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Brief Insights

10 People Killed, 3 Dozen Others Injured In 2 Separate Bus Accidents

Ten people, including a number of women and children, were on Friday killed and over three dozen others injured in two separate bus accidents in Chhattisgarh, police said. In the first incident, a passenger bus was hit by a speeding truck in Bhatpara Sigma area of Baloda Bazar district, leaving five passengers, including women and children, dead and a dozen others injured. The accident occurred on the National Highway near the village of Darchura.

AP to Ban Social Media Access for Children Below 13

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said in the Assembly that the government will ban social media for children below the age of 13. The aim, he said, is to protect young users from harmful on-line exposure. The government would finalise the decision soon and announce the detailed guidelines within 90 days. Addressing the members during the debate on the appropriation bill, Naidu said IT minister Nara Lokesh had conducted a study on the growing misuse of social media platforms and submitted recommendations to regulate them.

The CM said the alliance government had spent the past 20 months stabilising the state's governance systems after "the administrative and

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Owaisi Questions Funds for 'Hate Speech' Event: P8

Harish Rao calls Telangana govt's 99-day action plan as diversion exercise: P3

Telangana facing financial constraints, says Revanth Reddy: P2



US Waiver On India's Russian Oil Purchase

The waiver primarily addresses immediate crude availability concerns for India

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India has received a 30-day waiver from the United States to buy Russian crude currently stranded at sea. This provides a much-needed (but temporary relief) to refiners grappling with supply disruptions triggered by the escalating conflict in the Middle East. The move comes as the Iran war threatens oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route that carries a large share of global crude exports and accounts for about 40% of India's oil imports.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the waiver is intended to ensure oil continues flowing into global markets amid disruptions linked to the Iran conflict. "This deliberately short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government as it only authorises transactions involving oil



already stranded at sea," Bessent said in a statement posted on social media. The decision comes as the widening conflict in the Middle East threatens crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route that handles a significant portion of the region's oil exports. India relies heavily on Gulf suppliers and imports nearly 90% of its crude requirement, leaving it vulnerable to supply shocks.

Industry sources told Reuters that Indian refiners have already begun purchasing prompt cargoes of Russian crude, with around 20 million barrels reportedly bought from traders so far. The temporary waiver could ease short-term supply

pressures. The waiver primarily addresses immediate

Exploitation of a compromised individual: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that India's foreign policy as we are witnessing today is not policy, but a "result of the exploitation of a compromised individual."

In a post on X, Rahul wrote, "India's foreign policy emerges from the collective will of our people. It should be rooted in our history, our geography, and our spiritual ethos based on Satya

and Ahimsa." The LoP quoted a previous post with a video of him speaking in the Lok Sabha about India's energy security being compromised. "The US will tell us who we can or cannot buy oil from - If it's Russia or Iran, the US will decide. But our Prime Minister will not decide," he had said.



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We Are Building Greatest City On Earth: Revanth

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the state government would nurture the 'night economy' on the banks of Musi River, work up employment opportunities for unemployed youth and develop the city's night and lake tourism from the ground up. No city in the country was more beautiful than Hyderabad, he said, and added that with a good government and proper planning, it can become a world-class city.

"We are building the greatest city in the world. This is just the beginning. The development that will take place here would make anyone in the world, from Elon Musk to Trump to come here... We were recently talking to business organisations related to Trump about coming here," he said. Speaking at the inauguration of the Kothwalguda Eco Park near Himayatsagar on Friday, Revanth Reddy said that Hyderabad has historic landmarks such as Charminar, Osmania Hospital, Golconda, Osman-sagar and Himayatsagar, but due to bad governance



and severe encroachments, have brought the city to the brink of being filled with garbage. "No one wants to live amid the filth of Musi. We will develop Musi's riverfront, and create a vibrant night economy along the river banks, generating employment," he said. "When we say we will make Hyderabad better, some people come up and object. They say they could not do it, and therefore we should not do it either," he remarked, and added "When the airport was being built, there was opposition. Today it has become a great asset for the city."

"We sent public representatives to Gujarat to study how great cities function so that Hyderabad can be developed in a similar manner. Shamshabad will

become a central bullet train hub, with high-speed rail links to Bengaluru, Amaravati and Chennai", he said. He said "Some people may face inconvenience when new projects are taken up, but we will not leave anyone helpless. They are not our enemies. Those who lose land or houses will be fully supported and rehabilitated, and it will be my responsibility."

He also attacked BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao for opposing the government's initiative, saying: "Some leaders only built farmhouses for themselves instead of developing the city. When we try to improve the city, some people oppose it and say if they couldn't do it, we shouldn't do it either."

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Karnataka Bans Social Media Use for Children Under 16

BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a ban on the use of mobile phones by students under 16 years, citing concerns over the adverse effects of excessive phone usage, particularly social media. The announcement was made in the state Budget presented by Siddaramaiah, who also holds the fi-



nance portfolio, in Bengaluru. The Budget stated that the government would "ban usage of mobile phones by students under 16 years with the objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile usage by children including usage of

social media." Earlier, the Chief Minister had raised the proposal during a vice-chancellors' conference in Bengaluru and sought their views on the proposed restriction. As Karnataka announced the move, Meta Platforms cautioned that governments considering such restrictions should ensure they do not push teenagers towards less safe or unregulated platforms.

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Mamata Starts Stir Against SIR With 22 'Dead' Voters

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday launched a dharna in Metro Channel, Esplanade against the deletion of 63.66 lakh names and the adjudication of another 60.06 lakh voters over alleged discrepancies during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. Referring to a group present at the venue, the Trinamul Congress supreme said that 22 voters who were recently declared dead by the Election Commission of India had appeared at the protest to show that they were alive.

"They have been declared

dead in the SIR, but they are sitting here. Look at them. They are showing that they are alive and doing well. I wish them a good life ahead. We collect information inch by inch. The BJP is shameless and arrogant, and the EC is its agent," she said. She added that family members of eight persons who died during the SIR process and had visited New Delhi would also join the protest. Her nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee, several state ministers and party leaders, including parliamentarians and MLAs, attended the first day of the agitation. Banerjee also criticised the BJP, alleging that it was trying to influence the upcoming Assembly elections.

Bihar Set To See Another Sonrise

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Leaders of Janata Dal (United) on Friday expressed concern to Nitish Kumar over his decision to move to New Delhi as a Rajya Sabha member, even as the party indicated that his son Nishant Kumar may soon enter politics. Party legislators from the State Assembly, Legislative Council, and Parliament interacted with Kumar at a meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence in Patna. State



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said the Chief Minister assured lawmakers that his decision was taken voluntarily and not under any pressure. He also told party members that he would remain available to guide workers in the state. Chaudhary confirmed that Kumar had given approval for Nishant Kumar

to join the party and said the entry could take place within a day or two. Asked about the role Nishant might assume in the party or government after Kumar steps down, Chaudhary said the details would be announced later. The development comes a day after Nitish Kumar filed his nomination for one of the two Rajya Sabha seats being contested by JD(U) in the biennial elections, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

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Telangana Shines as 30 From Telugu States Clear Civil Services

Out of 958 successful candidates, 30 are from the Telugu speaking states.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday announced the final results of the Civil Services Examination 2025, recommending 958 candidates for appointment to prestigious central services including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS). Among the successful candidates, 30 aspirants

from the Telugu-speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh secured ranks in the final list. Jeenu Sri Jaswanth Chandra from Andhra Pradesh secured the 23rd rank, emerging as the highest-ranked candidate from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, Gudelli Srujana from Peddapalli district secured the 55th rank, becoming the top performer from Telangana. Srujana's preparation was supported through the Telan-



gana government's Abhaya Hastham programme, which provides financial assistance to civil services aspirants. Several other candidates from the region also secured notable ranks. These include Polavarapu Dhwanish (108), Chakka

Snehith (139), Kajal Raju (167), Banoth Laxmi Rachana (178), D.S.K. Pracheth (193), Chejerla Ashwini Kumar (256), Dommeti Vinay (282), M. Pavankumar Reddy (297), Kesaboina Akhil Sainadh (566), Gummala Swetha (573), Palli Pramod Vishnu (640), Pothupureddy Bhargav (738), Rahul Pudari (748), Korapothula Srikaraju (806), Gogula Rajasekhar (920) and Tusharika Prathyusha Katta (908). According to information

from coaching institutes in Hyderabad, 74,427 aspirants from the Telugu-speaking states applied for the examination, while 42,804 candidates appeared for the test. From Hyderabad alone, 25,787 aspirants took the examination. Around 90 candidates from the region reached the interview stage, which was conducted between December and February. Out of them, 30 candidates were finally selected, reflecting a success rate of

0.07 percent. Among the successful candidates, Banoth Laxmi Rachana, who secured 178th rank, grew up in Hyderabad though her parents belong to Illandu in Bhadradri Kothagudem district. She studied in Kukatpally and later worked in a research and development role at an automobile company in Pune before quitting her job to prepare full time for the civil services examination.

