



Revanth to Visit Medigadda on April 20: P8



Ram Charan's Peddi release pushed to June by makers: P7

LSG stumble as RCB pacers overpower; Bengaluru clinch 5-wicket victory: P7



WEATHER
 MAX: 39.0°C
 MIN: 27.0°C
 RH: 23%
 RAINFALL: 0MM
 FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY
 MAX/MIN temp. 40/28°C

Nara Lokesh Appointed TDP Working President

In a sweeping organisational overhaul, the Telugu Desam on Wednesday unveiled its new Politburo, as also the national and state committees, with education minister Nara Lokesh assuming a central role in the party's organisational set-up. The changes mark a decisive generational shift for the ruling party. Lokesh has been appointed the national working president, underscoring his emergence as the party's principal organisational leader and signalling a calibrated transition in leadership. The move is part of a broader strategy to prepare the party for future political challenges, including the 2029 elections.

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Delimitation: BJP In Duel With Opposition

NEW DELHI
 Wakeup telangana

The government and Opposition are headed for a showdown in the Lok Sabha with the tabling of the Women's Reservation Amendments Bill on Thursday. During the three-day special Parliament session amidst ongoing Assembly polls, while the government will move to fast-track other delimitation reforms needed to see through the women's reservation law, the Opposition will look to corner the Centre over linking it with the delimitation exercise and timing of the debate.

While most political parties broadly extend their support to a 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, many Opposition parties have raised a red flag against linking it with delimitation. On its part, the government is rallying support for The Constitution (One Hundred and



Thirty-First Amendment) Bill 2026, calling it a "big-ticket reform". The Opposition has decided to oppose the bill due to its provisions on delimitation.

On the eve of the special three-day sitting of Parliament, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said, "The Congress party unequivocally supports women's reservation. Parliament unanimously passed the bill in 2023; it is already part of our Constitution. What the government is proposing now has nothing to do with women's reservation. This amendment is an attempted power grab using delimitation and gerrymandering." "We will not allow

'Hissa Chori' from OBC, Dalit and Adivasi communities by ignoring the caste census data. We will also not allow Southern, North Eastern, North Western and smaller states to be treated unfairly," Mr Gandhi said. Ahead of the tabling of the bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India stands on the brink of making one of the most significant decisions of the 21st century as Parliament meets to end "decades of waiting" by amending the Women's Reservation Act for its implementation in 2029.

Former president Pratibha Patil, ex-Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and BSP chief Mayawati

have welcomed the initiative, but the Opposition claimed that the northern states where the ruling BJP has higher consolidation of its vote-bank will get more seats in the Lok Sabha while the southern states will get fewer seats due to the population size.

The Opposition parties have also questioned the principle being planned for delimitation, saying, "When the intent behind a bill is mischievous and the content of it is devious, the extent of damage to parliamentary democracy is enormous." Ahead of the special sitting, top Opposition leaders on Wednesday met at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to discuss and evolve a joint strategy on the women's quota law. Already two prominent non-BJP chief ministers from the south, M.K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu) and A. Revanth Reddy (Telangana), have sharpened their attack

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Trump Signals Iran Talks Amid Blockade

We all love you, Trump tells Modi; US is open for India's role

NEW DELHI
 Wakeup telangana

Donald Trump signalled a possible resumption of peace talks with Tehran this week even as the United States intensified pressure through a naval blockade that has disrupted Iran's maritime trade. The move comes amid escalating regional tensions and parallel diplomatic efforts involving multiple countries. At the core of renewed US-Iran engagement is the long-standing dispute over Iran's nuclear programme. JD Vance said Washington has offered economic revival in exchange for Tehran committing to "no nuclear weapon," reflecting what he described as a broader negotiation strategy by Trump. Diplomatic activity has expanded beyond Iran. Israel and Lebanon have agreed to begin direct negotiations following US-mediated talks in Washington led by Marco Rubio.

The talks come despite ongoing hostilities between



Israel and Hezbollah, which recently launched rocket strikes on northern Israeli towns. Meanwhile, global powers are also stepping in. Xi Jinping met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Beijing, with both sides pledging coordination to de-escalate Middle East tensions, highlighting growing China-Russia alignment. In Europe, Trump criticised Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for her reluctance to support the US stance in the conflict, indicating strains even among allies. On the ground, the US military reported intercepting ships attempting to leave Iranian ports as part of the blockade, though some vessels managed to pass through the strategically

vital Strait of Hormuz. Simultaneously, the US Treasury confirmed it would not extend temporary sanctions relief on Iranian oil, reinforcing its "maximum pressure" approach. In a potential diplomatic opening, Trump suggested a second round of talks with Iran could take place soon, possibly in Pakistan, following an inconclusive first round. Pakistani intermediaries are reportedly working to extend the current ceasefire to allow more time for negotiations. The broader geopolitical impact is already visible. International Monetary Fund has slashed its 2026 growth forecast for the Middle East and North Africa to 1.1%, citing disruptions to oil and gas exports. At the same time, humanitarian concerns persist, with the Red Cross delivering its first aid shipment into Iran since the conflict began. Elsewhere, Volodymyr Zelensky voiced concern that US focus on Iran is diverting attention from Ukraine, warning that reduced pressure on Russia.

Telugu Parties Support Modi on Delimitation

N Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan join others in supporting key reform

NEW DELHI
 Wakeup telangana

Regional parties in the two Telugu states, which usually act with abundant caution while dealing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his major policy initiatives, have made a beeline to support the controversial Delimitation Bill to be tabled in Parliament on Thursday. While the Telugu Desam, an

NDA partner, with its decisive strength in the Lok Sabha, will stand behind Modi along with another NDA partner, Jana Sena, its arch-rival, YSR Congress, has been all praise for the Delimitation Bill and pledged its support to the Centre on Wednesday.

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao announced that party supremo K. Chandrashekhara Rao would be in the forefront and fight against the Centre in the event of injustice to southern states. The NDA, on the other hand, is confident of the passage of both Bills and

is said to have been pinning hopes on smaller parties abstaining from voting so that the magic figure, two-thirds of present and voted, will come down.

"The Prime Minister has taken the issue seriously, and we were made to understand that the BJP will ensure passage of two Bills," a Telugu Desam MP told Deccan Chronicle. The YSR Congress, which never rubbed Modi on the wrong shoulder for apparent reasons, this time too toed the line. Party general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy.

PM urges 9 public pledges

BENGALURU
 Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday advocated 9 resolutions such as water conservation, planting saplings/environment, maintenance of cleanliness, domestic tourism, embracing indigenous products, usage of millets, practice of yoga/sports to be fit and rendering service for the needy to reach the goal of "Viksit Karnataka (a developed Karnataka)" and "Viksit Bharat (a developed India)" faster. The

PM Modi Appeals to People to Take 9 Pledges on Health, Conservation of Nature, Service, Others

PM was talking at a function held at the Adichunchanagiri Mutt, Nagamangala of Mandya. Elaborating on the 9 steps he advocated, Modi said people of Mandya know the value of water conservation better than other districts of the state. The district is blessed by river Cauvery and a resolution

is needed for water conservation and better utilization of water, he said. The PM urged everyone to plant a sapling in the name of their mother to save Mother Earth from destruction.

Modi asked people to attach cleanliness whether in devotional places/cities or rural areas and stressed that all areas need to be maintained cleanly. The Prime Minister wanted a "collective leadership" to maintain cleanliness at all costs. The people should embrace products made in

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

IFoS Official Booked For Abuse

HYDERABAD
 Wakeup telangana

Police have registered cases against IFoS officer S.P. Suthan for allegedly sexually harassing his neighbour, an official in the Department of Telecom, near her residence at the IAS and IPS quarters in Banjara Hills. In her complaint, she said she returned home around 6.40 pm on April 13 after duty. "I heard commotion from the opposite house. A few minutes later, Suthan came out, banging the door loudly. He then said, 'Bhabhi, come let's smoke a cigarette,' in a vulgar

tone and kept repeating it," she alleged.

Her staff member told her that since 4 pm, Suthan, working as deputy conservator of forests (IT) in the forest department, had been shouting, banging doors, and repeatedly stepping out onto the balcony. He was imitating in Hindi, calling out to her pet. "When Suthan referred to me, I took my phone to make his video. I saw him running down the stairs from the balcony. He looked at me and made sexual remarks and repeated them," the complainant said.

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ESTD 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

Telangana Emerges as Key Engineering Hub in India

HYDERABAD
 Wakeup telangana

Telangana is fast evolving as a major hub for engineering goods such as aircraft parts and defence equipment, official trade data from the Union government indicates. According to the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT), a portal maintained by the Central government's department of commerce, Telangana recorded the

highest percentage rise — 117.9 per cent — in engineering export performance among Indian states between 2023-24 and 2024-2025.

The performance places Telangana fourth in engineering goods exports, behind Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Industry sources indicated that the state is likely to sustain this momentum when figures for 2025-26 are released.

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Revanth Flies To Delhi For Opposing Delimitation

HYDERABAD
 Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy left for New Delhi on Wednesday ahead of the special three-day sitting of Parliament beginning Thursday, with plans to remain in the national capital for two days. According to party sources, he is expected to convey his gratitude to the All India Congress Committee for its decision to oppose constituency delimitation based on the 2011 Census, as the Centre prepares to introduce

the delimitation Bill, 2026.

During the visit, the Chief Minister will attend the swearing-in of Vem Narender Reddy, recently elected to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana. He is also likely to meet senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, urging them to raise concerns over the impact of the proposed delimitation on southern and smaller states. The Chief Minister has opposed the proposed 50 per cent increase in Lok Sabha seats based



solely on population. He has advocated a "hybrid model" linking population with Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), stating that a population-based approach would disadvantage

southern states, including Telangana. He has written to Narendra Modi outlining these concerns. He has also reached out to Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, calling for a coordinated response to the proposed model. He said the expansion of Lok Sabha seats to 850 under a pro rata system could widen disparities in representation among states. Citing projections, he noted that while Tamil

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HYDERABAD
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neering goods exports, behind Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Industry sources indicated that the state is likely to sustain this momentum when figures for 2025-26 are released. Traditionally known for pharmaceutical exports, Telangana is now seeing growth in engineering goods, particularly in aerospace and defence. Engineering

goods accounted for 38.44 per cent of the state's merchandise exports between April 2024 and March 2025, according to data from the directorate general of commercial intelligence and statistics under the Union ministry of commerce.

