



**Delimitation could become 'permanent wound,' warns Ojaisi: P8**



**Prabhsimran, Iyer power Punjab Kings past Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets: P7**

**KTR Cautions Against Misuse of SIR: P8**



## Row Erupts Over Tejasvi Surya's Telangana-Partition Comparison

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Leaders across parties have criticised Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya's comments in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, comparing the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of Telangana to the violent partition of India and Pakistan. Addressing the Lower House of Parliament during discussions about the controversial delimitation Bill tabled today, Surya said, "Why are Opposition parties and some regional parties of the South, led by the DMK, making so much noise? The tears they are shedding are crocodile tears. I thank heaven that in 2026, when the country undertakes delimitation, the BJP-led Centre will carry it out. The Congress government divided Andhra Pradesh into two parts, and they did worse than the British in partitioning the country." Responding to the comment, Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar here on Thursday urged the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to expunge inappropriate remarks made by MP Tejasvi Surya in Lok Sabha. In a letter to the Speaker, the Minister said, "I wish to place on record my strong objection to the remarks made by Tejasvi Surya during the recent proceedings of the House. During his intervention, the Member drew a comparison between the bifurcation of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and the partition of India and Pakistan." "This analogy is not only factually untenable but also deeply insensitive and inappropriate in the context of parliamentary discourse. The formation of Telangana was the outcome of a democratic and constitutional process, reflecting the legitimate aspirations of its



people," he said. "Equating this with the traumatic and violent partition of the nation diminishes the sanctity of that process and disregards the sentiments of the people of Telangana. Such comparisons are unnecessary and carry the risk of fostering regional discord, misrepresenting historical and constitutional realities, and undermining the spirit of unity and co-operative federalism that underpins our democracy," he said. "Statements of this nature fall short of the standards of responsibility and decorum expected from Members of Parliament," the Minister said requesting the Speaker to order the expunction of the remarks from the official records of the Lok Sabha. He urged the Speaker to direct the

Member to tender an unconditional apology to the House and to the people of Telangana. Examine the matter under the applicable rules governing conduct and privilege, and initiate appropriate proceedings. Consider suitable action, including disqualification from membership of the Lok Sabha, should the remarks be found to constitute a serious breach of privilege and parliamentary decorum. It is essential to uphold the dignity of the House and ensure that its proceedings do not give rise to regional disharmony or distortion of constitutional history, he added. Telangana Jagruthi President K Kavitha slammed Surya's comments on social media, and alleging that his comments are "not only insulting all those who fought for Telangana over six decades to fulfill the region's aspirations and end the discrimination", but also "dishonoring the memory of the thousands of individuals who sacrificed their lives to make Telangana a reality."

## NDA Short on Numbers for Women's Quota

**Numbers Not in NDA's Favour to Get Women Quota Law Passed in Parliament**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The ruling NDA does not have the required numbers in Parliament to get the women's reservation bills passed with a two-thirds majority, unless it can shore up support from other parties or make some of them abstain. While the NDA has the support of 293 members in the Lok Sabha, which is 54 per cent of the house, the opposition has 233 MPs. While 7 MPs are independents, seven belong to parties like the YSRCP, AIMIM and Shromani Akali Dal, which have yet to openly support the bills. The rules require 360 MPs to support the bills, including the Constitution amendment bill, which comes to two-thirds of those present and voting. For the bills to get approval from the Lok Sabha, at least two main opposition parties from amongst the Samajwadi Party (37 MPs), Trinamool Congress (28 MPs) or DMK (22 MPs) would have to abstain. The Congress has 98 MPs in the



Lok Sabha. On the other hand, the BJP has 240 MPs, TDP 16 and JDU 12 in the Lok Sabha from the NDA. In case the bills do not get Lok Sabha nod, they will not be taken up in the Rajya Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha, the NDA has 141 members in their favour, which is 58 per cent of the upper house, and the opposition has 83 MPs in support. Parties such as the BRS, YSRCP, BJD, and BSP and independents have 20 MPs in the upper house and their votes may help swing the decision. For the Constitution amendment bill to get through in the upper house, the ruling alliance needs the support of 163 MPs to be present and voting, which is two-thirds majority of the house. While the BJP has 107

MPs in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress has 28, TMC 13, AAP 10 and DMK 8. Sources said several BJP MPs have admitted privately that they do not have the numbers to get the key bills passed. Amending the Constitution requires a special majority in both houses of Parliament: a majority of the total membership (more than 50 per cent) and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. So if all 540 members, that are there in the house currently, are present and voting, the two-thirds majority mark would be 360. While seeking the support of all parties in getting the bills passed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a fervent appeal in the Lok Sabha, saying that he will get all the credit in case

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### India, New Zealand To Sign FTA On April 27 in New Delhi



India and New Zealand will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) on April 27 in New Delhi. The free trade deal aims to provide tariff-free access to the island nation's market for domestic exporters' goods and will bring in \$20 billion in investment over the next 15 years, according to an official. Under the pact, New Zealand will also get duty-free access to goods such as sheep meat, wool, coal and over 95 per cent of forestry and wood articles.

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## Mamata Links Women's Quota, Delimitation Bills to Alleged Voter Deletion Conspiracy

"The women's reservation bill was passed long ago, and why was there a delay in its implementation?" Banerjee said.



from electoral rolls, and implement NRC. Addressing a poll rally at Mathabhanga in Cooch Behar district, Banerjee said attempts are being made to divide India by connecting the women's reservation and delimitation bills. "Attempts are being made to divide India by linking women's reservation and delimitation bills. Connecting these bills is a conspiracy to delete voters' names and implement NRC," Banerjee said. Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Amit Shah moved to introduce three bills in Lok Sabha on Thursday to amend the women's quota law and set up a delimitation commission amid protests by the opposition, which termed the proposed legislations as anti-constitutional.

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday claimed that the alleged linking of bills related to amending the women's quota law and setting up a delimitation commission was a "conspiracy" to delete names

tion and delimitation bills. Connecting these bills is a conspiracy to delete voters' names and implement NRC," Banerjee said. Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Amit Shah moved to introduce three bills in Lok Sabha on Thursday to amend the women's quota law and set up a delimitation commission amid protests by the opposition, which termed the proposed legislations as anti-constitutional.

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## Pak PM in Qatar Amid Push for US-Iran Talks

**DOHA**  
Wakeup telangana

Pakistan's prime minister, the key mediator in the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, arrived in Qatar on Thursday as he pushed for a second round of peace talks between Washington and Tehran. The office of Shehbaz Sharif said in statements that his delegation had arrived in Doha after a trip to Saudi Arabia and he was expected to meet with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The pair would "exchange views on Pakistan's ongoing efforts for regional and global peace", his office said.

The Pakistani premier was later due in Turkey, the last stop in a four-day tour which comes on the heels of high-level talks between US and Iranian delegations in Islamabad last weekend. The talks in Pakistan failed to reach an immediate agreement to permanently end the war in the Middle East following the start of a two-week ceasefire on April 7.

The pair would "exchange views on Pakistan's ongoing efforts for regional and global peace", his office said.

## Amit Shah Opposes Muslim Reservation

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Muslims would not be given reservation as any quota on the basis of religion will be unconstitutional. During a fiery 40-minute debate, following which three Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha for amendment of the women's quota law and to set up a delimitation commission, Shah said that a caste census will be carried out along with population enumeration during



the ongoing census exercise. Initiating the discussion on the three bills, Congress deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi said that the bills are "anti-women, anti-caste census, anti-Constitution and anti-federal structure of the country. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav accused the ruling

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ESTD - 1960

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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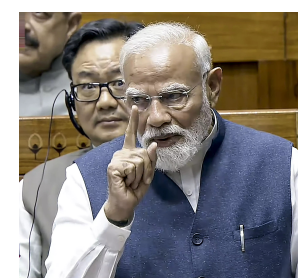
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## PM Urges Opposition Not to Politicize Women's Quota Law

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a fervent appeal to the Opposition while seeking its support for the amendments in women's reservation bill along with the delimitation bill associated with it, saying these legislations should not be measured in political terms but as a decision in the interest of the nation. He also tried to allay Opposition's concerns that the delimitation exercise

associated with women quota is discriminatory and will reduce seats in southern states, assuring the proportion of Lok Sabha seats in any state will not come down. The PM said he will get all the credit in case the parties oppose these bills but he is ready to give a "blank cheque" for credit to all those who support the legislation. "Today, I have come to appeal to you that do not weigh this on political scales. This is a decision in the national interest."



The women across the country and the world are watching us, and will see our decisions. But more than the decision itself, they will judge our intent. If there is any flaw in our intent, the women of this country will never forgive," the PM said. He

was speaking during the discussion on The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, The Delimitation Bill, 2026 and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment Bill), 2026, introduced in Lok Sabha on Thursday by union

ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Amit Shah. The bills propose to amend the women's quota law and set up a delimitation commission to work out seat increase in states and UTs. Though supporting the women's quota, the Opposition parties are against the legislation on delimitation, terming it anti-constitutional. Accusing the government of "finishing off democracy" by putting pressure on institutions, such as the Election Commission (EC) and the judi-

ciary, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra termed the delimitation bill as an "open attack on democracy." "This (bill) seems fine on the surface but the real meaning comes to the fore when one carefully reads it. It smells of politics," Priyanka said. "Women easily recognise those who try to mislead them," she added while taking a swipe at Mr Modi and the BJP. However, on his part PM assured there was no politics behind the pro-

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## Delay of LPG Delivery Prompts Many To Run From Pillar To Post, Carrying Cylinders

Logistics under control, there is only 6-days of backlog, argue officials

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Residents across Hyderabad reported delays of up to two to three weeks in receiving domestic LPG cylinders, even as authorities maintained that stocks were sufficient to meet demand. Queues were seen at several LPG agencies, with consumers arriving with empty cylinders and seeking replacements, and black marketing of commercial cylinders continued to be reported. An anxious mould maker, M.A. Hafeez, who was standing in front of an LPG distributor at Musheerabad with an empty cylinder, said the uncertainty had added to concerns over supply. "Following several days of delay, I was told by my wife to ensure they get the cylinder before the gas in the functional cylinder is over. There was no choice, as the family was turning anxious amid ru-



mours of continuing short supply," said M A Hafeez at an agency in Musheerabad.

