



**Babban Khan, legendary Hyderabad comedian, passes away: P7**



**Asaduddin Owaisi flags Hyderabad man's death in UAE: P8**

**Revanth targets Naidu after breakfast meet with rivals fuels political buzz: P2**



## Congress Is Anti-Women, Will Get Befitting Reply: Modi

## Rahul Hits Modi, Amit Over Women's Bill Claim

The BJP-led government transformed the electoral map of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir and they intend doing it in the rest of the country as well, he alleged.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Congress top leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "lied" to the nation on the Women's Reservation Bill, which they used as a camouflage to conceal delimitation to redraw the electoral map of the country and replicate "Assam and Jammu and Kashmir model." Launching his campaign for the April 23 Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, Rahul also took a swipe at NDA constituent AIADMK. Slamming AIADMK as a "mask" for the BJP, he said the latter wanted to install a chief minister in Tamil Nadu who would "sell" Tamil Nadu and listen exactly to what Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah wanted. He accused AIADMK, the main opposition party of compromise because of corruption. Addressing an election rally in central



Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli - the third and last in his one-day campaign, he alleged that the BJP wanted, at all costs, to remove DMK president MK Stalin as chief minister and appoint a "puppet" in his place. Everybody was aware that his relationship with Tamil Nadu was not political but one of mutual respect, love and affection, Rahul said. His ties with the state were very old and the people showed the same warm sentiments and feelings towards him as they had for his grandmother Indra Gandhi and father Rajiv Gandhi, he said. "I want you to know that I will protect the interests of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil people. I am your soldier in Delhi. Whatever Tamil Nadu needs in Delhi, I will fight

for that." People just need to tell him what needs to be done and he would do it, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha promised. "I am proud of you, for what you have done for this country, your tradition, culture and language. In this election, remember we are fighting to keep the BJP-RSS out of the state," he said. He earlier addressed election rallies at Ranipet and Ponneri in northern Tamil Nadu. Behind the Women's Reservation Bill, he alleged a "diabolic idea" of a bid to change the nation's electoral map and weaken states and likened the attempt to an "anti-national act" and said it was against the union of states. The BJP-led government transformed the electoral map of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir and they intend doing it in the rest of the country as well, he alleged. At Ranipet, located about 120 km from Chennai, Gandhi spoke on the Constitution amendment bill that was defeated in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday apologised to the country's "nari shakti" a day after the women's reservation amendment bill was defeated in Lok Sabha despite the government's efforts. Modi accused the Opposition of carrying out "bhroon hatya" (foeticide) by defeating the Constitution amendment Bill in Parliament, which he claimed was aimed at giving wings to "nari shakti". In an address to the nation, Modi said the government may have lost the vote but it will never give up its efforts to empower women. "We may not have got the necessary 66 per cent votes for the passage of the Bill yesterday, but we have got 100 per cent blessings of nari shakti," he said. The Prime Minister stressed that the BJP-led NDA will not waver from its promise of women empowerment. He said for the country's future, his government will fulfil its promise. Modi, in his 30-minute



**While Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the opposition of blocking women's reservation, opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, maintained that they support the quota but oppose its linkage with delimitation**

address, said he was disappointed when the Bill failed to get the required numbers and saw the Opposition thumping on their desks. He said India's women saw how parties like the Congress, DMK, Trinamul and the Samajwadi Party celebrated their selfish politics against the country's women's power. "They have been unmasked... The Congress and its allies have committed foeticide of the honest effort in front of the entire country in the House. Parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC and the SP are

guilty of this foeticide, Modi said, adding, "They are criminals against the country's Constitution, criminals against the country's feminine power. The Congress hates the issue of women's reservation itself." Blaming the Congress and its "friends" for "killing" the Bill, which would have paved the way for a 33 per cent reservation for women from 2029, Modi said the Opposition parties spread lies by bringing in the delimitation issue when the government had already made it clear that each state will only gain through the delimitation exercise. He said the parivarvaadi (dynastic) parties defeated the women's reservation amendment bill, as they see it as a threat to their leadership if women become empowered. Accusing the Congress and its allies for taking the nari shakti for granted, Modi said the Opposition will be punished for the "sin" it committed by voting against the Bill. "I will say clearly to those parties who opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan amend-

ment in Parliament...they are taking women's power for granted. They are forgetting that women of the 21st century are closely monitoring every event in the country. They understand their intentions and are fully aware of the truth. Therefore, the Opposition will surely be punished for the sin they have committed by opposing women's reservation," said Modi. Slamming the Congress for being "anti-reformist", Modi said that the Opposition party once again showcased its negative politics. He said the Congress opposed Jan Dhan Yojna, digital payments, the law against triple talaq, the abrogation of Article 370, the EBC quota, the special intensive revision exercise, and measures against illegal immigrants and CAA because of its anti-reformist nature. The Prime Minister said the Bill was a chance for the Congress "to correct its past mistakes", but the party "missed an opportunity to script a new history."

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

### DA Up 2%, ₹24,815 Cr Rail Projects Cleared in UP & AP

The Centre on Saturday increased dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by two per cent, over the existing rate of 58 per cent of the basic pay/pension. The decision will benefit about 50.46 lakh Central employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners. The combined impact would be Rs 6,791.24 crore per annum and will take effect from January 1, 2026. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday approved two projects of the railway ministry, one in UP and another in AP, with a total cost of ₹24,815 crore. Briefing the media, information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the projects were third and fourth lines of the 403-km Ghaziabad-Sitapur route in Uttar Pradesh and the 198-km ....

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## India Summons Iran Envoy Over Firing at Ships in Strait of Hormuz

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

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### Iran Opens Fire, 2 Tankers Bound For India Retreat: P4

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shakti," he said. The Prime Minister stressed that the BJP-led NDA will not waver from its promise of women empowerment. He said for the country's future, his government will fulfil its promise. Modi, in his 30-minute address, said he was disappointed when the Bill failed to get the required numbers and saw the Opposition thumping on their desks. He said India's women saw how parties like the Congress, DMK, Trinamul and the Samajwadi Party celebrated their selfish politics against the country's women's power. "They have been unmasked... The Congress and its allies have committed foeticide of the honest effort in front of the entire country in the House. Parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC and the SP are

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## Pawan Kalyan Undergoes Surgery, Advised Bed Rest

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has undergone a surgical procedure on Saturday evening following a health complication. Soon after the news spread, messages wishing him speedy recovery started pouring in from across the political spectrum. His supporters have started organising prayers at temples for his quick recovery. According to a statement issued by Jana

Sena, the actor-politician had been unwell for the past few months. The health problem surfaced again during an official meeting in Amaravati on Friday. On medical advice, Pawan Kalyan had been immediately admitted to a hospital in Vijayawada. Later, doctors shifted him to Hyderabad for further evaluation. Sources said a series of tests, including an MRI scan, have been performed, following which doctors rec-

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

## Two Including Retired Soldier Killed In Highway Firing In Ukhrul

**MANIPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Two men including a retired soldier were killed in firing while they were travelling in a car on a highway in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Saturday. The killings took place just a day after chief minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited the district and spoke about providing security for common people to use the highway safely. Asserting that such sporadic inci-

**The miscreants in firing also targeted two other vehicles and damaged them, locals alleged, adding that the ambush caused panic among commuters: Reports**

dents are suspected to be a planned conspiracy derailing peace initiatives, security sources said that the two men from the Naga tribe were travelling from Imphal to Ukhrul when they came under gunfire in the afternoon.

The miscreants in firing also targeted two other vehicles and damaged them, locals alleged, adding that the ambush caused panic among commuters. The two men killed in the firing have been identified as SW Chinaoshang, 46, a retired Indian Army soldier, and Yaruingam Vashum, 42. Both were residents of Ukhrul district. Security sources said that they have launched a combing operation in the area.