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ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

Telangana facing financial constraints, says Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government was facing severe financial constraints and asked government employees to focus on improving tax collection. Addressing a meeting of the Madiga Employees Coordination Committee on Friday, he said employees must ensure strict tax collection and act against evaders to strengthen the State's finances. "If taxes are collected efficiently and evasion is checked, the revenue can be used for the welfare of the poor," he said. The Chief Minister said the government was also struggling to meet retirement benefit obligations. On average, around 1,000 employees retire every month. He said the government has to pay nearly Rs 1 crore in retirement benefits to each employee, which amounts to about Rs 1,000 crore every month. Re-



ferring to land reforms, he said vast tracts of land were once owned by zamindars and jagirdars. Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao later introduced the Agricultural Ceiling Act. Around 25 lakh acres of assigned land were distributed to the poor through pattas. However, the pattas were later misused in several cases, and the government was working to address the issue. "The government does not have sufficient land to distribute to the poor. I have said this earlier at Osmania University and at other

meetings," he said, adding that the government's financial flexibility was limited. The Chief Minister said the Congress government had implemented several welfare measures after coming to power. These include the issuance of ration cards, supply of fine rice, sanction of Indiramma houses, free bus travel for women, 200 units of free electricity, crop loan waiver and the Rythu Bharosa scheme. However, he said he was not certain whether all eligible beneficiaries had received the benefits. He urged government employees to work harder to ensure that every eligible poor family receives a ration card. He said ration cards were essential for availing benefits such as fine rice, Indiramma housing and free electricity. Members of the Madiga community were also waiting for ration cards, he added. The Chief Minister asked employees to work actively during

the ongoing 99-day programme, saying it could benefit the Madiga community both directly and indirectly. Referring to characters from the Mahabharata, he said Telangana was the only State implementing Scheduled Caste categorisation following Supreme Court directions. "Many people admire Krishna or Arjuna, but I admire Karna, who stood by his friend. In the same way, I have stood by my Madiga friends," he said. He also referred to Barbarikudu, the grandson of Bhima, who fought for the weak. The Chief Minister said SC categorisation alone may not resolve all issues faced by the community. He cited concerns such as promotions, higher education opportunities, land issues and protection of LIDCAP lands. He assured that these issues could be addressed with the support of Madiga employees.

Women's Empowerment Key Priority of Govt: Seethakka

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Minister for rural development and panchayati raj and district in-charge minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka said the government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is prioritising women's economic empowerment under the slogan "Mahila Pragathi - Telangana Unnathi". She said the state government would announce several new schemes for women on the occasion of International Women's Day. The minister was speaking at a review meeting held at the Integrated District Offices Complex in Nizamabad on Friday regarding the implementation of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Plan. Government advisers P. Sudarshan Reddy and Mohammed Shabbir Ali, R. Bhupathi Reddy, MLA of Nizamabad Rural, and other officials attended the meeting. Collectors of the un-

divided district, Ila Tripathi and Ashish Sangwan, presented an action plan for implementing the programme through a Power-Point presentation, outlining department-wise targets. Addressing officials, Seethakka directed them to ensure that the undivided districts of Nizamabad district and Kamareddy district remain at the forefront in implementing the government's Praja Palana-Pragathi Plan. She asked officials to work towards achieving targets in areas including environmental cleanliness, clearance of pending files in government offices, public health, the "Arrive Alive" initiative, welfare programmes, child protec-

tion, prevention of drug abuse, farmers' welfare and agriculture, education, youth and sports, women's development and environmental protection. The minister said government employees should play an active role in implementing the programme by acting as a bridge between the government and the public. She urged officials to work transparently and involve local public representatives to ensure visible improvements within three months in sectors such as health, education, medical services, Anganwadi management, women and child welfare and sanitation.

Ranga Reddy District In-charge Minister Launches 99-Day Programme to Address Public Issues

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

District In-charge Minister on Friday launched a 99-day programme titled Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika aimed at addressing public grievances and ensuring effective implementation of welfare schemes in Speaking at an awareness meeting held at the District Collectorate, the minister directed officials to identify eligible beneficiaries who have not yet received benefits



under various welfare schemes. He emphasized that any gaps in the implementation of government programmes must be addressed promptly and without negligence. Speaker of the , said the initiative would serve as an effective platform for

resolving public grievances and strengthening the credibility of the government and the administration. District Collector stated that special measures would be taken to ensure that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary in the district. The meeting focused on explaining the objectives of the programme and coordinating the efforts of various departments for its successful implementation.

Motivation Session for SSC Students Held at ZPHS Rampally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



A motivational programme for 10th class students was conducted at Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), Rampally in Keesara Mandal to encourage students to prepare effectively for the upcoming SSC examinations. The session was led by Mr. Srinivas Rao along with other teachers, who guided the students on how to achieve good grades in the SSC examinations. They explained various examination preparation techniques, in-

cluding proper time management, systematic revision, and effective answer-writing methods. During the programme, the teachers advised students not to feel stressed or anxious about

the exams and encouraged them to face the examinations with confidence and determination. They emphasized the importance of disciplined study habits and regular practice to achieve success.

On this occasion, it was announced that at the Keesara Mandal level, a SSC Challenge Trophy along with prize money will be awarded to the student who secures the highest marks or grade in the SSC examinations. The announcement created enthusiasm among the students and motivated them to aim for academic excellence. The programme concluded with teachers encouraging students to participate in the examinations with a competitive spirit and positive mindset.

Lord Yama takes over Hyderabad city signals to promote road safety

The Hyderabad Traffic Police have launched a unique road safety campaign by deploying actors dressed as Lord Yama Dhama Raju at busy junctions. The initiative, in collaboration with NGOs, aims to create a psychological impact on violators by blending cultural symbolism with enforcement.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a proactive step coupled with a creative bid to drive home the message of road safety, the Hyderabad Traffic Police have turned to mythology, deploying the iconic character of Lord Yama at busy traffic junctions to caution erring motorists.



Of late, at major intersections across the city, motorists are greeted by a striking figure dressed as Yama Dhama Raju complete with traditional attire, mace in hand and a stern expression reminding them that reckless driving could lead to dire consequences. The Traffic Police initiative, in collaboration with NGOs like Sarvejana Foundation, is part of an intensified traffic awareness campaign, aims to leave a lasting psychological impact on traffic violators. Actors dressed as Lord Yama educate commuters on helmet usage, drunk driv-

ing, and speed control to reduce accidents, particularly at major traffic junctions. Traffic officials said the idea is to communicate a serious message in a relatable and culturally resonant manner. "Instead of routine announcements and challans alone, we wanted something that instantly grabs attention. The presence of Lord Yama at a signal makes people pause and think about the value of life," a senior officer explained. Further, the character interacts with motorists waiting at junctions, cautioning helmetless riders,

advising car drivers to wear seat belts, and urging citizens not to use mobile phones while driving. In some instances, mock warnings are issued in a humorous tone, stressing the importance of following traffic rules. The campaign has been rolled out at accident-prone junctions and high-traffic corridors, particularly during peak hours. Traffic personnel accompanying the character distribute pamphlets highlighting common violations and the penalties associated with them under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Fish to replace chicken served in midday meals in Govt. schools: minister Srihari

The district in-charge minister Vakiti Srihari stated that the State government has planned to replace chicken served to children once a week with fish as part of the midday meal scheme in government schools. He, along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, held a meeting with officials of Khammam and Kothagudem to review the 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika here on Friday. Khammam and Kothagudem district Collectors Anudeep Durisetty and Ankit, MLC Tata Madhusudhan, MLAs Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Jare Adi Narayana, M Ramdas Naik, T Venkat Rao and Koram Kanaikaiah took part in the meeting. Srihari said that officials should work hard to ensure that the programmes undertaken by the government for the welfare of the poor reach the doorsteps of the people, even though the economic conditions were not conducive. Srinivasa Reddy said that an officer not below the tahsildar cadre should be appointed as in-charge of SC/ST/BC and minority welfare hostels.

Advance International Women's Day Celebrations at Komalla PHC

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Komalla Primary Health Care, Raghunathpally Mandal, Jangaon District, celebrated International Women's Day in advance with great joy and enthusiasm. All women employees of the health department were felicitated with garlands and presented Memotous with International Women's Day certificates. Memorable gifts were also presented, and Best Women Performance Certificates were awarded to outstanding employees. The celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony as

part of the festivities. The program was organized by the existing Medical Officers of PHC Komalla, including Dr. Pavana and Dr. Inzamam Ali. They extended warm wishes to all women in a befitting manner, blessed them with continued success in their endeavors, and encouraged women employees to keep excelling in their roles. Smt. Sathyavathi PHN a medical

employee, addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of International Women's Day and sharing insights on its origin and significance. The event concluded with heartfelt appreciation for the contributions of all women, especially those serving in healthcare, recognizing their dedication and commitment to society.

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.

Delimitation Controversy in Bhagyanagar: Allegations of Secret Pact Between Congress and Majlis

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



During an All-Party Meeting in Bhagyanagar district, District General Secretary Pandarinath, Chandrayangutta contesting MLA candidate Koudi Mahender, and OBC Morcha District President Edla Vijay questioned Chandrayangutta ERO Surrender Reddy over the GHMC delimitation process. They alleged that in the Chandan Gutta constituency, the earlier 7 divisions were expanded to 10 divisions without following standard delimitation

rules. According to them, natural boundaries such as drains, roads, graveyards, and railway lines were ignored while reorganizing the divisions. The leaders highlighted irregularities in polling booth

distribution, stating that Barkas Division has 12 booths, Noori Nagar Division has 17 booths, and Jangam Met Division was also reorganized without respecting natural boundaries.