Exports of aircraft components and defence equipment have shown rapid growth in recent years. The state hosts aerospace and defence manufacturing and engineering facilities of global companies such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Airbus, Safran, GE Aviation, Pratt & Whitney, Collins Aerospace and Honeywell. The concentration of these firms has strength-

ened supply chains and positioned Hyderabad as a sourcing and manufacturing base for high-value aerospace components. Data indicates that Telangana is outpacing southern states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in engineering exports.

Engineering exports from Telangana increased more than fourfold over two years, from \$1,827 million in 2022-23 to \$7,536 million in 2024-25, recording a compounded annual growth rate of 103 per cent. This compares with a 10 per cent CAGR for total engineering exports of southern states during the same period. The state's export growth

has been supported by activity across its three economic zones — the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), the Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE) and the Rural Agri Region Economy (RARE). With engineering exports expected to expand further in the PURE zone, Telangana is positioned to compete with established manufacturing states.

The growth aligns with the state's long-term target of building a \$3 trillion economy over the next two decades, with industry citing cost competitiveness, infrastructure and manufacturing capacity as key factors supporting export expansion.

Congress Speeds Up Nominated Posts Finalisation

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Congress party has stepped up efforts to finalise the long-pending list of nominated posts while simultaneously focusing on strengthening its organisational structure across Telangana. In a high-level meeting held on Wednesday, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and PCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud discussed key issues related to appointments and party affairs. The leadership collectively decided to fast-track the process of filling nominated posts, many of which have remained vacant for a considerable period. Emphasising fairness and recognition, Meenakshi Natarajan stressed that priority should be given to



loyal party workers who made significant contributions, especially during elections. This move is seen as an attempt to boost morale among grassroots leaders and reinforce internal unity. The meeting also included a performance review of existing corporation chairpersons.

Leaders reportedly reached a preliminary understanding on whether to extend their tenures or bring in new faces, depending on effectiveness and political requirements. Sources indicate that the appointment pro-

cess has reached its final stage, with a Government Order expected within the next two days.

In addition to nominated posts, the Congress leadership highlighted the urgent need to fill crucial organisational roles such as PCC working presidents, secretaries, and other positions. Strengthening the party's base at the grassroots level remains a key priority. Further, Revanth Reddy directed that a Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting be convened within a week. This meeting will focus on current political developments, countering opposition criticism, and shaping future strategies. Key decisions, including cabinet expansion and district-level committee appointments, are expected to be finalised during the upcoming.

Telangana govt publishes comprehensive caste survey data

The Telangana government has released the findings of its 2024-25 caste survey, covering 1.12 crore families and 3.55 crore people. State Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnab Prabhakar announced that the data is now available on the planning department's website.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government on Wednesday made public the findings of its comprehensive caste survey conducted during 2024-25, placing the data in the public domain through the state's planning department website. The move is being seen as significant amid ongoing national discussions on delimitation and women's reservation. State Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnab Prabhakar announced the release while addressing reporters, stating that the Telangana Socio, Economic, Educational, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) Survey-2024 reports are now accessible online. He explained that the



delay in publishing the data was due to election-related engagements and other administrative reasons. Highlighting the scale of the exercise, the minister said the survey covered approximately 1.12 crore families, accounting for a population of about 3.55 crore people across the state. The operation involved a massive workforce, including over one lakh enumerators and nearly 76,000 data entry oper-

ators, making it one of the most extensive surveys of its kind in the country.

The survey process began on November 6, 2024, with the first phase completed within 50 days. To ensure inclusivity and accuracy, the government later introduced a second phase that allowed citizens to participate through multiple channels. These included direct enumeration at Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

(GHMC) offices, registration via a missed call facility, submissions through a dedicated mobile application, and enrolment at Mee Seva centres. Prabhakar noted that Telangana's initiative could serve as a model for other states, especially at a time when there is increasing demand for updated caste-based data to inform policy decisions. The data is expected to play a crucial role in shaping welfare schemes, resource allocation, and future political representation frameworks. By making the survey findings public, the government aims to promote transparency and encourage informed debate on social justice and equitable development.

Ambedkar Ideals Must Reach All: Dharmendra Yadav

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, a special programme was held near Adaiya Nagar Ghas Mandi in Secunderabad, where Talasani Dharmendra Yadav urged that the ideals of B. R. Ambedkar must move beyond symbolic celebrations and reach every street and household.

Addressing residents, youth and activists, he stressed that Ambedkar's vision of equality, dignity and constitutional rights remains highly relevant in present-day India. Dharmendra Yadav highlighted that Ambedkar's contributions were not limited to one community but were meant for all

who believe in justice and democratic values.

He noted that despite progress, social and economic inequalities persist, making it essential to apply Ambedkar's teachings in governance and daily life.

He called on youth to study the Constitution and use it as a tool to demand accountability and social change.

Speakers at the event emphasised that true tribute lies in fighting discrimination and ensuring access to public services, rather than mere rituals. The programme concluded with participants pledging to promote awareness through community initiatives, echoing Ambedkar's enduring call to educate, agitate and organise.



Stop Extortion-in-Leaders'-Names Now

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A strong demand has been raised for strict action against individuals who collect money in the name of great leaders' birth and death anniversaries. Reports indicate that traders and builders are being threatened and coerced into paying large sums, creating fear in the business community.

The government is urged to ensure protection and introduce a toll-free helpline for victims to report such harassment. Instead of promoting the ideals



of self-empowerment and education envisioned by great leaders, such activities are undermining their legacy.

Misusing laws and intimidation tactics, these groups are engaging in

forceful collections, damaging the spirit of social justice movements. Authorities must increase surveillance and take firm action against such practices, which are evolving into organized extortion networks. This culture discourages hard work and education, while misleading youth toward easy financial gains. If unchecked, it risks deepening social inequalities and eroding faith in merit, knowledge, and genuine progress.

APS Bolarum Secures 100% Result in Class X



Army Public School, Bolarum, recorded a perfect 100 per cent pass rate in the CBSE Class X examinations 2026, with students delivering outstanding academic performance across subjects. Anshika Goyal emerged as the school topper, securing an impressive 98.2 per cent, followed by Ananya Lal with 97.4 per cent and Ronak Gain with 96.8 per cent.

The results also highlighted subject excellence, with students achieving 44 centums in key subjects including English, Mathematics, Social Science and Artificial Intelligence, reflecting strong academic consistency. Principal and school management member Smitha Govind lauded the achievement, crediting both students and staff for their dedication. She emphasised that the success reflects the institution's commitment to discipline, excellence and holistic development, adding that the school strives not just to educate but to nurture future leaders.

Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated Grandly in Lothkunta

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Mission Executive Committee in Lothkunta celebrated the 135th birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar with grandeur, drawing large participation from families, Ambedkarites, and local residents. Floral tributes, slogans, and community gatherings marked the occasion, reflecting unity and commitment to social justice. Senior committee member Gujari Naveen Kumar highlighted Ambedkar's journey from facing untouchability to



becoming the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He underscored Ambedkar's global academic achievements and his role in securing rights for marginalized communities, including the abolition of untouchability

through Article 17. He reiterated Ambedkar's enduring message: "Educate, Agitate, Organise." Advisor Ramesh Kamala delivered an emotional address, recalling Ambedkar's relentless struggle for equality and

urging the community to uphold his legacy in everyday life.

The event witnessed active participation from several committee members, including Anantharaj, Kalavathi, K.A. Laxmi, S. Suvarna, T. Madhukar, and others, along with their families, turning the celebration into a strong display of collective spirit. The gathering not only commemorated Ambedkar's legacy but also reinforced Lothkunta's role as a center for grassroots social initiatives promoting equality, justice, and unity.

Mator Govt School Students Win Gurukul Seats

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a proud moment for Mator village, Government Primary School students Bairapaka Sathvik and Darbar Hardik secured seats in the Class V Gurukul Entrance Examination, earning praise from the community.

A felicitation programme was held at the school on Wednesday under Headmaster Patla Ramesh. Sarpanch Janne Siddulu and Chairperson Sudagani Babitha Satyanarayana attended as chief guests and honoured the achievers. Siddulu said the success reflects the



strength of government education and urged parents to trust public schools, highlighting the role of dedicated teachers. He noted he was also a former student of the same school. Teachers M. Neelima and

Swathi congratulated the students and parents. Villagers, staff, and committee members participated. The achievement reinforces belief that government schools can nurture excellence and shape bright futures.

Minister Seethakka urges citizens to avoid peak summer hours amid rising heat

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister D Anasuya on Tuesday appealed to people to avoid venturing outdoors during peak summer hours in view of the rising temperatures, and directed officials to set up drinking water kiosks in major Gram Panchayats and mandal headquarters. In an appeal, the Minister said the State has been witnessing an intense rise in temperatures over the past few days. She urged citizens to take necessary precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses. "People should refrain from stepping out between 11 am and 3 pm. Instead, complete daily activities between 6 am and 10 am and remain indoors thereafter," Anasuya said. In unavoidable situations, she said, people stepping out should cover their heads with caps, towels, or cloth to protect themselves from the heat. She cautioned that failure to take precautions could lead to sunstroke and other serious health complications.

Telangana Shines in CBSE Class X Results: Hyderabad Schools Hit 100%

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

CBSE declared the first Class X exam results for the 2025-26 academic year on Wednesday afternoon and Telangana reported a near-total pass rate and schools in Hyderabad posted a series of 100 per cent results alongside high scores across subjects. Across the state, 56,276 of the 56,390 students from 559 schools cleared the exams, which took the pass percentage to 99.80. Girls stayed ahead with 99.93 per cent compared to 99.70 among boys. The Vijayawada region, which includes Telangana, recorded 99.79 per cent, on par with Trivandrum, while Chennai followed with 99.58 and Bengaluru with 98.91. Nationally, 24,71,777 students appeared and 23,16,008 passed, taking the overall pass percentage to 93.70, a marginal rise from last year. Girls

again outperformed boys across the country with 94.99 per cent against 92.69 per cent. A total of 55,368 students scored 95 per cent and above, while 2,21,574 crossed the 90 per cent mark.

Schools in Hyderabad reported strong outcomes. Johnson Grammar School, Nacharam recorded a 100 per cent result. Sreeya Divi led the batch with 98.3 per cent followed by Nidumolu Sai Anirudh with 98 per cent and Mulamalla Rithvik Reddy with 96.6 per cent. Several students recorded full marks across subjects including Mathematics, Science, Social Science, languages and Information Technology. "I decided to complete all my studying part by January 1 and then later I started on practice, that's how I got the high scores I believe. Just a lot of practice," said Sreeya Divi. She relied on CBSE resources, previous papers and the marking

scheme to prepare. "Walking, my pets and sketching helped me deal with stress because there's no denying these exams can get to you" she added. She plans to pursue medicine, and advised juniors to keep a balance. "Students should study, but also make friends and make memories. I think it is one of the best years of their life and they should not forget to have fun."