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## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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## Opposition Foils Women's Quota "Abolition Plot": Revanth

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday said the Opposition had joined hands in the Lok Sabha to defeat the Constitution Amendment Bill, which he alleged was brought "to destroy the country." He charged that the BJP-led government at the Centre had used women's reservation as a pretext to increase Lok Sabha seats in northern states and secure a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution

to abolish reservations altogether. Revanth Reddy, at a press conference in the Capital, alleged that the Centre's intent was "not clean" and that multiple bills were presented as a "mask" to link the women's reservation Bill with delimitation and increase of Lok Sabha seats. Referring to the BJP's "Char Sau Paar" slogan during the 2024 general elections, Revanth Reddy said it was aimed at securing two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution with its own



strength and abolish reservations for SCs, STs and BCs. Since the BJP failed to cross even 300 seats and was restricted to 240, forming government with support of other parties, it had devised a strategy to increase seats — poten-

tially to around 850 — primarily in northern states where it was strong, to secure the numbers needed for constitutional changes, he alleged. Revanth Reddy said the defeat of the Bill in the Lok Sabha reflected a lack of sincer-

ity on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He described the failure as not merely a setback for the BJP but as evidence of its intentions being exposed. He alleged that "Modi's arrogance" had led to the defeat. Demanding that the Prime Minister prove his sincerity on women's reservation, Revanth Reddy proposed introducing a fresh Bill by Monday to reserve one-third of the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats and one-third of seats in all state As-

semblies for women. He said the I.N.D.I.A. block would extend full support, as it did in 2023, and suggested the Bill could be implemented from Tuesday. He pointed out that the Election Commission had the 2011 Census data and that, based on the 2009 delimitation, 33 per cent reservation for women could be implemented by August 15, 2026, and applied in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections.



# Revanth targets Naidu after breakfast meet with rivals fuels political buzz

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's participation in a breakfast meeting with BJP and TDP leaders in New Delhi has triggered controversy in his state. The informal gathering, hosted by Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, came just after the failure of the delimitation-linked Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made an abortive attempt to deflect criticism over his decision to attend a breakfast meeting hosted by an NDA Minister where Telugu Desam Party leaders were seen along with BJP MPs. As his breakfast meeting led to a controversy in Telangana, Revanth Reddy appeared to have sought to deflect the controversy by criticising Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the controversial delimitation bill. The Chief Minister had earlier attended the breakfast meeting hosted by Union Minister of State for Steel



and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma in New Delhi on Saturday. The meeting took place a day after the Constitution Amendment Bill linked to delimitation failed in the Lok Sabha. The gathering saw the presence of several MPs from the BJP and Telugu Desam Party. Some of the attendees included Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, Civil Aviation Minister K.

Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, BJP Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman and Lok Sabha MP CM Ramesh. As his meeting with TDP and BJP ministers and MPs sparked speculation in Telangana, Srinivasa Varma sought to play it down saying the meeting was an informal one without any political agenda. In fact, Revanth Reddy's interaction with Telugu

Desam Party leaders became a point of discussion among politicians across parties. Revanth Reddy was a bit cautious and had even requested some photographers not to shoot any pictures. However, soon photos of Revanth Reddy smiling along with his "supposed political rivals" in the BJP and TDP were posted on social media. Even as this meeting continued to raise eyebrows, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was reported to have criticised the Congress and its allies for opposing the Women's Reservation Bill. When his reaction was sought on Naidu's criticism during a press conference in Delhi, Revanth

Reddy maintained that he was not aware of Naidu's remarks. "He is intelligent and experienced and I don't think he will say anything wrong," Revanth Reddy observed. Later in an informal chat with newsmen, he also suggested that parties aligned with the BJP had faced difficulties. "Chandrababu Naidu could face a fate similar to former Chief Ministers like Nityash Kumar and Eknath Shinde," Revanth Reddy maintained. In an informal interaction with the media in New Delhi, he said at present the BJP lacks full strength in the Parliament and hence Telugu Desam was being pampered by the BJP.

# Victims of Sangareddy blast slam Sigachi for denying relief and compensation

**SANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana

Rajesh Kumar Chowdary (50), a migrant worker from Bihar who remained bedridden after the Sigachi Industries blast on June 30, 2025, now finds it difficult to support his family. He worked in the industry for more than five years for a meagre monthly salary of Rs 13,000 and now he is not in a state to work for the rest of his life. Chowdary, a father of five daughters, had married off his two elder daughters and now has the responsibility of performing the wedding of three more daughters apart from feeding the entire family. However, Chowdary, who has no other means of income, remained helpless as the Sigachi management, which promised to pay salary until the injured are fully recovered, had stopped salary payments two months ago. Considering him a seriously injured person, the management had given just Rs 10 lakh compensation. Speaking to Telangana Today, Chowdary said that he was forced to spend a huge amount on his treatment which the management was refusing to give cover. It is not the story of Chowdary alone, many injured employees in the blast have similar stories to narrate. Sushma, a post graduate in Chemistry



(M.Sc.), has also sustained serious injuries, but the management was refusing to give salary and denying to extend support to treatment. Meanwhile, the families of 54 employees, who died in the blast, have accused the management of denying the Rs one crore compensation. They said that they had received just Rs 42 lakh so far including the PF, insurance and other benefits which they were actually entitled to after retirement. The kin of deceased and the injured staged a massive protest at Sangareddy collectorate under the leadership of Telangana Praja Sangala Joint Action Committee (TPJAC) on Saturday.

# State Tightens Grip on Labour Exploitation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has called for stronger inter-departmental coordination to eliminate human trafficking and bonded labour, stressing early victim identification, swift investigations, and strict punishment for offenders. At a state-level coordination workshop held in Begumpet, jointly organized by the Telangana Police Women Safety Wing (WSW) and the International Justice Mission (IJM), over 200 participants—including senior officials, police, judiciary members, lawyers, media, and NGOs—discussed emerging trends and strategies to curb trafficking-linked bonded labour. Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy highlighted that bonded labour is not merely a labour issue but an organized crime involving coercion and exploitation. He emphasized proactive victim identification, ro-



bust investigations, and the use of technology to ensure convictions. Additional DGP Charu Sinha noted that adult bonded labour often remains overlooked in trafficking discussions. She stressed recognizing debt bondage as a crime, strengthening investigations across exploitation chains, and prioritizing victim dignity and safety. Women and Child Welfare Minister D. Anasuya Seethakka, in her keynote address, said effective implementation of laws and coordinated action across departments are critical to eradication. She also

called for empathy toward victims from other states and emphasized strengthening rural livelihoods and self-help groups to prevent exploitation. Officials underscored the importance of rehabilitation, warning that without sustainable support, victims risk falling back into exploitation. Legal experts added that non-payment of minimum wages should also be treated as forced labour. Labour Minister Vivek Venkatswamy emphasized collective responsibility among government, NGOs, and society, noting NGOs' crucial role in victim

identification, awareness, and rehabilitation. The workshop also highlighted community-level awareness, media collaboration, data-driven policies, and comprehensive protection systems. A survivor leader shared first-hand experiences, urging victim-led initiatives and preventive community action. The government reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating bonded labour through strengthened rescue, rehabilitation, housing, and social security measures, with IJM continuing as a key technical partner.

# Badi Bata Drive Boosts Govt School Enrolment

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The "Badi Bata" school enrolment drive is emerging as a key initiative to strengthen education at the grassroots by bringing dropouts back into the system. A programme held in Matur village of Motakondur mandal on Saturday highlighted the importance of ensuring every child attends school. The initiative focuses on spreading awareness among parents about the



value of education and the benefits available in government schools, including free textbooks, uniforms, mid-day meals, and quality teaching. Teachers conducted door-to-door visits to identify out-of-school

children and motivate families to enroll them. Speakers stressed that parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's future by ensuring regular school attendance and discouraging child la-

bour. Equal importance to girls' education was also emphasized. Village representatives, youth, and women's groups actively participated, calling for collective responsibility in creating an education-friendly environment. The programme was led by Headmaster Veeravelli Srikanth Reddy along with staff and attended by Sarpanch Janne Sidulu, public representatives, and villagers, reflecting strong community support.

# Farmers Flag Paddy Procurement Issues

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Farmers in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district have raised serious concerns over inadequate facilities and alleged irregularities at paddy procurement centers, urging immediate intervention from the administration. A delegation of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh met District Collector Anurag Jayanti on Saturday and submitted a memorandum highlighting multiple issues affecting farmers. Key problems included the lack of drinking water, insufficient shaded waiting areas, and poor sanitation facilities, par-



ticularly impacting women farmers. The delegation also alleged discrepancies in the weighing process and demanded greater transparency, insisting that receipts be issued promptly to prevent exploitation. Farmers further stressed the need for timely transportation of procured paddy to avoid losses due to unexpected rains.

They also requested tarpaulins at procurement centers to protect the grain from adverse weather conditions. District President Pokala Yadagiri, Secretary Katam Ailesh Kumar, and others attended the meeting. The Collector assured that the concerns would be reviewed and addressed in coordination with relevant departments.