They further alleged that several localities and polling booths located nearly 1.5 kilometers away, which should fall under Vyasat Nagar Division, were instead merged into Riyasat Nagar Division. Leaders claimed the delimitation exercise appears politically motivated and alleged a secret political understanding between the Congress Party and the Majlis Party. When questioned, ERO Surrender Reddy reportedly stated that officials were not aware of such issues, which the leaders said was unsatisfactory.

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.

Harish Rao calls Telangana govt's 99-day action plan as diversion exercise

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRSRP deputy leader T Harish Rao on Friday criticised the Congress government's 99-day action plan titled "Praja Palana-Pragati Pranaliika", calling it a diversionary exercise aimed at masking governance failures. He said the action plan was nothing more than a publicity drive launched after nearly 800 days of disastrous governance.

Reacting to the launch of the action plan, the former Minister sought to know what the government had achieved in the past two and a half years to organise such an event. He reiterated that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was staging a drama to deflect attention from unfulfilled promises, including six



guarantees and over 420 promises, as well as alleged scams and administrative lapses. "Lakhs of applications submitted by people during earlier Praja Palana Gram Sabhas are still lying unresolved. Instead of addressing those issues, the government has come up with yet another ten-week publicity programme," he said.

Harish Rao also raised concerns over issues affecting farmers and unemployed youth. He pointed out that farmers were yet to receive the promised crop bonuses and had faced shortages of fertilisers such as urea. On employment, he accused the government of failing to deliver on its promise of two lakh jobs in the first year and

turning the job calendar into a jobless calendar. The BRSRP deputy leader stated that primary sectors such as health, education and rural development were facing serious shortcomings, including shortages of medicines in hospitals and lack of infrastructure in schools. He said routine administrative responsibilities such as sanitation in offices and clearance of pending files were now being projected as special initiatives under the action plan. "The government is spending more time on publicity than governance," he said, adding that people across the State were closely watching the developments and were ready to confront the government on pending issues affecting them.

Grand Celebration of International Women's Day at Alair

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Under the leadership of Neelam Padma, President of the District Women's Congress, International Women's Day was celebrated with grandeur at the Alair Indira Congress Bhavan. The event highlighted key issues such as women empowerment, financial self-reliance, and social recognition.

The celebration was graced by prominent guests including the spouse of Alair MLA Birilai Ailayya and Birilai Foundation Chairperson Anita Birilai, along with State Vice President Krishnaveni. The dignitaries shared insights on government schemes aimed at women's welfare, development, and creating a stronger future for them. Women Empowerment and Congress Goals Neelam Padma and Anita Birilai emphasized



that the Congress Party aims for every woman in the country to be financially empowered, capable of making independent decisions, and gradually rising to become entrepreneurs and leaders. Key initiatives highlighted included: Free travel facilities on RTC buses for women; Special welfare schemes like Mahalakshmi Yojana, including assistance with fuel, electricity, and gas cylinders; Financial support for

setting up canteens and petrol stations; Distribution of Indiramma houses for the homeless; These services aim to establish a strong foundation for women's financial independence. The event featured a cake-cutting ceremony to mark International Women's Day. ANMs, ASHA workers, municipal chairpersons, councillors, municipal women staff, and district committee members were felicitated for their contributions.

District Collector Anurag Jayanti extensive Tour in Bommalaramaram Mandal

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

District Collector Anurag Jayanti conducted an extensive tour of several villages in Bommalaramaram Mandal on Friday as part of the Telangana government's Praja Palana - Pragati Report 99 Days Programme. During the visit, the Collector inspected development activities and reviewed the functioning of various government departments in Naginenipalli, Maisireddipalli, and Malyala. As part of the inspection, he visited Anganwadi centres, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, and the Government Junior College in the region. He also reviewed sanitation activities in the villages and held discussions with officials on improving sanitation standards. The Collector examined the progress of houses being constructed under the Indiramma Housing Scheme in Naginenipalli and Maisireddipalli villages. He sought details from officials regarding incomplete houses and the reasons for delays, directing them to submit a detailed report. After



visiting the primary school and Anganwadi centre in Maisireddipalli, the Collector inspected the Kasturba Balika Residential School in Malyala village. Later, he shared the midday meal with students at the Government Junior College in Malyala. During the interaction, he spoke with students about the quality of education, infrastructure, and the standard of the midday meal provided at the institution. Addressing officials during the visit, the Collector instructed them to provide detailed data on the total number of Indiramma houses sanctioned in the district, the number completed, and the current stage of the remaining constructions. He advised officials to ensure that construction materials are made available to benefi-

ciaries at affordable prices so that housing works can be completed quickly. He also enquired whether funds were being deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts in accordance with construction progress and directed officials to expedite the remaining works and organise housewarming ceremonies for completed houses at the earliest. The programme was attended by local public representatives and officials, including sarpanches of the concerned villages, District Education Officer Satyanarayana, Housing Project Director B. Sriramulu, Tahsildar B. Srinivas Rao, MPDO Gaddam. Gyanaprakash Reddy, and other departmental officials.

Dr. Srirangam Satyam Hails Rajya Sabha Nomination of Vem Narendra Reddy as Recognition of Dedicated Leadership

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

PCC Member and TPCC Official Spokesperson Dr. Srirangam Satyam extended his heartfelt congratulations to senior Congress leader Vem Narendra Reddy on being nominated as the Congress Party's candidate for the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Satyam met Vem Narendra Reddy at his residence and felicitated him with a traditional shawl, conveying his warm wishes on the occasion. He expressed happiness over the Congress high command's decision, describing the nomination as a



well-deserved recognition for a leader who has consistently remained committed to the party and its cadre. Speaking to the media, Dr. Sri-

rangam Satyam said that Vem Narendra Reddy has always been accessible to party workers and has played a crucial role in bridging the gap between the leadership and grassroots cadre. He noted that Narendra Reddy's dedication and tireless efforts significantly contributed to strengthening the Congress Party and its rise to power in the state. Dr. Satyam further stated that Narendra Reddy stood firmly beside Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and worked relentlessly for the growth and success of the party. He praised Narendra Reddy's services as a Government Advisor and his continuous

engagement with party workers and leaders. "The Congress high command has rightly honoured a loyal and hardworking leader who has worked day and night for the party's success. This recognition reflects his unwavering commitment to the party and its ideology," Dr. Srirangam Satyam said. He expressed confidence that Vem Narendra Reddy would effectively represent the aspirations of the people in the Rajya Sabha and continue contributing to the party and public service with the same dedication.

Grama Mahila samakya Building Bhoomi Pooja

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Praja Palana 99 Days Programme was launched by the Chief Minister of Telangana on 6 March, aiming to accelerate development works and welfare activities across the state. The programme will continue for 99 days, from 6 March to 12 June. To ensure effective implementation, district-in-charge ministers have been appointed to oversee the programme in each district. On the first day at the district level, officials prepared a comprehensive 99-day action plan, allocating one week for each line department to implement development and



welfare activities. As part of the programme, a Bhoomi Pooja ceremony for the Grama Mahila Samakya Building was conducted at Mator Village, Motakondur Mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District. The ceremony was performed by Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu. The proposed building site belongs to Grama Khantam land identified by

the Panchayat, located near the Health Sub-Centre in Mator Village. A large gathering attended the event. On the occasion, Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu conveyed advance wishes to all sisters, mothers, and daughters on International Women's Day, which will be celebrated on 8 March.

Sanitation Drive in Bhongir



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bhongir Municipal Office organized a sanitation awareness activity as part of the 99 Days Program - PPPP (Praja Palana: Pragati Pranaliika) to promote clean surroundings and proper waste management in the town. Municipal officials and sanitation staff took part in a Cleanliness Pledge, emphasizing the importance of maintaining hygiene and practicing source segregation of

waste. Officials stated that the initiative aims to encourage citizens to actively participate in keeping their neighborhoods clean and ensuring better waste management practices. Meanwhile, a complaint regarding sanitation issues was received on X (formerly Twitter) from Rajesh BRS (@rvsnws80). In his message, the resident highlighted a problem in Ward No. 32 near Sai Krupa College, where an open plot has become overgrown with thick weeds and bushes.

Muddapu Family Legacy Inspires New Leadership

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Public service runs deep in the Muddapu family, a name long associated with commitment, leadership, and community welfare. The legacy traces back to stalwarts like Badhya Asahiah, the former Deputy Mayor of Mumbai, whose dedication to civic service left a lasting impression. Today, that legacy continues through the next generation, blending modern professional expertise with grassroots political engagement in Secunderabad. An MBA graduate from Vishwa Vishwani Institute of Systems and Management, the younger Muddapu spent nearly a decade working with global corporations such



as HSBC and Diebold Nixdorf. This corporate experience helped shape a leadership style rooted in discipline, strategic thinking, and people management. However, his commitment to society led him to step beyond boardrooms and

into public life. Entering politics in 2002 under the mentorship of veteran leader P. Sayanna, he has spent more than two decades working at the grassroots level through the Telugu Desam Party and community organizations. His work has ranged from temple administration at the Shri Venkateshwara Perumal Devasthanam to advocating civil liberties through human rights initiatives. Currently serving as General Secretary of Mala Mahanadu in Secunderabad Cantonment, he represents a new generation of leadership—one that combines heritage, professional expertise, and a deep commitment to social justice for marginalized communities.