As of April 16, the domestic LPG price in Hyderabad stood at Rs 965 for a 14.2 kg cylinder and Rs 335.50 for a 5 kg cylinder. Commercial LPG cylinders were priced at Rs 2,320.50 for 19 kg and Rs 4,900.50 for 47.5 kg. Despite vigilance action, black marketing of commercial

cylinders persisted, with some vendors alleging sale at nearly double the official price. While many eateries and street food vendors have already shifted over to induction tops or using kerosene for cooking, others have continued to use commercial LPG.

"Despite government assurances of resolving issues, we are paying Rs 4,500 for a commer-

cial cylinder, whose official price is Rs 2,000. The only saving grace is that the price in the black market is Rs 500 less than what we paid in March, which was by far the worst month for the food vendors like us," said Ganesh, a tea vendor in Secunderabad.

Authorities, however, said the situation was improving, citing official figures that showed a six-day backlog in domestic LPG delivery, compared to more than eight days in the previous month. "We have overcome the issue of delay. There could be a few instances or places where it is getting delayed, as the entire logistics issue is being resolved. We once again reiterate that people should not panic, as we have enough stocks and the situation is under control," an official coordinating between the state and oil marketing companies said.

## Sridhar Babu Hails Protolabs GCC Impact

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu announced that US-based digital manufacturing giant Protolabs would set up its global capability centre (GCC) in Hyderabad and said that this move strengthened the city's role as a top hub for global tech and engineering investments. Protolabs aims to start operations this month. The GCC will provide employment to around 200 to 300 employees soon, focusing on local engineering hires. It targets advanced engineering, digital manufacturing, and product development.

A Protolabs delegation met the minister on Thursday and discussed its India entry and plans to set up GCC. The team included chief financial officer Dan Schumacher, chief human resources of-



ficer Agnes Semington, chief technology and AI officer Marc Kermisch, and India managing director Ashish Sharma. State government IT adviser Saikrishna participated in the meeting. The minister hailed Hyderabad's rise as a prime spot for next-gen GCCs. He cited its skilled engineers, strong digital set-up, supportive policies, and growing manufacturing base. "We welcome Protolabs to Hyderabad and India," he said and added that "Telangana offers a ready ecosystem for design, engineering, prototyping, and manufacturing."

"This will boost Hyderabad's high-value manufacturing edge," Sridhar Babu added. He noted benefits for start-ups and MSMEs through rapid prototyping and low-volume production. Hyderabad blended software, engineering, and manufacturing seamlessly. Such investments create jobs and fuel innovation-driven growth, the minister said. Founded in 1999, Protolabs leads in digital manufacturing across North America and Europe. It serves over 3 lakh customers, and produced over 750 million parts, and aids 95 per cent of Fortune 100 firms across diverse industry verticals. The GCC by Protolabs fits Telangana's push for deep tech and advanced industries, Sridhar Babu said. "We build industry-friendly spaces for jobs, innovation, and growth."

## Srinivas Goud Flags BC Census Errors

Srinivas Goud Slams Faulty BC Census, Seeks Kamareddy Declaration Implementation



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Santosh chowdary

Serious concerns have emerged over the accuracy of caste census figures in Telangana, with several leaders alleging that Backward Classes (BCs) have been significantly underestimated. Though BCs are believed to constitute nearly 56-61 percent of the population, critics argue that the official data does not reflect their actual numbers. This

discrepancy, they say, has resulted in the denial of proportionate representation, reservations, and welfare benefits that are crucial for the community's upliftment.

The controversy has further deepened with allegations that the Kamareddy Declaration—considered a key commitment toward BC empowerment—has not been implemented. Leaders have accused the Congress government of failing to deliver on its

caste-based promises, particularly in ensuring fair allocation of reservations and nominated posts in line with BC population strength. This perceived neglect has intensified dissatisfaction among BC groups across the state.

Another major concern raised is the allocation of corporation posts without adequate financial support. Critics argue that appointing individuals to such positions without assigning proper funds renders these roles inef-

fective, reducing them to symbolic gestures rather than instruments of governance and welfare delivery.

Leaders have also pointed out that the absence of detailed BC family data in the central census forced Telangana to release its own caste survey figures. However, these figures are now being questioned for inconsistencies and lack of transparency, further fueling the debate.

Calling for immediate corrective measures, leaders emphasized that true justice for BCs can only be achieved through accurate data, proper implementation of welfare schemes, and political reservations in legislatures. They stressed that meaningful representation in decision-making bodies is essential to address historical inequalities and ensure inclusive and equitable governance for all sections of society.

## Panduranga Reddy Demands Apology from Tejasvi Surya

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Strong objections have been raised against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya for comparing the formation of Telangana with the India-Pakistan partition, with Telangana Jagruti Ranga Reddy district president Kappati Panduranga Reddy demanding an unconditional apology. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Panduranga Reddy stated that the formation of Telangana was carried out democratically under Article 3 of the Indian Constitution through



Kappati Panduranga Reddy said Tejasvi Surya insulted Telangana by comparing its formation to Partition, called it unconstitutional and irresponsible, and demanded an immediate apology and removal of remarks.

Parliament. He said that equating it with a religious and violent partition reflects historical ignorance and amounts to disrespecting the Constitution.

He emphasized that Telangana is the result of decades-long struggle and

sacrifices made by students, youth, and farmers. Such remarks, he said, undermine the sentiments and self-respect of the people and reflect irresponsibility from a Member of Parliament. Referring to Telangana Jagruti president Kalva-

kuntla Kavitha, he noted that she has already demanded BJP MPs from Telangana to break their silence and condemn the remarks.

Panduranga Reddy urged Tejasvi Surya to immediately withdraw his comments, issue a public apology to the people of Telangana, and ensure that the remarks are removed from parliamentary records.

He warned that any attempt to insult Telangana's identity would be resisted through democratic means.

## Dr. Srirangam Satyam Felicitates Vem Narender Reddy, Seeks Strong Telangana Voice

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant and graceful gesture, Dr. Satyam Srirangam, PCC Member and official spokesperson of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), extended warm congratulations to Vem Narender Reddy on his swearing-in as a Member of the Rajya Sabha. Dr. Srirangam met the newly inducted MP at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi and conveyed his heartfelt wishes, praising



Vem Narender Reddy's long-standing commitment to public service. He expressed confidence that the senior leader would effectively represent Te-

langana's aspirations at the national level.

Highlighting the responsibilities ahead, Dr. Srirangam Satyam emphasized that Vem Narender Reddy should take a proactive role in Parliament by raising pressing issues concerning the people of Telangana. He urged him to strongly advocate for the state's rights, secure adequate funds, and ensure that Telangana's voice resonates powerfully in the Rajya Sabha.

## Telangana activists urge govt to implement 2011 Act for tenant farmers



Several public organisations launched a united front called the "Telangana Tenant Farmers Recognition Committee," to demand that the Congress government honour its pre-election promises. Declaring a struggle for recognition of farmers, the Rythu Swarajya Vedika group formed the committee to draft a joint action plan. During a roundtable meeting, the participants expressed outrage over the Congress-led state government.

Citing a concerning statistic of 80 per cent of farmer suicides involve tenants in Telangana, the group warned that government negligence is driving 36 per cent of the state's agricultural workforce into debt and despair. "Due to a lack of bank loans and government schemes, they are trapped in extreme distress and mounting debt," the organisation said in a release. Led by renowned economist Professor D Narasimha Reddy, the committee called for the immediate implementation of the 2011 Land Licensed Cultivators Act, emphasising that its provisions hold the government responsible for issuing Loan Eligibility Cards (LEC) to grant access schemes and crop loans. Field activists and tenant farmers hailing from different districts explained that the absence of a landowner.

## First Paddy Procurement Centre Launched in Peddabavi Village

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant relief to local farmers, the newly formed Gram Panchayat of Peddabavi (Madire Chakampalli) has established its first-ever paddy procurement centre. The initiative has been widely welcomed by the farming community, who expressed gratitude to Government Whip and MLA Beerla Ilaiah for his prompt support. On behalf of the village, Sarpanch Velpula Rajitha Sriramulu, along with the Deputy Sarpanch and ward members, extended spe-



cial thanks to the MLA for facilitating the establishment of the procurement centre. Speaking on the occasion, the Sarpanch highlighted the hardships faced by farmers in the past. She noted that earlier, the nearest procurement centre was located in

Matur village, forcing farmers to transport their produce over long distances. This not only caused inconvenience but also led many farmers to sell their paddy at lower prices to private traders, resulting in significant financial losses. "Farmers

were compelled to depend on middlemen and sell their hard-earned produce at unfair prices. Understanding these challenges, we approached MLA Beerla Ilaiah, who responded immediately and coordinated with the concerned officials to set up the procurement centre in our village," she said. Despite being a small Gram Panchayat, Peddabavi largely depends on agriculture for livelihood. The newly established procurement centre is expected to ease the burden on farmers, ensure fair pricing, and eliminate the role of intermediaries.

## Telangana ACB nabs electricity dept official over Rs 30K bribe

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday, April 16, nabbed an Assistant Divisional Engineer from Devarakonda town of Nalgonda district for allegedly taking a Rs 30,000 bribe.

According to the ACB, the accused officer, Sirikonda Saidulu, had taken the bribe in exchange for



processing a bill of Rs 10 lakhs for the electrical

work carried out by the complainant for the restoration of the damaged 33/11 kV line.

Telangana ACB urges all citizens to report incidents of bribery demands by government officials. Complaints can be made through the toll-free number 1064, WhatsApp 9440446106, the ACB Facebook page (Telangana ACB), or through the official website.