# Passenger assaults TGSRTC bus conductor in Hyderabad, absconds

In a concerning incident, a bus conductor of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) was assaulted by a passenger on Friday night, April 17. A source in Alwal Police Station under whose limits the incident occurred, told Siasat.com that the incident happened inside the bus that belonged to Secunderabad Cantonment depot, when a person got into an argument with the conductor while travelling. "During the skirmish, the accused raised his hand, after which his metal bracelet left a cut on the conductor's nose. As per the conductor's complaint a case has been lodged, but when our team went to the accused's house he wasn't there," the source said, without revealing the identities of the accused and the victim. However, reports stated that the accused named Murali Singh had attacked the conductor, after the latter refused to stop the bus where Singh wanted to get down. This was the second such incident over the past week or so. Just four days ago, the drivers of private buses at Husnabad depot had protested in front of the depot, alleging physical assault on one of the bus drivers by the owner of the private bus.

# CBIT Hosts Talk on Future Learning Trends

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) organized an expert lecture on "Future Learners & Teaching Imperative" through its Industrial and International Collaborations Cell. The session was delivered by M. M. Ananth, Founder of AcadNet and Founding Vice Chancellor of Adani University. In his address, Prof. Ananth stressed the need to move beyond traditional teaching methods and focus on developing



student personas rather than just technical competencies. He highlighted the importance of adaptability, critical thinking,

and lifelong learning in preparing students for the future. Explaining the shift from pedagogy to andragogy and heutagogy,

he emphasized the growing relevance of self-directed and self-determined learning approaches. He also spoke about the role of Artificial Intelligence in education, encouraging educators to embrace it as a tool to enhance learning outcomes. The session was attended by P. V. R. Ravinder Reddy and Dr. V. Barla, along with faculty members. The organizers expressed gratitude to Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu and the management for their continued support.

# Jagriti Women Leaders Inspect Arrangements for Party Launch

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the new political party launch by Telangana Jagruti President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on the 25th, women leaders of the organization reviewed the event arrangements. Led by State Vice President Manchala Varalakshmi, the team visited Advaya Convention Center at Munirabad in Medchal district and held discussions with organizers on the preparations. They assessed key aspects including expected



crowd turnout from across Telangana, vehicle parking, security measures, and special facilities for women attendees. Leaders also emphasized proper coordination and smooth execution to ensure the event is conducted successfully. Those present

during the inspection included Padala Manoja Goud, Meka Lalitha Yadav, K.R. Dharani, T. Sandhya Reddy, Bandari Lavanya, Deshapaka Suchitra, Anumula Swapna, Shantha, and J. Swapna, among others.



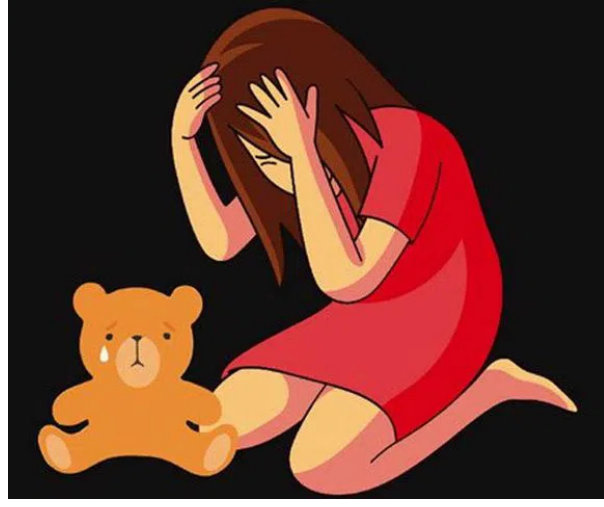
Minister Seethakka urges citizens to avoid peak summer hours amid rising heat

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister D Anasuya on Tuesday appealed to people to avoid venturing outdoors during peak summer hours...

Govt teachers under scanner for misbehaving with students in Adilabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Teachers working in government schools have come under the scanner for misbehaving with students. In recent separate instances, cases were registered against two teachers...



They urged education officials to step up vigil against erring teachers, besides installing surveillance systems in schools. They stated that a few students were coming forward to report the crimes...

Won't Leave Till Release

Kavitha Slams Govt, Warns Intensified Agitation

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a significant development following intense political tension, Kalvakuntla Kavitha, President of Telangana Jagruti, successfully secured the release of Telangana activists detained during the 'Chalo Secretariat' protest...



expressed strong solidarity with the detained activists. She took a firm stand, declaring that she would not leave the premises until all arrested individuals were released. She also insisted that activists held in other stations must be freed immediately without delay...

Political Heat to Add to Summer Sizzle Next Week

The scheduling has riled the BRS which has accused the Chief Minister of trying to steal the BRS' thunder.

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Political temperatures set to rise in the coming week adding to the sizzle of the summer with the BRS planning a public meeting to be addressed by its president K. Chandrashekar Rao at Jagtial next Monday.



Jeevan Reddy is set to formally join the BRS, is an event that will mark the resurgence of the BRS, party working president K.T. Rama Rao said in Jagtial on Saturday.

This is a plan to deny KCR the media space he will otherwise get on that day," Rama Rao said. It is expected that while Chandrashekar Rao will target the Congress government for its alleged failures, he will be paid back in the same coin by the Chief Minister after his review of work at Medigadda barrage.

Tejaswi Surya Remarks Condemned, MP Removal Demanded

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana State Nomadic Muslim Tribes Association (BC-E 1-14) has strongly condemned the alleged inappropriate remarks made by BJP MP Tejaswi Surya on Telangana.



India-Pakistan partition, calling it a sign of ignorance. He alleged that the BJP, which earlier opposed Telangana formation, is continuing the same negative attitude. He also ques-

tioned the silence of BJP MPs elected from the state, stating they are prioritizing political interests over Telangana's welfare. Shadulla said insulting Telangana's struggle is an insult to crores of people.

Mala Mahanadu Demands Statewide IT Audits After Nashik TCS Scandal

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In the wake of serious allegations emerging from a TCS BPO unit in Nashik, Mala Mahanadu Telangana has demanded immediate state-wide audits of private companies in the IT and IT-enabled services sector. The organization says the case highlights possible failures in workplace safety and POSH compliance mechanisms that could impact Hyderabad's growing tech ecosystem.



Telangana government urging third-party audits of POSH compliance across all private and multinational companies. He also called for a dedicated monitoring cell within the IT department to track harassment complaints and ensure accountability, along with mandatory reporting of serious workplace violations to labour authorities.

RTE Violations Spark TSSO Protest

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Allegations of widespread violations of the Right to Education (RTE) Act in Telangana have triggered a strong response from Telangana Social Student Organization (TSSO) State President M. Lakshmi Nivas, who is demanding urgent government intervention to protect 25% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in private schools.



implement mandatory EWS admissions, instead charging capitation fees, manipulating admission processes, and excluding students from marginalized communities. Lakshmi Nivas has called for immediate audits, strict enforcement, and criminal action against institutions violating the law.

ured authorities to introduce transparent online admission systems, ensure equal facilities for all students, and impose heavy penalties, including derecognition of defaulting schools. Warning of statewide protests, TSSO has appealed to the Education Department and district officials to act swiftly.

MA Telugu Students Host Literary Meet Today

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Students of the MA Telugu department (2024-26 and 2025-27 batches) of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University are organising an Atmiya Sammelanam along with a book release programme in Secunderabad on Sunday. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at University Post Graduate College (Osmania).



release of a book compiled with students' writings, including poems, free verse, and essays. Faculty members and invited guests will participate and encourage budding writers. The gathering will also offer an opportunity for interaction, enabling current students, seniors,

and alumni to reconnect and exchange experiences. Organisers said the initiative is intended to strengthen student bonds, encourage literary discussions, and deepen interest in Telugu literature. They also plan to conduct similar programmes in the future. Students actively contributed creative works in the lead-up to the event, fostering enthusiasm for writing.

Chudi Bazaar Hall Handed to Madiga Sangha

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a key administrative decision reflecting cross-party cooperation ahead of the GHMC elections, Hyderabad district in-charge minister Ponnampet Prabhakar has recommended handing over the management of the newly constructed Ram Manohar Lohia Multipurpose Function Hall in Chudi Bazaar to the Madiga Bandhumitra Sangha.