Kashi Shivalinge Temple Marks 37th Anniversary

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Devotees gathered in large numbers on Friday as the Kashi Shivalinge Swara Shiva Temple in Ward 2 of the Cantonment Board celebrated its 37th anniversary with grand spiritual rituals and community service activities. The celebrations began early in the morning with sacred Vedic ceremonies including Maha Rudrabhishekam and Maha Rudra Homam, performed by priests seeking divine blessings for peace, prosperity, and the well-being



of the community. Following the rituals, a large-scale Annadana program was organized, where food was served to hundreds of devotees and residents. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap and Hyderabad District President

of Gangaputra Sangam Mahender attended the event as chief guests. They participated in the special pujas and offered prayers for the welfare of the locality. Speaking on the occasion, Jampana Pratap praised the temple committee for maintaining the

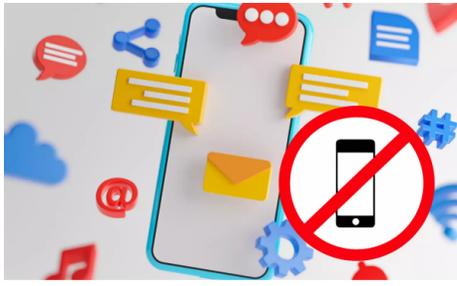
temple without accepting external donations or installing a hundi collection box. He described the temple's development through internal contributions and dedication of committee members as a rare and inspiring example within the Cantonment area. Temple Committee President Gadapa Ramulu, Vice President Madugula Janardhan, and General Secretary Mutha Ailiah, along with members Durgaiyah, Balraj, Mallesh, Chinnaraju, and Dal Raju, actively organized the celebrations.

Karnataka Bans Social Media Use for Children Under 16

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a ban on the use of mobile phones by students under 16 years, citing concerns over the adverse effects of excessive phone usage, particularly social media. The announcement was made in the state Budget presented by Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, in Bengaluru. The Budget stated that the government would "ban usage of mobile phones by students under 16 years with the objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile usage by children including

usage of social media." Earlier, the Chief Minister had raised the proposal during a vice-chancellors' conference in Bengaluru and sought their views on the proposed restriction. As Karnataka announced the move, Meta Platforms cautioned that governments considering such restrictions should ensure they do not push teenagers towards less safe or unregulated platforms. In a statement, Meta said it would comply with local laws where such bans are enforced, but added that with teenagers using nearly 40 apps every week, "targeting a handful of companies won't keep them safe." "Bans need to be ap-



plied equally," the US-headquartered social media company said. Vice-chancellors reportedly supported the proposal to restrict mobile phone use among children below 16 years. However, one of them pointed out that parents often provide mobile phones to children for safety reasons and suggested such concerns be taken into account before implementing the ban. Refer-

ring to similar restrictions in Australia and several European countries, Siddaramaiah said increasing dependence on mobile phones and social media had led to addiction among students and affected their academic prospects. While vice-chancellors supported the phone ban, they expressed reservations about the government's plan to reintroduce elections to student unions in col-

leges and universities. Meanwhile, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, said social media would be prohibited for children below 13 years within the next 90 days in the state. Addressing the Assembly, Naidu said the government was also considering whether to extend the restriction to children aged between 13 and 16 years. "Definitely, we will make sure that within 90 days those below 13 years of age are not able to use social media," he said. He added that a decision would be taken soon on restricting social media use for teenagers aged between 13 and 16 years.

Iranian Naval Ship IRIS Lavan Docks At Kochi After Technical Snag

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Government sources said on Friday that the Iranian naval ship IRIS Lavan docked at Kochi on March 4 after developing technical issues. According to officials, Iran had requested permission for the ship to dock on February 28, and India granted approval on March 1. A total of 183 Iranian sailors from the vessel are currently being accommodated at naval facilities in Kochi. Defence sources clarified that IRIS Lavan did not participate in the International Fleet Review hosted by the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam last month. They said the only Ira-



nian naval ship that took part in the event was IRIS Dena, which was later sunk on March 4 by an American submarine in the Indian Ocean south of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed expressed concern over the development while speaking at the Raisina Dialogue

on Friday, stating that the conflict in West Asia had "spilled over to the Indian Ocean". Global media reports said the Sri Lanka Navy had escorted another Iranian vessel, IRIS Booshehr, to Sri Lankan waters. More than 200 Iranian sailors aboard the vessel were reported to have disembarked in Sri Lanka.

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

Sambhainagar. 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 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.

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.

Maharashtra Announces Rs 2 Lakh Farm Loan Waiver

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday announced the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Loan Waiver Scheme for farmers in the State Legislative Assembly, under which crop loans of up to Rs two lakh will be waived for eligible farmers. Presenting the State Budget for 2026-27, Mr. Fadnavis said the scheme is aimed at providing relief to financially stressed farmers while encouraging a culture of timely loan repayment. The government will



also provide an incentive of up to Rs 50,000 to farmers who have been regularly repaying their crop loans. The loan waiver scheme is expected to cost the State exchequer about Rs 35,000 crore and benefit nearly 50 lakh farmers across Maharashtra. The loan waiver announcement in the budget came

as a surprise as the government had agreed to waive off loan by June 30. Mr. Fadnavis, who also holds the finance portfolio following the death of former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in an aircraft crash on January 28, presented a Rs 7,69,466.87-crore budget for 2026-27 in the Assembly. The budget projects a revenue deficit of Rs 40,552.35 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs 1,50,491.35 crore. "We had assured the farmers that a loan waiver scheme would be implemented. Today, I an-

nounce the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farmer Debt Waiver Scheme, which will waive crop loans of up to Rs two lakh for eligible farmers whose loans were overdue as of September 30, 2025," the Chief Minister said. He said the government would also reward farmers who repay their loans on time with an incentive of up to Rs 50,000. Speaking to reporters at Vidhan Bhavan after presenting the budget, the Chief Minister said banks had so far provided data on around 28-30 lakh farmers who had defaulted on crop.

AP to Ban Social Media Access for Children Below 13

VISHAKAPATNAM
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said in the Assembly that the government will ban social media for children below the age of 13. The aim, he said, is to protect young users from harmful online exposure. The government would finalise the decision soon and announce the detailed guidelines within 90 days. Addressing the members during the debate on the appropriation bill, Naidu said IT minister Nara Lokesh had conducted a study on the growing misuse of social media platforms and submitted recommendations to regulate them. The CM said the alliance government had spent the past 20 months stabilising the state's governance systems after "the administrative and financial setbacks" the state faced during the YSRC rule. He said the 15-day Assembly Session focused on policies shaping the future of the state's nearly five crore people. The government, he noted, had presented a '3.32 lakh crore



budget for the current financial year and was rebuilding the state with support from deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He criticised the Opposition for avoiding the Assembly while it sought the 'official opposition' status, stating that such recognition depended solely on the people's electoral mandate. Referring to welfare and infrastructure initiatives, the CM said the government was strengthening programmes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure tap connections for every household. He alleged that earlier administrations had failed to fully utilise Central funds for the scheme. Naidu also accused the previous government of mortgaging public assets and raising loans at high interest rates, adding that the borrowings worth

₹43,298 crore had been restructured to reduce the financial burden, while more such restructuring efforts were under way. Highlighting infrastructure development, he said the long-pending Polavaram project was being revived and that the capital city Amaravati would take visible shape within three years with Central support. The CM said the government had avoided passing on a "true-up" power tariff burden of ₹4,420 crore to consumers and was promoting solar energy through the PM Surya Ghar Yojana by providing rooftop solar panels to SC and ST households. Naidu also unveiled plans under the "Swarna Andhra Vision 2047", aimed at reducing economic inequality and attracting investments. According to him, 25 new policies had drawn investment commitments of '20 lakh crore, potentially creating 23 lakh jobs. A Family Benefit Management System card would soon be issued to integrate welfare schemes of the state and the Centre for every household.

Exploitation of a.....

"President Trump's energy agenda has resulted in oil and gas production reaching the highest levels ever recorded. To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treasury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday. Earlier in the day, Congress MP KC Venugopal also criticised the Centre over the US waiver granted to Indian refiners, calling it a humiliating development for India's sovereignty and international standing. In a post on X, Venugopal alleged that instead of standing up to the United States dictating terms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was compromising India's energy sovereignty. He said it was deeply humiliating that India needed a US "waiver" to purchase oil from a long-standing partner like Russia. Venugopal added that India must take a strong and independent stance in deciding what is in its supreme national interest, rather than allowing other countries to dictate its foreign policy or force it to seek permission for such decisions.

We Are Building.....

"We sent public representatives to Gujarat to study how great cities function so that Hyderabad can be developed in a similar manner. Shamshabad will become a central bullet train hub, with high-speed rail links to Ben-

galuru, Amaravati and Chennai", he said. He said "Some people may face inconvenience when new projects are taken up, but we will not leave anyone helpless. They are not our enemies. Those who lose land or houses will be fully supported and rehabilitated, and it will be my responsibility." He also attacked BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao for opposing the government's initiative, saying: "Some leaders only built farmhouses for themselves instead of developing the city. When we try to improve the city, some people oppose it and say if they couldn't do it, we shouldn't do it either. KTR is opposing whatever we attempt to do for Hyderabad's development." Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Nagarkurnool MP Dr Mallu Ravi, Rajendranagar MLA T. Prakash Goud, MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, HMDA commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad and other officials participated in the inaugural ceremony. The park, developed with an estimated cost of ₹75 crore, features unique nature-based attractions. The park has a 1.5 kilometre boardwalk, along with a bird aviary centre which houses diverse bird species. Night economy or evening economy refers to economic activity between dusk and dawn of the next day, encompassing culture, hospitality, entertainment and retail. It is seen as a driver of the urban economy, sometimes valued at one-third of the city gross domestic product, and is stated to generate thousands of jobs.

