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**WEATHER**

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

### Brief Insights

#### Didi Rejects Modi's Prediction of Her Defeat

Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for predicting a repetition of her defeat at Bhowanipore in this Assembly Election after Nandigram five years ago, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asserted of foreseeing her victory in her home turf and punctured his claims about fish production in the state. The Trinamul Congress supreme, who addressed

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

#### Netanyahu Approves Lebanon Negotiations Amid Strikes Risking Iran Truce

A tentative U.S.-Iran ceasefire is faltering as Israel pounds Beirut, Iran maintains its grip on the Strait of Hormuz and truce talks remain uncertain, with both Tehran and Washington claiming victory and exerting pressure. The heavy Israeli strikes made Wednesday the deadliest day in Lebanon since the war began, with at least 203 people killed, according to the Health Ministry. There are lingering disagreements over whether the ceasefire covers the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Iran is warning of "STRONG

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## Revanth Reddy To Launch Education Kits Scheme For Students In New Academic Year

To implement the scheme, the government has floated tenders for procurement of education kits

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is set to launch an 'education kits scheme' for students in government schools and hostels ahead of the academic year beginning in June. This will cover around 19 lakh students in government schools and five lakh students studying in hostels, including gurukuls, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs), model schools, tribal welfare schools and other institutions run by government societies. While hostel students will be provided education kits containing 24 items each,



government school students (day scholars) will get kits containing three items each. This is in addition to the school-related paraphernalia that is distributed annually to all students. To implement the scheme, the government has floated tenders for procurement of education kits, with April 13 set as the deadline for submission of bids. The Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational

Institutions Society (TGSWREIS), nodal agency for integrated tendering, has already initiated the process and set up a project monitoring unit after conducting review meetings with senior officials. The 24 items have been categorised into nine groups, with separate tenders issued for each. The 24-item education kit includes school and white uniforms, bags, shoes, socks, belts, ties, ID cards, stationery, PT dress, night dress, track-suit, carpet, bedsheet, blanket, towel, plate, glass, bowl, cup, spoon, trunk box, notebooks and trolley bags. These kits will be supplied from the

2026-27 academic year, benefiting a large section of residential students. In addition, the government has decided to supply education kits to nearly 19 lakh day scholars studying in government schools by providing them three essential items, shoes, socks and belts. Currently, day scholars receive only free textbooks and mid-day meals. Officials said this move is significant as nearly 50 per cent of students in elementary government schools do not wear footwear, while 5 to 10 per cent of high school students face similar conditions, particularly those walking long distances from villages to schools.

## Revanth Directs Repair Works of Damaged Kaleshwaram Barrages

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday directed officials to take up repairs of the three damaged barrages at Medigadda, Sundilla and An-naram, part of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS) and bring them back into use at the earliest. He directed

that all works be executed in accordance with the recommendations of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and emphasised expediting the repair process without delay. Revanth Reddy was speaking at a meeting to review the Kaleshwaram project along with irrigation minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy. He called for the preparation of a

special action plan for the repair works and directed officials to ensure continuous monitoring. Revanth Reddy also instructed that all concerned agencies be alerted and mobilised to accelerate the pace of work. He stressed that tests and sample collections being carried out under the supervision of the Central Water and Power Re-

search Station (CWPRS) should be completed before the onset of the monsoon. The Chief Minister suggested forming a team comprising officials from the irrigation department, CWPRS, barrage construction agencies and design consultants, with the involvement of members from the Central Water Commission (CWC) at

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## Kerala Votes In Record Numbers Final Poll Percentage Expected To Cross 80 pc

Chief Electoral Officer Rattan Kelkar expects the final poll percentage this time to cross 80 per cent, crediting the record turnout to the Special Intensive Revision

**KERALA**  
Wakeup telangana

Kerala saw heavy polling in the assembly elections, with rival parties already trading claims and counterclaims about the results. By 7.30 pm, voter turnout stood at 77.62 per cent, but sources suggested it could hit 80 per cent as many people were still queued up inside polling stations. Voters were given tokens and allowed into the premises, and among those waiting to cast their ballots were a significant number of women. In the 2021 assembly elections, 2.09 crore voters (76.01 percent) cast their ballots, but this time the turnout is expected to be even higher. Kerala's total electorate is 2,71,42,952, including 1,39,21,868 women, 1,32,20,811 men, and 273 third-gender voters. Kerala has crossed the 80 per cent polling mark only twice in the past—the highest was in 1960 at 85.72 per cent, followed by 80.54 per cent in 1987.

Chief Electoral Officer Rattan Kelkar expects the final poll percentage this time to cross 80 per cent, crediting the record turnout to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). From early morning, long queues formed outside polling stations, as men, women, and the elderly chose to vote early to avoid the midday heat. This trend was seen across both urban and rural areas, and if it continues, the turnout is expected to cross 80 per cent. All 140 assembly constituencies reported moderate to heavy polling, with political parties making bold assertions. Aside from a few minor incidents of violence and political clashes, polling in Kerala went smoothly on Thursday. Scat-



tered reports emerged of bogus voting allegations, impersonation, small scuffles, and technical issues at various polling stations. In Punalur, LDF and UDF workers got into a clash near the LP School booth over claims they were prevented from casting their votes. UDF booth agent Jamal was stopped from entering the booth in Adoor for wearing smart glasses with a camera and Bluetooth. A minor clash erupted between Congress and BJP activists in Manalur, while tensions rose in Kasargod after NDA candidate Ravi Kulangara was allegedly prevented from voting by CPM workers. Skirmishes between rival party workers were also reported in Adoor, Palakkad, Ottapalam, Shoranur, and Kuttiadi. Allegations of bogus voting surfaced in Ayanjeri, part of the Kuttiadi constituency. There were reports from Kannur that the ruling LDF supporters were not allowing the UDF and NDA workers to come out of the polling stations at some places, after the closure of voting at 6 pm.

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## Vote for Govt That Listens: Kharge as Polling Begins in 3 States

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday urged voters to exercise their constitutional right as polling began across 296 seats in Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry. In a post on X, Kharge highlighted rising unemployment, financial distress, and growing uncertainty in Kerala under the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. He called on voters to once

again demonstrate the state's commitment to progressive values. "My dear sisters and brothers of Kerala, you have always stood for education, dignity, secular values, and social justice. You have shown the nation what progressive thinking truly means. Now, once again, the responsibility lies in your hands," he said. He added that farmers, plantation workers, youth, and small business owners have been facing challenges

and are seeking relief and opportunities. Kharge appealed to voters to uphold unity and reject division. "Do not let division or distraction weaken that strength. I urge all to come out in large numbers and vote for a government that listens, cares, and delivers," he added. Turning to Assam, Kharge expressed confidence in a "palpable change" in the state, alleging that its social fabric had been weakened over the past decade.

## Iran Unveils Alternate Shipping Routes in Strait of Hormuz

Iran announced alternative routes on Thursday for ships travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, citing the risk of sea mines in the main zone of the vital waterway. Tehran has agreed to temporarily reopen the strait, through which one-fifth of the world's oil usually passes, as part of a two-week truce. "All ships intending to transit the Strait of Hormuz are hereby notified that in order to comply with the principles of maritime safety and to be protected from possible collisions with sea mines...they should take alternative routes for traffic in the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement quoted by local media. The statement shared instructions for an alternative entry and exit route through the strait.

## Democrats Fail to Curb Trump's War Powers in Iran Push

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump's Republicans on Thursday blocked an attempt by the opposition Democrats to curb his authority to wage war in Iran, amid mounting frustration in Congress over his handling of the Middle East conflict. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries sought to pass a war powers resolution by "unanimous consent" -- a procedure that bypasses the need to hold a



recorded vote, provided no one objects -- but was stopped, as expected, by the Republican majority's presiding officer. The maneuver, staged during a short procedural session while lawmakers remain out of Washington, was largely symbolic but underscored growing Democratic anger over a

conflict that has not been formally authorized by Congress. Jeffries had urged colleagues to attend the session and press for immediate action, arguing a recently announced two-week ceasefire was "woefully insufficient" and calling for a permanent end to US involvement in the war. Republicans, however, showed little appetite to challenge Trump's authority. Some have backed the administration's handling of the conflict, while others -- though uneasy

about the lack of congressional oversight -- have stopped short of supporting measures that could constrain military operations. The failed push sets the stage for a more consequential showdown next week, when lawmakers return from a two-week recess and Democrats plan to force a recorded vote on the resolution. Jeffries has said he believes only a small number of Republicans would need to break ranks for the measure to pass. In the Senate, Democratic

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## Industrial City Begins Operations At Zaheerabad After 13 Years

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The development of the Smart Integrated Industrial City (SIIC) in the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district has finally commenced, 13 years after the project was first announced by the Centre in 2013. At least three global firms, Hyundai, Triton Electric and VEM Technologies have promised an investment of more than ₹14,000 so far. The works have been ex-

pedited following the signing of MoUs with three major companies that are set to establish operations in the NIMZ. Hyundai Motor Company has announced plans to set up a massive Global Innovation Research and Development Centre over 675 acres with an investment of ₹8,528 crore. Triton Electric will invest over ₹3,500 crore to manufacture lithium-ion batteries and EV components, while VEM Technologies will invest more than ₹2,200 crore to establish a unit for preci-



sion engineering components catering to the automotive and aerospace sectors. Strategically located along the Hyderabad-Nagpur Industrial Corridor, the NIMZ Zaheerabad is being de-

veloped as a major manufacturing and logistics hub in South India. The project is expected to generate around 2.5 lakh direct jobs and 5 lakh indirect employment opportunities across manufacturing, logistics, warehousing, support services, transport, maintenance and small and medium enterprises. Land for the project had been acquired from farmers several years ago but they were permitted to continue cultivation due to the delay in execution. Officials have now made it clear that no farming activity will be allowed once the ongoing Rabi season concludes later this month. Sangareddy district collector P. Pravinya is regularly holding review meetings with officials to assess the

progress of NIMZ works. Revenue officials have completed a detailed survey of 3,245 acres earmarked for the first phase and have fixed boundaries to facilitate the handover of land to SRR Projects, which has been awarded the contract to undertake development works for phase one, official sources said. National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad planned over 12,635 acres, spread across 17 villages in Jharasangam

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## BRS set to gain ground in Karimnagar as Jeevan Reddy confirms entry

Senior leader T Jeevan Reddy is set to join the BRS after quitting the Congress, boosting the party in north Telangana. KTR met him in Jagtial, and his formal induction is expected soon in the presence of KCR.