Lakshmi Vishwanathan, academic director at the school, said the results came from consistent work in classrooms and regular assessments. "We are in a very elated mood. Our students have secured a cent percent result in Grade X CBSE," she said, adding, "We made students practise as many sample papers as possible and guided them through regular assessments and reflection." In Madhapur, Meridian School also reported a 100 per cent pass

result. Tanvi Borra topped the school with 493 out of 500, or 98.6 per cent. Debina Banerjee followed with 97.8 per cent and Bhavish Reddy with 97.6 per cent. Several students scored in the mid-90s range, and the school reported 21 full scores in Artificial Intelligence and two in English. Several other schools also noted full marks in AI like DPS Mahindra Hills.

"We have seen numerous full scores in AI and a few more 99s in Hindi," said DPS principal Nandita Sunkara.

Dr B. Ebenezer, senior principal and head SVKM School at the NMIMS Hyderabad campus said the board's two-exam system could help students improve scores. "I believe the two exam systems are great for the students. And those who scored below 90 or 95 might opt for it. And of course it is also a great move for those who might have to repeat.

CM Revanth Reddy Moots Solar Power for Houses in Tribal Areas

ADILABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government would stress on the generation of solar power for houses in interior tribal areas as the forest department is not allowing the erection of poles to supply power, citing the reserve forest rules. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy recently invited the tribal MLAs for a visit to his native village, Kondareddy. There, all houses have solar panels installed on the roofs to meet their power requirements. By this, the village had emerged as a model village and the fully solar-powered second hamlet in the country.

He told the tribal MLAs that with solar power, the families run all the power gadgets and devices, including fans, refrigerators, and air conditioners. Revanth Reddy advised the tribal-belt legislators to focus on implementing the solar energy project in



their respective constituencies. Solar energy, he said, is the best option for tribals living in the forest areas. The CM's response came when the MLAs complained that forest officials were not allowing the erection of poles to supply power to the households in their constituencies, and sought Revanth Reddy's intervention to solve the problem.

Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju, who was among the team that met the CM, told Deccan Chronicle that they brought up is-

issues such as forest staff not allowing the construction of Indiramma houses, or laying new roads and borewells and electricity poles in the forest areas where Adivasis have been living for long years. Revanth Reddy told the tribal MLAs that the state government is committed to the integrated development of the tribal and agency areas in the state. Bojju said forest staff stopped the construction of more than 250 Indiramma houses sanctioned to the Adivasis, citing the reserve forest rules.

Historic Leap for Women Empowerment: Reservation Bill Ushers in a New Political Era

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a landmark move aimed at strengthening women's representation in Indian politics, the Central Government's decision to implement women's reservation has been hailed as a historic milestone. Former State President of BJP Mahila Morcha, Akula Vijaya, praised the initiative, stating that it marks the beginning of a transformative era for women across the nation.

She credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his strong determination in turning a long-pending demand into reality. According to her, what remained a mere slogan for decades has now taken concrete shape under the current leadership. Emphasizing the significance of the reform, Akula Vijaya noted that the reservation is not an act of charity but a rightful recognition of women's talent, capability, and



leadership potential. She highlighted that Indian history is rich with examples of powerful women leaders such as Rani Lakshmbai, Rudrama Devi, and Ahilyabai Holkar, who proved their administrative excellence centuries ago. Describing the provision of 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies as a major reform, she said the passing of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam during a special session of Parliament stands as a defining moment in India's democratic journey. She

expressed confidence that the government is committed to implementing the reservation by the 2029 elections, opening new avenues for women in governance. "Today's women will emerge as tomorrow's lawmakers, playing a decisive role in shaping the nation's future," she remarked. Akula Vijaya concluded that this bold step toward women empowerment will remain etched in India's history as a turning point, inspiring generations to come.

Amid mosquito menace in Hyderabad, security guard covers himself in net

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Faced with Hyderabad's escalating mosquito crisis, a security guard was filmed wrapped in a mosquito net to shield himself from being bitten while on duty. An undated video surfaced on social media on Wednesday, April 15, showing the "stark reality" of the city as the mosquito outbreak has intensified over the past few months.

Overwhelmed by a swarm of mosquitoes, an

apartment security guard resorted to draping himself in a mosquito net during his night shift, as seen in the viral video. When the woman recording the security guard asks about his attire, he replied, "I'm wearing it for mosquitoes."

She then questioned whether the municipal officers are fumigating the area if the situation is so dire. As the video gained traction online, many said it reflected the reality of the issue plaguing the Telangana capital. On April

2, Bharat Rashtri Samithi (BRS) LB Nagar MLA Devirreddy Sudheer Reddy had similarly donned an outfit made of mosquito net material in protest. Speaking to the media, the MLA said, "The situation in Hyderabad has worsened so much that 'the moment you open your mouth in Hyderabad, mosquitoes are flying into it. The public is being forced to take extreme steps. It seems like people will have to 'stitch mosquito nets for themselves'."

Telangana govt to renovate Hyderabad's Kamans, beautify historic sites

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday, April 15, visited iconic landmarks of the city, including the Charminar and Chowmahalla Palace, and directed swift restoration and world-class upgrades for the sites.

The minister visited Charminar and its surrounding areas with MLA Mir Zulfiqar Ali and gave

several suggestions, such as developing the fountain there in an attractive manner and beautifying the monument's surroundings to enhance tourist appeal.

The minister said that the government has sanctioned Rs 3.64 crore for the restoration of Machli Kaman and asked for tenders to be called soon. He also asked to speed up the renovation works of Share-e-Batil Kaman.

Later, the minister toured the Qutb Shahi Tombs

complex, Katora House and Khazana Building Museum along with MLA Kausar Mohiuddin and inspected ongoing work there.

He also reviewed the progress of the proposed ropeway project from Qutb Shahi Tombs to Golconda Fort and asked for a detailed project report (DPR) to be prepared as soon as the permissions are sought. Jupally Rao instructed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

Paddy Procurement Centre Launched in Peddabavi Village



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A paddy procurement centre was inaugurated in Peddabavi (Madire Chakampalli), a newly formed Gram Panchayat, under the supervision of PACS Aleru. The centre was formally opened by local Sarpanch Smt. Velpula Rajitha Sriramulu. Motakondur Mandal Tahsildar K. Rajender attended the event as the chief guest. PACS Aleru Secretary Induri Venka Reddy was also present. Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted that the procurement centre would provide significant support to local farmers by ensuring fair prices for their produce and reducing transportation

difficulties. The programme was attended by former PACS Aleru President Mogulagani Mallesh, Deputy Sarpanch Chepuri Anji Reddy, Ward Members Vakiti Malla Reddy, Jaltaru Raju, Banda Rajini, Velpula Nagarani, Sapidi Navya, Revenue Inspector Asif, Rama Rao (APM), GPO officials, Congress Party village president Sapidi Upendar, BRS village president Bokka Nagi Reddy, Peddabavi BRS village president Madhava Reddy, along with farmers and local residents. The event concluded with appreciation from farmers who expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the procurement centre in their village.

Jahangir Baba Leads Aid for Poor in Mahabubnagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Public service is the lifeblood of society in the modern psychological era, said Jahangir Baba, as he led a humanitarian initiative in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday. The president of the All Faiz Welfare Society distributed fruits, bread, and water bottles to homeless and underprivileged people living along the roadside, reinforcing his long-standing commitment to social welfare.

Highlighting the purpose behind the initiative, Jahangir Baba stated that serving the poor has been the organization's core mission for over three decades. He empha-



sized that their efforts are self-funded and driven purely by a desire to uplift marginalized communities. According to him, extending help to the needy is not just charity but a vital force that sustains society, much like oxygen.

He further noted that supporting

the poor and destitute remains their primary goal, and that true societal progress can only be achieved through consistent, action-oriented service. Service-minded individuals, he said, play a key role in guiding communities toward a better and more responsible way of life.

Jahangir Baba also underlined the spiritual significance of public service, stating that the blessings received from helping others contribute to success both in this world and beyond.

The programme saw participation from Jawad Ali, Amcena Shehzad, and other members of the organization.

BC Sub-Quota Demand, Delimitation Row Raised

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former minister V. Srinivas Goud on Wednesday extended full support to the ongoing hunger strike by BC Women JAC chairperson Matta Jayanthi Goud, demanding a sub-quota for Backward Class (BC) women within the proposed 33% women's reservation. He attended the protest at BC Bhavan in Himayt Nagar and called for immediate action from the Centre.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas Goud said that



while women's reservation is welcome, the absence of a BC sub-quota would politically marginalize existing BC leadership. He stressed that equitable representation is essential for achieving true social justice and warned that without such safeguards, BC voices in legislatures could diminish significantly.

Highlighting past efforts, he recalled that under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, a resolution was passed in the Assembly seeking BC reservations in legislatures alongside women's reservation and was forwarded to the Centre. He added that implementing such

measures would place Prime Minister Narendra Modi alongside social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule in history.

Srinivas Goud also raised concerns over the proposed delimitation of constituencies, warning that reducing seats in southern states based on population control would lead to serious imbalance and injustice. He urged equal increase in constituencies across states and demanded inclusion of BC families in the national census along with SCs and STs.

Australia Gets Its First Female Army Chief, Susan Coyle

Australia will get its first female chief of army, with the appointment of Lieutenant General Susan Coyle to the post. Coyle, currently chief of joint capabilities, is the first woman to be appointed head of any of the services in the Australian military. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the appointments of new military chiefs on Monday, ahead of the government unveiling its 2026 statement on defence strategy and investment later this week. The appointments commence in July. The current navy chief, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, will become the new chief of the Defence Force, replacing Admiral David Johnston. Hammond has commanded submarines and the Australian fleet. He has been chief of navy since 2022.

Shah Slams Didi For avoiding Centre's Meets, Interlocutor On Gorkhaland

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

Accusing West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee of repeatedly avoiding meetings with the Centre and its interlocutor, Pankaj Kumar Singh, to resolve the Gorkhaland issue in Darjeeling, union home minister Amit Shah made clear on Wednesday that a solution to the agenda under "constitutional framework" would be a priority of the BJP after coming to power here in this Assembly Election.