**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 Records Season's First 44°C Heatwave

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad recorded its highest temperatures of the season on Thursday, crossing the 42°C mark for the first time this year, as a strong heatwave swept across Telangana. According to Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPs) data, several parts of the city saw temperatures above 41°C, with RC Puram touching 42.3°C, Asifnagar and Himayt Nagar 42°C, Malakpet and Begumpet 41.9°C, and Saroornagar, Chandrayangutta, Goshamahal and Miyapur 41.8°C. IMD has forecast that the current spell is expected to continue for



the next two to three days, with daytime temperatures remaining high and evenings offering little relief. However, some respite is likely towards the weekend. Thunderstorms are expected to begin from April 18 or 19 in parts of Vikarabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy and Medak, before spreading to other districts, in-

cluding Hyderabad, between April 19 and 23. These are likely to be evening or night-time storms, which means daytime heat will continue even as conditions begin to change. Across GHMC limits, most circles recorded temperatures between 40°C and 42°C, with official data placing the city's average maximum

at around 41.1°C, higher than recent days. The situation was more severe across districts. Jagtial recorded the highest temperature in the state at 44.4°C, with Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancheri, Nalgonda, Nirmal and Nizamabad all touching 44.3°C. Several other districts, including Kamareddy, Karimnagar and Siddipet, recorded above 44°C, indicating widespread heatwave conditions. TGDPs data shows that multiple mandals across districts such as Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Siddipet officially met heatwave criteria, with temperatures crossing 43°C.

## Statue Removal Sparks Protests, Arrests in Cherlapally

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tensions flared in Cherlapally after unidentified individuals allegedly removed statues of prominent social reformers, triggering protests and police action on Thursday. The statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, and Babu Jagjivan Ram, which had been installed at the Cherlapally bus stand just four days earlier, were reportedly taken down late Wednesday night.

The incident came to light on Thursday morning, leading to outrage among local residents and various community organizations. Leaders from Dalit groups and other associations gathered at the site to stage a protest, condemning the removal of the statues as an act of disrespect toward iconic figures who symbolize social justice and equality. The demonstration was



led by BRS state leader Singireddy Somashekar Reddy, who questioned what he described as "selective restrictions" on the installation of certain statues.

Protesters raised slogans against the authorities, alleging bias and demanding immediate reinstatement of the statues. They also called for strict action against those responsible for the removal. As the protest intensified, police intervened and detained around 20 individuals, including Somashekar Reddy and several local leaders. The detainees were shifted to Ghatkesar Police Station. Speaking during the protest, demonstrators criticized the authorities for what they perceived as unequal

treatment, asking why restrictions were imposed on Dr. Ambedkar's statue while others faced none. They termed the incident unjust and warned of a wider agitation if their demands were not met. "We will not rest until the statues are reinstated. If necessary, we will launch a state-wide protest," one of the protesters said. Former corporator Jarripothula Prabhudas visited the police station to express support for those detained. The incident has raised concerns over law and order as well as the handling of issues related to public sentiment and historical figures. Authorities are yet to release an official statement regarding the removal of the statues or the subsequent police action.

## India's First Integrated Rural Medical Centre Launched in Konaseema

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

India's first Integrated Rural Medical Centre (RIMC) was inaugurated at Sakhinetipalli in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on April 15, 2026, marking a major step toward improving healthcare access in rural areas. The initiative, led by DoctorsPlus in collaboration with Ayuna Ayurveda and QuickVitals, integrates Ayurveda, Allopathy, and AI-powered healthcare under one roof.

The centre is designed as a healthcare hub for underserved villages, offering affordable medical services, specialist connectivity, and preventive care. A free medical camp held during the launch provided check-ups and medicines to a large number of residents. A key feature is QuickVitals, an AI-based health monitoring system devel-



oped by Bisam Pharmaceuticals, enabling real-time tracking and early detection of health conditions. The facility also promotes holistic wellness through Ayurvedic treatments and supports medical tourism by connecting patients with specialists.

Founder Harish Reddy Bisam said the initiative aims to bridge the rural-urban healthcare gap through technology and traditional medicine. The next centre will open at Khem Karan near the India-Pakistan border by July, with plans to expand to 150 centres nationwide by 2028.

## Miyapur Leader Donapudi Ramadevi Welcomes Women's Reservation Bill

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Miyapur-based social leader Donapudi Ramadevi has welcomed the move to convene special Parliament sessions to approve the Women's Reservation Bill, calling it a progressive step toward empowering women in legislative bodies. Representing Prasad's Foundation, she stressed that greater representation will accelerate inclusive development. She recalled that former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama



Rao made history by granting women equal property rights, ensuring dignity and social security. She also praised current Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for implementing multiple welfare schemes

focused on women's development and entrepreneurship. Ramadevi noted that from local bodies to Parliament, women are already proving their capabilities across sectors. She expressed confidence that all political parties will support the bill and ensure fair representation. Citing examples of women officers' bravery in national defense, she emphasized that given opportunities, women can excel in every field and contribute significantly to the nation's progress.

## Focus on Grassroots Governance: Collector Ashish Sangwan Leads Prajapalana Review in Sadashivanagar

**KAMAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana



A mandal-level meeting was convened on Thursday at Sadashivanagar in Kamareddy district as part of the ongoing 99-day Prajapalana Progress Action Plan, aimed at strengthening governance and service delivery at the grassroots level. District Collector Ashish Sangwan, who attended as the Chief Guest, inaugurated the programme with the Telangana State Song "Jaya Jaya He Telangana." In his address, the Collector underlined the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He called upon officials to adopt a proactive approach in identifying and resolving local issues promptly, emphasizing that timely grievance redressal is key to effective administration. He urged citizens to actively participate by bringing their concerns forward and utilizing government services. Highlighting the importance of coordi-

nation among departments, the Collector directed officials to act swiftly on the issues raised during the meeting. He stressed that problems related to essential services such as drinking water, roads, electricity, and other infrastructure must be addressed without delay to avoid inconvenience to the public. Special focus was given to agricultural development, where the Collector encouraged Sarpanches to promote oil palm cultivation among farmers. He suggested organizing awareness programmes in every village, noting that oil palm has the potential to significantly enhance farmers' incomes. He also emphasized the need for providing technical guidance and training support to farmers for better adoption. The Collector further stated that Sarpanches play a vital role in rural development and must ensure effective implementation of government schemes at the village level.

## Karwan Footpath Works Reviewed by MLA Kausar Mohiuddin

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kausar Mohiuddin held a review meeting with Hyderabad Urban Development Authority officials to assess ongoing and proposed footpath development works in the Karwan constituency. The meeting focused on improving pedestrian infrastructure, ensuring safety, and expediting pending works. Officials briefed the MLA on current progress and timelines. Kausar Mohiuddin directed authorities to maintain quality standards



and complete the projects without delays, stressing the need for better walkability in the constituency.

## 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 Naga-

rani, Sapidi Navya, Revenue Inspector Asif, Rama Rao (APM), GPO officials, Congress Party village president Sapidi Upender, BRS village president Bokka Nagi Reddy, Peddabavi BRS village president Madhava Reddy, along with farmers and local residents.

## Bowenpally Playground Demolition Triggers Rebuild Demand

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An urgent appeal has been made to rebuild key public facilities in Bowenpally after demolition linked to the elevated corridor project disrupted essential infrastructure and community spaces. Former Cantonment Board Vice-President Jampana Pratap Reddy has called on MLA Sri Ganesh to ensure immediate reconstruction to prevent hardship for residents. During an on-site inspection behind the Boinapalli Pump House in Netaji Nagar, Jampana Pratap flagged the collapse of a critical drainage system due to ongoing HMDA works. He warned that a nearby community hall is now at



risk and highlighted that earlier assurances to rebuild the pump house alongside a new drainage line remain unfulfilled. The Bowenpally playground has emerged as the most

affected site, with facilities such as a wrestling gym, gymnasium, computer center, and gym room facing demolition for corridor expansion. These amenities, widely used by local youth, risk being permanently lost without timely intervention. Responding to concerns, MLA Sri Ganesh has reportedly directed HMDA officials to pause demolitions until alternative facilities are constructed within the playground area. He also stressed the need for post-construction surveys to ensure no permanent loss of public assets. Local residents and leaders have demanded swift action, warning that unchecked development could severely impact community infrastructure and access.

## Jampana Pratap Joins Prithvinath Birthday, Leads Annadana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap graced the birthday celebrations of Lions Club PMJF representative S.V. Prithvinath in Bapujinagar, marking the occasion with spiritual rituals and large-scale community service. The highlight of the event was the Annadana programme inaugurated by Jampana Pratap, who also personally served meals to attendees, emphasizing the importance of charity



and social responsibility. The initiative drew participation from local residents and reinforced the spirit of community bonding.

Earlier, Pratap visited Prithvinath to extend his birthday wishes, presenting a bouquet and com-

mending his continued dedication to public service through the Lions Club and PMJF initiatives. He praised Prithvinath's contributions toward welfare activities in the Cantonment area. As part of the celebrations, the family con-

ducted special pujas at the Bapujinagar Nallapochamma Temple, seeking blessings for health and longevity. The religious observances were followed by the charitable food distribution programme, which served a large number of beneficiaries. The event witnessed participation from close family members and associates, including Anil, Sunil, Prem, Amrutha, Ajith, Saibaba Yadav, Srikanth, Rama Rao, and Raju, who actively supported the arrangements.

## 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.

## No Reservation To Muslims; Quota On Basis Of Religion Unconstitutional: Shah

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Muslims would not be given reservation as any quota on the basis of religion will be unconstitutional. During a fiery 40-minute debate, following which three Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha for amendment of the women's quota law and to set up a delimitation commission, Shah said that a caste census will be carried out along with population enumeration during the ongoing census exercise. Initiating the discussion on the three bills, Congress deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi said that the bills are "anti-women, anti-caste census, anti-Constitution and anti-federal structure of the country. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav accused the ruling BJP of turning "hari" (women) into a "nara" (slogan) and said that the Centre is using the proposed amendments to the women's



quota law to delay the census. Reacting after Akhilesh Yadav and Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav spoke in favour of giving a quota to Muslims, Shah said, "The question of providing reservation to Muslim women on the basis of religion does not even arise. Our Constitution does not allow reservation on the basis of religion. I want to make it clear our government's resolve that Muslims will not be given reservations on the basis of religion. Such reservation is unconstitutional." Referring to the Samajwadi Party members' demand for a caste census, Shah said that the government had taken a decision to carry out the

caste census and asserted that it will be carried out along with the population enumeration. "Right now, the counting of households is underway. The households do not have any caste. If the Samajwadi Party had its way, they would determine the caste of households as well," he said. "If the Samajwadi Party gives all its tickets to Muslim women, where do we have any objection? We have no objections at all," Shah said, adding, "I want to make it clear that this census will be conducted along with caste enumeration." The three bills were introduced after a fiery 40-minute debate, following which the Opposition pressed for the division of votes to introduce the Constitutional (131st Amendment) Bill. The bill was later introduced with 251 members supporting it and 185 members voting against the introduction. Gogoi accused the government of attempting to take political advantage through delimitation and gerrymandering. "What

they did through delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir and in Assam, they want to do in the whole country in the name of women's reservation," he said, adding the government's actions were shameful. The Congress' deputy leader in the House pointed out that the bill stated that amendments were needed as delimitation would take time. "What that means is that you are not in favour of women's reservation in reality and are creating obstacles repeatedly," he said. Gogoi accused the BJP of indulging in "politics of symbolism" and said that three Bills show that they are not aimed at women's reservation but to get delimitation done through the "backdoor". He alleged that the government is bulldozing delimitation in the name of women's reservation, and the BJP in the past had used delimitation as a weapon to further its political ambitions. "Our party is in favour of women's reservation, but you must make it simple.