Telangana Shines.....

Explaining her motivation, Rachana said she realised that many of the country's challenges require a broader and multifaceted approach. "I felt civil services would give me the right platform to create an impact," she said, adding that she hopes to focus on youth development and healthcare, particularly maternal health, where she believes significant gaps still exist. Another candidate, Rahul Pudari, who secured 748th rank, hails from Hanmajipet village in Jagtial district. He said his rural upbringing shaped his decision to pursue civil services. Initially, he wanted to escape the backwardness of his village, but later realised he wanted to work towards its development. He believes the civil services provide an opportunity to influence policy and bring meaningful change to underserved regions. Tusharika Prathyusha Katta, who secured 908th rank, said her decision to pursue civil services was driven by a long-standing desire to serve society. The 26-year-old engineering graduate, who chose Anthropology as her optional subject, prepared for nearly five years after deciding not to accept campus placement. She said former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has been her greatest inspiration and expressed her desire to work on women's empowerment and education. Similarly, Gummala Swetha, who secured 573rd rank, grew up in Chittinagar in Vijayawada and chose Public Administration as her optional subject. The 25-year-old

said her interest in civil services began when she was in Class 10 while working on a project about stress-free education. Inspired by her father, who works as a Circle Inspector, Swetha hopes to work towards improving education systems and empowering women through her role in the civil services. The success of 30 candidates from the Telugu-speaking states highlights the region's growing presence in the country's most competitive examination, reflecting the determination and perseverance of aspirants who continue to strive for careers in public service.

Bihar Set To See.....

JD(U) MLA Shalini Mishra said Kumar's decision reflected his long-held position that he did not seek power for personal gain and described his contribution to Bihar as significant. Senior Minister Shrawan Kumar said party leaders conveyed their disapproval but assured Kumar of their support. He added that Nishant Kumar's entry into politics could energize the party. JD(U) MLC and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said party workers were not angry but saddened by the decision and had expressed their feelings to the Chief Minister. The meeting took place amid protests by some party workers who alleged that Kumar was being forced to step down as part of a political move by the Bharatiya Janata Party, the JD(U)'s ally. Neeraj Kumar said Nishant Kumar plans to tour the state after joining the party.

FROM FRONT PAGE

CRIME

Helmet Bank Initiative Launched by Traffic Police at Trimulgherry

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In an effort to promote road safety and encourage helmet usage among two-wheeler riders, the Trimulgherry Traffic Police on Saturday launched a "Helmet Bank" initiative at the Trimulgherry Traffic Police Station.

The initiative was launched following the directions of Avinash Mohanty, Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri, and was implemented under the supervision of K. Rahul Reddy, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic-1), Malkajgiri. Senior traffic officials and personnel participated in the launch programme, including Laxmi, Additional DCP Traffic-1, Malkajgiri; G. Shankar Raju, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Traffic Trimulgherry Division; V. Sardar Naik, In-



spector of Police, Traffic PS Trimulgherry; G. Janaki Ramulu, Additional Inspector, Traffic PS Begumpet; and Ch. Shankaraiiah from Traffic PS Alwal.

As part of the Helmet Bank initiative, traffic police personnel identify two-wheeler riders traveling without helmets during routine checks and enforcement drives. Instead of immediately imposing penalties, the riders' details are recorded and helmets from the Helmet Bank are issued to

them on a temporary basis. Riders who receive helmets are instructed to purchase a new helmet within 24 hours and return the borrowed helmet to the traffic police. Officials said the initiative is designed to encourage responsible riding behaviour while also spreading awareness about the importance of wearing helmets. Traffic authorities emphasised that many fatalities in two-wheeler accidents occur due to severe head injuries, which can often be prevented by wear-

ring helmets. By providing temporary helmets and educating riders about safety regulations, the police aim to reduce accident-related injuries and save lives.

The initiative has already been launched in the Begumpet traffic limits and has received a positive response from the public. Officials stated that the programme will soon be extended to other areas, including the Alwal Traffic Police Station limits. Speaking on the occasion, ACP G. Shankar Raju said the initiative reflects the department's commitment to ensuring road safety while also educating citizens about the importance of following traffic rules. He urged all two-wheeler riders to wear helmets regularly and cooperate with traffic police efforts to make roads safer for everyone.

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 Muthyam 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.

Senior Journalists Injured in Road Accident; Kukatpally Press Club Extends Support

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two senior journalists who were seriously injured in a recent road accident are currently undergoing treatment, prompting members of the Kukatpally Press Club to visit them and express solidarity with their families. According to reports, senior journalists Suresh Yadav and Dhananjaya Chari were travelling on a two-wheeler from Kukatpally to their office in Ju-



bilee Hills on work when another vehicle rammed into them from behind. The accident left both journalists seriously injured, and they are presently receiving medical

treatment. In response, a team from the Kukatpally Press Club, led by its president Erra Yakaniah, visited the injured journalists at their residence to inquire about their health

condition and extend moral support to their families. Speaking on the occasion, Erra Yakaniah expressed concern over the increasing instances where journalists working in media organizations are reportedly assigned personal errands unrelated to their profession, which sometimes lead to unfortunate incidents. He advised journalists to think carefully before accepting assignments that are not related to their professional duties.

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.



Indian Refiners Turn to Russian Oil After US Permission

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian refiners have begun buying some of the over 15 million barrels of Russian crude currently floating on tankers near the country, as they move to offset supply concerns arising from disruptions in the Middle East. Sources said refiners stepped up purchases after the US Treasury Department issued a 30-day licence allowing India to buy Russian oil cargoes currently stuck at sea. India, which was among the top buyers of Russian oil, curtailed purchases after US pressured New Delhi to avoid buying Russian barrels in an effort to reduce money flowing to Moscow's war effort in Ukraine.

India's imports of Russian crude in February fell to 1.04 million barrels per day - the lowest since November 2022. The US had



made cuts to tariffs on Indian goods contingent on New Delhi reducing its purchases of Russian crude. This left several ship loads of Russian oil stranded on high-sea, sources said. India, which had turned to buying discounted Russian crude following Western sanctions in February 2022, is now adjusting its purchases amid disruptions in Middle East supplies.

The country had previously imported record volumes of Russian oil when cargoes were available at deep discounts, helping refiners offset rising global crude prices. Russian cargoes hit a peak of 2.15 million barrels in

May 2023. However, with the widening West Asia conflict blocking shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and raising concerns over oil and LNG supplies from the Middle East, Indian refiners are now balancing purchases from both Russian cargoes at sea and other sources to ensure an uninterrupted domestic fuel supply.

"President Trump's energy agenda has resulted in oil and gas production reaching the highest levels ever recorded," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. "To enable oil to keep flowing into the global market, the Treas-

ury Department is issuing a temporary 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil." Calling the move a stopgap measure, he said Washington expects India to eventually buy more US oil.

"India is an essential partner of the United States, and we fully anticipate that New Delhi will ramp up purchases of US oil. This stop-gap measure will alleviate pressure caused by Iran's attempt to take global energy hostage," Bessent said in a post on X. The short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government as it only authorises transactions involving oil already stranded at sea, he added. India, which has inventories to cover for 25 days of demand for crude (raw material for making fuels like petrol and diesel), sources 40-50 per cent of its crude oil needs

from the Middle East through the Strait of Hormuz. The escalating conflict in West Asia has effectively shut the strait. Sources said Indian refiners are now buying the Russian oil to build inventories. There are more than a dozen tankers with Russian oil in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, sources said, adding that another eight vessels are idling off Singapore and could reach India within days. Beyond that, ships laden with Russian oil are also in the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez canal which would also reach India in under a month. "With nearly 50 per cent of India's crude imports transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the country remains highly exposed to potential supply disruptions," said Sumit Ritolia, an analyst at the data intelligence firm Kpler.

Sensex, Nifty Fall Over Middle East Tensions

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

India's benchmark stock indices declined sharply in early trade on Friday as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, persistent foreign fund outflows, and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment.

The BSE Sensex fell 572.43 points to 79,443.47 in early trading, while the NSE Nifty 50 dropped 178.75 points to 24,587.15. Market sentiment remained cautious amid continuing tensions in the Middle East, which have pushed crude oil prices higher and raised concerns about global inflation. Analysts said investors are adopting a risk-averse approach as geopolitical uncertainties and the possibility of tighter monetary policy conditions continue to influence global markets.



Among Sensex constituents, major laggards included ICICI Bank, InterGlobe Aviation, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, and Tata Steel. On the other hand, technology stocks such as HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, and Bharat Electronics were among the gainers.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent Crude declined 1.17 percent to USD 84.41 per barrel. Asian markets showed mixed trends. South Korea's Kospi slipped more than one percent, while Japan's Nikkei 225,

China's Shanghai SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index traded in the positive zone. Wall Street had closed lower on Thursday. According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 3,752.52 crore on Thursday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 5,153.37 crore. On Thursday, the Sensex had rebounded 899.71 points to close at 80,015.90, while the Nifty rose 285.40 points to settle at 24,765.90, ending their recent losing streak.