In an oblique reference to Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung and his followers who have sided with the BJP again, Mr Shah also announced that all the "false" cases, which were filed by the police against them during the Trinamul Congress rule in the last 15 years, would be dropped. Mr Shah made the claims in a video message from Malda in North Bengal to the Gorkhas in a bid to woo them after bad weather conditions did not allow his chopper to fly



him to Leborg in the morning to address a poll campaign rally. He said, "There will certainly be a solution to the Gorkhas' problems. I tried to solve it many times as the union home minister. I have convened three meetings in the last one and half years. But neither Mamata Didi nor any of her representatives came to Delhi. Fed up with her lethargy, I preferred to come here. An interlocutor was appointed. He is speaking to all. He also tried to talk to Mamata Didi and her government." Mr Shah alleged, "But she did not give him time because she does not want Gorkhas, who reside in the hills and are true patriots, to get justice and their rights. But you should not

worry about it. It will be the priority of the BJP, after forming its government on May 5, to solve the Gorkhas' problem under a constitutional framework." Sending a message to Mr Gurung who was present at the BJP rally, the union home minister added, "There will be an end to the police-raj that has been established by filing false cases against thousands of Gorkhas. All those cases will be withdrawn as soon as BJP forms government. All will get justice. The BJP government will end the new trend of crackdown on protest-movements in democracy which was started by the Communists and was followed by TMC." Meanwhile, defence minister Rajnath Singh, who also addressed a rally in North Bengal, blamed TMC for playing divisive politics in the name of religion. He said at Karandighi in North Dinajpur, "Should the law and Constitution run as per the whims of Mamata? 15 years have passed. Still instead of development,

Bengal witnessed destruction and has been reduced to vote-bank politics which includes benefits on the basis of religion." On the other hand, Ms Banerjee attacked BJP from her poll campaign rally at Islampur in North Dinajpur. Targeting Nirmala Sitharaman, she alleged, "The Union Finance Minister is distributing cards that don't carry names. These cards will be cancelled later. They are transferring money to bank accounts. I will appeal to the Election Commission to take strong action against her." She also claimed, "At Dum Dum Airport, central forces came near my vehicle. I told them to check my vehicle. If all TMC leaders' vehicles are checked, why should the vehicles of the Prime Minister and Union home minister be spared? Central forces' vehicles should also be checked. Will only TMC be targeted? Union ministers are transporting cash in central forces' vehicles. What is going on in this country? If you have the guts, check my vehicle every day."

Nara Lokesh Appointed TDP Working President

VIJAYAWADA
Wakeup telangana

In a sweeping organisational overhaul, the Telugu Desam on Wednesday unveiled its new Politburo, as also the national and state committees, with education minister Nara Lokesh assuming a central role in the party's organisational set-up. The changes mark a decisive generational shift for the ruling party. Lokesh has been appointed the national working president, underscoring his emergence as the party's principal organisational leader and signalling a calibrated transition in leadership. The move is part of a broader strategy to prepare the party for future political challenges, including the 2029 elections. The elevation of Lo-



kesh marks a significant transition within the party, positioning him at the forefront of organisational affairs while party supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu continues to provide overarching guidance for the party as its head. MLA Palla Srinivas has been named state TD president, completing a strategic leadership alignment. In a move reflecting the party's commitment to women's empowerment, Nandyal

MP Byreddy Shabari is appointed as the TD's first-ever woman national general secretary. She will serve alongside MPs Ram Mohan Naidu and Rajesh Kilaru. This is viewed as a strong political signal in favour of the present move by the Centre for larger women's representation. The newly constituted organisational structure comprises a 29-member Politburo, a 31-member national committee and a 185-member state committee. Party sources said the committees were finalised after extensive deliberations to ensure a careful balance of social, regional and political factors, while also keeping long-term goals such as the 2029 elections and possible constituency reorganisation in mind.

New Lebanon-Israel Direct Talks: Key Points to Know



NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Lebanon and Israel's first direct talks in decades this week, spurred by the latest war between Israel and the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, have been met by both high hopes and condemnation. Officials have sought to temper expectations of what might come out of the negotiations, but the fact that they are happening at all represents a significant step. The two countries have had a rocky and often hostile relationship since Israel's inception in 1948. Like the majority of Arab countries, Lebanon has no formal diplomatic rela-

tions with Israel, and a 1955 law in Lebanon forbids Lebanese citizens from having any contact with Israelis - although the law is selectively enforced. Here's why they are talking now, what has come out of previous diplomatic efforts, and what might come out of this one. What led to the current talks On March 2, two days after the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran, Hezbollah entered the fray by firing missiles across the border. Israel responded with an intense bombing campaign and ground invasion. Lebanon's current government came to power in early 2025 on a reformist plat-

form that included disarming non-state actors. Officials were angered by Hezbollah's decision to enter a new war. The government moved to criminalize the group's military activities, declared Iran's ambassador persona non grata, and banned the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. President Joseph Aoun offered direct negotiations with Israel - the first in decades - in exchange for a cessation of hostilities. Neither Israel nor the Americans responded. French President Emmanuel Macron backed Aoun, but even then, the calls fell on deaf ears. That changed after the announcement of a truce be-

tween Iran and the United States and talks between the two brokered by Pakistan. Tehran included as a condition for permanent ceasefire that the cessation of hostilities should include Lebanon. Though Pakistan said it was part of the agreement, Israel dismissed Lebanon's inclusion in the ceasefire, and Washington later followed suit. The Lebanese state, meanwhile, had reservations about Lebanon being a card in the Iranian negotiations and wanted to separate the war in Lebanon into its own diplomatic track. Hezbollah and its supporters said that, given Lebanon's weak position, Beirut should rely on Tehran's leverage and not directly negotiate with Israel while under fire. The group accused the government of offering "free concessions" to an enemy state. After Israel launched over 100 airstrikes in Lebanon, including in some of the busiest areas in the heart of Beirut killing over 350 people, on April 8 Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he had agreed to direct.

Aaditya Thackeray Dismisses Party Leadership Buzz

TAMIL NADU
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra's political circles were abuzz on Wednesday that Aaditya Thackeray would be anointed as the working president of Shiv Sena (UBT). However, the Worli MLA dismissed reports of him taking over the reins of the party, calling them baseless. According to reports, Aaditya, who is currently the Yuva Sena chief, could be elevated as the party's working president



on 19 June, which is the foundation day of the party. However, Aaditya, in a post on X, denied such reports, saying, "no truth." He claimed "no such discussion" among the party leaders. "Since morning, there has been news on some TV channels that I am going to be

given some position in the party. There is no truth to this news and there is no such discussion in the party," said the 35-year-old leader. Senior Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said that such decisions rest solely with the party chief Uddhav Thackeray. However, he added that Uddhav had also risen to become the party's working president over time, and if Aaditya Thackeray's name has now come forward, it should be welcomed.

"I have learnt about it from the media. No such official decision has been taken within the party yet. However, if Aaditya's name is being put forward, it should certainly be welcomed. Politics ahead should be handed over to the youth," said Raut. Aaditya, a former Maharashtra minister, currently heads the Yuva Sena, the youth wing of his party. The two-time MLA from Worli in Mumbai is also the Shiv Sena (UBT) Legislature Party leader.

BJD Flags 'Loss Of Political Voice' Over Proposed Delimitation

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday raised strong objections to the proposed Delimitation Bill, warning that it could dilute Odisha's political voice in the national legislature. In a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Patnaik urged immediate intervention to safeguard the state's political rights. Patnaik argued that while Odisha's representation in the Lok Sabha may in-

crease numerically from 21 to 29 seats, its overall share would decline from 3.9 per cent to 3.4 per cent. He said this relative reduction would effectively weaken the state's influence by nearly 15 per cent, making Odisha among the worst-affected states in the proposed exercise. Calling the development "deeply concerning," the BJD supreme appealed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to convene a special session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly within 48 hours.

The aim, he said, should be to pass a resolution ensuring that the state's political representation is not compromised. "Future generations will not forgive us if we remain silent while Odisha's political significance is reduced," Patnaik stated in his letter, also urging people across the state to remain united on the issue. He reiterated that the Biju Janata Dal would stand firmly with the people in opposing any move that undermines Odisha's interests. Alongside the delimitation concerns,

Patnaik highlighted the state's continued focus on women's empowerment. He pointed to Odisha's implementation of 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and reiterated the party's support for enhancing women's representation in legislative bodies at the national level. The issue is expected to intensify political debate in the state in the coming days, with the proposed delimitation exercise likely to have long-term implications for Odisha's role in national.

FROM FRONT PAGE

No Delimitation.....

Already two prominent non-BJP chief ministers from the south, M.K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu) and A. Revanthy Reddy (Telangana), have sharpened their attack against the Centre over delimitation, with the Tamil Nadu chief minister warning of "massive agitation" if the state is harmed and his Telangana counterpart flagging "injustice". The government has countered this by saying there will be no injustice to any state, seats will be increased proportionately, and there will be a 50 per cent increase of current seats for every state. Sources in government said the language of the bill is very clear and straightforward, and any wrong interpretation of this bill should be avoided,

adding all issues and doubts will be clarified during the discussion on the bill in Parliament. "Our democracy will become stronger and more vibrant if the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and various Assembly elections that year are held with women's reservation fully in place," said the Prime Minister. The NDA sources explained that the final number of the Lok Sabha seats will be determined by the delimitation commission; hence, the bill does not specify an exact seat count or a fixed percentage (such as 50 per cent). The figure of 850 represents only the upper limit for the total number of Lok Sabha seats. The seat allocation will be based on proportional representation, and southern states are likely to benefit under this formula,

sources claimed. For this the 2011 Census is being used as the reference point. According to sources, due to more effective population control in southern states, they could see a relative advantage in seat allocation compared to northern states, where population growth has been higher.

Revanth Flies To.....

Citing projections, he noted that while Tamil Nadu and Puducherry together may see their seats increase from 40 to around 60, Uttar Pradesh could rise from 80 to nearly 120. Telangana's seats may increase from 17 to 26, Andhra Pradesh's from 25 to 38, and Karnataka's from 28 to 42. The Chief Minister said southern states, despite better performance

in population control, public health, education and economic growth, could be adversely affected under the proposed model. He also flagged disparities in Central fund allocations, stating that the changes could deepen political and fiscal imbalances. He said the proposed hybrid model would balance representation with economic contribution and called for coordinated efforts by southern states to raise the issue in Parliament.

IFoS Official.....