**JAGTIAL**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant political development, the BRS is set to strengthen its base in north Telangana, with senior leader T Jeevan Reddy confirming his decision to join the party, dealing a blow to the ruling Congress party.

Jeevan Reddy recently quit the Congress after more than four decades, citing growing dissatisfaction with the leadership. Repeated humiliation, lack of recognition for senior leaders, and local political decisions being taken without his involvement contributed to his exit.

Describing Jeevan Reddy as a highly respected senior leader with a strong connect with farmers, Rama Rao said he met him on the directions of



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao. He recalled the long-standing mutual respect between the two leaders.

“KCR holds Jeevan Reddy in high regard. His long fight on issues like the Nizam Sugar Factory reflects his commitment. We hope he will join us soon and strengthen the party,” Rama Rao said, assuring him of due respect and responsibility within the BRS.

He added that though Chandrashekhara Rao had invited the former Congress leader into

the BRS immediately after Telangana formation, the latter had respectfully declined, citing his commitment to the Congress.

Welcoming the invitation, Jeevan Reddy made his intent clear. “My future lies with the BRS. Meeting KCR is now only a formality. I am happy to work under his leadership for public welfare,” he said.

He also criticised the Congress, alleging that committed senior leaders were being sidelined while defectors were being given priority. He stated that the present Revanth Reddy government had reversed the progress achieved during the BRS regime in 10 years within two years.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the current political situation and the modalities of Jeevan Reddy’s formal induc-

tion, which is likely to take place soon in the presence of the BRS president.

Political observers see his imminent entry into the BRS as a significant boost for the party in Karimnagar and surrounding districts, where Jeevan Reddy commands considerable influence. For the Congress, already grappling with internal dissent, his exit could prove a setback at a time when the opposition is regrouping aggressively. BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday called on Jeevan Reddy at his residence in Jagtial and formally invited him to join the party. The meeting, which lasted over an hour, was attended by key leaders from the erstwhile Karimnagar district, including B Vinod Kumar, Gangula Kamalakara and Koppula Eshwar.

## KTR was given rousing welcome in Jagtial

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao was given a rousing welcome in Jagtial when he arrived in the town to meet senior leader T Jeevan Reddy. Jagtial town wore a pink look as BRS party flags and flexis were arranged in different parts of the town in the wake of Rama Rao’s visit. Party leaders and workers, who gathered in large numbers, received the BRS working president at Dharur on the outskirts of Jagtial town and took out a huge bike rally in the town. Later, Rama Rao, along with senior party leaders, visited the house of Jeevan Reddy and welcomed him into the party.

Expressing happiness over the visit of BRS leaders to his residence, Jeevan Reddy assured that



he would join the party. Before that, he said he would like to meet the party president K Chandrashekhara Rao to recall the memories of their friendship.

Jeevan Reddy, who started his political career as Panchayat Samithi president of Mallial, was elected as MLA six times and served as minister three times. The first time, he was elected as an MLA on a Telugu Desam Party ticket in 1983 and worked as Excise Minister in Nandla Bhaskara Rao’s cabinet. Differing with NTR, he joined the Con-

gress party in 1984 and was elected as a legislator in 1989, 1996, 1999, 2004 and 2014. In 2019, he was elected MLC from Karimnagar Graduates constituency. Jeevan Reddy contested against BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao in the 2006 and 2008 by-elections for Karimnagar Parliament constituency and was defeated.

On March 25, he resigned from the Congress party due to differences with the party leadership, ending a 43-year-long association with the party.

## Institutional Heads Honour Cyberabad Police Commissioner

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a gesture of appreciation, Prof. Dr. Ramana Naik Banothu, FIE, Chairman of a leading institution, along with members of the committee, met M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate, at his office in Hyderabad on Wednesday. During the meeting, the delegation felicitated the Commissioner by presenting him with a traditional shawl and memento, recognising his exemplary leadership in promoting technology-driven policing and strengthening community engagement initiatives. Adding further, Commissioner M. Ramesh has been instrumental in modernising policing practices in



Cyberabad by encouraging the use of advanced surveillance systems, digital monitoring tools, and data-driven strategies. Under his leadership, several initiatives focusing on cybercrime prevention, women’s safety, and traffic management have gained momentum, making Cyberabad one of the most efficiently policed urban regions in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Banothu lauded the Cyberabad

Police for their prompt responsiveness and citizen-centric approach, stating that their efforts “set a benchmark for urban policing.” He highlighted the importance of innovative policing methods in ensuring public safety in rapidly growing urban areas. Responding to the honour, Commissioner Ramesh expressed gratitude to the delegation and emphasized that support from institutions and community stakeholders plays a vital role in enhancing effective public-service delivery and maintaining law and order. He also reiterated the department’s commitment to adopting smart policing solutions and strengthening public trust. The brief felicitation ceremony concluded with a group photograph and an exchange of greetings among the participants.

## Govt Cracks Down on Irregularities in Mudiraj Atmagaurava Bhavan Project

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government will take strict action against irregularities in the construction of the Mudiraj Atmagaurava Bhavan, said State Mudiraj Corporation Chairman Borra Gyaneshwar Mudiraj. Addressing a media conference, Chairman Borra Gyaneshwar Mudiraj stated that past irregularities carried out in the name of a trust have come to light. He made it clear that the government will not compromise with anyone who has acted against the dignity and interests of the Mudiraj



community. He emphasized that the self-respect of the Mudiraj community cannot be compromised under any circumstances. Individuals who misused the trust for personal gains and deceived the community will face legal action, he warned. The Chairman noted that the Atmagaurava Bhavan, to be constructed on five

acres of land allotted at Kokapet, is not merely a building project but a symbol of pride and identity for the Mudiraj community. He assured that the government is prioritizing the project and taking steps to ensure its speedy completion. He further highlighted that the ₹5 crore fund announced by BC Welfare

Minister Ponnambra Prabhakar reflects the government’s commitment to the cause. Additional funds will be allocated as required, he added. On the demand to shift the Mudiraj community from the BC-D category to the BC-A category, Gyaneshwar Mudiraj said that a positive decision is likely soon. Discussions have already been held with the BC Commission, and a report has been submitted. Reaffirming his commitment, the Chairman stated that the fight for the rights of the Mudiraj community will continue until justice is achieved.

## Social Activist Bandi Vinay Warns Extortionists, Urges Public to Take Legal Route

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

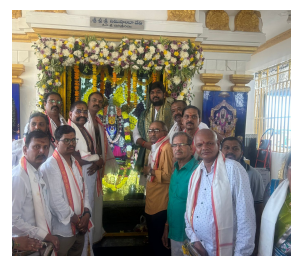
On the occasion of the 119th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, a commemorative program was held in Nizamabad to pay homage to the legendary leader. The event was marked by heartfelt tributes, with leaders recalling his immense contributions toward uplifting the oppressed and advocating for equality and social justice. His enduring vision and



commitment to inclusive development were remembered as guiding principles for today’s society. Prominent dignitaries,

including Nizamabad MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana, Mayor Uma Rani Ramesh, the District Collector, Telangana State Minority Chairman Tariq Ansari, and Agriculture Commissioner Gadugu Gangadhar, attended the program and offered their respects. Speakers at the event emphasized the relevance of Babu Jagjivan Ram’s ideals in the present day and called upon citizens to uphold his values by working towards unity, fairness, and social harmony.

## Naveen Yadav Joins Nimishamba Temple Anniversary



V. Naveen Yadav attended the first anniversary celebrations of the Sri Sri Nimishamba Devi Temple in Borabanda Division on Thursday, participating in special pujas and community activities. The temple, situated within the Mallanna Temple premises at Site-2 Colony, marked the occasion with religious fervour and large devotee turnout. During the visit, the MLA was warmly received by temple committee members and honoured with a traditional shawl. He took part in the Annadhanam programme, personally distributing prasadam to devotees. Addressing attendees, Naveen Yadav expressed hope that the Goddess would bless the people of Jubilee Hills with peace and prosperity. He reaffirmed his commitment to the constituency’s development and welfare. The event witnessed active participation from local Congress leaders, devotees, and residents, reflecting strong community engagement in the celebrations.

## Limbadi Drives Telangana Higher Education Reforms

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Professor R. Limbadi, Chairman of the Telangana State Council of Higher Education, has been instrumental in shaping higher education policies and digital transformation in Telangana. He played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring continuity in education through the rapid adoption of online and blended learning systems, safeguarding the academic year for



thousands of students. Previously serving as the convener of Degree Online Services Telangana, Limbadi streamlined the admissions process, making it more

accessible and transparent for students across the state. His leadership has focused on integrating technology with education, improving academic standards, and enhancing administrative efficiency.

With a strong academic background, including experience as a Head of Department, he continues to contribute to policy discussions and regularly addresses education summits, emphasizing innovation and future-ready learning systems in Telangana.