## Brazil's President Lula Says Trump Has 'No Right' To Threaten Countries

MADRID  
Wakeup telangana

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva criticized US President Donald Trump, saying the US leader has "no right" to threaten other nations, in an interview published in Spain on Thursday. Lula's comments come after Trump this month warned that a "whole civilization will die" in Iran if the country did not open up the Strait of Hormuz. "Trump has no right to wake up in the morning and threaten a country," Lula told the Spanish daily El Pais, recalling that the US Constitution divides authority over war and foreign policy between Congress and the president. "It is essential that



powerful leaders take greater responsibility in maintaining peace," the 80-year-old leftist president added. Lula and Trump, 79, stand on opposite sides on issues including multilateralism, international trade and the fight against climate change. Brasilia-Washington relations remain strained, despite a meeting between the leaders last year that helped ease tensions and led to a reduction in trade tariffs. Lula renewed calls for reform of the UN Security Council, including

the removal of the veto held by five permanent members and the inclusion of more countries from Africa and Latin America. "It is time to redefine the United Nations to give it credibility, otherwise Trump is right," he said, referring to the US president's criticism that the post-World War II international system is no longer effective. Lula spoke to the newspaper ahead of a visit to Spain, where he is to meet Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and attend a forum of progressive leaders. Other attendees at the gathering in Barcelona on Saturday include Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

## China UN Envoy Slams United States Over 'Dangerous' Strait of Hormuz Blockade

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Delhi-NCR is experiencing a sudden disruption in daily household routines as a significant portion of its domestic workforce, largely migrant workers from West Bengal, has temporarily returned home to participate in the state's upcoming elections scheduled for April 23 and 29. The unexpected absence has left many families, particularly working professionals and the elderly, struggling to manage basic chores. Residents across Noida and Gurgaon report difficulty maintaining their usual routines, with essential tasks such as cooking, cleaning, and laundry piling up. Sangeeta Saxena, a resident of Logix Blossom County in Noida, described the situation as a "serious disruption," noting that many domestic workers have left despite the loss of wages. According to



her, some workers expressed concerns that failing to vote could result in losing access to government benefits such as subsidized rations. Similar challenges are being faced by others in the region. Shilpa Sharma, an entrepreneur based in Gurgaon's Laburnum area, said she had to call her mother from Haridwar to help manage household responsibilities while she continues her professional commitments. Her domestic worker informed her that she would not return until after the elections. Beyond logistical inconvenience, the situ-

ation highlights deeper anxieties among migrant workers. Apart from concerns about welfare benefits, some workers reportedly fear that not participating in the electoral process could affect their status in official records, particularly in light of ongoing revisions to voter rolls. The temporary workforce shortage has also triggered a surge in demand for alternative services. House-help aggregator platforms such as Insta Maid, Snabbit, and Pronto are witnessing a sharp increase in bookings, with waiting periods extending up to 48 to 72 hours. At the same

time, sales of robotic vacuum cleaners have reportedly risen as households look for quick technological solutions to manage cleaning tasks. The development has also sparked a degree of reflection among residents. Social media and WhatsApp groups that previously expressed skepticism or criticism toward migrant workers are now actively tracking their return, underscoring their essential role in urban domestic life. While the disruption is expected to ease after the elections conclude, the episode has drawn attention to the heavy reliance of urban households on migrant labor, as well as the broader socio-political factors influencing workers' decisions. It also reinforces the importance of electoral participation for many, even when it comes at immediate personal or financial cost.

## Pakistan's Army Chief To Meet Iranian Officials In Tehran

TEHRAN  
Wakeup telangana

Pakistan's army chief is set to meet with Iranian officials in Tehran on Thursday in a bid to ease tensions in the Middle East and arrange a second round of negotiations between the United States and Iran after almost seven weeks of war. In a related development, China's foreign minister told his Iranian counterpart that reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was an international demand. Wang Yi told Abbas Araghchi in



a phone call that Iran's sovereignty, security, and legitimate rights should be respected as a littoral state of the Strait of Hormuz, but freedom of navigation and safety through the strait should be ensured. "Working to resume normal passage of the strait is a unanimous call from the international community,"

Wang was quoted as saying in a government statement late Wednesday. The U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports continued as U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the Trump administration would ramp up economic pain on Iran with new economic sanctions on countries doing business with it, calling the move the "financial equivalent" of a bombing campaign. The White House said any further talks with Iran would likely take place in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, though no deci-

sion had been made on whether to resume negotiations. Pakistan has emerged as a key mediator after it hosted direct talks between the U.S. and Iran in Islamabad. In a development in the war's other front, Trump wrote late Wednesday on Truth Social that leaders from Israel and Lebanon would speak the next day in a renewed effort to broker a ceasefire after the countries' first direct talks in decades ended the previous day in Washington without a deal.

## China Slams US Over Hormuz Blockade

MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

China's ambassador to the United Nations, Fu Cong, said the Strait of Hormuz must remain open and secure for international navigation, as it is a vital route for global energy supplies. The waterway carries roughly 20% of the world's oil, making any disruption a serious concern for the global economy. He urged Iran to take "proactive measures" to reopen the strait and ensure safe passage for



ships. Fu described the disruption as a "spillover effect" of the ongoing conflict in Iran, emphasizing that the tensions in the region are directly affecting maritime security. He argued that only a complete ceasefire can create

the conditions necessary to ease the situation and restore stability in the region. According to him, military escalation will only worsen the crisis rather than resolve it. Addressing the U.N. General Assembly, Fu said China is actively working through "intensive mediation" with all parties involved to promote peace talks and bring an end to the conflict. He stressed that dialogue and negotiation are the only sustainable solutions. The meeting was convened

after China and Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution backed by the United States and Gulf nations, which aimed to address the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. Fu defended the veto, claiming the resolution would have effectively given a "carte blanche" for further aggressive actions and escalation. Instead, he said, efforts should focus on de-escalation, diplomacy, and a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

### FROM FRONT PAGE

#### No Delimitation.....

Amending the Constitution requires a special majority in both houses of Parliament: a majority of the total membership (more than 50 per cent) and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. So if all 540 members, that are there in the house currently, are present and voting, the two-thirds majority mark would be 360. While seeking the support of all parties in getting the bills passed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a fervent appeal in the Lok Sabha, saying that he will get all the credit in case the opposition oppose the bills but is ready to give a "blank cheque" to all in case everyone supports the legislation. The Constitution (131st Amend-

ment) Bill to tweak the women's quota law was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after a division of votes. Two ordinary bills -- the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill to implement the proposed amended women's quota law in Union territories of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir -- were also introduced. The bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha after a fiery 40-minute debate, following which the opposition pressed for the division of votes to introduce the Constitutional (131st Amendment) Bill. The bill was later introduced with 251 members supporting it and 185 members voting against the introduction.

#### PM Urges Op.....

"This (bill) seems fine on the surface but the real meaning comes to the fore when one carefully reads it. It smells of politics," Priyanka said. "Women easily recognise those who try to mislead them," she added while taking a swipe at Mr Modi and the BJP. Mr Modi also said the government does not want any credit for implementation of the women reservation bill but if any opposition of it will obviously benefit him politically. "If you oppose it, it is natural that I will gain political benefit, but if you walk along, no one will gain any political advantage... We don't want credit. If you want me to use the word 'guarantee', I use the word 'guarantee'. If you want me to make a promise, I use the word 'promise'. Because if the intention

is clear, there is no need to play games with words," said the PM. Later, Union Home Minister Amit Shah also clarified that the representation of five southern states will go up in the Lok Sabha from the present 129 to 195 seats and the percentage of power will increase from 23.76 per cent to 23.87 or almost 24 per cent.

#### Mamata Links.....

"The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026', 'The Delimitation Bill, 2026' and 'The Union Territories Laws (Amendment Bill), 2026' were introduced in the House. "The women's reservation bill was passed long ago, and why was there a delay in its implementation?" Banerjee said. The TMC su-

premo asserted that 37 per cent of its elected MPs in the Lok Sabha are women. Referring to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allegedly distributing "cards" during her visit to poll-bound Bengal on Wednesday, Banerjee dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove her from the post for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Addressing another rally in Alipurduar, Banerjee alleged, "People from UP, Rajasthan and Assam are staying at hotels and guest houses with a large amount of money to influence voters in Bengal." The elections to the 294-member West Bengal assembly will be held in two phases - on April 23 and 29. Votes will be counted on May 4.

#### India, New Zeal...

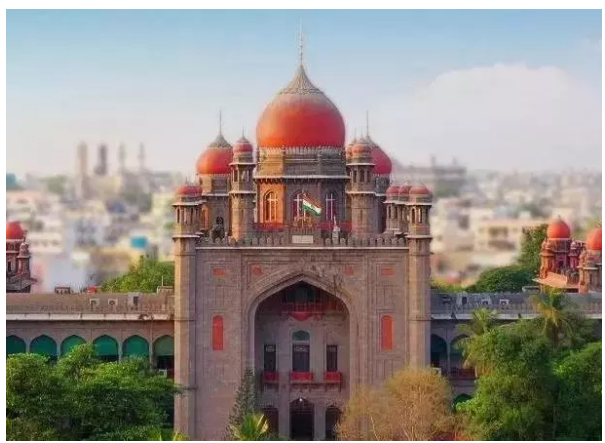
"The proposed pact will be signed on April 27 in Bharat Mandapam followed by a meeting of the India-New Zealand Business Forum," the official said. The two countries on December 22 last year announced the conclusion of negotiations for the trade deal, which aims at doubling bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in the next five years. While India will get zero-duty market access on 100 per cent of its exports, the agreement will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 95 per cent of New Zealand's exports to India, including items ranging from wool, coal, wood, wine, to avocados and blueberries.