She said that she captured video evidence, which was submitted with her complaint. She further alleged that Suthan made obscene gestures, including showing her the middle finger. Police said a patrolling team reached her residence

after she alerted them and took Suthan to the station. "I feel scared and threatened. I live alone as my husband works in Vijayawada," She said, adding that this was not the first time she had faced such harassment.

Based on her complaint, police booked cases against Suthan under Section 75 (punishment for sexual harassment), Section 79 (criminalises words, gestures, acts, or exhibitions intended to insult the modesty of a woman or intrude upon her privacy), along with other provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "We have issued notice to Suthan to appear before the investigation officer after obtaining a legal opinion. Further probe will follow as per law," a police official told Deccan Chronicle

PM Appeals to.....

The people should embrace products made in India which are needed to strengthen the country, Modi said, and asked the people to travel to every nook and corner of the country to encourage domestic tourism. In an appeal particularly to the farmers in Mandya, Narendra Modi asked them to practice agriculture free from chemicals. Referring to former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Narendra Modi said that Deve Gowda popularized ragi balls (finger millet) usage and wanted youths to include use of millets in their diet. He termed obesity a challenge for the country to deal with and appealed to people.

CRIME

Parents And Children Join Bike Rally To Promote Helmet Use

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a powerful road safety initiative, students delivered an emotional message to parents—"Dad, please buy a helmet"—highlighting the urgent need for safer driving habits. The activity, part of the "Arrive Alive" program, encouraged children to write heartfelt letters urging their families to prioritize safety on the roads.

The initiative leveraged children's influence to promote behavioral change among adults, especially in adopting protective measures like wearing helmets. Police officials emphasized that such emotional appeals can significantly impact decision-making and reduce accident



risks. Alongside awareness, enforcement remained a key focus. Authorities supervised the installation of warning boards within school premises to reinforce traffic rules. Students and staff were educated on critical safety concerns, including the dangers of underage driving, the risks of overcrowded school transport, and the hazards of triple riding on two-wheelers.



Station House Officer V. Ramchandrar stressed that

road safety is a collective responsibility. He noted that educating children today helps build a more disciplined and responsible traffic culture for the future. The program reflects a community-driven approach, combining awareness with enforcement, to instill lifelong

safety habits and prevent road accidents effectively.

EDITORIAL

WILL MENSTRUAL LEAVE ACTUALLY HELP WOMEN, OR IS IT TOKENISM?

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In November 2025, the state of Karnataka introduced a "menstrual leave" policy. It provides women employees with one paid day off each month, totalling 12 days per year. If not used, the leave cannot be carried over. The policy applies to both the government and the private sector, including IT companies, shops and other workplaces. The Karnataka government's objective in this policy was "to promote women's health, morale and workplace productivity, and as a progressive step towards gender-sensitive employment practices and women's empowerment".

Industry bodies have challenged the policy, arguing that mandatory paid leave creates a financial burden and questioning its legality when enforced through an executive notification. Additionally, fifteen women professionals in managerial roles from Bengaluru filed a petition in the Karnataka high court regarding the policy, calling it a case of "benevolent sexism". They argue that mandating menstrual leave could lead employers to view women as less productive or more prone to absence, which might restrict their hiring



and promotion opportunities. It raises concerns under Articles 14 and 21, asserting that disclosing menstrual cycles infringe on privacy and dignity and could expose women to stigma and a hostile work environment. "Benevolent sexism" involves attitudes and beliefs that seem positive or well-intentioned towards women, but ultimately reinforce traditional gender roles and sustain male dominance. It operates under the false appearance of kindness or protection for women. It depicts women as delicate, nurturing, and in need of men's guidance and protection. In a related development, the Supreme Court recently declined to consider a plea for nationwide menstrual leave, noting that the issue falls within the legislative domain and warning that mandatory policies could harm women's careers. Several bills on paid leave have

been introduced over the years. The latest, The Right to Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Products Bill 2022, proposed three days of paid leave. It was not enacted. Menstruation in women is a natural process, similar to pregnancy and childbirth. Starting at puberty -- usually between ages 8 and 12 -- girls experience a menstrual period each month that lasts three to five days. The bleeding occurs when the uterine lining breaks down and sheds, which is normal. This process continues throughout a woman's reproductive years, except during pregnancy. Many women go about their daily routines during their period, although some experience pain and discomfort and may miss activities during this time. In India and other developing countries, there is limited or inaccurate information about women's bodies and how they func-

tion. Women are also often uninformed, and due to stigma and taboos, especially in South Asian cultures, they are seen as unclean during this period. In traditional families and many communities, young women are cautioned about the consequences of unwanted pregnancies. Women feel shame and find it difficult to admit, even to their family members, especially men, that they are on their period. In schools and public places, there are almost no facilities for changing or disposing of sanitary pads. In informal or formal workplaces, it isn't much different. Will menstrual leave as a policy be helpful? Let's examine some countries where menstrual leave has been tried. Several Asian countries, including Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan, have policies offering paid and unpaid leave for women during their menstrual periods. Spain is the only country that, in 2023, provided women with 3-5 days of paid leave per year. This is merely tokenism. There are alternatives to mandatory leave policies. In workplaces, government or private institutions can offer hygienic, sanitary facilities for women to change and dispose of menstrual

High Court Declines Orders on Regular DGP Appointment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Monday declined to pass any interim orders in a petition concerning the appointment of the Director General of Police (Head of Police Force) for the state, in view of the ongoing process before the competent authorities. Advocate General A. Sudarshan Reddy placed on record before the High Court regarding a communication dated April 11, 2026 by

the Chief Secretary to the government, to take a call for selection and appointment of one of the empanelled IPS officers as DGP, from the three members list sent by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The empanelled committee recommended a panel of three IPS officers considered suitable for appointment as DGP of Telangana. The proposal is presently under consideration before the competent authority for final selection and appoint-

ment, Advocate General submitted to the court. Recording the submission, the High Court observed that no orders were warranted at this stage and posted the matter to April 27. During the previous hearing, the Advocate General had informed the court that the panel prepared by the UPSC was received by the state government on March 12 and was under active consideration. He had sought two weeks' time for a final decision.

Threats From Wife's Boss Push Mason to Death

A 41-year-old mason, who had migrated with his wife to Maheshwaram for a better life, ended his life after allegedly being threatened by his wife's employer, who had been sexually harassing her. The victim, Bhukya Ramchand, and his wife, Saritha, were working at a construction site in Rose Garden, Maheshwaram. According to Saritha's complaint lodged with Maheshwaram police, their employer, Ashannagari Kumar (40), had been sexually and mentally harassing her for several days. She did not disclose this to her husband, fearing disputes and distress.

Tenant farmer ends life over debt

A 25-year-old tenant farmer, who had taken land on lease, died by suicide at Mandapally in Dammampeta mandal of Bhadradi-Kothagudem district on Sunday, reportedly due to financial distress. The victim, Adapa Narsimha Rao alias Chanti, had leased 130 acres to cultivate maize. Police said he suffered heavy losses as the crop yield fell below expectations. Struggling with debt and depression, he took the extreme step at his home in the early hours of Sunday. He leaves behind a wife and two children. Dammampeta police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to the government hospital at Aswaraopeta for post-mortem.

Hydraa Files Complaint Over Forged Notices

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



HYDRAA lodged a complaint with Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police against the circulation of forged and fabricated notices falsely attributed to the High Court Chief Justice, the Chief Minister, and the HYDRAA commissioner through social media platforms. In the complaint, R. Sudershan, SP (Admin), stated that a fabricated notice purportedly issued in the name of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court is being circulated

on social media and digital channels, including a Facebook link. The notice falsely claims that the Chief Justice summoned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and HYDRAA commissioner A. V. Ranganath in connection with demolition activities undertaken by HYDRAA. Verification confirmed that no such notice is issued by the High Court. Police said the document

is fraudulent, deliberately created to mislead the public. The acts prima facie attract offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for forgery, impersonation, cheating, and criminal conspiracy, besides violations of the Information Technology Act, 2000 concerning misuse of electronic platforms. ASI M. Ravi Shankar said the complaint was received on Monday at 1930 hrs and entered in GD No. 23. An FIR has been registered under Crime No. 2025, with sections of the IT Act and BNS.

100 Police Intensify cordon & search Opp at Santoshnagar Hotspot

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
ISMAIL

A special cordon-and-search operation was conducted at Lucky Spot in the Bannaka area of Santoshnagar, involving around 100 police officers and personnel. The large-scale operation focused on intensifying surveillance and ensuring strict law enforcement in the locality. During the drive, police teams carried out



thorough checks of all vehicles passing through the area, closely monitoring suspicious movements. The primary objective was to prevent property-related offences,

curb illegal activities, and maintain public safety. Officers remained vigilant throughout the operation, stopping and inspecting vehicles to identify any potential

threats. Authorities also used the opportunity to advise citizens to strictly adhere to law and order and cooperate with the police. The visible presence of a significant police force aimed to deter criminal activity and instill a sense of security among residents. Such targeted operations are part of ongoing efforts by the police to strengthen vigilance, reduce crime, and ensure a safer environment in sensitive areas.



48% Customers Cite Low CX Empathy, Only 19% Leaders Use AI Fix

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's business leaders are backing AI with boardroom conviction, but their customers are not feeling it yet. That is the central finding of ServiceNow's Customer Experience Report 2026, The CX Shift, which captures perspectives from customers, service representatives, and leaders across India. Business leaders are increasingly prioritizing AI in customer experience, yet a striking gap has emerged between where organisations are investing and what customers actually need — presenting both a challenge and a defining opportunity for 2026.

Indian leaders are backing their intent with investment; 60% say their organisation will take a connected enterprise ap-



proach to deliver next-level customer experiences over the next three years, 81% will consolidate customer data into a single view, and 69% plan to optimise unified omnichannel CRM engagement across sales and service. Yet the research reveals a more nuanced picture, one where the direction of investment matters as much as the scale of it.

"The ambition in Indian boardrooms is real — I see it in every conversation. Leaders want to move fast on AI, and the

investment intent is there. But ambition without a connected foundation is just noise that customers eventually stop listening to. The organisations that will pull ahead are not the ones evaluating the most platforms. They are the ones that stopped evaluating and started building," said Sumeet Mathur, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, ServiceNow India.

The perception gap between Indian business leaders and their customers is striking. While 53% of Indian customers

cite unclear explanations about processes and policies as a top frustration, only 22% of business leaders recognise this as a significant challenge. Similarly, 48% of customers name a lack of empathy as a key pain point, yet only 19% of leaders view it as a priority concern.