## Free Medical Camp in Division 14 Distribution of Free Medicines

“In Mahbubnagar’s Division 14, a grand Free Medical Camp was organized today by Corporator Imran Sharif. In this camp, not only did expert doctors examine the patients, but free medicines were also distributed to them. The medical team, including Dr. Taslim Fatima (UPHS), Dr. Silekha mbbs, Dr. Ashwini mbbs, and Dr. T. Bhargavi mbbs, along with RMP Dr. Suri, provided their excellent services. Corporator of Division 34, Shabana Begum, graced the event as a special guest. Additionally, Fakhruddin Qureshi, Sajju Pahalwan, Yousuf, Ghouse, Sofi, nisar Shoaib, and all BLOs extended their full cooperation to make this camp a success.”

## Bolarum CI Niranjan Felicitated by Congress Leader

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Senior Congress leader and Ward 7 representative Dr. Narsimhan Kannan led a warm felicitation ceremony for newly appointed Bolarum Circle Inspector Niranjan, reaffirming strong community support for law enforcement. The event brought together several local leaders and activists, including G. Arvind, Rasheed, Narendar, Srikanth Reddy, Jupally Rajnikanth, Srinivas, Gandhi, and Sajad, reflecting a united front to strengthen policing in the Bolarum area. Welcoming the new CI, Dr. Kannan expressed confidence in Niranjan’s ability to ensure public safety and maintain law and order. He assured full cooperation from the community, emphasizing the importance of trust and coordination between citizens and police officials. The felicitation assumes significance amid rising concerns over petty crimes and traffic issues in Bolarum. CI Niranjan is ex-



pected to adopt proactive measures to address these challenges and enhance security. Dr. Kannan, known for his active role in civic and social initiatives, reiterated his commitment to community development, highlighting the need for collective efforts to build a safer and more responsive neighborhood.

## Rotary Club of Bhuvanagiri Praised for Service Activities; Wheelchairs Distributed to Needy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a commendable act of social service, the Rotary Club of Bhuvanagiri organized a wheelchair distribution program at YSR Gardens in Bhuvanagiri town. The initiative, supported by Dr. Empalla Buchchi Reddy, former President of Rotary Club Bhuvanagiri and head of Kapal Bone Setting Center, Oushapur, received widespread appreciation from the community. On the occasion, wheelchairs were distributed to Pannala Sanjeeva Reddy from Hanmapur village and Mehboob Bee from Shivalayam



Road, Bhuvanagiri. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude, stating that the support would significantly improve their mobility and daily lives. Speakers at the event lauded the Rotary Club for its continuous commitment to social welfare. They highlighted that the club has been actively involved in various service

initiatives, including support for the underprivileged, healthcare assistance, educational programs, and community development activities. Such efforts, they noted, serve as an inspiration and strengthen the spirit of humanitarian service in society. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Empalla Buchchi Reddy emphasized that extending support to the needy is a collective responsibility. He reaffirmed the club’s commitment to undertake more service-oriented programs and reach out to a larger section of society. The event was attended by Gaddam Jnana Prakash Reddy (District Joint Secretary, Kakatiya Region).

## RSS Chief To Visit Hedgewar's Native Village Kandakurthi

RSS Sarsangchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat will visit Kandakurthi village in Nizamabad district on April 11 to inaugurate Shri Keshava Spoorthi Mandir as part of his organisation's centenary celebrations. Kandakurthi is the native village of RSS founder president Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur, Maharashtra, on the Vijaydashami day in 1925. Due to this connection, several people who are influenced by the RSS show interest in visiting Kandakurthi. The Centre has deployed paramilitary forces at the village ahead of the visit of the RSS chief, who enjoys an Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) level security, which is on par with the security detail offered to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Only a limited number of people were invited to the programme. The RSS chief will stay in Kandakurthi for four hours — from 5 pm to 9 pm — on Saturday. During his visit, he will visit Keshava Murthy, Rukmini Sametha Vittaleshwara.

# Power Dept Pumps For Dues From Irrigation, Panel Set Up

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Amidst an ongoing row between the energy and irrigation departments over unpaid power bills totalling more than ₹33,000 crore, concerns are rising over the safety of heavy duty pumps used at various lift irrigation and other irrigation system pump houses if they are to be switched on and off as per the demand of the power department. Following a recent letter from Transco to the irrigation department that the latter must cough up the ₹33,653 crore owed to the two discoms, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and irrigation



minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy met to try and find a solution to the problem but failed to make any headway. The irrigation department has been seeking uninterrupted 24x7 power to run pumps at lift irrigation project sites. It is learnt that during the meeting, principal secretary, energy, Navin Mittal made it clear that of the around ₹50,000 crore dues to the power utilities, the bulk, ₹33,653 crore, was owed by the

irrigation department and that it should schedule its operations when cheaper power is available. He also added that the irrigation department dues must be paid. Transco had, in a letter on March 26, asked the irrigation department to pay the dues as it was finding it tough to continue supplying free power to lift irrigation schemes. It also said irrigation officials should use their pumps during the day, when Transco can source cheaper solar power. But with cash-strapped irrigation department officials expressing their helplessness at meeting Transco's demands, the task of finding an acceptable solution to both sides will now have to

be found by a committee of senior officials from the two sides. "Transco has its point, but it will not work for the irrigation department. Their commercial concerns are at odds with the technical requirements for pumping. Using pumps during the day, and switching them off as suggested by Transco could well kill the pumps," according to government lift irrigation adviser K. Penta Reddy. "We saw pumps fail at Nandi Medaram and Ramadugu pump houses of the Kaleshwaram project because they were switched on and off frequently. Repairs to them cost ₹25 crore each," Penta Reddy told. Deccan Chronicle.

## Sajjanar, Kannan Inspect Traffic Flow In Shaikpet-Masab Tank Corridor

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



The police and civic administration have recommended a series of measures to improve the flow of traffic, including reducing the size of rotaries, widening of roads and removal structures on the road from Shaikpet to Masab Tank. City police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar and GHMC commissioner R.V. Kannan along with senior officials travelled in a bus on the corridor to get a first-hand feel of what is expected to be developed as a model corridor. The team identified water-logging points at the Shaikpet flyover ramp and Tolichowki, as well as drainage leakages Tolichowki 'U' turn and Al-Hasnath Colony, and directed them to be addressed. The team proposed the construction of a foot overbridge (FOB) at SD Eye Hospital and discussed resolutions for problems along the road at the NMDC area. Under

the Tolichowki police limits it was proposed to construct a FOB at Brindavan Colony Road 1 and install pelican signals and zebra crossings at Shaikpet Nala. Besides, construction of a CC road from Ice Magic Parlour to Brindavan Colony and installation of a bus shelter at Majestic Function Hall and translocation of three trees near Shah Ghouse Hotel. "In order to facilitate smoother traffic flow, the officials have decided to reduce the width of the rotary at Nanalnagar Junction and widen the road from Rethibowli Junction to Nanalnagar. The authorities decided to widen the road by removing the central median and trees," a statement said. They also decided to remove the Ramalayam arch at Nanalnagar bus stop, Boddu Rayi at Golf Club Road, and structures at Shaikpet Nala to ensure smooth traffic flow and relocate three trees and electric poles for a free left from Balika Bhavan towards Tolichowki. Under the Asifnagar and Masab Tank police limits, it was decided to remove the old rumble strips, reduce the width of the Sulabh Complex and shift the bus shelter. Officials also decided to acquire land at NMDC and opposite SD Eye Hospital for road widening as per the Master Plan, install height restriction barriers and warning boards on both sides of the Masab Tank.

## Empowering Women: Sewing Machines Distributed, Skill Training Launched in Sangareddy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step towards women's empowerment, the Sangareddy District Administration organized a special programme under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, distributing sewing machines to 50 beneficiaries and launching beautician training for 25 others to promote self-employment and financial independence among women. A special programme was organized in Sangareddy district under the Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme by the District Women and Child Welfare Department in collaboration with the District Women Empowerment Center. As part of the initiative, sewing machines were distributed to 50 beneficiaries, while beautician training classes were launched for another 25 beneficiaries. The primary objective of the programme is to economically empower women by creating sustainable self-employment opportunities. The initiative specifically focused on providing livelihood



support to economically weaker women, single women, widows, school dropouts, and other eligible beneficiaries, enabling them to become self-reliant. The programme was inaugurated at the District Bal Sadan, Sangareddy, by Hon'ble TGICC Chairperson Mrs. Nirmala Jaggareddy and District Collector Mr. Praveenya. On the occasion, a plantation drive was also conducted, symbolizing commitment to environmental protection. Addressing the gathering, TGICC Chairperson Mrs. Nirmala Jaggareddy emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in the upliftment of women and reiterated the goal of promoting women's progress across all sectors. District Collector Mr. Praveenya stated that the distribution of sewing machines

and the introduction of beautician training under the BBBP scheme would significantly improve the livelihood opportunities of women in the district. District Welfare Officer Mrs. Lalitha Kumari highlighted the importance of various schemes being implemented by the Women and Child Welfare Department and encouraged women to move forward towards self-employment and financial independence. Municipal Chairperson Mrs. Vanitha Santosh also expressed her views, appreciating the efforts taken under the programme. The event was attended by District Women Empowerment Center Coordinator Pallavi, CDPO Chandrakala, DCPO Ratnam, Children's Superintendent Vijaya, councillors, and other officials.