CRIME

HC Serious Over Delay In Implementation of Directions On OPS To District Court Employees

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Nandikonda Narsing Rao on Thursday took a serious view of the delay in implementing its directions concerning the applicability of the old pension scheme (OPS) to district court employees. The petitioners were appointed through direct recruitment pursuant to notifications issued in 2004 by the district judiciary of Mahbubnagar. Due to administrative delays, their appointment orders were issued only in 2005 on various dates. This delay resulted in the petitioners being denied the benefit of the OPS and General Provident Fund,



as the new pension scheme came into effect from September 1, 2024. Aggrieved by this disparity, the employees approached the High Court which, by a common order dated March 19, 2025, directed the state authorities to extend the benefit of the applicable pension rules to the petitioners, based on their option. The court relied on the

precedent in 'Khilari Rajendra Eknath Vs State of Maharashtra', holding that employees recruited pursuant to notifications issued prior to September 1, 2004, but who joined service thereafter due to administrative delays would be entitled to OPS benefits. The bench had also directed the state to undertake a one-time exercise to obtain options from all

similarly situated employees and to complete the process within three months. With the authorities failing to comply within the stipulated time, the petitioners filed contempt cases against the state government.

Hearing the contempt cases on Thursday, and recording the submissions of petitioner's counsel Vonjari Rajashekar Reddy, the division bench directed the finance principal secretary and the law secretary to ensure implementation of the order on or before June 10. The court made it clear that any further failure to implement the orders would result in the authorities concerned to appear personally before the bench and face contempt action.

Wife Allegedly Hires Gang To Kill Husband In Parkal

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

In a suspected contract killing case, Parkal police in Hanamkonda district have arrested a woman and two others for allegedly murdering her husband and burning the body in the forests of Mulugu district. The deceased, Madikonda Suman (34), a tractor driver from CSI Colony in Parkal town, had been reported missing on April 3. Police said the case

later turned into a murder investigation following evidence gathered during inquiry. According to police, Suman's wife Lavanya, a municipal sanitation worker, allegedly conspired with her partner Naresh and her brother Raju to eliminate him over her extramarital relationship. Investigators said a supari gang from Mulugu district was also hired for the crime. Police stated that Lavanya allegedly lured Suman to the

outskirts of Govindaraopet on April 4 under the pretext of a social outing. He was reportedly given alcohol before being attacked. The accused allegedly attempted to destroy evidence by setting the body on fire. The case came to light after Suman's mobile phone activity raised suspicion and led investigators to the Govindaraopet forest area, where a charred body was recovered.

Woman Booked for Making 4-year-old Boy Drink Acid in Hyderabad

A woman has been booked for allegedly making her co-sister's four-year-old son drink acid due to "jealousy" that her in-laws were giving more attention to the boy, rather than her son, police said on Thursday. The accused and the boy's mother are married to brothers and live in a joint family. The boy's mother complained to police on Wednesday, alleging that the accused, with the intention to kill her son, made him drink acid in the kitchen in the pretext of offering him fruit juice on April 9. <

West Bengal Youth Arrested for Duping 500 Women of Rs 2 Cr Across Country

A 35-year-old man donned a bevy of identities — projecting himself as a lawyer or a doctor, or a film producer — to lure as many as 500 women across the country and fleeced them of Rs 2 crore. Delhi southwest DCP Amit Goel said the accused, Anand Kumar, a resident of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, operated with "a high level of sophistication", using fake profiles on social media, dating and matrimonial platforms to identify and target victims.

2 Persons Die; 4 Hurt in Road Accident

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Aswaraopeta in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Thursday. Police identified the deceased as Kovvasi Nagaraju, 41, and Chittu Chukkaiah, 52, both residents of Aswaraopeta. The injured were identified as Soyam Ramesh, Madakam Santhosh, Madakam Somaraj and Gaddala Venkat Rao. According to police, the accident occurred near

Rythu Vedika when a tractor carrying the victims was hit by a lorry coming in the opposite direction. The lorry, reportedly loaded with rice bags and travelling from Khammam to Kakinada, hit the tractor, resulting in the fatalities on the spot. The lorry driver fled from the scene after the accident, police said. Aswaraopeta police reached the spot and shifted the injured to Government General Hospital, Khammam for treatment. A case has been registered and investigation is underway.

Two people, Kovvasi Nagaraju (41) and Chittu Chukkaiah (52), lost their lives in a road accident near Rythu Vedika in Aswaraopeta, located in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. The victims were traveling on a tractor when it was struck by a lorry coming from the opposite direction. The lorry, carrying rice bags and traveling from Khammam to Kakinada, collided with the tractor, causing the two deaths on the spot. Four others were injured in the incident.

10 'Defected' BRS MLAs Directed To File Counter Affidavits by May 6

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the ten BRS MLAs are facing allegations of defecting to the Congress to file their counter-affidavits by May 6. The order came on petitions challenging the Assembly Speaker-cum-Tribunal's decision rejecting the applications filed by the BRS and the BJP seeking disqualification of the 10

legislators. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a batch of petitions filed by BRS MLAs and BJP Assembly floor leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy. On a previous occasion, the High Court had issued notices to the Speaker as well as all ten BRS MLAs. On Thursday, their counsels appeared before the court and sought time to submit their re-

sponses. The bench indicated a schedule granting three weeks for the respondents to file counters, followed by another three weeks for rejoinders, with the matter likely to be taken up after the court's summer recess. However, counsels K. Vivek and Gandra Mohan Rao for the petitioners expressed concern that the respondent MLAs might delay filing their counters and seek further adjournments.

Counsels also mentioned the earlier timelines set by the Supreme Court of India in disqualification matters, and submitted that two and half years of the Assembly's term had been completed. Taking note of these submissions, the bench directed that the respondents must file their counters "positively" by May 6, and posted the matter for further hearing on the same date.

EDITORIAL

TRI-COLOUR ON WORLD TOP CHESS TABLES

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

India's rise as a global chess powerhouse has reached a remarkable new milestone, with both the men's and women's World Championship cycles featuring Indian contenders at the very top. This achievement reflects not just isolated brilliance, but a sustained pipeline of elite talent that has emerged from the country in recent years. In the women's circuit, Vaishali Rameshbabu delivered a defining performance at the Candidates tournament. In a closely contested field, she secured victory in the final round by defeating Russia's Kateryna Lagno. Her win allowed her to edge past Kazakhstan's Bibisara Asaubayeva by half a point, finishing with 8.5 points. This triumph earned Vaishali the right to challenge reigning world champion Ju Wenjun later this year. Vaishali's success was supported indi-



rectly by fellow Indian Divya Deshmukh, whose crucial draw against Assaubayeva in the final round prevented the Kazakh player from overtaking Vaishali. This collective impact highlights the depth of India's talent pool, where multiple players can influence outcomes at the highest level. With this victory, the 24-year-old Vaishali joins the distinguished company of Koneru Humpy, who won the Women's Candidates in 2011. However, unlike

Humpy, who opted out of this edition citing security concerns due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, Vaishali remained undeterred. Her calm and strategic approach over the board underscored her maturity and readiness for the biggest stage. Importantly, this win also marks Vaishali's emergence from the shadow of her younger brother, R Praggnanandhaa, who has been one of India's most celebrated chess prodigies. While Praggnanandhaa also competed in the same

event, he struggled against strong opposition and finished with six points, falling out of contention. On the men's side, the Candidates tournament saw Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov claim victory with an impressive 9.5 points. He will now challenge India's reigning world champion, Gukesh Dommaraju, ensuring that India will be represented at the pinnacle of the men's game as well. Taken together, these developments underscore India's dominant position in global chess. With a steady stream of grandmasters and world-class players, the country has firmly established itself as a superpower in the 64-square arena. As the upcoming World Championship matches approach, India will not only defend its crown in the men's category but also challenge for supremacy in the women's game, signalling a golden era for Indian chess.



## India Expected To Grow At 6.3 pc If Oil Price Averages \$130/barrel This Fiscal

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

S&P Global Ratings has projected that India's economic growth could moderate to 6.3 per cent in the current fiscal year if global crude oil prices surge to an average of \$130 per barrel amid the ongoing West Asia crisis. Despite the potential pressure from elevated energy costs, the agency maintained that India's sovereign credit rating is unlikely to be affected, citing the government's sustained commitment to long-term fiscal consolidation. Speaking at a webinar, Yee Farn Phua, Director for Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings, outlined two key growth scenarios. Under the baseline assumption of crude oil averaging \$85



per barrel, India's economy is expected to expand by 7.1 per cent in 2026-27. However, even in a more adverse scenario with oil prices rising sharply to \$130 per barrel, growth is projected to remain resilient at 6.3 per cent. Phua noted that even the lower growth estimate would still position India as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. He noted

that India's domestic demand strength, ongoing reforms, and infrastructure push continue to provide a solid foundation for economic expansion, even amid global uncertainties. At the same time, S&P flagged several risks associated with prolonged energy price shocks. Disruptions in energy supply chains could potentially lead to fuel rationing or shortages of critical inputs

such as fertilisers, which would have a cascading impact on agriculture and industrial production. The agency also warned that higher crude prices could widen India's current account deficit, increase input costs for producers, and put pressure on corporate profit margins. Additionally, rising fuel costs are likely to translate into higher consumer prices, thereby eroding household purchasing power. This could dampen consumption, which remains a key driver of India's economic growth. The government may also face increased fiscal pressure as it steps in to shield consumers through subsidies or other support measures. However, S&P expressed confidence in the

government's ability to manage these challenges. It highlighted India's fiscal flexibility, particularly on the expenditure side, noting that authorities could reprioritise spending if required. For instance, higher subsidy outlays due to rising fuel costs could be offset by rationalising expenditure in other sectors, including certain infrastructure projects, to ensure that fiscal deficit targets remain on track. Overall, while the West Asia crisis and volatile oil prices present clear downside risks, India's macroeconomic fundamentals and policy discipline are expected to help the economy navigate the challenges without significant damage to its credit profile.