The misalignment extends to being transferred between departments, with 45% of customers frustrated by this experience, compared to just 23% of leaders who acknowledge it as a problem. On the need to repeat information to agents, 37% of customers are frustrated versus 25% of leaders who agree. These perception gaps are consequential. They cause organisations to build solutions for the wrong problems, leaving customers' most significant

pain points unaddressed.

The structural root of the problem is fragmentation and it is showing up in the customer experience directly. Customers are frustrated by being transferred between departments and having to repeat their information at every interaction. These reflect a deeper underlying failure: organisations that have not yet connected their people, data, and processes into a coherent foundation for AI to work on. The numbers tell that story clearly. Only 38% of Indian organisations have integrated data into a single source of truth. Just 34% are breaking down barriers for seamless AI integration across departments. And only 31% have optimised their CRM for cross-functional collaboration that consistent service actually requires.

Crude Imports Down 35 Pct, Petroleum Product Exports Up 5.88 Pct In Crisis-Hit March

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amid the West Asia crisis, crude and petroleum product imports were down 35.9 per cent in March. However, exports of petroleum products grew 5.88 per cent in the same month. As per the data of the Commerce Ministry, the imports of petroleum, crude and products were down to \$12 billion in March against \$19 billion the same month of last year. The blockade in the Hormuz Strait restricted the shipping of crude in March and this affected the total imports of crude and petroleum in FY26 as it declined 6.37 per cent to \$173 billion against \$185 billion in FY25.

However, exports of petroleum products grew 5.88 per cent in March to \$5 billion against \$4.8 billion in the same month last year. The leading exporter of petroleum products is Reliance Energy.



Nayara Energy and IOCL too export petroleum products. The government had recently raised the windfall gain tax on export-bound diesel by over 158 per cent and on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) by 42 per cent. The levy on diesel has been increased to Rs 55.5 per litre from Rs 21.5 per litre earlier. Similarly, export-bound jet fuel will now attract a duty of Rs 42 per litre compared to Rs 29.5 per litre previously, while export duty on petrol continues to remain nil.

However, the petroleum products exported from

Reliance Energy's SEZ refineries are not subject to windfall taxes. As the crude prices went up, the government offered excise duty cuts to oil marketing companies to cushion the margins. According to the government, the Rs 10 per litre excise duty cut on petrol and diesel was meant to reduce the under-recoveries being absorbed by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). In the first half of FY26, the combined net profit of oil marketing companies was over Rs 34,000 crore.

ITC Achieves Nation-First Certification for Sustainable Agri Sourcing

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

ITC has been working on various interventions for farmers empowerment and connecting them to global markets through sustainable and traceable sourcing. Demonstrating its leadership in sustainable agriculture, ITC has become the first company in India to receive the globally-acknowledged Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA 3.0) certification for wheat and paddy. For ITC, FSA cer-

tification helps build credibility with global customers by demonstrating that sourcing is responsible, traceable and aligned with international expectations. For buyers, especially in regions like the EU, it supports compliance with sustainability commitments and due diligence around issues such as agronomic practices, deforestation and labour standards.

The standards followed and adopted deliver clear benefits both for farmers and the environment. For

farmers, they lead to better yields and price-realization with stronger market linkages. From an environmental perspective, these practices help improve soil health and reduce emissions by promoting efficient use of fuel, water, fertilizers and crop protection inputs.

ITC has successfully implemented the FSA 3.0 global farming standards across 22,000+ acres in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, engaging 3,500+ farmers across 70+ FPOs. The initiative was anchored

within ITC's large-scale Crop Development Programme that integrates sustainability, traceability and inclusivity, earning it the prestigious third-party validation.

The Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) standards, developed by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) platform with over 190 member organizations, is an internationally recognized framework used by global food and agri companies to assess value-chain sustainability. The latest ver-

sion, FSA 3.0, was introduced in April 2021. Commenting on the development, Mr. S Ganesh Kumar, Divisional Chief Executive, Agri Business, ITC Ltd, said "ITC is deeply committed to empowering farmers by providing them with the knowledge, tools and support needed to adopt globally benchmarked sustainable practices. By promoting cultivation of traceable, high-quality agri produce, we are linking Indian farmers to global markets, address-

ing needs of international buyers and ensuring higher farmer incomes. Our continued focus on building resilient, farmer-centric value chains demonstrates that sustainability and business competitiveness can go hand in hand, creating long-term benefits for communities and the environment, while strengthening the country's agri-export competitiveness."

To achieve FSA 3.0, ITC rolled out a well-structured and clearly doc-

umented set of on-ground initiatives covering training, advisory, implementation, monitoring and sourcing. These efforts were supported by a strong three-tier external evaluation system to ensure compliance and continuous improvement. To support these efforts, ITC developed around 30 formal policies and guidance documents aligned with FSA standards. These covered key areas such as agronomy, soil and nutrient management, health, hygiene and safety, use of

crop protection inputs, waste handling, water use, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, air quality and emissions, traceability, and overall farm management. Based on a detailed gap assessment, focused training and capacity building sessions were conducted for both farmers and field teams. At the farm level, demonstration plots and farmer field days were used to promote adoption of sustainable practices.

India's Wholesale Inflation Hits 38-Month High of 3.88% as West Asia Crisis

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's wholesale inflation accelerated to a more than three-year high of 3.88 per cent in March this year from 2.13 per cent in February following the mounting price pressures as global commodity costs rise amid ongoing tensions in West Asia. The surge in inflation was primarily due to a jump in prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, other manufacturing items, food and non-food articles, manufacture of basic metals etc, the government said on Wednesday.

As per the industry ministry data, the wholesale price index or WPI-based inflation rose for the fifth straight month in March as core inflation accelerated, amid softening of primary food items. "The WPI inflation was 2.13 per cent in February, and 2.25 per cent in March last year," the ministry data showed in a statement. Positive rate of inflation in March 2026 is primarily due to increase in prices of crude petroleum & natu-

ral gas, other manufacturing, non-food articles, manufacture of basic metals and food articles, etc. The inflation in the fuel and power basket spiked to 1.05 per cent in March, from a deflation of 3.78 per cent in February," the ministry said. AS per the data, inflation in crude petroleum surged to 51.57 per cent during March, against a deflation of 1.29 per cent in the previous month. Similarly, manufactured products inflation also went up to 3.39 per cent in March, from 2.92 per cent in February," the data showed. Commenting on the WPI inflation, Rahul Agrawal, senior economist, Icrta Ltd, said that the inflation nearly doubled to a 38-month high of 3.9 per cent in March 2026 and printed largely in line with the Icrta's expectations.

"While the uptick was broad-based, the crude petroleum and natural gas, and the fuel and power groups witnessed sizable hardening in their YoY inflation rates, reflecting the impact of the surge in global energy prices owing.

DoT, SEBI to share telecom intelligence to stop financial scams

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Centre's Department of Telecommunications and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share telecom intelligence to reinforce the security of India's financial ecosystem, an official statement said on Wednesday. The agreement will strengthen the cooperation between the institutions in tackling the misuse of telecom resources in securities market frauds and investment-related scams. A Communications Ministry statement said that the strategic partnership marked a significant step towards deeper convergence between telecom intelligence and financial market regulation.

The agreement is centred on a structured data-sharing mechanism aimed at early detection and disruption of fraudulent activities. Under the agreement, DoT will share the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FFRI) with the SEBI to help identify mobile numbers linked to suspicious patterns through multi-dimensional analysis.

India-US Trade Pact: Delegation Heads to Washington for Vital Recalibration Talks

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Indian delegation will visit Washington next week to hold a three-day trade talks with US authorities in Washington, starting from April 20. The bilateral meeting between the key officials in both the countries is expected to hold immense importance as India and the US have finalised the framework for an interim trade agreement, an official source said on Wednesday. The development comes just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump spoke over the phone for around 40 minutes amid tensions in the West Asia conflicts. The upcoming discussions are expected to play a decisive role in shaping the first phase of the India-US trade pact, which has been under negotiation for months.

As per an official source, chief negotiators of India and the US will begin the three-day talks on the proposed trade pact, as



the agreement finalised in February requires recalibration in view of changes in the US tariff landscape. "There is a need for further discussions and follow-up engagements on the pact. Indian team led by chief negotiator Darpan Jain will be visiting the US from 20th of this month. The negotiating teams will be meeting in person after a gap of about 3-4 months. We are looking at finalising the legal agreement, which is a logical follow-up of the joint statement released on February 7," commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said.

However, officials also

said that the next week's meeting is also important as the USA is undertaking two investigations under Section 301. On March 12, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) launched a Section 301 probe, covering 60 economies, including India and China. The investigations will determine whether acts, policies, and practices of each of these economies related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a ban on the importation of goods produced with forced labour are unreasonable or discriminatory, and burden or restrict US commerce. "The two Section 301 in-

vestigations launched by the US last month against a host of countries, including India, will also be discussed during the meeting. Both sides will sit together and discuss how these issues need to be structured and addressed. India and the US will work together to finalise timelines and next steps as part of the ongoing engagement," Agrawal said. As far as the trade deal between India and the US is concerned, both the countries announced finalisation of a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement in February. According to that framework, the US had agreed to reduce tariffs on India to 18 per cent. However, the tariff architecture in the US has changed following its Supreme Court ruling against President Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariffs. After that, the US President imposed 10 per cent tariffs on all countries for 150 days from February 24.