## Ponnam Inaugurates Samatha Kitchen, Distributes 2BHK Title Deeds

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Transport and BC welfare minister Ponnab Prabhakar on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Samatha Kitchen' at the Hyderabad district collectorate as part of the state government's 99-day "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" programme and distributed 2BHK housing title deeds to beneficiaries in Bahadurpura and Karwan constituencies. The minister said the initiative was aimed at promoting inclusive development and creating livelihood opportunities. "The gov-



ernment places great priority on the Samatha Kitchen initiative, which aims to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, transgender individuals, and other marginalised communities," he said.

Hyderabad collector Harichandana Dasari said the focus was on sustainable livelihoods through employment-oriented initiatives. She added that skill development training would be tailored to persons with disabilities and

transgender individuals to enhance employment opportunities. At Karwan in the Old City, the minister distributed 76 2BHK housing title deeds in Farooqnagar of Bahadurpura constituency and 175 in Jiyaguda, Karwan constituency. "We have completed the remaining pending works and are now delivering these double-bedroom houses to the beneficiaries," he said. He said the government would continue distribution to all eligible beneficiaries. "This government will distribute title deeds to the remaining eligible individuals as well," he

said. Referring to welfare measures, the minister said, "In the last 10 years, not a single ration card was issued. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and through the 'Praja Palana', we have distributed new ration cards. If there are still any eligible individuals remaining, ration cards will be distributed to them at any time; this is a continuous process. Beyond just ration cards, we are also distributing high-quality, fine-grain rice suitable for consumption. We are providing a free electricity supply of up to 200 units."

## Row Over Alleged Remarks by Mallikarjun Kharge Sparks Protests

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tensions escalated after alleged remarks by Mallikarjun Kharge during the Assam elections triggered strong reactions from the Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. BJP leaders claimed the comments were provocative and urged the Election Commission of India to take strict action. In Chandrayangutta, BJP workers staged protests, including burning an ef-



figy of Kharge. Party representatives also submitted memorandums to local police officials demanding legal action, alleging attempts to incite communal tension. However, the authenticity and context of the remarks remain under de-

bate. Political observers have stressed the importance of verifying statements and maintaining responsible discourse, especially during elections, to preserve democratic values and public harmony.

## Vishwakarma Meet Elects State, District Leaders



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A grand meeting of Vishwakarma representatives from all 33 districts of Telangana was held at Nagaram GRSS Garden Function Hall. The gathering unanimously elected the State President, showcasing unity among members. District presidents were also selected to strengthen grassroots leadership. Erroju Bikshapathi Chari was elected

as Medchal-Malkajgiri district president, while Kandhamoori Brahmayya was chosen for Mahabubnagar. Representatives from across the state participated and discussed community development and future initiatives. Leaders emphasized unity, structured leadership, and collective efforts to address key issues and ensure the socio-economic progress of the Vishwakarma community across Telangana.

## Citizen-Centric Governance Training Concluded at MCR HRDI

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A specialized training programme on citizen-centric governance was successfully conducted at the Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, a premier administrative training institute of the Telangana government. The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants who successfully completed the course. The institute, established in 1976, plays a key role in strengthening public administration by training government officials in modern governance practices, with a



strong focus on responsiveness, accountability, and service delivery. The training programme aimed at enhancing the capacity of government employees to deliver efficient, transparent, and people-oriented services. Participants were trained in key areas such as citizen-centric service deliv-

ery, digital governance, grievance redressal systems, communication skills, and best practices in public administration. Such programmes are designed to build a professional and responsive workforce aligned with evolving governance needs. Among the participants,

Appala Srinivas Yadav, an employee working in the Sangareddy Zilla Parishad office, successfully completed the training and received the certificate from HRD officials. Officials addressing the participants emphasized that the knowledge and skills gained during the training should be effectively implemented in day-to-day administrative functions. They highlighted that adopting citizen-focused approaches would significantly improve public service delivery and strengthen trust between the government and citizens.

## Encroachment Removal Drive Clears Key Stretch in Begumpet

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An encroachment removal drive was conducted from WhatsApp Pan Shop to Fateh Nagar under Begumpet Traffic Police limits, restoring road space and ensuring smooth traffic flow. The operation was carried out following directions from the Malkajgiri Commissionerate to address illegal obstructions affecting vehicular movement. Traffic police, along with GHMC authorities and local law and order personnel, removed encroachments blocking the



carriageway and footpaths. The drive aimed to ease congestion and im-

prove road safety for commuters in the busy Begumpet area.

Senior officials from the traffic and law and order wings supervised the operation, supported by staff from multiple traffic police stations. Authorities confirmed that the clearance has significantly improved traffic movement along the stretch. Officials warned that strict action will be taken against individuals who encroach on public roads and footpaths. Citizens were urged to cooperate and avoid illegal occupations. Traffic police reiterated their commitment to maintaining orderly, safe, and congestion-free roads for the public.

# Right-Wing Accounts Target Indians in US

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A growing number of right-wing social media accounts and online communities is targeting immigrants, particularly those from India in the United States, with hostile rhetoric, misinformation and coordinated hate campaigns. In recent months, especially after US President Donald Trump took office, Indian professionals have seen a surge in posts accusing them of "taking over" jobs and misusing visa programmes, especially the widely used H-1B work visa. Much of this hate originates from loosely organised online groups and influencers, who portray themselves as "vigilantes" defending American workers.



Social media platforms have become a key battleground for these narratives. The accounts spread videos of Indian workers in the United States, call their work "scams" and allege their work to be violating the H-1B norms. Such incidents frequently trigger waves of online abuse directed at Indian workers, with several people questioning their legitimacy and calling for stricter immigration controls. Influencers

and content creators have produced videos and posts alleging widespread fraud among Indian immigrants, often with little to no evidence. One widely shared documentary-style video by an influencer targeted Indian communities in Texas and suggested illegal activity, prompting backlash from viewers and experts who pointed out inaccuracies. V. Ramesh, a US-based Telugu organisation's general secretary, said:

"Some of the accounts actually go very far to hurt a person or their life. They report to the employers, reveal their personal details online, doxx them and even file complaints with USCIS and ICE." "We recently filed a complaint with the police in Arizona about one of these influencers who attacked an Indian while taking a vlog. We submitted the CCTV footage too, where the man kept repeating 'Go back to your curry-land' and suddenly attempted to punch the victim. Police are currently investigating the matter", Ramesh added. In the city of Frisco, Texas, several people entered the city's council meeting wearing "Make America Great Again" hats, and began alleging

an "Indian takeover" of the city in February. Local reports stated that they alleged, without evidence, that Indians were committing visa fraud and stealing jobs from Americans, and were taking over the city. Residents speaking with the media said that social media posts had amplified suspicion and hostility towards Indian-origin families in the area. Major American companies employing Indian professionals have also come under attack. Firms such as FedEx and Walmart, among others, have faced boycott calls and online campaigns for hiring foreign workers under legal visa programmes. Experts say the rhetoric is closely tied to broader political debates around im-

migration and employment. "The H-1B visa allows US companies to hire skilled foreign workers. But this has long been controversial. Right-wing commentators often claim that it is used to replace American workers with cheaper labour, even though those visa holders fill specialised roles in sectors such as technology and are behind the tech which they use on a day-to-day basis", said Rajeswar Rao, an immigration analyst. "Many groups online purposefully highlight certain facts and hide certain facts, and misinform people into thinking Indians on H-1B and other visas are killing their employability. They use that misinformation to fuel anti-immigrant sentiment online," he said.

## Netanyahu Approves Lebanon Negotiations Amid Strikes Risking Iran Truce

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A tentative U.S.-Iran ceasefire is faltering as Israel pounds Beirut, Iran maintains its grip on the Strait of Hormuz and truce talks remain uncertain, with both Tehran and Washington claiming victory and exerting pressure. The heavy Israeli strikes made Wednesday the deadliest day in Lebanon since the war began, with at least 203 people killed, according to the Health Ministry. There are lingering disagreements over whether the ceasefire covers the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Iran is warning of "STRONG responses" if attacks on its militant ally don't stop. Although the Strait of Hormuz is closed, there were no reports of strikes Thursday inside Iran or attacks against



Israel or Gulf Arab countries, leaving Lebanon as the only country where the conflict is still burning. Israel-Lebanon negotiations are expected to begin next week at the State Department in Washington, according to a person familiar with the plans. Meanwhile, talks on a permanent U.S.-Iran ceasefire deal could begin soon in Islamabad, with Vice President JD Vance set to lead the U.S. delegation.

## 1 Lakh Tonne LPG Supplied Since Mid-March In Country: Petroleum Ministry Official

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The government on Thursday said that nearly 1 lakh tonnes of LPG has been supplied since the middle of March this year, including 6,700 tonnes on Wednesday, equivalent to about 3.5 lakh 19 kg cylinders. However, the government is ensuring the 100 per cent supply of LPG for domestic households in the country, according to a senior



official. Addressing the inter-ministerial briefing, joint secretary at the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, Sujata Sharma said that no dry-outs have been reported in LPG distributors so far. She also emphasised that the

supply of bulk non-domestic LPG has been restored for sectors like food, polymer, agriculture and others and over 10 lakh commercial LPG cylinders have been sold since March 23. "Since March 14, nearly 1 lakh tonnes have been supplied, including 6,700 tonnes yesterday, equivalent to about 3.5 lakh 19 kg cylinders. The LPG cylinders were distributed to over 51 lakh homes on Wednesday and OTP

based LPG delivery has reached 92 per cent and online booking has reached 98 per cent," she said. Meanwhile, shipping and waterways additional secretary Mukesh Mangal also informed that India is actively monitoring the situation in the Gulf region due to the ongoing situation in West Asia. "The Indian-flagged vessel named Green Asha, carrying LPG, has safely reached JNPA earlier today," he said.