Kumar Goud, who met the minister at his quarters on Saturday along with representatives of the Sangha. Goud submitted a formal petition requesting community management of the facility and highlighted the organisation's earlier efforts in protecting the site from en-

croachments. He also recalled that the project was initiated during the BRS regime and credited late Home Minister Narasimha Reddy for its foundation. Acting swiftly on the request, Minister Prabhakar directed the GHMC Commissioner to initiate steps for transfer-

ring the hall's management rights to the Sangha. He emphasized that genuine community needs should be addressed without delay, regardless of political considerations. Madiga Bandhumitra Sangha leaders, including President M. Venkatesh and General Secretary R. Suman Kumar, along with several members, expressed gratitude for the decision.



**Maharashtra To Fast-Track Land Allocation For Data Centres**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday directed officials to fast-track land allocation for data centre companies, particularly those from Central Asia, that have shown interest in investing in the state. At a meeting held at Sahyadri State Guest House, Mr. Fadnavis stressed that land and key approvals must be provided promptly after agreements are signed. He also instructed authorities to prioritise electricity supply for such projects. The government has asked the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) to develop a land bank to position Maharashtra as a major data infrastructure hub. According to a senior official, the proposed projects are expected to generate around 4.5 lakh jobs, including nearly two lakh direct permanent positions.

**Didi: Modi's Fall Has Begun With Delimitation Bill's Defeat**

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

A day after the Delimitation Bill failed to pass in the Lok Sabha, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee claimed with a renewed energy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fall has begun. She further predicted BJP's defeat not only in this Assembly Election here but also in the next LS polls. The Trinamul Congress supremo, who campaigned for her party candidates at various assembly seats in Howrah and South 24 Parganas on Saturday, even alleged that Mr Modi's evening address to the nation would be a "web of lies" after suffering a setback in the parliament on Friday. Ms Banerjee said on the Delimitation Bill, "It was never meant for women empowerment. It was a narrative on women that was played out. They



(BJP) dictate the media about what to air and what not to. In the name of the Women's Reservation Bill, they wanted to divide Bengal and the country to increase the number of LS seats to around 850 seats. I was asked to send 20 MPs. Still I sent 21." She elaborated, "Mr Modi's fall started yesterday. In the coming days, we will dethrone the BJP. They targeted Delhi. Now, we have targeted Bengal. Now, we have targeted Bengal. We will capture Delhi democratically. I earlier spoke about the start of their fall. It began yesterday. They have been severely humiliated. Now, the people of Bengal should serve them humiliation."

The CM noted, "Then we will see how they stay in power. Remember, they don't have a single majority. They are running the government with the support of others." Referring to Mr Modi's speech, she quipped, "I heard he would address the nation after seeing that his fall has started. His speech is however a web of lies, a joomla." As BJP is warming up to put the blame on the Opposition in poll-bound states to cover up its failure in the House, Ms Banerjee pointed out, "We are always in favour of women. Delimitation bill was tabled in the guise of the Women's Reservation Bill. We are not in favour of dividing Bengal and India. We have always fought for women's reservation. We don't need a bill further to give women seats." She explained, "We already have 50% reservation for women in Panchayats and Muni-

palities here. We have a women representation of 37% and 46% in Rajya Sabha. Mr Modi should take lessons from us. They don't have the right to insult women. From 1998, we have been fighting for this. I fought for the Women's Reservation Bill earlier in the LS." Echoing Ms Banerjee, her MP nephew Abhishek Banerjee, who campaigned at Farakka and Lalbagh in Murshidabad, argued, "Yesterday, TMC showed that BJP cannot do anything even if it wishes. We didn't allow them to change the Constitution. Those who tried to break the nation forcibly in the name of Delimitation, fell flat in the parliament. BJP is no longer invincible." He added, "Now we will successfully tackle the onslaught of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who has unleashed atrocities here. His time will end soon."

**War of Words Erupts Between BJP, Opposition Over Constitution Amendment Bill Defeat**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The BJP and the Opposition on Saturday engaged in a war of words over the issue of the implementation of women's reservation in legislatures, with Union minister Kiren Rijiju saying the parties which stalled the Constitution Amendment Bill will face the wrath of women. The Opposition accused the government of delaying implementation by linking it with delimitation and using it to serve its political interests. While the BJP termed the development a "black day" and accused the Congress and other opposition parties of betraying women, the Congress and its allies asserted that the quota law, passed in 2023,

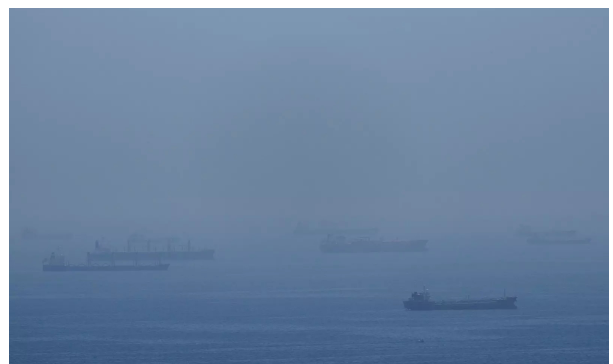
should be implemented immediately and accused the government of playing politics over it. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress of being anti-women, and said it will have to face their wrath across the country. "They will have to face the anger of the women of the country. This is a black stain on the Congress and its allies, one that they will never be able to erase. This Bill was about giving historic representation to women-what objection could there have been?" he told reporters in the Parliament House complex. "The opposition is celebrating after depriving women of their rights; women of the country will teach them a good lesson," he added.

Union minister Shobha Karandlaje targeted Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, alleging that the Opposition's actions had undermined both women's empowerment and regional representation. "They have harmed south India as well, where seats could have increased by over 50 per cent. Women were supposed to get reservation, but they have been denied that opportunity. This has been done under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi," she alleged. BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj accused the Congress and the INDIA bloc of deceiving women and backtracking on their earlier stand. "They have betrayed the trust of women, and we will take this story of your deception to every citizen," she said.

**Iran Opens Fire, 2 Tankers Bound For India Retreat**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian government on Saturday called the Iranian Ambassador to India, Dr Mohammad Fathali for a meeting with Foreign Secretary Mr Vikram Misri and expressed "deep concern" over the incident of firing on two Indian vessels by the Iranian Navy while crossing the Strait Hormuz. The ships had to change course midway after being fired at. Expressing his concern at this "serious incident of firing" on merchant ships, Foreign Secretary urged the envoy to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the Strait. One of the vessels is a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) supertanker, reported to be carrying two million barrels of Iraqi oil to India. As per reports, the captain of one the ships "Sanmar Herald" was heard saying on radio "Sepah Navy! Motor Tanker Sanmar Herald!



Sanmar Herald! Sepah Navy! You gave me clearance! You gave me clearance to go! Sepah Navy! Sepah Navy! This is motor tanker Sanmar Herald! You gave me clearance to go! My name second on your list! You gave me clearance to go! You are firing now! Let me turn back!" The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the Foreign Secretary conveyed India's deep concern at the shooting incident involving two Indian-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz. "He noted the importance that India attached to the safety of merchant shipping and mariners and recalled that Iran had earlier facilitated the safe passage of several ships bound for India. Reiterat-

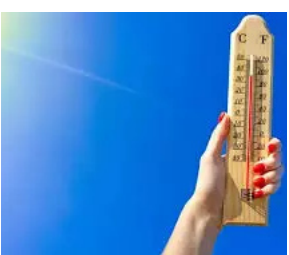
ing his concern at this serious incident of firing on merchant ships, Foreign Secretary urged the Ambassador to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the Strait," the MEA said adding the ambassador of Iran undertook to convey these views to the Iranian authorities. Meanwhile, the Iranian Consulate in Hyderabad wrote on X that new Iranian oil shipment had arrived in India despite blockade. "The Iranian supertanker Dorna, which was last seen in Iran just hours before the blockade, has now appeared on the AIS off the southern coast of India and is scheduled to

deliver about two million barrels of crude oil to a refinery there," the Consulate said while quoting a US intelligence firm TankerTrackers. "This is the third oil shipment that India has received from Iran in at least the past week, bringing the total amount of oil India has purchased from Iran to 6 million barrels, according to figures released so far," the Iranians said. Several commercial vessels tried to cross the Strait of Hormuz after Iran on Friday announced that it has opened the waterway for commercial traffic. However, Tehran on Saturday said it has again closed the Strait of Hormuz, alleging that the US violated certain understanding reached between the two sides. One Cargo Ship 'Bhagya Laxmi', with all-Indian crew, under the flag of Antigua & Barbuda or the Marshall Islands, carrying Iranian crude oil was a forced to retreat by Iranians saying she had no permission to cross the Strait.