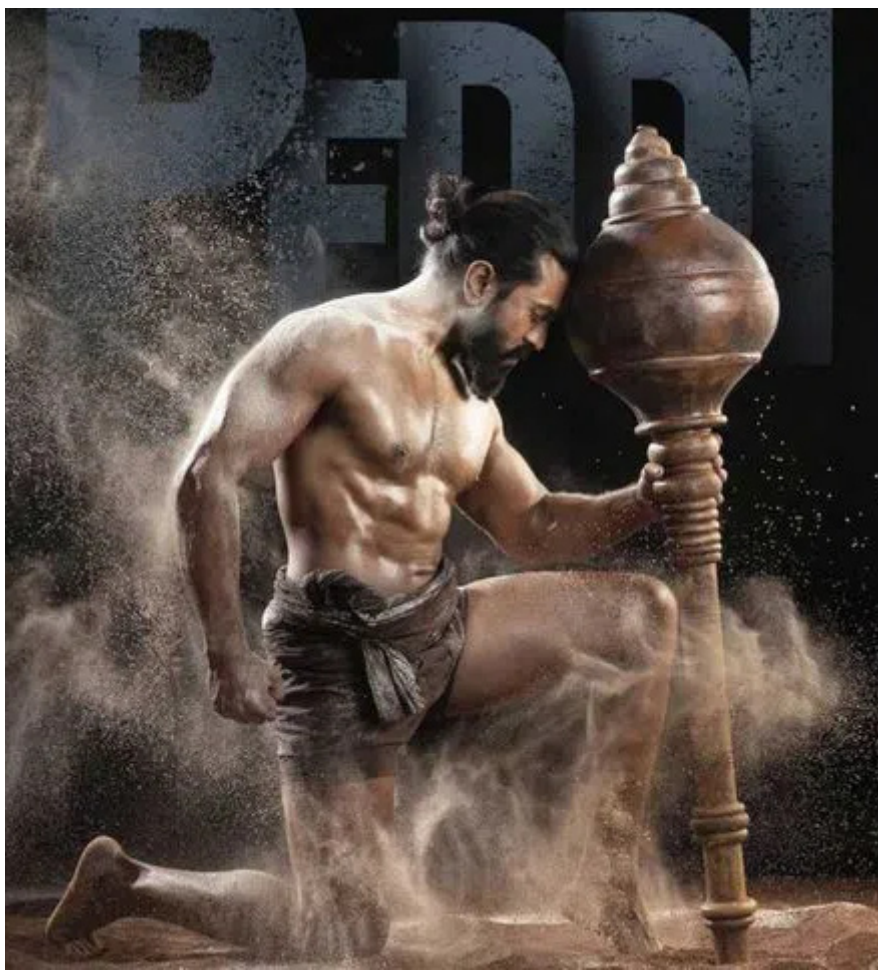
Volkswagen Taigun Facelift Launched at Rs 11 Lakh

PUNE
Wakeup telangana

Volkswagen, the German carmaker, on Tuesday launched the Taigun SUV facelift at a starting price of Rs 11 lakh with a buyback scheme with residual value of 75 per cent of the ex-showroom price. This will be valid for up to 3 years and 30,000km, and will be applicable to Taigun bookings placed on or before May 31, 2026. "The Taigun has been a cornerstone of our India story," said Nitin Kohli, Brand Director at Volkswagen Passenger Cars India.

"Today, with the introduction of the new Taigun, we aim to offer customers the right combination of features, performance, design and safety," he noted. Historically, the higher trims of this SUV have been more preferred and constitute to nearly 60% of the model's sales, even for the new Taigun, we have packaged the variants to ensure our customers avail of the best value at an attractive price proposition, Kohli said. The new SUV is available in six variants: Comfortline, Highline, Highline Plus, GT Line, Topline and GT Plus.

Ram Charan's Peddi release pushed to June by makers



The makers of director Buchi Babu Sana's eagerly awaited rural action drama 'Peddi', featuring Telugu star Ram Charan in the lead, on Wednesday announced that they had decided to push the release of the film to June in order to give their technicians and post-production team a little more time "to bring out their best with absolute perfection." Vriddhi Cinemas, which is producing the film, took to it so-

cial media timelines to issue a statement. It said, "Firstly, thank you all for the wonderful response to our songs and glimpses. We're truly happy to see the love and excitement for 'Peddi'. The talkie part of the film is complete, and we only have one song left to be shot. We've seen the edit of the film, and we're extremely happy with the output." It then went on to say, "With such great content in our hands,

we want to present it in the best possible way. For that, we feel it's important to give our technicians and post-production team a little more time to bring out their best with absolute perfection. It is our duty to give you nothing but the best theatrical experience. So, we've decided to push the release of the film to June." Stating that the exact date of release would be announced very soon, the makers said thanked

fans for their continued support and patience. "It truly means a lot to us," the film unit said. It may be recalled that the makers of the film had only recently released a glimpse video titled 'Peddi Pehelwan Glimpse' from the film to mark the birthday of actor Ram Charan.

The glimpse video that was released showcased another completely different facet of the actor in the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.

While a clip from the film that was released some months ago had showcased Ram Charan's skills with a cricket bat, leading many to believe that he could be playing a cricketer in the film, the glimpse video released more recently had showed Ram Charan as a menacing wrestler as well.

The glimpse video begins with a voiceover that says, "Kusthi (wrestling) is not a sport where you carry a bat and face an oncoming ball. This is a sport where you pledge your life and stand against death. Now tell me, are you going to get into the ring or are you opt-

ing out?"

The glimpse video then, among other things, shows Ram Charan practising with a mace. The actor sports a well-toned body and the glimpse video makes it evident that the actor has put his heart and soul into the role.

The glimpse video ends with Ram Charan responding to the question asked to him earlier. He says, "The game is my pride."

'Peddi', which has triggered huge excitement among fans and film buffs, has been in the limelight right from the time it was first announced. The film brings together a strong cast with Janhvi Kapoor playing the leading lady. Senior actors Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu, and Boman Irani will all be seen playing important parts in this film.

On the technical side, the movie is backed by some of the best in the industry. R Rathnavelu is handling the camera work, Navin Nooli is in charge of editing, and Avinash Kolla has designed the film's massive and detailed sets.

Sannidhanam first single Yeri Vanthom Ayyappa released



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The makers of director Amutha Sarathi's 'Sannidhanam (P.O)', featuring actor Yogi Babu in the lead, have now released the film's first single, 'Yeri Vanthom Ayyappa', a soulful and devotional track that beautifully captures the essence of faith and devotion associated with the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Set to tune by AGR, the song has lyrics by Mohan Rajan. It has been rendered with heartfelt intensity by Abhishek Raju and Vishnu Ram. The film has been evoking interest in fans and film buffs ever acclaimed filmmaker Cheran and celebrated actress Manju Warrier released its first look. Produced by Sarvata Cine Garage and Shimoga Creations, 'Sannidhanam (P.O)' has been directed

by Amutha Sarathi, who has also penned the dialogues for the film. The film is being jointly produced by Madhusudhan Rao, V Vivekanandan, and Ramasamy Velu.

Featuring a strong ensemble led by Yogi Babu, Roopesh Shetty, and Varsha Viswanath, the film brings together talents from across industries. The lead actors in the film have been supported by a seasoned cast including actors Sithara, Pramod Shetty, Munnar Ramesh and Gajaraj among others.

Shot across spiritually significant and visually rich locations such as Sabarimala, Pamba, Erumeli, Chennai, and Pollachi, the film promises an authentic and immersive backdrop.

At its core, Sannidhanam (P.O) is driven by powerful human emotions, revolving around an unexpected incident faced

by Ayyappa devotees and the transformative journey that unfolds thereafter. With a narrative rooted in faith, resilience, and human connection, the film aims to deliver a deeply moving cinematic experience.

The film's story and screenplay have been penned by Ajinu Ayyappan.

The film has cinematography by Vinoth Bharathi and editing by PK. Art direction for the film is by Vijay Thennarasu. Metro Mahesh has choreographed the stunts in the film while Joy Mathi has choreographed the dances. The film's songs have lyrics by Mohan Rajan. Made as a pan-Indian film in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi. Sannidhanam (P.O) is slated for a release in May this year.

LSG stumble as RCB pacers overpower, Bengaluru clinch 5-wicket victory



BENGALURU
Wakeup telangana

Experience of pacers Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar found an ally in the youthful exuberance of Rasikh Salam Dar as Royal Challengers Bengaluru outclassed Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

A slightly slow Chinnaswamy pitch, much against the pre-match notions, would have been RCB's bigger concern in the chase of 147. But once Virat Kohli (49) and skipper Rajat Patidar (27) mastered the deck and the LSG bowlers, the home side scaled down the target in 15.1 overs. Kohli played a typical innings during the chase, striking

well over 200 at the start as RCB quickly overcame the early dismissal of Phil Salt.

Kohli, who slammed four fours in a Prince Yadav over, and Devdutt Padikkal added 57 runs for the second wicket and the latter's contribution was a handsome 10 before getting out.

However, the former skipper could not complete yet another IPL fifty as he holed out pacer Avesh Khan to Nicholas Pooran at long-on. But Patidar continued his six-hitting ways — two in a row of Mohammed Shami and one off Prince — as RCB whittle down the target considerably.

Patidar and Jitesh Sharma got out in their effort to finish off the chase in quick time, but they have already done enough to seal points from this game.

Before batters showed up, RCB gained upper hand over LSG through exceptional spells by Salam (4/24), Bhuvneshwar (3/27) and Hazlewood (1/20).

India wins a thriller against Malawi in FIFA Series

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Indian women's team scored a thrilling 3-2 victory over Malawi in the third-place play-off of the FIFA Series 2026 at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi on Wednesday. Astam Oraon (18'), Aveka Singh (45+1'), and substitute Priyadarshini Selladurai (84') were on target for the Blue Tigresses, while Khumalo Ireen (42') and Henry Deborah (60') scored for Malawi.

India started brightly, enjoying early possession. Their attacking intent paid off in the 18th minute. Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam delivered a floated corner from the right, and Malawian goalkeeper Esther Maulidi came off her line but failed to make contact. The ball bounced



off Aveka Singh and fell kindly to Astam Oraon, who reacted quickest to poke it into the net and give India the lead. It was the 21-year-old's first goal for the national team.

After going behind, Malawi grew into the game

and began to enjoy more possession in the Indian half. Their pressure paid off in the 42nd minute when Sanfida Nongrum brought down Bernadetta Mkandawire on the edge of the box, conceding a free-kick in a dangerous

position. Khumalo Ireen stepped up and unleashed a superb left-footed strike into the top corner. India goalkeeper Shreya Hooda made contact with the ball but was unable to keep it out.

However, the Blue Tigresses responded immediately.

In the first minute of first-half stoppage time, a slick one-two down the left between Karishma Shirvoikar and Babina Lisham saw the latter whip in a dangerous cross into the box. Aveka Singh was perfectly positioned and scored with a composed volley to restore India's lead just before the break. Like Astam, it also marked Aveka's first goal for the Blue Tigresses.

They equalised for the second time just after the hour mark. Khumalo Ireen delivered a corner from the right, which was first met by substitute Mulimbika Sarah, and Henry Deborah reacted quickest to fire a volley into the net, making it 2-2.

Javokhir Sindarov wins Candidates faces D. Gukesh

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov on Tuesday secured the top spot in the 2026 FIDE Candidates tournament with a round to spare, thus qualifying to challenge India's Gukesh Dommaraju in the World Championship final match later this year.