## MP's 'Abuse-Free Village' Reforms Foul Mouth With Rs 500 Fine

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

An obscure village in Madhya Pradesh has shot into limelight for cultivating a unique identity as an 'abuse-free' settlement, thanks to a community-driven initiative to reform the society. Borsar in the Burhanpur district has banned use of foul language in the village, even in casual conversations, by its inhabitants and violation of the 'behavioural code' attracts either a fine of Rs 500 or free labour to clean the streets for an hour, for the offender. "The move has not only

helped reform the society, but also promote social harmony in the village", Ashwin Patil, the brain behind the initiative, said on Thursday. He along with the sarpanch and deputy sarpanch of the village, Antar Singh and Vinod Shinde respectively, led the 'Sanskar Kranti' (revolution of cultural values) campaign to make Borsar free of cuss words, in public. According to Mr. Patil who returned to his native village of Borsar a few months ago after spending around two decades in Mumbai, the idea to free the village of foul language struck when he noticed that

minor disagreements among the villagers often escalated into a dispute due to use of abusive words by the warring individuals. He then floated the idea of turning Borsar an 'abuse-free' village by imposing some deterrent measures like penalties, with the sarpanch and deputy sarpanch, leading to the birth of the 'Sanskar Kranti' campaign. A meeting of the villagers was called to make them aware of the penalty and punishment to be imposed on those people who violated the 'behavioural code'. Monitoring committees have

been formed in each ward of the village to keep a vigil on such offenders and promptly take action against them. Hoardings and banners have also been put up at several places in the village to caution the villagers not to use foul language in public. "The village now can boast of being an 'abuse-free' settlement", Mr. Patil said. Community-driven measures have now been undertaken to make the village green with large scale plantation of trees and improve the hygiene, after the success of the 'Sanskar Kranti'.

## Didi Rejects Modi's Prediction of Her Defeat

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

Hitting back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for predicting a repetition of her defeat at Bhowanipore in this Assembly Election after Nandigram five years ago, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asserted of foreseeing her victory in her home turf and punctured his claims about fish production in the state. The Trinamul Congress supremo, who addressed three poll campaign rallies in North 24 Parganas, a district with the highest number of deletions of voters' names among all in the special intensive revision (SIR) of the Election Commission, also vowed to restore the names of remaining 58 lakh deleted voters among 90 lakhs who have been delisted in the drive. Retaliating to Mr Modi's prediction, Ms Banerjee said, "They claim they will win Bhowanipore. They won (read Nandigram) last time through manipulation. Do you now want to win using the votes of Bohiragoto (outsiders) and money? People will give you a befitting reply." She then



dismissed his allegations against her government of failing to serve fish to the Bengalis. "The PM stated that there is not enough fish production in Bengal! But what about the fact that they themselves do not allow fish in Bihar, UP, Rajasthan? In Delhi, shops selling fish and meat are attacked. And then you come to teach us a lesson on fish production?" the CM wondered. She added, "Earlier, we used to import fish from Hyderabad. But now 80% of fish are produced here. However, we have an issue that we consume premature fish. But under the agriculture department, we grow fish in all water bodies. We started this 4-5 years ago. They need not worry about fish production in Bengal. Instead tell me why Bengalis in other states are stopped from eating fish

or meat." Taking a swipe at Mr Modi for drawing a comparison with neighbouring states, the TMC chief argued, "He claimed that in Bihar fish production is so high that fish is sold outside the state. It happens because people in Bihar are not allowed to eat fish. In our state, the fish get sold in the markets. First, check the numbers." She further pointed out, "Hilsa fish is now available widely in West Bengal. We established a research centre for Hilsa production in Diamond Harbour. We have given special emphasis on fisheries to help the fisher communities. We have issued the Matsyajibi Card to track and find fishermen if they go missing." Targeting the PM over a record number of deletions of voters' names in the SIR, Ms Banerjee sought him to explain if they were infiltrators and alleged, "To grab Bengal they deleted over 90 lakh voters. Still, TMC will win. I have fought at the Supreme Court and succeeded in restoring 32 lakh names which were wrongly deleted earlier. I will ensure the rest are restored too.

### Industrial City.....

National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad planned over 12,635 acres, spread across 17 villages in Jharasangam and Nyalkal mandals. Nearly 9,000 acres of land acquired. Villages such as Bardipur, Yelgoi, Chillapalli, Chillapalli Thanda and parts of Nyalkal mandal are part of NIMZ. First phase on 3,245 acres has received joint approval from the Centre and the state government. First phase to cost `2,369 crore, with the Centre contributing 49% and Telangana 51%. The phase will focus on establishing core industrial infrastructure, including `596.61 crore worth of smart infrastructure and a dedicated road project costing `100 crore. NIMZ concept was introduced by the Centre in 2013 to attract large-scale investments, enhance industrial productivity, strengthen manufacturing capabilities and generate long-term employment. Across the country, around 13 such zones were planned, with one sanctioned for Telangana at Zaheerabad.

### Centre removes.....

He stressed that tests and sample collections being carried out under the supervision of the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) should be completed before the onset of the monsoon. The Chief Minister suggested forming a team comprising officials from the irrigation department, CWPRS, barrage construction agencies and

design consultants, with the involvement of members from the Central Water Commission (CWC) at every stage of the work.

During the meeting, engineers informed the Chief Minister that not only the sunken pillar at Medigadda but the entire 1.6-kilometre barrage would need to be studied. Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare an action plan for drilling 500 borewells near Medigadda and to arrange the necessary machinery to complete the work at the earliest. He also instructed that designs related to the repairs be finalised quickly and a comprehensive schedule for works to be taken up until December be prepared. Making it clear that there should be no delays, the Chief Minister assured that there would be no shortage of funds for the project. He directed officials to set up a base camp at Medigadda and said he would personally visit the site to inspect the works once they commence. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Irrigation Secretary Sridhar, Chief Minister's secretary Manicka Raj, and senior officials from the irrigation department attended the meeting.

### Democrats Fail to....

Some have backed the administration's handling of the conflict, while others -- though uneasy about the lack of congressional oversight -- have stopped short of supporting measures that could constrain military operations. The failed push sets the stage for a more consequential

### FROM FRONT PAGE

showdown next week, when lawmakers return from a two-week recess and Democrats plan to force a recorded vote on the resolution.

Jeffries has said he believes only a small number of Republicans would need to break ranks for the measure to pass. In the Senate, Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has signaled a parallel effort, with a vote expected in the coming days. Similar measures have struggled to gain traction in the past, and Republican opposition remains strong despite signs of unease within the party. Under the 1973 War Powers Resolution, Congress is required to act within 60 days of the start of an unauthorized military conflict -- a deadline that could intensify pressure on lawmakers if the Iran war continues. "The American people are with us," Jeffries told left-leaning cable news network MS NOW ahead of the vote. "They don't want to see billions of dollars being spent dropping bombs in Iran from an administration that's not willing to spend a dime to actually make life more affordable for the American people."

### Kerala Votes In.....

A minor clash erupted between Congress and BJP activists in Manalur, while tensions rose in Kasargod after NDA candidate Ravi Kulangara was allegedly prevented from voting by CPM workers. Skirmishes between rival party workers were also reported in Adoor, Palakkad, Ottapalam, Shoranur, and Kuttiaadi. Allegations of bogus voting sur-

faces in Ayanjeri, part of the Kuttiaadi constituency. There were reports from Kannur that the ruling LDF supporters were not allowing the UDF and NDA workers to come out of the polling stations at some places, after the closure of voting at 6 pm. Political reactions Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, contesting from the Dharmadam constituency in Kannur district, expressed confidence

### Trump threatens.....

that the LDF would return to power with a bigger margin than in 2021. "We have taken significant steps toward building a developed Kerala and achieved progress across various sectors. That momentum must continue. People generally don't want any disruption to development and progress," he told reporters after casting his vote at RC Amala LP School in Pinarayi. When asked about Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Pinarayi said the "dash" in his earlier "dash mon" remark was for people to interpret as they wished. He claimed Reddy was the only chief minister to have been arrested in a corruption case and added that he would speak more on the matter after the polls. Opposition Leader V D Satheeshan voiced confidence that the UDF would return to power with more than 100 seats. "I've travelled across Kerala four times in the past three months, and only after carefully gauging public sentiment am I saying we'll win over 100 seats," he told reporters after casting his vote at Kesari Balakrishna Memorial Government College.

CRIME

# Seven MBBS Students Face Action In KMC Ragging Case

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) has once again come under the spotlight following two separate incidents of alleged ragging involving medical and paramedical students in Hanamkonda. In a swift response, the college administration initiated disciplinary action against senior students based on recommendations from the Anti-Ragging Committee. In the first incident, a group of seven third-year MBBS students allegedly subjected their juniors to humiliation over comments made on



social media. Sources said the seniors were offended by remarks posted in a WhatsApp group. As a form of punishment, the juniors were allegedly forced to kneel for an extended period. Following a formal complaint, the Anti-Ragging Committee conducted an inquiry and recommended a three-month academic suspension and per-

manent cancellation of hostel facilities for the accused. In a separate incident, a first-year BSc Radiology (paramedical) student was allegedly assaulted by seniors. The dispute reportedly began during practical training at MGM Hospital, where second-year students questioned juniors over alleged lack of respect. The situation

escalated after duty hours when the seniors allegedly summoned the junior to the Bhadrakali Temple premises. The student was reportedly assaulted and sustained injuries. The victim, along with family members, approached Mattewada Police Station on Wednesday to lodge a complaint. Police advised the family to first report the matter to the KMC principal, citing provisions under the Anti-Ragging Act. The incidents have raised fresh concerns over campus safety and the effectiveness of anti-ragging measures at the institution.