Govt To Deploy All Policy Tools To Support Exporters Amid West Asia Crisis: Piyush

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Piyush Goyal on Friday assured that the government will extend full policy support to help Indian exporters cope with disruptions caused by the escalating crisis in West Asia. The minister said the Centre is preparing measures to provide relief and ensure that exporters continue to meet global commitments despite logistical challenges

triggered by the conflict.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the vice-chancellors' conclave of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Goyal said the government is actively engaging with exporters and monitoring the situation closely through an inter-ministerial mechanism. The move comes after exporters raised concerns about delays and logistical hurdles in shipping consignments

to West Asian markets following the joint military attack launched by the United States and Israel on Iran.

"We will be formalising some ways to give comfort to our exporters," Goyal said, emphasising that the government is prepared to deploy every available policy instrument to mitigate the impact of the crisis. According to the minister, the Centre will ensure that Indian businesses receive



the necessary support to navigate disruptions in trade routes and rising logistics costs.

To address the emerging challenges, the government has already constituted an inter-ministerial group that interacts with exporters daily. The group gathers

feedback from industry stakeholders and evaluates possible interventions to maintain the smooth flow of exports.

"Every day the inter-ministerial group talks to the exporters. They take feedback, and we will not be found wanting in supporting our exporters in any way," Goyal said, adding that the government is determined to safeguard the interests of Indian industry amid global uncertainties.

The Commerce Ministry is also coordinating with the shipping sector to address operational difficulties faced by exporters. Goyal said officials are in constant dialogue with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and major shipping companies to resolve issues related to freight movement and supply chain disruptions.

Responding to concerns about rising freight charges, the

minister said the government is exploring ways to reduce the burden on exporters. Discussions are underway with shipping companies to examine possible relief measures and ensure that logistics costs do not severely impact export competitiveness.

Despite the current geopolitical tensions, Goyal reiterated that India remains committed to fulfilling all international trade obli-

gations. "India will continue to meet all the commitments that the country's industries have made to foreign buyers in goods and services," he said.

Expressing confidence in the government's response, Goyal added that authorities are working towards a resolution and will take necessary steps to ensure that Indian exporters remain resilient during the ongoing crisis.

L&T Finance Launches 'Spoorthi' for Women Entrepreneurs

L&T Finance Launches 'Spoorthi' to Empower Women Entrepreneurs with Specialised Home Loan and Loan Against Property Solutions

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

L&T Finance Ltd. has launched 'Spoorthi', a specialised program aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs by offering Home Loans and Loan Against Property (LAP) with relaxed eligibility norms and reduced interest rates. The initiative was announced ahead of International Women's Day to support women-led businesses and encourage financial inclusion. The program is designed

for women who either independently run businesses or jointly manage enterprises. Under Spoorthi, eligible women borrowers can access home loans and LAP with extended tenures of up to 25 years, while industrial LAP loans can be availed for up to 12 years. The program also offers enhanced eligibility norms, including higher debt-to-income ratios to provide greater financial flexibility.

According to Sudipta Roy, Managing Director and CEO of L&T Finance

Ltd., the company is committed to supporting women borrowers who have consistently demonstrated strong repayment discipline. He said the initiative aims to provide women with the capital needed to expand businesses, secure property assets, and strengthen their economic participation.

The program is initially being rolled out in major metropolitan markets including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Hyderabad.

To qualify, a woman borrower must hold at least 50 percent stake in the business if it is a non-individual entity and contribute at least 50 percent of the total assessed income when applying jointly. Additionally, the business must report a minimum annual cash profit of ₹5 lakh in the latest Income Tax Return and should not have incurred a net loss in the last two years.

Jinesh Shah, Chief Executive - Urban Secured Assets & Third-Party Products at L&T Finance,

said the initiative reduces the business vintage requirement to two years for loans up to ₹75 lakh, making it easier for emerging women-led businesses to access credit.

In the third quarter ending December 31, 2025, L&T Finance reported ₹2,879 crore in disbursements in its Home Loan and LAP segment, marking a 16 percent year-on-year growth, while the total loan book expanded to ₹28,682 crore, reflecting strong demand and expanding partnerships.

Over 20 States Unite in Lawsuit Against Trump's Global Tariffs Post-Ruling

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Some two dozen states challenged President Donald Trump's new global tariffs on Thursday, filing a lawsuit over import taxes he imposed after a stinging loss at the Supreme Court. The Democratic attorneys general and governors in the lawsuit argue that Trump is overstepping his power with planned 15% tariffs on much of the world. Trump has said the tariffs are essential to reduce America's longstanding trade deficits. He imposed duties under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 after the Supreme Court struck down tariffs he imposed last year under an emergency powers law.

Section 122, which has never been invoked, allows the president to impose tariffs of up to 15%. They are limited to five months unless extended by Congress. The lawsuit is led by attorneys general from Oregon, Arizona, California and New York. "The focus right now should be on paying people back, not doubling down on illegal tariffs," said Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield. The suit comes a day after a judge ruled that companies who paid tariffs under Trump's old framework should get refunds.

White House vows vigorous defense The White House said Trump is acting within his power. "The President is using his authority granted by Congress to address fundamental international payments problems and to deal with our



country's large and serious balance-of-payments deficits," said spokesman Kush Desai. "The Administration will vigorously defend the President's action in court."

The new suit argues that Trump can't pivot to Section 122 because it was intended to be used only in specific, limited circumstances — not for sweeping import taxes. It also contends the tariffs will drive up costs for states, businesses and consumers. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes pointed to a New York Federal Reserve Bank study that found Americans largely bear the cost of the tariffs, which has been estimated at \$1,200 a year per household. "That is money out of the pockets of American families trying to buy groceries, pay rent and keep their small businesses afloat," Mayes said.

Many of the plaintiff states also successfully sued over Trump's tariffs imposed under a different law: the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). Four days after the Supreme Court struck down his sweeping IEEPA tariffs Feb. 20, Trump invoked Section 122 to slap 10% tariffs on foreign goods.

India Leads APAC in AI Investment Surge: Lenovo Report

BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

Indian enterprises are rapidly accelerating investments in artificial intelligence (AI), with 99% of organizations planning to increase AI spending over the next year, according to the Lenovo CIO Playbook 2026 - The Race for Enterprise AI. The report, commissioned by Lenovo with research insights from IDC, highlights the growing shift of companies from

AI experimentation to full-scale execution across the Asia Pacific region.

Across Asia Pacific, about 96% of organizations plan to increase AI investments in the next 12 months, with average spending expected to rise by 15%. India stands out in the region, with enterprises projecting the highest year-on-year AI budget growth of 19%. Companies are prioritizing investments in AI infrastructure, generative AI development, internal

AI training for employees including non-IT staff, and AI security and governance tools.

Sumir Bhatia, President of Asia Pacific Infrastructure Solutions Group at Lenovo, said the rising investments show that AI has become central to enterprise decision-making. Organizations that successfully integrate AI into infrastructure, operations, and security systems are likely to gain long-term competitive advantages.

The report also notes

that AI adoption is expanding beyond IT departments. Around 66% of organizations in Asia Pacific are already piloting or systematically deploying AI technologies, while in India 59% of enterprises have reached that stage. AI solutions are increasingly being used in customer service, marketing, finance, operations, and industry-specific business functions.

Interest in Agentic AI is also rising, with nearly 60% of organizations exploring the technology.

However, only 10% currently consider themselves ready for large-scale implementation due to challenges related to governance, data quality, and integration.

Hybrid AI infrastructure is becoming the preferred approach, with 90% of Indian organizations combining cloud, on-premises, and edge systems to ensure performance, security, and regulatory compliance while scaling AI capabilities.

'Dhurandhar 2' Trailer to Be Out on March 7, Fans Excited

The makers of Dhurandhar: The Revenge have finally announced the much-awaited trailer release date, building massive excitement among fans across the country. Directed by Aditya Dhar, the trailer of the upcoming action entertainer will be unveiled online on March 7 at 11:01 AM. Lead actor Ranveer Singh shared the announcement on social media along with an intriguing poster that hints at the intense action and drama awaiting audiences. In his post, the actor wrote, "Brace yourself! Trailer out tomorrow 7th March at 11:01 AM. #Dhurandhar The Revenge releasing in cinemas worldwide on 19th March 2026 in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada & Malayalam." The announcement instantly grabbed the attention of fans, who flooded the comment section with excitement and anticipation for the trailer. Several users expressed their eagerness to watch the sequel. "Woohoo, can't wait," one fan commented, while another wrote, "It is going to break all records." The buzz around the sequel has been building ever since the massive success of the first film. The original Dhurandhar was released in theatres on December 5 last year and turned out to be a blockbuster. The film went on to become the highest-grossing movie of 2025 and eventually surpassed Pushpa 2: The Rule to



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emerge as the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time, earning cult status among audiences. The sequel promises to expand the cinematic universe further with an ensemble cast that includes Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal and R. Madhavan. In the first installment, Akshaye Khanna impressed audiences with his intense portrayal of Pakistani gangster Rehman Daka, a character that added depth and menace to the story. Backed by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, with music by T-Series, Dhurandhar: The Revenge is set for a pan-India theatrical release on March 19, 2026, coinciding with festive occasions such as Eid, Gudi Padwa and Ugadi. The film will release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, aiming to captivate audiences across the country.