In the 13th and penultimate round played at Pegoia in Cyprus, Sindarov drew with Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri to take his tally to 9.5 points, an unbeatable lead over the next-placed opponent. Giri is placed second with 7.5 points, while American Fabiano Caruana and China's Wei Yi are next with 6.5 points. India's lone repre-

sentative in the men's section, R Praggnanandhaa, had a disappointing debut in the Candidates and is placed seventh going into the final round. In other results in the round, only Wei Yi won against Andrey Esipenko, while the rest of the boards ended in draws.



Revanth to Visit Medigadda on April 20

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to visit the Medigadda barrage on Godavari river on April 20 for a first hand review of steps being taken to speed up preparations for taking up eventual repairs of the barrage.

It may be recalled that the Chief Minister, on April 9, chaired a review on Medigadda barrage related issues and directed the irrigation department to step up all work related to the barrage repairs.

Following this meeting, the irrigation department drew up a schedule for the required works, including geophysical and geotechnical tests, and preparation of designs for the repairs. Revanth Reddy had directed that the actual repair works should begin this year and all tests should be completed before the monsoon season results in increased flows in Godavari river.

The Chief Minister, on April 20, will be accompanied by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, and senior irrigation department officials.

TG Operationalises 40% Investments

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has operationalised about 40 per cent of the Rs 2.19 lakh crore investment commitments secured during the World Economic Forum annual meeting in 2024 and 2025, following the Congress assuming office in December 2023. Official sources said the implemented investments are largely in the IT and industries sectors, with several Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and data centre projects either inaugurated, under construction, or at advanced stages. Facilities of companies such as Eclat Health Solutions, Systra, Qcentrio and HCLTech



became operational in 2025. Aragen Life Sciences also operationalised its R&D campus at IDA Mallapur in November 2025. About 34 per cent of commitments from the WEF meetings are long-term and are at various stages of execution, primarily in pumped-storage and renewable energy projects. The government is expediting approvals and allotments

for the remaining investments as it approaches its mid-term. Progress has also been reported on investment commitments made during the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 held in December 2025. Of the 75 MoUs signed, 14 have been operationalised in the past four months, involving investments of Rs 30,230 crore and the allocation of 255.97 acres of land. Projects under implementation include a Rs 15,000-crore investment by GMR Group in MRO services, cargo operations and aviation manufacturing. Land has been allotted to firms such as Apollo Microsystems and ITP in Hardware Park. In the food

processing sector, allocations have been made to Vintage Coffee House, KJS India and Deepak Nexgen. An integrated steel plant by Krishna Power Utilities with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore and cement capacity expansions by Ultra Bright Cements and Rain Cements worth Rs 1,200 crore and Rs 760 crore, respectively, are under construction.

The proposed Bharat Future City has attracted investor interest, with 16 of the 75 MoUs linked to projects in the development. These span multiple zones, including entertainment, health and medical tourism, AI City, education and electric vehicle manufacturing.

Arrive Alive Road Safety Campaign

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As part of the "Arrive Alive" road safety campaign, an awareness seminar was held at the Telangana ICCA Auditorium on Wednesday with the primary objective of preventing road accidents. To promote awareness, free helmets were distributed to children by Hyderabad Commissioner of Police V.C. Sajjanar. Addressing the gathering, Sajjanar said, "The role of Road Safety Committee members is pivotal in transforming Hyderabad into an accident-free city." He expressed concern that the loss of a breadwinner in a road accident devastates the entire family. He pointed out that it is illegal to seat children under 12 years in the front seat of a car and stressed that, for their safety, they



must be seated only in the rear seat. He added that "No Helmet - No Entry" boards should be installed in every colony to foster responsibility among residents. Joint commissioner (traffic) D. Joel Davis said, "Road safety is not just the responsibility of the police department but a social duty of every citizen. Small rules followed while driving save lives." He noted that

wearing an ISI-marked helmet provides up to 80% protection from fatal head injuries. In addition, the Cyberabad Traffic Police organised an awareness session for students at KJ Somaiya Institute of Technology, Cyberabad, on Wednesday. Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Dr M. Ramesh addressed the students, offering guidance on road safety and social responsibility.

Charminar extortion racket: Police crack down on 'hidden tax' on shopkeepers



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Charminar Police on Wednesday, April 15, issued a "final warning" to people involved in illegal "mamool" collection - extortion from shopkeepers and street vendors - in the area, saying any violation would invite immediate arrest and remand.

The warning came during a counselling session conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Charminar) Kiran Khare, attended by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Charminar Chandra Shekhar and Station House Officer (SHO) Ram Babu.

All identified individuals were warned to immediately stop extortion and intimidation, the police said,

adding that violations would result in the opening of rowdy sheets, registration of criminal cases and remand. While issuing the warning, police also said those involved would be given a final opportunity to reform and adopt lawful means of livelihood. Separately, shopkeepers and vendors in the area were directed to maintain discipline, such as avoiding encroachments, preventing obstruction to traffic and keeping the surroundings clean, in the interest of preserving Charminar's functioning as a key tourist destination.

The Charminar Police reiterated zero tolerance towards extortion and urged the public to cooperate in maintaining law and order in the area.

Intermediate results: 41 TMREIS colleges achieve 100 pc pass rate

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Students of the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) showcased remarkable performance in the Intermediate examinations 2026, with 41 junior colleges achieving 100 per cent pass rate, President and Vice-Chairman Mohammed Faheemuddin Qureshi said on Wednesday, April 15.

TMREIS currently administers 204 junior colleges across the state. Out of these, 41 colleges achieved a 100 per cent pass rate, while 122 colleges have recorded a pass rate above 80 per cent, a



release said. TMREIS also ranked second among all residential societies in Telangana with 81 per cent pass rate in Intermediate first year and 90 per cent pass rate in the second year. Shameem Nikhat from Jach-erla, studying Maths, Physics and Chemistry (MPC), emerged as the state topper among first-year

students, securing 468/470 marks.

A Biology, Physics and Chemistry (BiPC) student from Asifnagar, Ayesha Begum, was the topper among second-year students, securing 996/1000 marks. Md Raheman from Karimnagar, studying the vocational medical lab technician (MLT) course, secured 997/1000 marks in his second year to emerge as the state topper. Faheem Qureshi congratulated the principals, junior lecturers and students for their dedication and hard work in achieving these excellent results.

He said that the government remains committed to providing free and quality education for mi-

nority students and urged parents to enroll their children in Minority Residential Institutions for the upcoming academic year. Along with free education, students are also provided free food, health-care and coaching for competitive examinations. TMREIS currently operates 22 centres of excellence across districts, offering free coaching for competitive exams. So far, 15,830 students have successfully cleared competitive exams and secured admissions in premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), National Institutes of Technology (NIT), medical colleges and other reputed universities, he said.

Fire Safety Awareness Drive At DGP Office

On the eve of Fire Service Week, a pamphlets and brochures releasing ceremony was held at the DGP office, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad, on Wednesday. As part of the programme, a mock drill and evacuation exercise were conducted to demonstrate emergency preparedness on the DGP Office premises. The Fire Services team also demonstrated LPG cylinder fire-extinguishing techniques and the proper usage of portable fire extinguishers to administrative staff and police personnel.

The initiative aimed to enhance fire safety awareness and preparedness among government staff, reinforcing the importance of timely response and preventive measures in fire emergencies. Mahesh Murlidhar Bhagwat, additional DGP (Law & Order), released the fire safety awareness pamphlets and brochures in the presence of senior officers, including Gajarao Bhupal, IGP (P&L), M. Ramana Kumar, AIG (Admin, L&O), and B. Harinatha Reddy, regional fire officer, MZ-II. Apart from police officials, DFO-1 Hyderabad, T. Venkanna, ADFO, High Court, V. Bhanu Pratap, ADFO, SJM.

State Orders Heatstroke Preparedness in Hospitals Amid Rising Temperatures

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In response to rising summer temperatures, health minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Wednesday directed officials to ensure immediate treatment for heatstroke patients and strengthen preparedness across government hospitals. At a review meeting at the Rajiv Aarogyasri Trust office in Jubilee Hills, the minister instructed that every hospital deploy a dedicated team in emergency wards to handle heatstroke cases. He called for special arrangements, including provision of drinking water, installation of fans, coolers and air-conditioners where required, and proper ventilation in wards and waiting areas. Officials were directed to set up drinking water facilities on every floor and in every block of



major hospitals, and to arrange shaded rest areas within hospital premises. Senior officials informed the minister that essential medicines, including ORS, are available and that arrangements are in place to provide immediate treatment to heatstroke patients. The minister said trained emergency teams should be kept ready at all times to ensure prompt care on patient arrival. Citing the risk of power disruptions during summer storms, he asked officials to ensure that generators are functional

in all hospitals and undergo regular maintenance. Raising concerns over fire hazards, the minister directed authorities to take preventive measures, including inspection of power cables to avoid short circuits and replacement of old wiring where necessary. Hospitals were also asked to conduct fire safety mock drills, ensure availability of fire extinguishers, check their expiry dates, and train staff and security personnel in their use.

30 students fall ill at Gandhi Medical College after worms found in water

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Around 30 students fell ill at the boys' hostel of Gandhi Medical College after their water supply was contaminated by worms. Though the incident occurred on April 12, it came to light on Wednesday, April 15. Speaking to Dr D Ajay Kumar, a final year postgraduate student at the college, said that the contamination was first detected on April 11. "The water connection to the boy's hostel is linked to the girl's hostel,

and there was a leak in the pipeline somewhere, which caused worms to enter the water. However, the issue was quickly addressed by the principal, and the tankers were cleaned, the leak was fixed and the water supply was resumed," Dr Ajay said.

None of the students who fell ill experienced any severe symptoms and were let off after being given medicine. The situation is currently under control, and water samples have been sent for testing as a precaution, he added.

Man dies of heart attack at bank in Hyderabad's Habsiguda

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A 72-year-old man died of a heart attack while filling out a deposit slip at the Punjab National Bank in Habsiguda on Wednesday, April 15. The man has been identified as Lakshminarayana, a retired employee residing in Nacharam. He had visited the bank to deposit money, but passed away



after suffering a heart attack. Closed circuit television (CCTV) camera footage of the incident shows the man sitting at a desk with

his documents when he suddenly starts to feel uneasy. As the woman sitting behind him gets up and goes out of the room, the man collapses from his seat and falls to the ground. Even though he was rushed to a hospital, doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. OU City Police were informed of the incident, but no case was registered as it was a natural death.

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