**Heatwave Sweeps Across MP, Temperature Exceeds 42-Degree Celsius In 8 Cities**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A severe heatwave swept across Madhya Pradesh with mercury hovering above 42-degree Celsius in many districts in the state on Saturday. A heatwave warning was in place in 16 districts in the state. Khajuraho in Chhattarpur district in the state remained the hottest



place in the state, recording the season's highest temperature so far of 43.2-degree Celsius. Other cities in the state, Umaria, Tikam-

garh, Nowgong, and Mandla, scorched while experiencing maximum day temperature of 42.9-degree Celsius, 42.8-degree Celsius, 42.6-degree Celsius and 42.5-degree Celsius respectively. Cities of Datia, Damoh and Guna recorded 42.2-degree Celsius each. Nine cities in the state recorded above 41-degree Celsius. They were

Satna and Sagar (41.8-degree each), Chhindwara (41.6-degree Celsius), Shajapur and Narmadapuram (41.4-degree each), and Narasinghpur, Sidhi, Malajkhanda and Rewa (41.2-degree Celsius each). Bhopal and Indore recorded 41-degree Celsius and 40.6-degree Celsius respectively.

**Vote To Protect TN's Culture, Traditions: Rahul**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said the April 23 election to the Tamil Nadu assembly is to keep both the BJP and RSS out of Tamil Nadu and to protect Tamil Nadu's culture and traditions. He called upon the people of Tamil Nadu to vote for the Congress-DMK-led alliance. He was campaigning for Tamil Nadu Youth Congress president M. Lenin Prasad, who is seeking election from Thuraiyur (reserved) constituency in Tiruchy district on Saturday. Mr Gandhi vowed not to allow the BJP and RSS to disturb the sentiments, tradition, culture and language of Tamils. He



recalled the very old relationship of Tamil Nadu with his grandmother Indira Gandhi, his father Rajiv Gandhi and himself, which he said will continue forever. He assured to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu by acting as a loyal soldier in New Delhi. Mr Gandhi came down heavily on Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump and said

Trump is treating Modi as his slave. Similarly, now Narendra Modi is treating AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palanisamy the same way. He said the ensuing election is a fundamentally different one, with the DMK-Congress front pitted against the AIADMK-BJP alliance. BJP wants to remove Chief Minister M.K. Sta-

lin and to install a puppet chief minister. He said the present AIADMK is drastically different from the old AIADMK. The BJP is attempting to intrude into Tamil Nadu by using the AIADMK as a mask in order to eradicate Tamil Nadu's traditions, culture and other good things which Tamils consider as their soul. Mr Gandhi said the leaders of the AIADMK surrendered before the BJP in order to protect themselves from the charges of corruption and other misdeeds filed by the ED and IT department. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will not compromise on the interests of Tamil Nadu, he said. He criticised the Union government's.

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

**Congress Is Anti.....**

Modi said the Congress spread lies against delimitation when the government has been saying from day one that no state will suffer from it or its representation will decrease. He also accused the Congress of trying to divide the people and trying to spread lies of a north-south divide. Modi said the Bill was a chance for the DMK and the TMC to give more chances to Tamils and Bengalis to become MPs and MLAs, while for the SP it was a chance to wash off the blot of being anti-women. "A woman forgets everything but not her insult... This insult by the Congress and its allies will always remain in every woman's heart, said Mr Modi. The Prime Minister also blamed the

Congress for stalling border issues with neighbouring countries, including the water disputes with Pakistan, stalling OBC reservation and the One Rank One Pension for 40 years. "This attitude of Congress has always harmed the country. The country has suffered due to all the opposition, indecisiveness and deceit by Congress. All big challenges before the country today were born out of this conduct by the Congress... So, this fight is not just about a law; it's about the anti-reform mindset of the Congress..." Modi said, adding, "I have no doubt that women of the country will give a befitting reply to this mindset of the Congress."

**Pawan Kalyan.....**

Sources said a series of tests, in-

cluding an MRI scan, have been performed, following which doctors recommended immediate surgery. The Deputy CM underwent the surgery successfully on Saturday evening. Medical experts have advised him complete rest for seven to 10 days. They underlined that full recovery will require sustained long-term care. Party sources reveal that Pawan Kalyan had been suffering from a spinal disc-related issue. It reportedly got aggravated by an injury sustained during an action sequence for the film Hari Hara Veera Mallu. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday conveyed his heartfelt wishes for the speedy recovery of Pawan Kalyan following a surgical procedure. Taking to social media

platform X, the CM wrote: "I hope he returns soon with renewed energy and full fitness." He expressed confidence that Pawan Kalyan would bounce back stronger and resume his active role in the state's development at the earliest. Similar sentiments have been expressed by various ministers, MPs, MLAs and others. They include ministers Nara Lokesh, Kolu Parthasarathy, and Vasamsetty Subhash.

**India Summons.....**

"They have been unmasked... The Congress and its allies have committed foeticide of the honest effort in front of the entire country in the House. Parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC and the SP are guilty of this foeticide, Modi said, add-

ing, "They are criminals against the country's Constitution, criminals against the country's feminine power. The Congress hates the issue of women's reservation itself." Blaming the Congress and its "friends" for "killing" the Bill, which would have paved the way for a 33 per cent reservation for women from 2029, Modi said the Opposition parties spread lies by bringing in the delimitation issue when the government had already made it clear that each state will only gain through the delimitation exercise. He said the parivarvaadi (dynastic) parties defeated the women's reservation amendment bill, as they see it as a threat to their leadership if women become empowered.

**Strait Of Hormuz.....**

Uttar Pradesh and the 198-km Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam stretch in Andhra Pradesh. The Ghaziabad-Sitapur is an existing double-line section forming a key part of the Delhi-Guwahati high-density network which will transverse through Ghaziabad, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Sahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur districts of Uttar Pradesh, the project route passes through some major industrial centres at Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sahjahanpur and Roza. The Rajahmundry-Visakhapatnam section forms part of the Howrah-Chennai high-density network, and the proposed project is part of a quadrupling initiative.



CRIME

Arrive Alive Means Reaching Safely  
MPHA Anuja Gurralla Emphasizes Road Safety

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Traveling on roads is part of daily life, but a single moment of negligence can turn an ordinary journey into a life-altering tragedy. This is why the message "Road Safety is Life Safety" holds growing significance in today's fast-paced world.

A road safety awareness program held at the Primary Health Centre in Sharajipet village of Aleru Mandal reinforced this crucial message. Organized jointly by the police and medical departments, the event served as both an awareness drive and a serious warning to the public.

Officials highlighted that most road accidents are caused by avoidable mistakes—riding without helmets, skipping seat belts, over-speeding, drunk



driving, and using mobile phones while driving. Despite frequent accidents, many continue to ignore these basic safety rules, often leading to irreversible consequences.

Speaking at the event, police officials emphasized that road safety is a personal responsibility. Following traffic rules is not just about avoiding penalties, but about protecting one's own life and the well-being of family members. Medical staff

also pointed out the emotional and physical toll accidents take, not only on victims but on entire families.

The slogan "Arrive Alive" was stressed as a commitment rather than just a phrase. It reflects the importance of reaching home safely, as loved ones wait with hope and concern.

Community participation, including local leaders, health workers, and youth, highlighted that road safety is a shared respon-

sibility. Awareness programs at the grassroots level play a key role in changing behavior, especially among young drivers who often underestimate risks.

The message was clear: small precautions can save lives. Wearing helmets, using seat belts, and following traffic rules are simple yet powerful actions. Life is precious. Follow the rules, drive responsibly, and always arrive alive.

T'gana HC Extends Interim Protection To DIG  
Abhishek Mohanty; Retains Him In Telangana

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge bench of the Telangana High Court extended interim protection to Abhishek Mohanty, deputy inspector-general of police, directing his services be retained in the state pending further hearing. A panel of Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda admitted a fresh writ plea by Mohanty challenging the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) concerning his allocation between Telan-

gana and Andhra Pradesh. The petitioner challenged an order of CAT decided on February 12, along with related communications and orders. The dispute traced its origin to the cadre allocation process undertaken pursuant to the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. It was argued that guidelines framed on the recommendations of the Pratyush Sinha committee were given statutory force, and allocation of All India Service officers had earlier been the subject of extensive litigation before the Central

Administrative Tribunal as well as the High Court. It was the case of the petitioner that allocation was required to be undertaken in accordance with the approved guidelines by considering factors such as option exercised, domicile, seniority and equitable distribution. Earlier judicial rulings upheld the validity of the guidelines while directing reconsideration of individual grievances. It was alleged that the CAT failed to undertake such an exercise while rejecting claim of petitioner.