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Yami Gautam Says Her Like on Reel Criticising Kriti Sanon's Best Actress Win Was Accidental

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Actor Yami Gautam Dhar said she has never resorted to cheap PR tactics following the accidental like on the post criticising Kriti Sanon's Best Actress win for her performance in "Tere Ishk Mein". Yami shared a post on her X handle on Friday and said as an actor, she gets tagged in several posts daily and at times, the clicks are unintended. "It has come to my notice that I apparently 'liked' a reel that is condescending toward another actor. We get tagged in multiple things every day, and this appeared during an award-function reference like any other tag. It isn't true and was definitely not done consciously; if anything, it may have been clicked accidentally. Never in my life have I resorted to cheap PR tactics. I have always focused on



my work and moved on," she wrote. The 37-year-old actor said she prefers to remain focused on her work. "In the world of clickbait, it's tempting for even dignified social media portals to harp on this and turn it into coffee-table gossip. But I would hope they would consider that I have earned a better reputation than that. I have no PR team, have respectfully cleared my stance on entertainment award shows long ago, and remain focused on my work," she added. Her statement comes days after a like was reg-

istered from her profile on an Instagram post, which featured a clip of Kriti celebrating her Best Actress award win at the Zee Cine Awards 2026. The video was combined with a clip of Yami from an old interview, where she noted she stopped seeking validation from the industry. Following Kriti's win, several users said Yami deserved the award for her performance in the 2025 drama film "Haq". After the actor unintentionally liked the reel, many pointed out the same, which led to Yami issue a clarification.

Details of Tom Cruise's 'Digger' leak after test screening

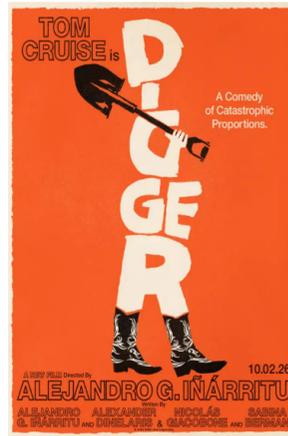
MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

From the past decade, the veteran actor Tom Cruise has always been associated and enchanted the film buffs with the Mission Impossible Franchise. These series have shifted Cruise's career from portraying dramatic roles to a blockbuster Action Star. His last acting role starring in an original film was in Doug Liman's 2017 film 'American Made'. But Now Cruise is set to shatter the world by joining hands with Director Alejandro González Iñárritu. And the result of their collaboration is Digger – an upcoming

black comedy film that its studio Warner Bros. described as a comedy of "catastrophic proportions". Digger's list of cast is also very well stacked up with a list of powerhouse actors ranging from Sandra Huller, Jesse Plemons, John Goodman, Riz Ahmed and many more to be revealed yet.

The Film is dated to be released on October 2nd, 2026 which is nearly a huge gap of 6 months. But how are some of the key plot details and the core themes from this film are getting leaked?. World Of Reel has revealed that On Wednesday, a test screening was conducted in Los Angeles, and many viewers who were

attended this screening has shared their opinions. One Source has called the movie "awesome", and noted that the film begins with Cruise as Digger Rockwell a Texan oil tycoon whose rig causes a catastrophic spill, sparking a potential global disaster. Suddenly convinced that fate has called him to save the world, he embarks on a chaotic hilarious Journey to save the world that the viewer described as 'Over The Top' and it even includes him meeting the president of the United states (Which is apparently played by Goodman). The Website has also boldly compared the film's portrayal of themes to that of Stanley



Kubrick's masterpiece Dr.Strange- love of the 21st Century. While some sources have appeared to appreciate the film, there were others who weren't satisfied too. One audience member has told to World of Reel that Digger felt "Overstuffed and chaotic", while still liking Cruise's Larger than life cartoonish 'Wild' performance. They even said that, "It's impossible not to be fascinated—it's a mess in the best possible way." The Visual look of this film has also received praises aimed at Iñárritu's longtime collaborator DP Emmanuel Lubezki's inventive framing and blocking, while the production

design in it was also stated to be stylish comparing it to Yorgos Lanthimos's film Poor Things. But as everyone eagerly anticipating, Those audiences have revealed that it was Tom Cruise's performance that is the main highlight of this film. As the Teaser of this film subtly revealed, Cruise's characters feature heavy prosthetic makeup that consists of—a nose, pot belly, combed over hair which is topped off with a very thick southern accent. These details ring us a bell on one of his earlier character Les Grossman portrayed in the film Tropic Thunder.

With A Population Like Ours, Merely Competing With India Is Fantastic: Glenn Phillips

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips acknowledged India's immense cricketing depth while highlighting the remarkable achievement of a small nation like New Zealand reaching the T20 World Cup final against cricket powerhouse India. Speaking ahead of Sunday's title clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Phillips said competing against a country with a vastly larger population and talent pool is a significant accomplishment in itself. India, home to more than 1.4 billion people, enjoys one of the deepest talent reservoirs in world cricket. According to Phillips, the sheer scale of talent available to India allows them to field multiple competitive teams. Despite this disparity, New Zealand, with a population of just over 5.3 million, has consistently remained among the top-performing teams on the international



stage. Phillips noted that New Zealand's smaller population forces its cricket system to operate with extreme precision. "Obviously, we have got a few less people in our country to choose from, which means our high-performance program has to be very specific and tailored to the population that we have," he said during an interaction with the media before the team's training session. The dynamic all-rounder, widely regarded as one of the finest fielders in inter-

national cricket today, also acknowledged the exceptional talent emerging from India's domestic system. He remarked that India could potentially field three equally competitive sides in a global tournament like the T20 World Cup due to its vast talent pool and strong cricketing structure. At the same time, Phillips' remarks subtly shifted some psychological pressure onto India ahead of the high-stakes final. As hosts and favourites, the Indian team will carry the expectations of more

than a billion passionate fans, making the contest not only a battle of skill but also of nerves. To put the population contrast into perspective, New Zealand's total population is approximately 5.36 million, which is nearly four million fewer than the population of Ahmedabad alone, estimated at around 9.3 million. Despite the numerical disadvantage, Phillips emphasised that New Zealand takes pride in consistently competing with the world's biggest cricketing nations. "For us to go out and compete with teams around the world with such a small population is fantastic," he said. As both teams prepare for the much-anticipated final, Phillips' comments highlight the unique narrative of the clash: a cricketing giant with unmatched depth facing a determined and disciplined side from one of the sport's smallest nations.

Axar Eyes Home High

The ball was chasing me tonight: Axar Patel

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India all-rounder Axar Patel produced a memorable performance at Wankhede Stadium on Thursday as India defeated England national cricket team to storm into the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup. Despite being benched in several matches earlier in the tournament, the vice-captain played a key role with brilliant fielding efforts and tight bowling in a high-scoring contest. The 32-year-old all-rounder grabbed two crucial catches that helped India gain control of the match. His first effort came when he sprinted backwards and stretched fully to take a stunning catch that dismissed England captain Harry Brook. Later, he teamed up with Shivam Dube for a spectacular relay catch near the boundary to remove a dangerous Will Jacks during the middle overs. The wicket proved decisive as it ended a threatening 77-run partnership for the fifth wicket and shifted momentum back in India's favour. Axar also delivered a disciplined spell with the ball, helping restrict England despite the batting-friendly conditions at Wankhede. Speaking to reporters after the victory, Axar reflected on his fielding performance with humour. "The ball was chasing me



tonight," he joked. He admitted that the catch to dismiss Brook was challenging but emphasized the importance of Jacks' wicket at that stage of the match. According to him, breaking the partnership was crucial as England were building momentum in the middle overs. Axar also praised India's bowling attack, particularly fast bowlers Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah. He said the team never felt the match was slipping away because the two pacers still had overs remaining. Both bowlers have been consistent performers throughout the tournament and gave the team confidence that they could contain England during the closing stages. With the win, India booked a place in the World Cup final, and Axar now hopes to feature in the

title clash. He was not part of the playing XI in the two matches played at Narendra Modi Stadium earlier in the tournament against the Netherlands national cricket team and South Africa national cricket team, the latter of whom defeated India during the Super Eight stage. Axar said playing the final in Ahmedabad would be a proud moment, especially as it would be his first match at his home ground in nearly two years. He added jokingly that his son would be watching him play live for the first time. Responding to questions about whether the Ahmedabad "jinx" would end, Axar gave a light-hearted reply, saying he did not play in the 2003 World Cup final and therefore believes the jinx could finally be broken.

BRS demands Rs 1 crore ex-gratia for Tolichowki tragedy victims



BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan on Friday demanded Rs 1 crore ex gratia for the families of two migrant workers who died in a scaffolding collapse at Nizam Colony in Tolichowki, Hyderabad. He also called for free treatment for the injured in corporate hospitals and criminal prosecution of the builder and site supervisor responsible for the construction. The accident occurred on March 5 when scaffolding at an under-construction building collapsed, killing two workers and seriously injuring three others. The deceased were identified as Tirupathi Rao (31) and Adinarayana (47), both natives of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh. The injured include R. Ramesh, M. Ramesh and auto driver Ali Ahmed, who sustained severe injuries. Sravan alleged that the builder had permission only for a G+2 structure but was constructing seven floors, accusing officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) of failing to act against the illegal construction. He said the site lacked basic safety measures such as safety nets and harnesses. Terming the tragedy an "institutional murder" caused by administrative negligence, Sravan demanded suspension of the GHMC officials concerned. He also appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government to intervene and ensure justice and adequate compensation for the victims' families.