EDITORIAL

# TOWARDS A DRUG-FREE TELANGANA: AWAKENING YOUTH AGAINST THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana  
Aftab Ahmed

Telangana is making commendable strides in safeguarding its most valuable asset — its youth. By addressing the challenge of substance abuse with determination and foresight, the state is creating a stronger foundation for a healthier and more prosperous future. While substance use among adolescents and young adults remains an area of focus, proactive measures are steadily building awareness, resilience and collective commitment across the state.

Recognising that adolescence is a formative phase of brain development, Telangana's initiatives aim to protect young minds and empower them to make informed, positive choices that support long-term well-being and success. The Telangana Government has adopted an effective strategy that combines vigilant enforcement with widespread prevention and awareness efforts. The establishment of the EAGLE (Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement) demonstrates a strong commitment to disrupting supply networks and ensuring a safer environment for young people.

Equally encouraging is the emphasis on demand reduction through education and community engagement. Aligned with the national Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), the state has rolled out impactful campaigns featuring seminars, short films, rallies, street plays and digital outreach. These pro-

grammes actively involve students, parents and communities, often with the participation of influencers and public figures, to promote a vibrant, drug-free lifestyle. The Anti-Drug Soldier Campaign inspires young people to take leadership roles, encouraging them to champion the message that true freedom and success come from living substance-free. Mass pledge drives in schools, colleges and public institutions are fostering a growing culture of commitment and pride in choosing health and excellence.

A particularly promising aspect of Telangana's approach is the integration of prevention into everyday educational life. Prahari Clubs in high schools serve as dynamic, student-led platforms involving principals, teachers, parents and local police. These clubs promote peer awareness and help create positive, drug-free campus environments. Similarly, Anti-Drug Committees (ADCs) in colleges and universities organise interactive sessions and activities that build life skills, refusal abilities and emotional resilience. Regular engagement by EAGLE teams further enriches these efforts with practical insights and motivation.

Awareness plays a transformative role in prevention. It helps young people understand the realities of substance use, equips them with essential skills to navigate peer pressure and highlights healthy alternatives such as sports, yoga, arts and skill development. By fostering self-confidence and strong support networks, these

initiatives enable youth to unlock their full potential and pursue their aspirations with clarity and confidence. Support systems are also expanding positively. Confidential helplines offer timely guidance and counselling, while de-addiction and rehabilitation facilities, including those in government medical colleges, provide compassionate care and aftercare to support recovery and reintegration.

The path ahead is filled with optimism. Sustained collaboration among educational institutions, families, NGOs and the wider community will accelerate progress. Schools and colleges are nurturing active Prahari Clubs and Anti-Drug Committees, while parents and teachers are increasingly engaging in open, supportive conversations. Most importantly, Telangana's youth are stepping forward as enthusiastic leaders in this movement.

With its talented, energetic and ambitious young generation, Telangana has every reason to look forward to a brighter tomorrow. By prioritising awareness, vigilance and collective action, the state is steadily advancing towards a Nasha Mukta Telangana — where young people thrive in a safe, supportive and drug-free environment. Let us celebrate and strengthen this momentum. Together, through continued awareness and united efforts, we can ensure that Telangana's youth realise their dreams and contribute fully to building a progressive, healthy and vibrant state.

## Foreigner Held in 'Black Paper' Currency Scam in Nalgonda

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Thipparthi police on Thursday arrested a foreign national for allegedly cheating people by luring them with promises of multiplying their money fivefold in Nalgonda district. The accused was identified as 53-year-old Goita Soungalo, a native of Mali in West Africa, who was illegally residing in Hyderabad after his visa expired on August 3, 2024. Another accused, Salman alias Umadaliya, is absconding. Presenting the accused at a media conference, Su-

perintendent of Police Shatrath Chandra Pawar said the accused used social media to circulate videos demonstrating a fake process where black paper dipped in a liquid would transform into ₹500 currency notes. They promised to return five times the amount for the original cash given by victims. A resident of Thipparthi, who came across the video, was cheated by the duo and lodged a complaint. Acting on this, police laid a trap and arrested Soungalo near the Thipparthi railway station when he returned to strike

## Tension In Warangal Over ANM's Death

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Tension prevailed after the family members of a 20-year-old woman staged a protest on a national highway, alleging that she was gang-raped and murdered at A.K. Thanda in Rayaparthi mandal of Warangal district on Thursday. The deceased, identified as Gugulothu Chitti, was employed as an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) at the Narsampet government hospital. She lived in the village with her grandparents, while her parents re-

sided in Hyderabad for livelihood. Her two brothers were working in Madhya Pradesh. The victim's family alleged that four local youths had gang-raped Chitti, leading to her death due to excessive bleeding. Accusing the police of negligence, the relatives blocked traffic and demanded immediate arrests. The body was later shifted to the Wardhannapet hospital mortuary. However, the police strongly refuted the gang-rape allegations, citing preliminary investigation and medical

## Family disputes drive woman Sarpanch to die by suicide in Nirmal

A woman Sarpanch died by suicide following family disputes at Masaipet village in Kaddampeddur mandal on Friday. Kaddampeddur SI Sai Kiran said that Durgam Laharika (31), wife of Rajesh ended her life by consuming pesticide following a tiff with her husband. Differences cropped up between the couple for a long time. Elders of the two families tried to resolve the issues, but the couple continued to fight repeatedly. The exact reason for her drastic step is yet to be ascertained. Hailing from Narsapur village, Laharika was married to Rajesh 14 years ago. The couple has a son and daughter. Laxmi, mother of Laharika lodged a complaint with the police. A case of abetment to suicide was registered

## Ambedkar Statue Missing in Secunderabad, Protest Warning Issued

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A statue of B. R. Ambedkar went missing from Valmiki Nagar in East Marredpally, Secunderabad, triggering protests and demands for immediate action. Members of Bheem Mission Ideology (BMI) and local Ambedkar statue committees alleged that the statue was either stolen by anti-social elements or removed in a pre-planned manner. At a meeting held at the Valmiki Nagar Community Association office, leaders resolved to lodge a complaint at Marredpally Po-



lice Station and seek clarity on the incident. A bike rally was organised from Valmiki Nagar to the police station, demanding immediate arrest of those responsible and reinstatement of the statue at the same location before April 13, ahead of

Ambedkar Jayanti. Leaders warned of a mass protest in front of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board if their demands are not met, holding authorities accountable for any untoward incidents.

## Bhavaninagar Police Conduct Cordon Search

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana  
Ismail

A high-intensity cordon and search operation was conducted within the limits of Bhavaninagar Police Station in the Mirchowk Division, focusing on curbing illegal activities and strengthening public safety. The operation aimed at identifying and acting against anti-social elements, offenders, and unlawful practices in the area.



Police teams systematically searched multiple locations, targeting vehicles without proper or valid number plates and those violating traffic norms. Special attention was given to tracking

ganja peddlers, illegal gutka and tobacco storage units, and unauthorised belt shops. Authorities also monitored the movement of rowdy sheeters, suspect individuals, and persons

involved in PDS rice diversion. Further checks were carried out at scrap shops, graveyards, and locations suspected of harboring illegal domestic gas refilling units. The operation also focused on detecting individuals in possession of prohibited arms, knives, or explosive materials. The initiative reflects a proactive approach to maintaining law and order while building community confidence.



# Rupee, Bonds Rally on Ceasefire Relief & RBI Pause

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee and bonds rallied on Wednesday following a two-week ceasefire announcement by the United States in its war with Iran and the RBI's decision to keep rates and stance unchanged in its first bi-monthly monetary policy for the fiscal. Brent Crude prices were trading lower by 13.73 per cent at \$ 94.27 per barrel in futures trade, after the announcement of the ceasefire. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.64 to a dollar. It touched a high of 92.9 and a low of 92.47 before closing at 92.58, a fall of 42 paise compared to its Tuesday's close of



93 to a dollar. It has fallen to a historic low of 95.22 low in the last week of March 2026. Meanwhile, the India government 10-year yield fell to 6.92 per cent, a full 10 basis down from Tuesday's level of 7.02 per cent.

Investor sentiment got a further boost after Governor Sanjay Malhotra in the Monetary Policy press conference, assured that the measures on forex were all temporary in nature, taken due to artificially drawing up of

prices. Dilip Parmar, senior research analyst at HDFC Securities, said, "The Indian rupee has staged a notable recovery following the announcement of a ceasefire in the Middle East. This rebound was further bolstered by several key tailwinds, including a plunge in crude oil prices, supportive commentary from the RBI regarding recent regulatory curbs, and a sharp rally across global equity indices." "With geopolitical anx-

ieties dissipating, both the rupee and its regional currencies appear poised for additional strength over the coming days. From a technical perspective, the trading range for the USDINR has shifted to 92 and resistance at 93.10," added Parmar. "We did notice that in the last few weeks of March, there was heightened volatility in the forex market. We saw that positions were being built up, leading to arbitrage positions between the non-deliverable forward markets and the deliverable markets. When there is excessive building up of positions and perhaps not helping in price discovery, such kind of measures are taken," said Malhotra. The rupee has been

under some strain, and that is mostly thanks to weak foreign direct investment (just \$6 billion so far this year, compared to the \$38-44 billion we used to see). Foreign investors pulled \$18 billion out in FY26, and ongoing trade deficits are not helping. The RBI's MPC left its key repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent for the second straight meeting and maintained a neutral stance. The decision was in line with market forecasts, as the Iran war had threatened GDP growth and fuelled inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, GDP growth for FY2026-27 is estimated at 6.9 per cent, average inflation for FY27 is projected at 4.6 per cent.