Threats From  
Wife's Boss Push  
Mason to Death

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

Tenant farmer ends  
life over debt

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

Pre-arrest bail in attack case

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court granted anticipatory bail to a man accused of attacking the father-in-law of sarpanch Guvvala Shirisha in a post-election dispute at Suryapet district. The judge was dealing with a criminal petition filed by Pingali Srinivasa Reddy, accused in a crime registered at Kodad Rural police station. According to the prosecution, dis-

putes arose between rival groups after the election of the daughter-in-law of complainant as sarpanch. It was alleged that on the night of March 31, the complainant was intercepted by the accused persons, chased, dragged out from hiding, and beaten with sticks, causing grievous injuries including a suspected fracture. Counsel for the petitioner contended that he was falsely implicated and was not present at the scene of the offence.

It was argued that the petitioner suffered from serious health issues, having undergone hip replacement surgery in 2022, and was unable to stand on his own. Medical records were placed before the court to substantiate the claim. The prosecution pointed to statement of complainant indicating the presence of the petitioner at the scene. The court taking note of the condition of petitioner granted pre-arrest bail.

Arrive Alive Road Safety Drive Held at Pallavi Model School

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Traffic Police conducted a road safety awareness programme as part of the fourth phase of the 'Arrive Alive' initiative at Pallavi Model School, Lal Bazar, under the limits of Trimulgherry Police Station on 18-04-2026. The programme was organised under the supervision of ACP G. Shankar Raju, Trimulgherry Division, and RI I.V. Ramanaiah along with SI staff.

The main aim of the initiative was to create awareness among school drivers and the general



public on the importance of following traffic rules. Officials educated participants on the dangers of traffic violations such as not wearing helmets and overspeeding, which often lead to serious road accidents.

They also explained key traffic regulations including adherence to speed limits, maintaining lane discipline, and understanding road cautionary signboards. Participants were sensitised on the importance of responsible

driving behaviour to ensure road safety for all users.

As part of the programme, a road safety pledge was administered, encouraging everyone to strictly follow traffic rules and promote safe driving habits. To further strengthen awareness, traffic helmets were distributed among participants, highlighting the importance of helmet usage in preventing head injuries and reducing fatalities in road accidents, thereby promoting a safer driving culture in the community.

EDITORIAL

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

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

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

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



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

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

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

DREAM OF THE RAREBIT FIEND BY SILAS





# Disha Programme Boosts Women in Agri Careers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Godrej Agrovet Limited has launched "Disha," a Women's Career Accelerator Programme, at the third edition of its Women in Agriculture Summit. The initiative highlights the company's commitment to building an inclusive and future-ready talent ecosystem in India's agri sector.

India's agriculture sector is rapidly evolving, with growing focus on productivity, sustainability, and rural income. Despite women contributing nearly 60-80% of the agricultural workforce and forming 30-50% of agriculture students, their representation in formal agribusiness roles remains low at just 6-10%, with



less than 13% in leadership positions. This gap underscores the need to support women in transitioning from education

to industry roles. Speaking at the launch, Managing Director and CEO Sunil Kataria emphasized that developing

industry-ready talent is essential for driving sustainable growth in agriculture. He noted that Disha aims to prepare women professionals to take on meaningful roles in a sector that supports nearly half of India's population.

Disha, a CSR initiative, is designed as a campus-to-corporate finishing programme for women pursuing B.Sc. Agriculture and allied disciplines. It focuses on building skills in communication, sales, professional readiness, and confidence, enabling smoother entry into formal agri careers. The programme is implemented in partnership with IMIB Foundation and Ikka Learning Foundation.

During its pilot phase across Andhra Pradesh, Te-

langana, and Karnataka, Disha has already engaged over 276 women students, with several securing roles in companies such as Hindustan Coca-Cola, GRB Dairy Foods, and Jubilant FoodWorks. Notably, over 33% of participants have been placed in agri-industry roles.

Godrej Agrovet has also strengthened women's representation within the company, increasing it from 8% to around 15% in the past two years. The Disha initiative aligns with the company's broader goal of supporting one lakh women across the agri sector through skilling, scholarships, and leadership programmes, reinforcing its long-term vision of inclusive growth.

## LUB Expands MSME Support, Skills, Innovation Across Telangana



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) has announced a major push to strengthen MSMEs in Telangana by expanding its presence across all 13 districts, enhancing skill development, and promoting industry-driven innovation. At a press conference held in Hyderabad, LUB leaders highlighted key initiatives, including an MoU with ITIs that has already enabled employment for around 200 students by aligning training with in-

dustry requirements.

The organization is also connecting MSMEs with over 2,600 ready-to-use technologies from IICT, helping businesses improve efficiency and adopt innovation. All India President Madhu Sudan Dadu said LUB, with over 75,000 members nationwide, actively contributes to MSME policy formulation by providing industry feedback to governments. He emphasized collaborations with IITs, research institutions, and initiatives like "100 Days-100 Technologies" to boost industrial competitiveness. State

President V. Venkateswarlu stated that LUB Telangana continues to address industry issues with governments, achieving positive policy outcomes while expanding its grassroots presence.

State General Secretary K. Narendranath Dath noted that Telangana has around 600 members and reaffirmed the organization's vision of "Made in India, Made for the World." LUB remains committed to fostering entrepreneurship, supporting small industries, and building a self-reliant industrial ecosystem.

## 1 in 3 Urban Indians May Have Fatty Liver, CARE Hospitals Warns Early Signs From Age 30

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A silent health concern is rapidly emerging in urban India. Nearly one in three urban Indians may have fatty liver disease, often without noticeable symptoms. On the occasion of "World Liver Day 2026," themed "Solid Habits, Strong Liver," doctors at CARE Hospitals caution that what was once seen largely in older adults is now increasingly being diagnosed among individuals in the 30-50 age group. One-third of school

children are obese, which is emerging as an early driver of fatty liver disease. "This is not just a medical issue, but a reflection of changing lifestyles. Long hours of sitting, irregular eating habits, fast food consumption, rising stress, and lack of physical activity are impacting liver health. We are seeing higher incidence particularly among IT and corporate professionals, with greater risk in those with diabetes, obesity, and hypertension," said Dr. Ramsagar Vidya Sagar, Senior Gas-



troenterologist at CARE Hospitals.

The bigger concern is the "silent" nature of liver disease. Early stages usually show no symp-

toms, and damage is often detected incidentally during routine tests. Many patients present late, when the disease has already progressed to cirrhosis or

liver failure, making treatment more complex and outcomes uncertain. "Liver problems are often silent and may not show symptoms until they reach an advanced stage. A simple liver function test alone is not enough to diagnose most liver conditions. People should undergo a comprehensive evaluation, including blood tests, ultrasound, and in some cases, a FibroScan to assess fat accumulation and liver stiffness. Early detection allows timely intervention and significantly improves

outcomes," said Dr. Sonal Asthana, Senior Consultant - HPB & Liver Transplant at CARE Hospitals. In response to this growing burden, CARE Hospitals has adopted a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, integrating gastroenterology, hepatology, critical care, and transplant services to ensure early detection and timely treatment. Doctors emphasise that early identification, appropriate treatment, and lifestyle changes are critical in managing liver disease effectively. "Annual liver

screening is recommended for individuals above 30 years of age, particularly those with diabetes or sedentary lifestyles. Symptoms such as fatigue, loss of appetite, unexplained weight gain, and abdominal fat should not be ignored. Self-medication and excessive use of supplements must be avoided. Obese individuals, in particular, require regular screening, as they remain at significantly higher risk of developing fatty liver disease," said, Dr. Kumara Swamy, Senior Consultant - Liver Transplant & HPB

Surgery. Doctors say that simple lifestyle changes can go a long way in protecting liver health. Eating balanced meals, choosing low-fat diets, engaging in at least 30 minutes of daily physical activity, avoiding unnecessary medications, and limiting alcohol intake can significantly reduce the burden on the liver. For those in desk jobs, taking short breaks and staying active during the day can also help in the long run. On the occasion of World Liver Day, CARE Hospitals.

