Hyderabad's distinctive Muslim culture and said the city stands as a model of religious harmony for the



rest of the country. He highlighted that the holy month of Ramzan strengthens the spirit of brotherhood and unity in society, and appreciated the devotion with which Muslims observe prayers and fasting during the sacred period.

Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar said the police department aims to remain closely connected with the public, and events such as Iftar gatherings help strengthen trust and cooperation between the police and the community.



The Dawat-e-Iftar witnessed participation from several senior police officials, public representatives and members of the Muslim community, re-

flecting Hyderabad's long-standing tradition of communal harmony and cultural unity during Ramzan.

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