## Paragon Footwear Offers Cashback on Women's Range

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Paragon Footwear has rolled out a ₹30 assured cashback offer on its women's footwear range, aiming to boost accessibility and drive higher adoption of its fashion-forward styles among women consumers. The cashback can be claimed through a simple QR-based process. Each product features a scratch-enabled QR code on the tag, which customers can scan to access the cashback page. By entering the voucher code and basic details, users can instantly redeem the benefit, ensuring a quick and seamless experience. The initiative reflects Paragon's strategic push to strengthen its women's segment, which currently contributes 15-20% of overall sales. The company has set an ambitious target to scale this share to 40% over the next



three years, positioning the category as a major growth driver. Speaking on the initiative, Sachin Joseph, Executive Vice President - Marketing & IT at Paragon, said the brand is focusing on offering designs that balance style, comfort, and everyday functionality. He noted that the cashback offer is intended to encourage more consumers to explore the company's expanding range of contemporary footwear suited for multiple occasions. Paragon's women's collection is built around trend-driven

designs that align with evolving consumer preferences, combining variety, durability, and modern styling. The move also supports the brand's broader effort to reposition itself as a fashion-forward yet affordable choice in the competitive footwear market. Founded in 1975, Paragon has established itself as a leading footwear brand in India, offering a wide portfolio including sandals, shoes, flip-flops, and slippers for all age groups through an extensive nationwide distribution network.

## RBI Proposes 1-hour Delay For High Value Digital Transactions To Curb Fraud

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released a discussion paper proposing a series of measures to tackle the sharp rise in digital payment frauds, including a mandatory time lag on certain bank transfers, additional authentication by trusted person (for high value transactions) done by senior citizens, allowing only accounts with sufficient review to receive large credits caps on suspicious accounts, and a

one-click "kill switch" for customers to instantly freeze all digital payments.

Comments on the paper are open until May 8, 2026. In its discussion paper "Exploring safeguards in digital payments to curb frauds", the central bank quoting figures from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) said that frauds related to digital payments have risen from 2.6 lakh reported cases worth ₹551 crore in 2021 to 28 lakh cases worth ₹22,931 crore in 2025. "Fraudsters are



deploying various tactics, such as bogus call centres, deepfake-driven impersonation scams and mule account networks. Almost all sections of society, especially the vulnerable

groups such as senior citizens have fallen prey to such Authorised Push Payment Frauds (APP frauds). Therefore, there is an urgent need to put in place systems and pro-

cesses to address these issues," said the central bank.

The Reserve Bank of India outlined four possible safeguards. Under option 1, banks would be required to hold account-to-account transfers above ₹10,000 for one hour at the payer's end before executing them. During this window, customers would retain the option to cancel. If a transaction appears suspicious, the bank would be required to seek reconfirmation from the payer before proceeding. Merchant payments, e-

mandates, NACH transactions and cheques would be exempt. Customers could also whitelist specific payees to bypass the delay.

The RBI noted that transactions above ₹10,000 make up around 45 per cent of reported fraud cases by volume but account for approximately 98.5 per cent of total fraud value, justifying the threshold as a targeted safeguard. Three other options were also proposed. The second option proposed would require citizens aged 70 and above

and persons with disabilities to nominate a "trusted person" whose authentication would be mandatory for transfers above ₹50,000, (a threshold that covers nearly 92 per cent of fraud value).

The third option would cap annual aggregate credits into individual and small business accounts at ₹25 lakh. Amounts beyond this threshold would be held as "shadow credit" accessible only after the account holder satisfies the bank about the transaction's legitimacy. If no justification is provided

within 30 days, the funds would be returned to the sender. Under the fourth option proposed customers could be provided with controls which would consist of a 'switch on/off' facility for any digital payment mode as well as for setting limits for different transaction types at the account level. Another possible approach suggested was that customers may be provided with a single facility to disable all digital payment transactions from the account ('kill switch') at one stroke.

## World Bank Raises India's FY27 GDP Growth Projections To 6.6 pc

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The World Bank has marginally increased India's GDP growth projection for FY27 (2026-27) to 6.6 per cent, while warning that external risks—particularly the ongoing tensions in the Middle East—could dampen economic momentum. The latest estimate places the World Bank's outlook between projections by the Reserve Bank of India (6.9 per cent), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (6.1 per cent), and Moody's Ratings (6 per cent).

In its South Asia Economic Update report released on Wednesday, the World Bank said India's growth is expected to ease to 6.6 per cent in FY27 after a period of strong expansion. The Indian economy is estimated to have grown by 7.6 per



cent in FY26 (April 2025-March 2026), up from 7.1 per cent in FY25, supported by resilient exports and strong domestic demand conditions.

A key driver of recent growth has been robust private consumption, aided by low inflation and reforms such as the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The report noted that GST rate cuts are likely to boost consumer demand in the initial months of FY27, providing a short-term stimulus to economic activity. This consumption push is expected to sustain momentum in sectors dependent on

household spending, at least in the first half of the fiscal year.

However, the World Bank cautioned that multiple headwinds could emerge as the year progresses. Chief among them is the evolving geopolitical situation in the Middle East, which has already disrupted global energy markets. Elevated crude oil and energy prices are expected to exert upward pressure on inflation, thereby squeezing household budgets and limiting discretionary spending. This could weaken the very consumption growth that has been central to India's recent economic

resilience.

On the fiscal side, government consumption growth is projected to moderate. Higher subsidy requirements, particularly for cooking fuel and fertilizers, are expected to increase expenditure burdens. This may constrain the government's ability to sustain higher levels of spending in other growth-supportive sectors.

Investment activity is also likely to slow in FY27, the report said, due to heightened global uncertainty and rising input costs. Businesses may adopt a cautious approach to capital expenditure amid concerns over fluctuating commodity prices and geopolitical instability.

While India's exports have shown resilience, global demand conditions remain uncertain. The World Bank noted that although India could benefit from improved market access

to major economies such as the United States and the European Union, slower growth in these and other key trading partners may offset potential gains. Weak external demand could therefore limit export-led growth prospects.

The report further highlighted that the overall impact of the Middle East conflict remains highly uncertain, with growth forecasts by various agencies now ranging between 5.9 per cent and 6.7 per cent for FY27. The World Bank had earlier projected a slightly lower growth rate of 6.5 per cent in its January Global Economic Prospects report.

Recent developments, including military escalations involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, followed by a temporary ceasefire agreement on April 8, have added to global economic volatility.

## Mahindra University Launches Tech-Law B.Tech LL.B.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Mahindra University has announced the launch of its B. Tech LL.B. (Hons.) programme, a forward-looking course designed to integrate legal education with emerging technologies. Admissions are now open for aspiring students seeking to build careers at the intersection of law and innovation. The programme comes at a time when industries are increasingly dealing with complex regulatory challenges driven by rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data protection, fintech, and digital ecosystems. Recognizing the need for professionals with interdisciplinary expertise, the university has developed this course to bridge the gap between traditional legal studies and technological proficiency. The B. Tech LL.B. (Hons.) programme offers a comprehensive and integrated curriculum that combines core legal subjects with specialized knowledge in technology-oriented areas. Students will be introduced to contemporary topics such as AI governance, privacy and data protection laws, cyber regulations, and financial technologies.

This approach ensures that graduates are well-equipped to understand and address the legal implications of modern technological developments. In addition to academic learning, the programme strongly emphasizes experiential and practical training. Students will participate in internships, moot court competitions, hackathons, and industry-led projects, allowing



them to gain hands-on experience and real-world exposure. This practical orientation is aimed at enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and professional readiness. Graduates of the programme can explore diverse career opportunities across law firms, corporate legal teams, regulatory bodies, public policy organizations, and technology-driven enterprises. The interdisciplinary nature of the course opens pathways in emerging fields where legal expertise must align with technological understanding. Commenting on the launch, E. R. Jayaram, Professor and Dean, School of Law, stated that the future of law lies in combining strong legal reasoning with a deep understanding of technology. He emphasized that the programme is designed to create future-ready professionals capable of shaping and navigating regulatory frameworks in an increasingly digital world. With this initiative, Mahindra University reinforces its commitment to innovation in higher education, aligning its academic offerings with the evolving demands of the legal and technological landscape.

## Thousands of Fans Gather as BTS Launches World Tour in South Korea

A huge crowd of BTS fans packed into a stadium near Seoul on Thursday to see the K-pop supergroup kick off their long-awaited world tour. Returning to the stage after a nearly four-year hiatus, RM, Jin, Suga, j-hope, Jimin, V and Jung Kook will perform a set drawing from both their catalog and new fifth album, "ARIRANG," their first since band members completed South Korea's mandatory military service.

Despite pouring rain, Thursday's crowd packed a stadium with a capacity for over 40,000 for



the show, which marks the group's first headline tour performance since their 2021-22 Permission to Dance on Stage tour. The shows in South Korea, running through April 12, launch a global tour spanning dozens of shows across the

United States, Europe and Asia, which analysts say could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue per quarter.