## Signature Global-Lamborghini Luxury Project in Gurugram

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Signature Global has partnered with Tonino Lamborghini to launch a landmark branded residential project in Sector 71, Gurugram, marking the Italian luxury brand's debut in India's real estate sector. Spread across 12.40 acres along the fast-growing Southern Peripheral Road, the project will feature 812 premium residences in 3, 4, and 4.5 BHK configurations. Positioned in one of Gurugram's most dynamic corridors, the development aims to redefine high-end urban living through a blend of global design and local aspirations. The project introduces a fully integrated luxury ecosystem, anchored by a signature clubhouse designed under the creative direction of Angela Krieger.

Key highlights include a grand reception lobby, designer café, fine-dining restaurant, banquet spaces, gaming arcade, and wellness facilities such as a spa, sauna, gym, yoga zones, and swimming pool. The design philosophy emphasizes openness, natural light, and biophilic landscapes, with towers strategically placed to maximize green views. This collaboration comes at a time when branded residences are witnessing strong global and domestic growth. India currently ranks among the top markets, with Gurugram emerging as a leader due to rising affluence and demand for globally benchmarked living experiences. Signature Global Chairman Pradeep Aggarwal said the partnership reflects the company's vision to bring world-class living

standards to India. Tonino Lamborghini described the project as an extension of his philosophy of creating lifestyle icons rooted in Italian craftsmanship, innovation, and bold identity. The development will also feature Lamborghini's signature design language across architectural elements, including a distinctive façade, creating a unique visual identity. By combining Italian elegance with Gurugram's rapid urban growth, the project is positioned to set a new benchmark in India's luxury housing segment. The collaboration underscores Signature Global's focus on innovation and integrated community development, while establishing Tonino Lamborghini's presence in India's premium real estate market.

## HDFC Bank Chairman's Resignation Is "One-Off" Says InGovern

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Corporate governance advisory services firm In-Govern Research on Thursday said that the resignation of Atanu Chakraborty as HDFC Bank's part time chairman on March 17 was a 'governance stress-test at a big bank, not a breakdown.' It described the episode as "one man's values dilemma" rather than a systemic issue and said that there is no material threat to shareholder value. Last month, Chakraborty resigned abruptly stating

that "certain happenings and practices within the bank, that I have observed over the last two years, are not in congruence with my personal Values and Ethics" sparking concerns around governance at the bank. However his statements failed to highlight any specific instances of alleged governance lapses at the Bank. The proxy advisory firm said that the governance standards and financial metrics at HDFC Bank remain strong, and investors have no reason to worry about its financial

strength or leadership. "The incident was a governance stress-test at a big bank, not a breakdown. The response matches how global peers and leading banks manage leadership exits: leadership continuity, external review, and clear communication, rather than panic-driven change," In-Govern report said. "The bank continues to report good financial results, and this seems to be a one-off aberration and a personal-ity driven issue," said Shirram Subramanian, managing director at In-Govern Research Services

Pvt Ltd, said. He also said that the bank should quickly put out the findings by the external lawyers with the review outcomes and continue with regular investor engagement and disclosures. Meanwhile HDFC Bank will be infusing Rs 1,000 crore in HDFC Life Insurance Company through a preferential share allotment to support growth initiatives amid evolving regulatory requirements. The life insurer reported a 4 per cent year-on-year increase in profit after tax to Rs 496 crore for the March quarter.

## Bowenpally Pastors Fellowship Forms New Committee

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Bowenpally 119 Division Pastors Prayer Fellowship has announced its new executive committee for the 2026-2028 term, with appointments made unanimously under the leadership of President Bishop Dr. John Victor Seelam. According to an official statement, the newly constituted body will serve for two years, focusing on strengthening spiritual leadership and community outreach across the di-



vision. The fellowship emphasized that the committee reflects a collective vision of unity and service among Christian leaders. The executive committee includes Bishop Dr. John Victor Seelam as President, Rev. Sudhakar Dayadi as Chairman, Dr. A. Sudhakar as Working President, Rev. T. Syam

Kumar as Vice-President, Rev. T. Vasanth Kumar as General Secretary, Rev. M. Dasanna as Treasurer, Rev. B. Samson as Joint Secretary, Rev. Muthu Thinakaran as Legal Advisor, and Rev. N. Karunakar as Assistant Treasurer. Senior guidance will be provided by Chief Advi-

sors Rev. B. Devasahayam, Rev. G. Anil Kumar, Bro. Leonard Meagher, and Rev. J. Prabhakar Rao. The team of Executive Members comprises Rev. B. Nehemiah, Rev. V. Jayaraj, Rev. N. Wilson, and Rev. P. Ezra. Addressing the gathering, Bishop Seelam outlined the key priorities of the fellowship, stating that the committee will work towards the upliftment of Christian brotherhood and the overall spiritual well-being of the community.

## CBIT Hosts SHIELD'26 to Boost POSH Awareness & Women's Safety



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) successfully organized SHIELD'26, an awareness workshop focused on the POSH Act and women's safety, aiming to strengthen legal awareness and promote a safe, inclusive environment on campus. The initiative, conducted by the Chaitanya Suraksha - Women's Safety Club in association with the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty. The highlight of the program was the keynote address by DSP Sita Reddy from the CID Women's Safety Wing, who emphasized the importance of awareness, preventive measures, and timely reporting of harassment. She provided practical insights into legal safeguards and underlined the role of law enforcement in ensuring justice and pro-

tection for women. Adding depth to the session, POSH Act expert Ms. Shuchi Bajaj elaborated on the provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, explaining redressal mechanisms and institutional responsibilities. Her session helped participants gain clarity on workplace rights and encouraged responsible behavior in professional and academic spaces. The interactive session witnessed active participation, reflecting growing awareness and engagement among students on issues of safety and dignity. The program was conducted under the guidance of Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu and Vice-Principal Prof. K. Krishnaveni, with support from Prof. P. V. R. Ravindra Reddy and Dr. B. Linga Reddy. Faculty coordinators, ICC members, and student leaders ensured smooth execution.

## Dollar's Era As Global Reserve Currency To Be Over Soon

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The US dollar will cease to be the global reserve currency in the next five to seven years, going by the pace at which countries are de-dollarising themselves. US President Donald Trump's focus on industrialisation is also accelerating de-dollarisation. A digital gold-backed Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is likely to replace dollar as a reserve currency for global transactions. "Every central bank intervention in the spot market is essentially a dollar asset dumping exercise," says Anindya Banerjee, head of commodity and currency research at Kotak Securities. "If you can't find buyers for your debt, you can't sustain a model of printing money, creating debt, and borrowing at near-zero rates. That's why the game is up." According to Banerjee, the ongoing trend of de-dollarisation is not merely a reaction to the US "weaponising" trade or finance, but a deeper breakdown of the dollar's underlying economic model. Post-Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944, it replaced the British pound as the world's primary reserve currency. To sustain global.

## Shott Expands with 20,000 Sq Ft Entertainment Hub in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Shott Amusement Limited has expanded its footprint in Hyderabad with the launch of its second family entertainment centre at Lakeshore Mall in Kukatpally. The new facility also marks the company's seventh location across India, reinforcing its position in the premium entertainment segment. Spread across 20,000 square feet, the newly launched centre offers a wide range of immersive experiences designed for visitors of all age groups. Key attractions include more than 40 arcade and virtual reality games, advanced bowling lanes, a high-tech laser tag arena, and an in-house restaurant aimed at enhancing the overall customer experience. A major highlight of the centre is the introduction of Spark Tech bowling technology, sourced from global leader Brunswick Corporation. The company claims this is a first-of-its-kind innovation in Asia, offering an upgraded and interactive



bowling experience. The laser tag arena is also equipped with advanced systems, positioning it among the most sophisticated setups in the country. Speaking on the launch, Smeeth Shah, COO of Shott Amusement Limited, said the Kukatpally centre reflects the brand's commitment to delivering world-class entertainment experiences in India. He stated that the company focuses on combining global technology with thoughtfully designed spaces to create premium destinations rather than just entertainment venues. Founded in 2014, Shott Amusement Limited has steadily grown by introducing innovative concepts and elevating the

digital advancements, including its mobile application and AI-driven systems to enhance customer engagement. Shott has announced plans to expand further across major Indian cities such as Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh, and Bangalore, along with inter-



standards of family entertainment centres in India. The company has played a key role in transforming the sector into a more experience-driven industry. Highlighting future plans, Souptik Chatterjee, Head of Marketing, said the Hyderabad launch is part of a broader expansion strategy. The company is also investing in

national markets including Abu Dhabi, Singapore, and Manila. Senior Marketing Manager Rutuja Patil said the brand's growth is driven by a strong customer-first approach and targeted marketing strategies, helping it build a loyal and expanding audience base.