## MA Telugu Students Host Literary Meet Today



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Malla Reddy Engineering College (MGIT), under the MGIT-CBIT Synergy Initiative, organized an expert lecture on "Research Avenue - Funding Schemes and Funding Agencies," focusing on enhancing research awareness and funding opportunities among faculty members. The session, conducted by the MGIT Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), brought together SPOCs of research clusters from MGIT and CBIT.

The keynote speaker, Prof. T. Kishore Kumar from NIT Warangal, delivered an in-depth presentation on major national funding bodies, including UGC, AICTE, DST, SERB, MHRD, and MeITY. He explained various funding schemes such as research projects,

fellowships, and grants, while highlighting opportunities under JRF and SRF for Ph.D. aspirants. He stressed that research plays a critical role in academic excellence alongside teaching.

Principal Prof. G. Chandramohan Reddy emphasized institutional efforts, noting that MGIT has sanctioned 15 internal R&D seed grants to boost research initiatives and encouraged faculty to pursue external funding. Vice Principal Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy urged strengthening research culture through impactful contributions.

The session concluded with remarks from Prof. D. Krishna Reddy, Director R&D, CBIT, appreciating the initiative. The event was coordinated by Prof. T. V. Rajini Kanth with support from Dr. K. C. Sabitha and Dr. T. Sudhakar Babu.

## SEC, Adanis seek more time, propose new schedule in US case

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The US Securities and Exchange Commission and Indian businessmen Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani have jointly requested a US court for more time to file key submissions in a civil securities case, proposing a revised schedule for motions and responses.

In a filing before the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the parties said they had conferred in line with the court's April 7 directive and agreed on a new timeline, which has been submitted for approval by Judge Nicholas G Garaufis. The SEC had sued Adani Group founder Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar in November 2024, alleging they had misled investors by failing to disclose an alleged bribery scheme linked to Indian state officials, framing the case under US securities laws.

Denying all allegations, the two, through their lawyers, filed a pre-motion letter on April 7 ahead of a planned April 30 motion, seeking dismissal of the fraud lawsuit.

## Gold may touch Rs 1.85 lakh amid strong macro trends: Report

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As India gears up to celebrate Akshaya Tritiya on Sunday — an auspicious occasion for buying gold — macroeconomic trends are reinforcing the metal's investment appeal alongside tradition, with analysts seeing prices rise up to Rs 1.85 lakh, according to a report on Saturday.

An analysis by Axis Direct said gold is well-positioned in the current global environment and could gain whether the economy weakens into stagflation or improves amid falling interest rates. "Whether the global economy faces stagflationary heat or rate-cut relief, the macroeconomic architecture provides a structural tailwind for gold," the brokerage said. The report also noted that elevated crude oil prices, driven by geopolitical tensions could sustain inflation while slowing growth, a combination that typically boosts demand for bullion as a store of value.

Analysts have set a COMEX gold target of \$5,300-\$5,500 per ounce in the near term. For the domestic market, they projected that yellow metal could rise to Rs 1.7



lakh-Rs 1.85 lakh per 10 grams, which indicates a potential upside of up to 15 per cent from current levels.

If realised, this would mark a fifth consecutive year of double-digit returns for gold. Alternatively, if crude prices ease and inflation moderates, central banks — led by the US Federal Reserve — are expected to resume rate cuts. Lower interest rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets such as gold, typically supporting prices. The outlook follows a volatile first quarter for gold in 2026.

COMEX prices rose to \$5,598 per ounce in late January before correcting sharply amid escalating geopolitical tensions, a surge in crude oil prices from \$60 to \$115 per barrel, inflation concerns and ETF outflows. However,

prices fell to \$4,098 earlier in March.

Gold has since recovered as crude prices eased following ceasefire talks, with analysts noting that the metal is rebuilding a "formidable base".

"Following the extreme stress test of Q1 2026, the underlying pillars of demand, central bank accumulation, ETF inflows and macroeconomic hedging, remain fully intact," the brokerage said.

In addition, in terms of returns over the past decade, gold has delivered an 18 per cent compounded annual return across successive Akshaya Tritiya periods, outperforming equity benchmark Nifty 50.

For instance, an investment of Rs 100 in gold in 2016 would be worth around Rs 527 today, compared with about Rs 307 in the Nifty 50. Annual returns have accel-

erated in recent years, from 7 per cent in 2021-22 to 18 per cent, 22 per cent and 30 per cent in subsequent years, before surging 61 per cent in 2025-26.

On the demand side, Indian gold ETF inflows have risen sharply from Rs 1,500 crore in 2022 to an estimated Rs 25,000-Rs 30,000 crore in 2025, reflecting a shift from physical jewellery to financial gold instruments.

At the sovereign level, analysts highlighted a structural shift in global reserves. Additionally, the report stated that for the first time, the total value of gold held by central banks has surpassed their combined holdings of US Treasuries, with both estimated at around \$4 trillion.

Central bank purchases, which exceeded 1,000 tonnes annually between 2022 and 2024, are projected to moderate to around 850 tonnes in 2026. For buyers this Akshaya Tritiya, the report said the investment case for gold remains strong irrespective of the global economic trajectory. "Gold remains a fundamental portfolio necessity," the brokerage said.

## ICICI Bank Q4 profit rises 9 per cent to Rs 14,755 crore

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

ICICI Bank on Saturday posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 14,755 crore for the fourth quarter of FY26, a 9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise.

The second-largest private lender had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 13,502.22 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The lender's core net interest income (NII) rose 8 per cent YoY to Rs 21,193 crore in the same period last year, the bank said in an exchange filing.

Total income for the quarter stood at Rs 84,613.66 crore, up from Rs 79,747.77 crore in Q4 FY25. The bank's interest earned during the quarter came in at Rs 49,593.75 crore, compared with Rs 48,363.84 crore in the previous quarter.

Other income — which includes premium income from the insurance business and other operating revenues — rose to Rs 35,019.91 crore from Rs 31,360.85 crore a year ago.



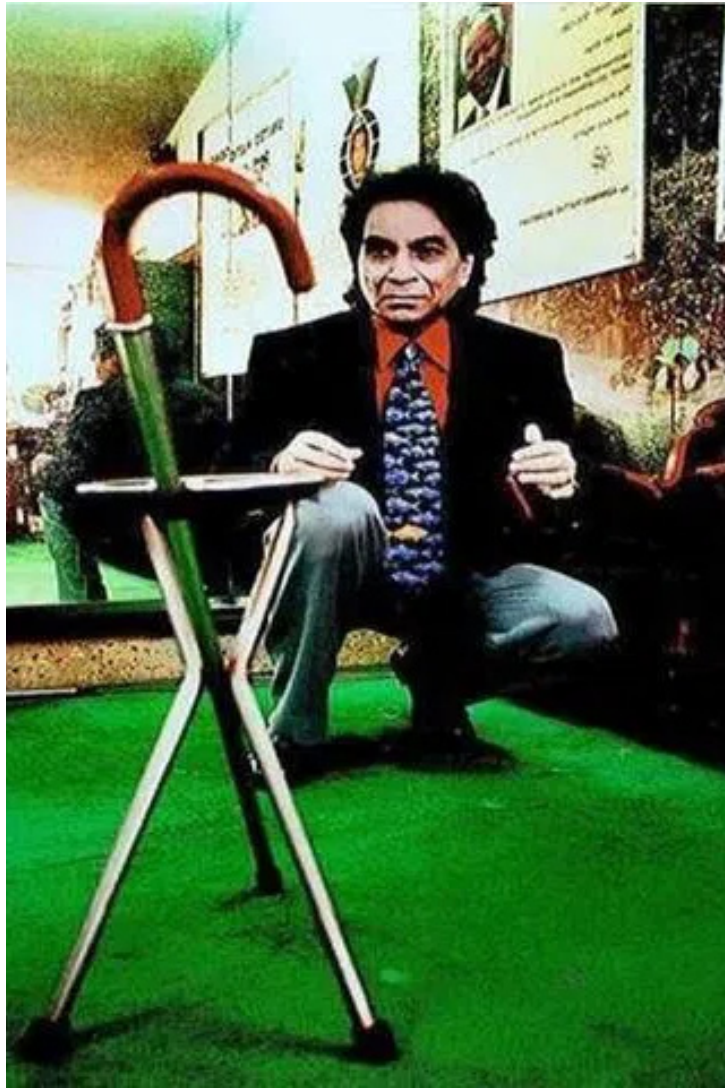
# Babban Khan, legendary Hyderabadi comedian, passes away

The man who lit up dull evenings and brought smiles to weary faces is no more. Babban Khan, the undisputed king of comedy, has passed away after a brief illness, bringing the final curtain down on an extraordinary life. He is survived by his wife, Shaila Khan and their two daughters. The mortal remains of the showman were laid to rest at a graveyard in Shantinagar on Saturday. "Baba aaye, baba aaye... Arey chup. Main daftar se aaroon, jail se thodi aaroon."