'Why fund hate speeches?' Owaisi Questions Funds for 'Hate Speech' Event

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday criticised the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the reported allocation of public funds to an event where Islamophobic and hate speeches targeting Muslims were allegedly delivered. Speaking at a Jalsa-e-Youm-ul-Qur'an gathering at Masjid-e-Quba, Owaisi questioned why Rs 63 lakh of taxpayer money was reportedly granted to support the programme and asked why public funds should be used for events where speakers allegedly called for the deportation of Muslims and the establishment of a "Hindu Rashtra". The AIMIM leader was referring to the Sanatan

Rashtra Shankhna Mahotsav, organised by Sanatan Sanstha at Bharat Mandapam on December 13-14. According to media reports, several speakers at the event allegedly made remarks advocating measures such as deporting Muslims, imposing population restrictions, and encouraging mass religious conversions. "Remarks were made pushing the idea of pressuring Muslims to quit their faith using the government's power. They back off when asked to provide funds for mid-day meals in government schools but support such organisations," Owaisi said. The controversy surfaced after a report stated that Rs 63 lakh was granted to Sanatan Sanstha for the event. The information reportedly came through a Right to Information (RTI) query filed with the Union Ministry of Culture under the Right to Information Act. A response from the Delhi tourism department regarding possible additional funding is still awaited. The programme reportedly featured speeches by individuals including Suresh Chavhanke, Ashwini Upadhyay and Rahul Dewan, where controversial remarks were allegedly made, including calls to remove Muslims from India through the National Register of Citizens (NRC)



and suggestions to cap the Muslim population. Union ministers such as Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shripad Naik and Sanjay Seth, along with Delhi tourism minister Kapil Mishra, were also reported to have spoken at the event. "The question is not whether Rs 63 lakh is a big amount or a small one. The question is why public money is being used for programmes that promote the cleansing of a community or demand a Hindu Rashtra," Owaisi said. During his address, Owaisi also spoke about escalating tensions in West Asia involving Israel, United States and Iran, expressing concern over the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. He urged global leaders to prioritise diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation and restore peace in the region.

Salar Jung Museum launches Spotlight Tours for immersive learning

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Salar Jung Museum in collaboration with Re-Reeti foundation is introducing Spotlight Tours, a free guided tour offered every Saturday and Sunday in one-hour and two-hour formats. These curated experiences transform a traditional museum visit into an engaging journey of dialogue, discovery, and meaningful connection with objects, the press release said. Each tour highlights carefully selected artefacts, inviting visitors to slow down, observe closely, and explore the stories, craftsmanship, and cultural significance behind them. The tours are guided by two educational approaches – the Live Museum Framework, which



encourages dialogue, cultural exchange, and shared perspectives, and Object-Based Learning (OBL), which uses artefacts as starting points for inquiry, observation, and critical thinking. Through these free Spotlight Tours, the museum aims to create an engaging, inclusive, and interactive learning experience where visitors connect more deeply with objects, ideas, and one another. For further information, please contact the Education department or email to thematictourbooking.salarjung@gmail.com.

Minister Vivek, Prof. Kodandaram Unveil Diary at TNGO Office



Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, along with Telangana Jana Samithi President Professor Kodandaram, unveiled a diary at the TNGO Office, Nampally, in Hyderabad. The programme was chaired by Private Employees Association President Gandham Ramulu. Among those present were Telangana Gazetted Employees Association State President Eluri Srinivasa Rao, General Secretary B. Shyam, writer Raja Lingam, Private Employees Association Associate President Karunakar Reddy, Working President Shiva Prasad Yadav, and Treasurer Chandra Shekhar Mudiraj, along with other leaders and members.

Telangana BJP chief wants CM to deliver 1 tola gold promise to women

Ramchander Rao said that in Telangana the crimes against the women and the correspondent cases in the courts of law have been on the rise

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Wondering what happened to Congress' 2023 election manifesto promise of giving 1 tola (10 gm) gold and Rs 2,500 per month financial assistance to all the poor women in the state, Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president N Ramchander Rao questioned the Congress'



"Prajapalana" (people's governance) claim. Rao made the remarks on Friday, March 6, while speaking at a meeting organised by the BJP's Ma-

hila Morcha in Hyderabad commemorating International Women's Day. He claimed that women across the country in BJP-ruled states were socio-economically and educationally prospering, but in Telangana, the crimes against women and the corresponding cases in the courts of law have been on the rise. Crediting the women's development in the coun-

try to the able rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that central schemes for girl children like Laadli Lakshmi Yojana were making a difference in the lives of the target group. He said the people were well aware of Congress' big talk and hollow promises, and that the countdown for the end of the Congress government in Telangana had begun.

Kausar Mohiuddin, AIMIM Legislators Join Praja Palana Review



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Kausar Mohiuddin, MLA from Karwan representing All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), along with other party legislators, participated in a review meeting on the Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranali 99-Day Action Plan held on Friday at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. The meeting focused

on assessing the implementation and progress of the government's 99-day action plan aimed at strengthening governance and accelerating development initiatives across the state. Officials and legislators discussed ongoing programmes, reviewed departmental performance, and evaluated measures being taken to ensure effective delivery of public services.



Advocate Habeeb Ali Khan organized a Dawat-e-Sehri for the advocates of the Telangana High Court at King Restaurant, Hyderabad. Several senior advocates and members of the legal fraternity attended the gathering. The event provided an opportunity for advocates to interact and share a moment of fellowship in a cordial atmosphere.

Telangana Postal Dept's State level Dak Adalat to be held on March 23

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A Dak Adalat to hear complaints and grievances related to customer services of India Post will be conducted through virtual mode (online) by the Chief Postmaster General, Telangana Circle, Hyderabad, on March 23 at 11 am. Grievances related to staff matters, service matters and matters pending with courts (all types) would not be taken up, according to an official release. Complaints and grievances of the public related to services of India

Post from Telangana State may be sent to: S Vijaya Jyothi, assistant director (CS), office of the Chief Postmaster General, Telangana Circle, Hyderabad-500001 on or before 13/03/2026. The letters should be written in a clear and understandable manner and the envelopes should be superscribed with 'Dak Adalat' on the outer cover invariably. Complainants have to intimate their mobile number/email ID/address for communication along with their complaint.

Fathe Affan Condoles Ali Khamenei's Death

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Congress Youth Leader Fathe Affan expressed deep sorrow over the death of Ali Khamenei, describing it as a significant loss for the global Muslim community and for those who admired his leadership. In a condolence message issued on Saturday, Affan said the passing of Ayatollah Khamenei had created a void in the political and religious landscape of the Islamic world. He noted that Khamenei served as Iran's Supreme Leader



for more than three decades and played an influential role in shaping the country's policies and its position in international affairs. Affan extended his heartfelt sympathies to the people of Iran and to followers who looked up to Khamenei as a spiritual



and political guide. He prayed that the departed leader's soul rests in peace and that the bereaved family and the people of Iran find strength during this difficult time. The Congress youth leader also called for peace and stability in the

region, stressing the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in addressing tensions in West Asia. He said the legacy of leaders who shaped history should remind nations of the need for unity and mutual respect. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had been Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989, died on February 28 following major military strikes during escalating tensions in the Middle East. His death has triggered mourning in Iran and reactions from governments and political leaders across the world

Cyber criminals using AI deepfake videos to cheat people of crores

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cyber attacks are getting faster, more personalised and harder to detect, with cyber criminals increasingly deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automate, scale and enhance attacks, including phishing, deepfakes, malware and social engineering. Consider this case. Cyber fraudsters looted people of crores of rupees by using fake AI-

generated videos of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The fraudsters using artificial intelligence created realistic fake videos that showed the minister speaking about government-backed financial assistance schemes. The AI-created videos were circulated on social media platforms and many people filed online applications and transferred money towards processing fees believing them to be



genuine. "Cases involving AI-generated videos are increasing day by day. Cyber fraudsters adopt new modus operandi to cheat people and it is necessary to double-verify before believing in any financial schemes or offers circulating online. Use of AI for conning

people is a new modus operandi," said an official of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau. Cyber fraudsters are also targeting businesses and individuals using AI-generated video calls to get funds transferred into their accounts. "Criminals use AI to create lifelike audio and video impersonations of executives or family members. These deepfakes can be used in real-time video calls to trick victims into trans-

ferring money or revealing sensitive information. Such frauds are reported in many countries across the world," said the official. AI is also used to target individuals including high-profile personalities such as actors, sportsmen and politicians. Last year, actor Chiranjeevi had lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad cyber crime police after AI-generated deepfake videos featuring him in obscene

content surfaced on pornographic platforms and other websites. While cyber criminals for long have been adopting AI for crafting emails, messages and creating websites to target people, they are also using the tool for running scam call centres and to produce phishing kits, malware and social engineering content on a large scale to target unsuspecting victims.

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