The concert comes less than a month after BTS marked their comeback with a free concert at Seoul's Gwang-

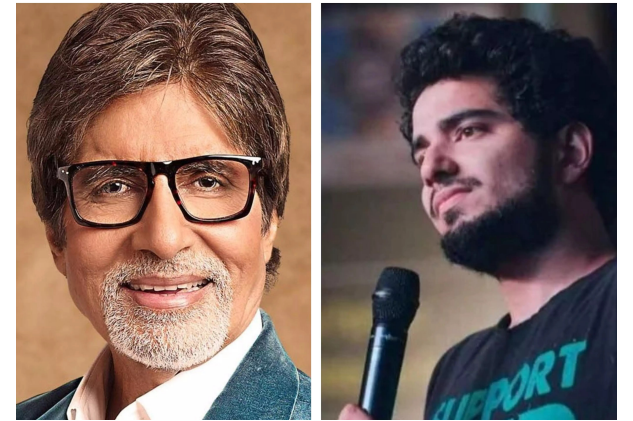
wamun Square. All seven members of BTS completed their mandatory military service, with Suga being the last to be discharged in June 2025. He reportedly served at government-related facilities and organizations instead of military camps due to a shoulder injury. In South Korea, all able-bodied men between 18 and 28 years old are required by law to perform up to 21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea. "ARIRANG" —

named after a centuries-old Korean folk song regarded as an unofficial anthem across the Korean peninsula — debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. The single "Swim" also made it to the top of the charts. BTS — short for Bangtan Sonyeondan, or "Bulletproof Boy Scouts" in Korean — debuted in June 2013. The seven-member group launched in 2013 with the hip-hop heavy single album "2 Cool 4 Skool," releasing three full-length projects before really gaining momentum with their 2016 album "Wings."

## Comedian Samay Raina Jokes on Big B

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

In what could be regarded as a shot at cheap popularity, stand-up comedian and YouTuber Samay Raina invoked the Bachchan name in poor taste, not once, but twice in a public forum. Speaking on his comedy special Still Alive, Raina, who had appeared on the popular quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati hosted by Amitabh Bachchan in 2025, said he had lied when he said during the show that his grandmother was a big fan of the KBC host. Raina said that in fact his grandmother had passed on long before he appeared on KBC. In a further departure from the norms of decency, Raina added that



he had wanted to ask Amitabh Bachchan a question during the show — "Sir, aapne itna polio ka ad kiya, phir bhi apne bete ko paon pe kyu nahi khada kar paye?" (You have done so many polio ads; why couldn't you get your son to stand on his own feet?) The offensive clip from Still Alive has gone viral, triggering conversations across social media on the limits of roasting public fig-

ures. The Bachchans are not amused by Raina's 'jokes.' "What does this chap mean by saying he 'wanted to ask' this question on KBC?" demands a friend of the family. "Why didn't he just ask? What is the point of mentioning it now? And if he lied about his grandmother, that's between him and his grandmother. Please don't use the Bachchans' name to get noticed."

## Bhanupriya Feels Sidelined Despite Legacy, Says Shanti Priya



NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Jenna Ortega has revealed she nearly quit acting after her Disney Channel show Stuck in the Middle ended, but a breakthrough role in Netflix's You ultimately convinced her to continue her career. Speaking on Kid Cudi's "Big Bro" podcast, Ortega shared that she felt uncertain about her

future at the time and even discussed stepping away from acting with her team. The transition from a child actor to more mature roles proved challenging, as she had to reintroduce herself to casting directors who were unfamiliar with her work beyond children's television. Ortega explained that after finishing "Stuck in the Middle," she found herself at a

crossroads. Starting high school and reflecting on her career, she considered whether it was the right time to walk away. Despite having spent most of her life acting, she admitted she had begun to think about exploring other life experiences outside the industry. The turning point came in 2019 when she was cast as Ellie Alves in the second season of

"You," starring alongside Penn Badgley. The role, which featured her as the sharp and observant neighbor of Joe Goldberg, reignited her passion for acting. Ortega said that being on set and enjoying the experience made her realize she could not give up her career. Following that pivotal moment, Ortega's career trajectory changed

significantly. She went on to star in a series of high-profile projects, including X, Scream VI, Beetlejuice Beetlejuice, and Death of a Unicorn. She also gained global recognition for her lead role in Netflix's Wednesday, based on Addams Family. Looking ahead, Ortega continues to expand her portfolio with major upcoming projects.

She is set to star opposite Taylor Russell in a remake of Single White Female. Additionally, she will play the lead in a screen adaptation of Klara and the Sun, directed by Taika Waititi. Her journey highlights how a single opportunity can redefine a career, turning uncertainty into renewed purpose and long-term success.

## Mukul Choudhary Helps LSG Beat KKR By 3 Wickets

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Kolkata Knight Riders' inexperience in pace bowling came back to haunt them yet again as Lucknow Super Giants rode on a stunning late assault from rookie Mukul Choudhary and a fifty from Ayush Badoni to clinch a three-wicket win in a last-ball IPL thriller here on Thursday. Defending 181, KKR looked in control when Cameron Green, making his much-anticipated bowling debut this season, struck with his second ball to remove LSG skipper Rishabh Pant.

But the Australian all-rounder, short on bowling rhythm following workload management after back surgery, could not deliver at the death. Tasked to bowl the crucial penultimate over with 30 runs needed off the last two overs, Green conceded 16 runs as 21-year-old debutant Choudhary turned the game on its head with fearless hitting, smashing two sixes and a four, including a flat hit over long leg. With 14 re-



quired off the final over, Vaibhav Arora, who has played the lead bowler this season for KKR in the absence of Harshit Rana and Matheesha Pathirana, faltered under pressure. Choudhary sealed the contest in dramatic fashion, launching two sixes, including one off the penultimate delivery after a missed yorker that was dispatched over deep cover. Needing just one off the final ball, the batters scampered through as Choudhary capped a sensational knock, finishing unbeaten on 54 off 27 balls (7x6, 2x4), one of the finest cameos down the order this season. He shared an unbroken 54-run stand with Avesh

Khan, which came off just 24 balls, underlining KKR's struggles at the death.

Earlier, Badoni had anchored the chase with a well-compiled 54 (34 balls; 7x4, 2x6) to keep LSG in the hunt before Choudhary's late blitz as they scripted a remarkable turnaround from being 128/7 in 16 overs. The defeat meant KKR remained winless after four matches, with their lone point coming from a rain-abandoned game against Punjab Kings. LSG, on the other hand, registered back-to-back wins to move to the top half of the table with four points.

Under scrutiny as the IPL's costliest overseas

buy (Rs 25.20 crore), Green produced his best outing with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 32 off 24 balls (3x4, 1x6). He stitched a crucial unbroken stand with Roman Powell (39 not out; 24 balls, 4x4, 2x6) to lift KKR to a competitive 181/4 after a mid-innings slowdown. Green, who had been held back from bowling following back surgery and workload management directives from Cricket Australia, finally rolled his arm over in the ninth over and struck immediately. With his second delivery, a sharp short ball, he dismissed LSG skipper Rishabh Pant (10), who top-edged a mistimed hook to short fine leg. It came after Arora had rocked LSG with two wickets in three balls, removing Aiden Markram (22; 15 balls) and Mitchell Marsh (15; 11 balls) to derail their brisk start. From 41/0 in four overs, LSG suddenly lost momentum and were left with a stiff chase. Markram and Marsh had set the tone with aggressive strokeplay.

## Indonesia beat India; Korea and Thailand continue strong in Billie Jean King Cup

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

India went down to Indonesia in their third match in the Billie Jean King Cup Group I — Asia/Oceania at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on Thursday, with the visitors clinching both singles rubbers to take an unsailable lead. Indonesia's win keeps them firmly in the race to finish on top of the standings, while Korea Republic also continued their unbeaten run with a victory over New Zealand. Thailand, meanwhile, bounced back strongly with a clean sweep against Mongolia. In the opening singles rubber, Vaishnavi Adkar was edged out in a hard-fought three-set battle by Priska Madelyn Nugroho, going down 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 6-3. The contest swung both ways, with Adkar showing resilience to force a decider after dropping the first set in a tiebreak, but the Indonesian held her nerve in the third to seal the win. Sahaja Yamalalpalli found the going tough against Janice Tjen in the second



singles rubber, with the Indonesian delivering a clinical performance to secure a 6-2, 6-1 victory and seal the tie for her team. Rutuja Bhosale and Anika Raina were in doubles action at the time of writing against the Indonesian pair of Aldila Sutjiadi and Janice Tjen. Elsewhere, Korea Republic extended their perfect start with a solid win over New Zealand. Dayeon Back overcame Valentina Ivanov 7-5, 6-3, while Sohyun Park dominated her match against Monique Barry, cruising to a 6-0, 6-

1 victory to seal the tie. Korea top the table alongside Indonesia, with both teams winning all their matches so far. Thailand also returned to winning ways in emphatic fashion, sweeping Mongolia 3-0 without dropping a set. Thasaporn Naklo opened the tie with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Anu-Vjin Gantor, before Patcharin Cheapchandej mirrored that scoreline against Khongorzul Aldarkhishig. Peangtarn Pli-puech and Kamonwan Yodpetch then completed the rout, defeating the

Mongolian doubles pair 6-0, 6-0.

All six teams continue to compete in a round-robin format through Saturday, with the top two nations advancing to the next stage.

Results:

Indonesia def. India 2-0 (Priska Madelyn Nugroho (INA) def. Vaishnavi Adkar (IND) 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 6-3; Janice Tjen (INA) def. Sahaja Yamalalpalli (IND) 6-2, 6-1; Doubles ongoing at the time of writing)

Korea Republic def. New Zealand 2-0 (Dayeon Back (KOR) def. Valentina Ivanov (NZL) 7-5, 6-3; Sohyun Park (KOR) def. Monique Barry (NZL) 6-0, 6-1; Doubles ongoing at the time of writing)

Thailand def. Mongolia 3-0 (Thasaporn Naklo (THA) def. Anu-Vjin Gantor (MGL) 6-1, 6-0; Patcharin Cheapchandej (THA) def. Khongorzul Aldarkhishig (MGL) 6-1, 6-0; Peangtarn Pli-puech/Kamonwan Yodpetch (THA) def. Jargal Altansarnai/Oyungereel Khasbaatar (MGL) 6-0, 6-0)