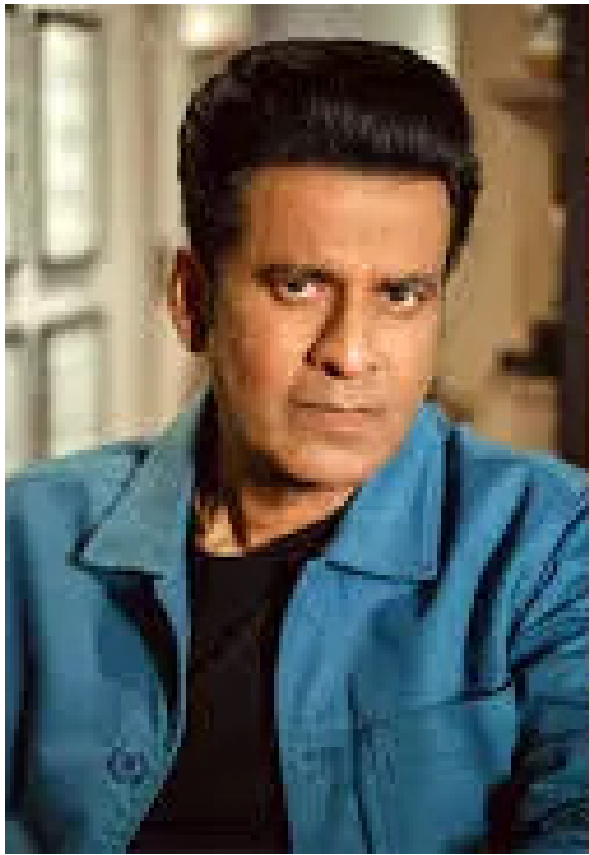
## Volkswagen Taigun Facelift Launched at Rs 11 Lakh

**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.

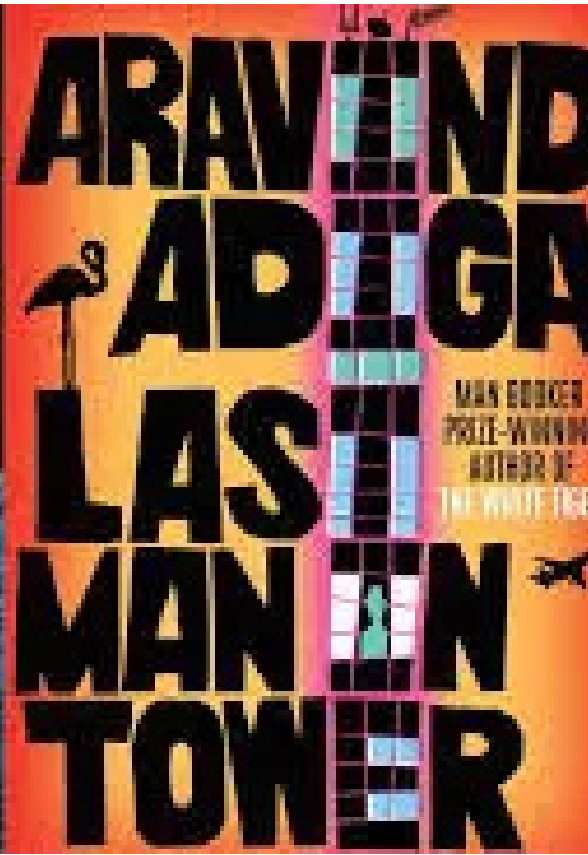
# Manoj Bajpayee to Lead Last Man in Tower Adaptation

**M**anoj Bajpayee is set to headline the screen adaptation of Last Man in Tower, marking a significant addition to India's growing list of literary-to-screen projects. The film is being produced by Rana Daggubati and directed by Ben Rekhi, with Divya Dutta playing a key supporting role. Based on the acclaimed novel by Aravind Adiga, the project is already generating interest for its strong narrative foundation and powerful casting. At its core, the story revolves around a retired school teacher living in a Mumbai housing society who refuses to vacate his flat despite increasing pressure from developers and fellow residents. While others are eager to accept a lucrative redevelopment deal, he stands firm, becoming the lone holdout in a rapidly escalating conflict. What begins as a simple disagreement soon intensifies into a gripping moral and emotional battle, exposing the darker



side of collective ambition and greed. The narrative gains strength from its exploration of complex themes such as integrity, isolation, and the relentless pace of urban transformation. Set against the backdrop of Mumbai's ever-evolving real estate landscape, the story reflects the tension between personal values and societal pressures. Bajpayee's involvement adds considerable weight to the proj-

ect, given his proven ability to portray deeply layered characters navigating internal and external conflicts. The film also follows the success of previous adaptations of Adiga's works, including The White Tiger and Selection Day, both of which resonated with audiences and critics alike. This track record raises expectations for Last Man in Tower to deliver a similarly compelling and thought-provoking



experience. From an industry standpoint, the project appears particularly suited for the OTT space. Its introspective storytelling, character-driven narrative, and morally nuanced conflicts align well with the preferences of digital audiences who seek depth over spectacle. Unlike mainstream theatrical releases, films of this nature often find greater appreciation and longevity on streaming plat-

forms. As anticipation builds, the success of Last Man in Tower will largely depend on its execution. Capturing the psychological tension and ethical dilemmas of the novel will be crucial in translating its essence onto the screen. If handled with emotional precision and narrative depth, the film holds strong potential to earn critical acclaim and stand out as a meaningful cinematic adaptation in contemporary Indian cinema.

# Know more about Samay Raina's India's Got Latent season 2



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The most controversial show, India's Got Latent, is gearing up for Season 2. Created by Samay Raina, the show quickly gained a massive following and became a fan favorite soon after its release, thanks to its raw, unfiltered format and unconventional judging criteria.

As promised by Samay in his latest YouTube special Still Alive, the upcoming season is set to be "even crazier than before." However, this time, the full, unfiltered experience will be reserved exclusively for live audiences. He clarified that only a cleaner, edited version of the show will be uploaded on YouTube to avoid potential legal complications.

The hype is very real. Samay Raina shared a pre-sale link on his Insta-

gram story for the live taping of the first episode of Season 2, inviting fans to be a part of the audience. The announcement has already sparked excitement online, with many eager to experience the show in its unfiltered, live format.

While most fans are excited about the return of their favorite panel show, some have begun to question this shift in approach. Known for his unhinged and unapologetic style, Samay's decision to tone down content for digital platforms has sparked debate. Many wonder whether this move compromises the very essence of the show, especially considering that mainstream platforms and industry players often operate within stricter content boundaries.

The unique selling point of India's Got Latent has always been its unconventional judging system,

where the winner isn't necessarily the most talented performer, but rather the most self-aware individual. Built around dark, edgy humor and spontaneous interactions, the show carved out a niche that stood in stark contrast to traditional reality formats.

However, the show also found itself at the center of controversy last year. Following multiple incidents that drew public attention, all panel members (guest judges) were reportedly summoned by the court. Authorities raised concerns about the nature of the content and its potential influence on younger audiences. Despite the backlash, a significant section of fans came out in support of Samay and the panel, arguing that the show was a "pay-to-watch" format, effectively making it an 18+ experience intended for a mature audience.

# Prabhsimran, Iyer power Punjab Kings past Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer struck fluent fifties as Punjab Kings' winning run continued with a seven-wicket hammering of Mumbai Indians, who suffered a fourth consecutive defeat in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Even as Quinton de Kock, with a brilliant 112 not out, and Naman Dhir (50) bailed Mumbai Indians out in the first half with a robust 132-run third-

wicket stand, the hosts' 195/6 was never challenging enough on a docile track against the rampant Punjab batters. Prabhsimran made a wicketless Jasprit Bumrah (0/41) and MI pay for a regulation drop early, smashing a strokeful 80 not out off 31 balls (11x4s, 2x6s), while skipper Iyer was in his elements, notching up his third fifty in as many outings with a 66 off 35 balls (5x4s, 4x6s), as the duo stitched a sturdy 139-run stand for the third wicket. Chasing 196, PBKS went over the line with 21 balls

to spare, scoring 198/3 as MI bowlers continued to disappoint collectively, with AM Ghazanfar's 2/31 being the only performance of note. Punjab were quick off the blocks as the first over from Deepak Chahar yielded 21 runs, putting MI on the backfoot. A pivotal moment arrived in the third over when Bumrah, placed at short third, spilled a regulation chance off Hardik Pandya when Prabhsimran was only on 11.

# Alexander Zverev defeats Gabriel Diallo to enter Munich quarter-finals

**MUNICH**  
Wakeup telangana

Alexander Zverev delivered a strong performance to defeat Gabriel Diallo 6-1, 6-2 and move on to the quarter-finals in Munich. He now faces a crucial match against Francisco Cerundolo. The world No. 3 completely controlled the match against Diallo, quickly winning the first set and maintaining his advantage in the second. The Canadian needed treatment for a back issue late in the first set. As the match progressed, his struggles became more

apparent. Zverev took advantage, breaking Diallo in the sixth game of the second set after the Canadian sent a routine forehand long. After the match, Zverev recognised Diallo's physical problems but felt pleased with his own performance. "I think he had some issues with the back and was not serving fully in the second set," he said during his on-court interview. "But I am happy with the win and happy to get an easier match today."

This victory marks Zverev's 113th tour-level quarter-final, putting him among the most reliable

players on the circuit. A three-time champion in Munich, he is aiming for his first title since winning this event last year. However, the upcoming match against Cerundolo poses a serious challenge. The Argentine has a 3-0 record against Zverev on clay, including victories in Madrid and Buenos Aires. Still, Zverev leads their overall head-to-head 4-3. Cerundolo reached the quarter-finals with a dominant 6-3, 6-0 win over Botic van de Zandschulp and has shown strong form on clay this season.



# Arjun and Aditya Singh clinch gold at US Open Pickleball 2026

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian duo Arjun Singh and Aditya Singh clinched the gold medal in the Men's Doubles 5.0 category at the US Open Pickleball Championship 2026, continuing their impressive run on the international stage. The pair defeated J Meode and W Lin 9-11,

11-2, 11-7 in the final, staging a strong comeback after dropping the opening game to secure yet another title. In another notable performance, Panth Thakkar and Atharva Sheth bagged the silver medal in the Men's Doubles 4.5 category. The duo went down fighting against Caian Appel and Michael Van Dusen, with the

scoreline reading 8-11, 9-11 in a closely contested match. The ongoing championship, being held in Naples, Florida, marks India's first participation under the affiliation of the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA). "Winning another gold at the US Open is very rewarding and to do it together once again makes it extra special.



## KTR Cautions Against Misuse of SIR



BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday called on party leaders and cadres to remain vigilant against Congress and BJP attempting irregularities during the upcoming special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Telangana. Rama Rao, during a teleconference with party workers, said every vote must be protected at the booth level, and cautioned of a "strong possibility of the ruling Congress and the BJP misusing their power to register bogus votes and manipulate the voter lists." He said lakhs of opposition votes have been reportedly deleted in other states during the SIR process, adding that the Congress and BJP may attempt to do the same in Telangana as well.

## Congress, BRS Slam Surya, State BJP Appeals Not To 'Distort' Comments

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BJP Karnataka MP Tejasvi Surya came under intense fire from leaders cutting across the political spectrum in Telangana for comparing the state's formation with that of Pakistan separating from India. The comments left the BJP in Telangana squirming as it tried to defend its Bangalore-South MP over what everyone else described as an outright attack on people of Telangana and the statehood movement. The Congress, the BRS, and even Telangana Jagruthi, were quick to slam Surya, who is also president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, leaving the BJP with the prospect of fighting off the other parties on a new front, on the emo-



otive statehood issue. Lashing out at Surya, minister Ponnab Prabhakar called the BJP MP "a foolish person" who displayed his "sheer ignorance on Telangana." Demanding Surya's "immediate sacking" as MP, Prabhakar questioned the silence of BJP MPs from Telangana while Surya was speaking in Parliament. "Legal action must be taken to teach him a lesson, to ensure that no one

of maintaining a contradictory stance — seeking votes in the state while harbouring "ill-will" toward Telangana's very existence. The BRS, led by working president K.T. Rama Rao and senior leader Harish Rao, also demanded that BJP MPs from Telangana explain their silence "even as Surya was spewing venom against Telangana." They demanded an unqualified apology from Surya and the BJP, declaring that the people will never forgive BJP from now on. It has "become a habit for the BJP — right from Prime Minister Modi to its various other leaders — to repeatedly express its opposition to Telangana statehood. The BJP will have to pay a price for its attitude," Rama Rao said.

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## Telangana Enforces Strict Half-Day School Rules

The school education department has made it clear that the rule applies to all schools

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A private school is allegedly continuing full-day classes from 8.05 am to 2.50 pm despite a state government order mandating half-day schedules from mid-March due to summer conditions. Though the school is a private CBSE institution, the school education department has made it clear that the rule applies to all schools. "The GO applies to all schools. I didn't know this was happening. If the rule is being flouted, I'll ask the DEO to take action," said director of school education E. Naveen Nicolas. A parent said the issue was not new and has been repeated every summer. "There is no concept of half-day school," the parent said, adding that the long hours were difficult for children, especially



those in primary schools. "Every other school around follows half-day school, but this is different," they said, adding that families are hesitant to complain directly to the school. "We find it difficult to bring concerns to the school since they tend to take it out on the children," they said. Venkat Sainath of Hyderabad Schools Parents' Association (HSPA) said such cases pointed to a broader pattern. "Some of these private schools think they are beyond state law. They must know that they cannot flout it as per their will, there must be some strict action" he said. Sainath alleged that this

sense of impunity often discouraged parents from speaking up, and referred to a recent case where students were allegedly expelled after parents questioned fee practices. "This is also what leads them to harass the children when issues are raised. And in one case even rusticate." The school education department, on March 12, had directed that all schools in Telangana including government, aided and private, must follow a half-day schedule from March 15 until April 23 due to rising summer temperatures. The order also fixed timings roughly between 8 am and 12.30 pm. Limited exceptions were allowed for SSC-related activities and special classes, but regular school hours are required to remain within the half-day schedule.

## Farmers urge restoration of Musi irrigation system, seek Rs 1,000 crore relief



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Farmers living downstream and tail-end banks of the Musi river of three southern Telangana districts urged the state government to restore and revitalise a magnificent irrigation network established during the Nizam era, comprising 24 major Katuvas (weirs/anicut) and hundreds of subsidiary canals interconnected with them- as part of the Musi Riverfront Development Project. The irrigation system in the undivided Nalgonda district helps replenish tanks and reservoirs in nearly 70 villages. Originally built to support agriculture across 25,000 acres, it now caters to cultivation over 1.12 lakh acres. In a letter addressed to

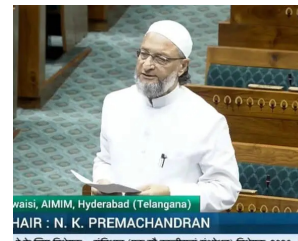
the three-member ministerial committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka to register their suggestions and opinions on the Musi Riverfront Development Project, the farmers and their leaders informed that the stone masonry of the irrigation network's canal embankments that were constructed long ago has deteriorated and reached a critical state of repair. "The sluice mechanisms responsible for releasing water into the sub-canal have become rusted. The canals themselves have become overgrown with Brahmajamudu (prickly pear) and Sarkaru Tumma (Prosopis juliflora) vegetation, resulting in a chaotic and obstructed condition of the irrigation network," the farmers stated.

## Delimitation could become 'permanent wound,' warns Owaisi

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday, April 16, strongly opposed the Centre's proposed Bills on delimitation, alleging that they would weaken the Opposition, distort federal balance, and dilute the political voice of minorities. Speaking during a debate in the Lok Sabha on three bills introduced for amendments to the women's quota law and setting up a delimitation commission, Owaisi said the government had

brought the Bills at a time when Opposition members were engaged in Assembly elections, accusing it of attempting to push legislation using its "brute majority". "If these bills are passed, the Opposition's voice will be subdued," he said. Linking the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill with delimitation, the Hyderabad MP argued that allocating seats purely on the basis of population would disadvantage southern states. "Delimitation may not necessarily follow a fixed 10-year cycle or be strictly tied to the census. Instead, it



would be influenced by the government's discretion," he said. "The northern states will dominate politically while the southern states, despite contributing significantly to the economy, lose representation. This is not good for India's democracy," Asaduddin Owaisi said. India's southern states contribute nearly 30 per

cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and around 21 per cent of tax revenue, and a 19 per cent population growth contribution. Owaisi also raised concerns about alleged "gerrymandering", citing examples from Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, and claimed that Muslim-majority constituencies had been altered in a way that reduced their representation. "Minorities, particularly Muslims, were already underrepresented and cautioned that delimitation could further weaken their political voice. Is it in the national interest that a

large section of the population would have limited representation in Parliament? Democracy should enable citizens not only to vote but also to become representatives and leaders," he pointed out. Calling India a "Union of States", Owaisi stressed that diversity was the country's strength and warned that the proposed changes could undermine it. He suggested adopting a model similar to Canada's "grandfather clause" to ensure states do not lose seats solely based on population, and called for giving greater legislative balance.

## VHP, Bajrang Dal call for protest in Hyderabad over 'corporate jihad'

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal have called for a protest on Friday, April 17, at the Veer Savarkar statue near Kacheguda crossroads, to protest against "corporate jihad," "love jihad" and "land jihad." The demonstration comes amid the ongoing Nashik TCS case, where seven Muslim employees have been arrested on charges of sexual harassment and alleged religious conversion. In a press release, the organisers have demanded mandatory safety and anti-religious discrimination audits in IT companies and multinational corporations (MNCs), immediate arrests and stricter enforcement of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act to safeguard women from coercion. The protest will start from 7:30 pm and is being organised by the Vidyanaagar Zilla (Barkatpura Bhaag) units of the groups. "Corporate jihad," "love jihad" and "land jihad" are right-wing coined terms against the Muslim community, alleging a conspiracy by Muslims to overpower the Hindu majority in India, claims that have been widely disputed and debunked.

## Musi Villagers Seek Inclusion In Discussion On River Rejuvenation Project

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Villagers from nearly 100 settlements along the Musi have written to the three-minister sub-committee, asking to be included in decisions on the river's rejuvenation project and stating that decades of pollution had damaged their health, livelihoods and land. "The lives of the people in these villages are closely tied to the river," the petition stated. They noted that the Musi flows through about 20 mandals across three districts and residents said they welcomed the government's plan to clean the river but added that details of the project have not reached them. "No officials or public representatives have visited our villages to explain it," they said. People said they had only seen presentations and news reports about the project. "We are seeing reports that hundreds of houses may be demolished and thousands of families displaced," the petition notes. They questioned whether the work could proceed without



causing hardship. The memorandum detailed the impact of pollution over three decades. Wastewater from Hyderabad and industrial discharge has affected crops, livestock and fisheries, it said. "Over 100 women have suffered miscarriages in the past two decades," it said, while livestock reproduction had declined and fish had disappeared from village tanks. Farmers reported up to 40 per cent loss in crop yield, and toddy tappers said their produce has turned unfit for sale. Residents have asked the committee to visit the villages, extend the project further downstream, and allocate 1,000 crore for about 70 affected villages. They also sought RO

plants in every village, repairs to Nizam-era irrigation canals, desilting of tanks, and separate support for fishing, shepherd and toddy-tapping communities. "We hope the government will consider these issues positively and address the hardships faced by Musi basin villages," the petition stated. Villagers from nearly 100 settlements along the Musi River have written to the three-minister sub-committee, asking to be included in decisions on the river's rejuvenation project and stating that decades of pollution had damaged their health, livelihoods and land. "The lives of the people in these villages are closely tied to the river," the petition stated.

## Hyderabad woman forces nephew to drink acid due to jealousy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A woman has been booked for allegedly making her co-sister's four-year-old son drink acid due to "jealousy" that her in-laws were giving more attention to the boy, rather than her son, police said on Thursday, April 16. The accused and the boy's mother are married to brothers and live in a joint family. The boy's mother complained to police on Wednesday, alleging that the accused, with the intention to kill her son, made

him drink acid in the kitchen in the pretext of offering him fruit juice on April 9. The accused lured the boy by promising a chocolate if he drank "the juice". The boy fell ill after drinking acid and was admitted to a hospital and subsequently discharged, a police official at Medipally police station said. Based on the investigation, a police official said the accused bore a grudge that the grandparents were taking more care and giving more attention to her co-sister's son than her son.

## Karwan Water Issues Reviewed with HMWSSB

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Under the leadership of Asaduddin Owaisi, Kausar Mohiuddin held a review meeting with K. Ashok Reddy, Managing Director of Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, to address key civic issues in the Karwan constituency. The discussion primarily focused on the problem of low water pressure affecting several localities, along with the need for strengthening the existing water supply network. The MLA also raised concerns regarding pending development works and emphasized the urgency of com-



pleting them without further delay. Officials were urged to take immediate steps to improve water distribution and ensure equitable supply to all areas. The meeting also reviewed proposals for laying new sewerage lines to enhance sanitation infrastructure. Kausar Mohiuddin stressed coordinated efforts between departments to resolve public

grievances efficiently and improve basic civic amenities in the constituency.

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