Who can forget these iconic lines? They once echoed across packed auditoriums, defining an era of humour that was uniquely Hyderabadi.

For 35 remarkable years, Adrak Ke Panje reigned supreme as one of the longest-running one-man shows in the world. From September 22, 1965, to February 11, 2001, it clocked an astonishing 10,000 performances across 60 countries in 27 languages. In sheer scale and endurance, it surpassed global stage legends like The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie and the Broadway sensation A Chorus Line.

What made the feat even more extraordinary was its simplicity. No elaborate lighting, no music, no changing sets – just raw performance. The stage could be set in 17 minutes and cleared in 10. The entire production cost a mere Rs 650. Even seasoned theatre personalities like Rex Harrison were astonished by its minimalism. Yet nothing changed—not the script, not the costumes, not even the worn-out black sherwani, umbrella, and tiffin carrier carried by the unforgettable character Ramtoo. It was consistency powered by



brilliance.

From the bylanes of Hyderabad to global stages across America, Russia, London, Tokyo, and beyond, the play drew packed audiences. It even entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 1984. Recognition poured in from prestigious institutions worldwide, and admiration came from towering figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth

II, Indira Gandhi, Frederick Forsyth, and Francis Ford Coppola. The genius of Adrak Ke Panje lay in its rootedness. Babban Khan struck gold with his very first play, using humour to explore the harsh realities of an unplanned, large family. The metaphor of "Adrak ke panje", ginger roots spreading in all directions, became a powerful social commentary. Through Ramtoo and his chaotic house-

hold, the play touched upon issues like poverty, dowry, pollution, and family planning – long before they became mainstream concerns.

Ironically, this comedy was born out of deep personal tragedy. Babban Khan's childhood was marked by poverty and loss. His father, a poorly paid clerk, struggled to support a large family, losing several children to deprivation. Those painful memories became the soul of his writing. The boy, once called simply "Babban", went on to create a legacy that would outlive generations.

The story of the play's creation is as compelling as the play itself. Written in just a few hours under a streetlight at Charkhandil in Aghapura, it was staged by selling his mother's gold pendant. The first show was a financial failure but a creative success. The second show changed everything, and history was made. Even after decades of performing the same script, Babban Khan never grew tired. "It has become part of my life," he once said. And indeed, it became part of Hyderabad's cultural identity.

The play's dialogues, much like those from Sholay, became timeless. Sharp, witty, and laced with irony, they reflected both humour and hardship. Audiences laughed, smiled, and sometimes even wept—because beneath the comedy lay uncomfortable truths.

For Babban Khan, comedy was never just about laughter. It was, as he believed, "a funny way of being serious."

Today, the man is gone. But his words, his wit, and his world remain alive in memory, echoing in laughter that refuses to fade.

## Actor Varun Tej shares recovery update following sports injury

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Actor Varun Tej suffered a knee fracture while training for his upcoming film "Bhari". He even had to undergo a minor surgery for the injury. Now, the 'F3' actor has used social media to share a health update with the netizens. Varun dropped a post on his Instagram handle, revealing that the procedure went well, and he is on the road to recovery.

Expressing his gratitude to his doctor, he shared that he intends to be back in action soon.

Hoping to return stronger, Varun penned, "Thank you to everyone who reached out with concern and support. It truly means a lot. The procedure went well and I'm focused on recovery and getting back to full strength. (sic)."

He added, "Grateful to my doctors for their care and guidance. I'll be back in action soon.... stronger than before."

He signed off the post with "Love Varun Tej".

Varun was undergo-



ing intense volleyball training to prepare for his role in the rural sports drama.

On Wednesday, Varun's sister, Niharika Konidela, took to Instagram to share a statement saying that her brother is recovering under medical supervision.

"We would like to inform everyone that my brother, Varun Tej, recently sustained a severe knee fracture while practicing volleyball for our upcoming film 'Bhari'. He has successfully undergone surgery, and the procedure went well. He is currently recovering under medical supervision,"

she wrote on social media.

Her note further added, "We are hopeful that he will regain full strength and health soon, and we truly appreciate all the love, concern, and support during this time."

Talking about "Bhari", the movie is being backed by Niharika under the banner of Pink Elephant Pictures. Made under the direction of Yadhu Vamsee and co-directed by Ravi Sankar D, Ramesh Manyam is serving as executive producer of the project.

## Sunrisers Hyderabad outsmart Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in thrilling IPL match



**AHMEDABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Medium-pacer Eshan Malinga proved to be the match-winner (4-0-29-3) as Sunrisers Hyderabad recorded their third consecutive win, outsmarting Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in the IPL league match at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Saturday. Chasing 195, CSK lost momentum midway primarily due to some brilliant catching.

Nitish Kumar Reddy dismissed Sanju Samson (7) with his first ball in the second over of the innings, and then was unfortunate to see Heinrich

Klaasen fail to latch on to a difficult chance in the deep when Ayush Mhatre mistimed a lofted stroke in the same over. However, after that, Mhatre launched a brilliant counter-attack which delighted the CSK fans, with the sea of yellow jerseys dominating the stands. But Nitish struck again – Mhatre (30, 13b, 5x4, 1x6), who was just then treated for cramps, managed to merely hit one to extra-cover where Klaasen took a brilliant catch, leaping to his left (66/2 in 4.4 overs).

Sunrisers were truly back in the game when pacer Eshan Malinga bounced

out CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad (19) to make it 66/3 in 5.1 overs.

Sarfraz Khan (25, 19b, 3x4), who looked good, whipped Malinga one-handed only to be caught at deep square-leg (112/4 in 10.4 overs). Then, left-arm spinner Shivang Kumar lured the dangerous Dewald Brevis (0) to hit straight to long-off (113/5 in 11.4 overs).

Young fast bowler Sakib Hussain struck the decisive blow when he cleaned up the hard-hitting Shivam Dube (21, 16b, 1x4, 1x6) with a yorker to make it 154/7 in 16.5 overs.

## Grand Sports Rally Marks Launch of Nizamabad Premier League

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A vibrant and energetic rally was organized by the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate in collaboration with the Nizamabad Security Council (NSC) to mark the commencement of the Nizamabad Premier League. The rally began at the DSA Ground and concluded at the Polytechnic Ground, witnessing enthusiastic participation from youth, students, and budding athletes. Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, inaugurated the rally by flagging it off. In his address, he lauded the efforts of the NSC in promoting sports culture across the district and stated that Nizamabad has a proud history of producing talented players who have brought recognition

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Explosive opener Abhishek Sharma and a beligerent Heinrich Klaasen cracked half-centuries to help Sunrisers Hyderabad, put in to bat, set up a challenging target of 195 for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL league match at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Saturday night. Abhishek



at national levels. He highlighted that the Premier League includes multiple sporting events such as cricket, volleyball, kabaddi, basketball, and yoga, with players representing various mandals.

Attractive prize money has been announced to encourage competitive spirit among participants. The

Commissioner underlined the importance of sports in shaping disciplined and responsible youth. He stated that such initiatives, especially summer camps, are aimed at channeling the energy of young people towards constructive activities. Raising awareness on public safety, he pointed out that a significant number of fa-

talities in the district are due to road accidents caused by violation of traffic rules. He urged citizens to strictly adhere to traffic regulations for their own safety.

He also warned youth to stay vigilant against the rising threats of drug abuse and cybercrime. During the event, participants echoed

the slogan "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Sports," reinforcing the message of a healthy and positive lifestyle. The rally passed through major city landmarks including Old Collectorate Ground, Court Chowrasta, Municipal Office, NTR Chowrasta, Police Office, Vijay Theatre, Railway Kaman, Ayyappa Temple, and Mee-Seva Center before reaching the Polytechnic Ground. Senior officials and organizers, including DCP Baswa Reddy, NSC General Secretary Kavitha Reddy, Sports Coordinator Srinivas Reddy, Joint Secretary Rajinikanth, Treasurer Santosh, and other members, were present. The large turnout of students, physical education teachers, and sports enthusiasts made the event a resounding success.

## Abhishek Sharma, Klaasen fire SRH to 194 against CSK in IPL clash

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Explosive opener Abhishek Sharma and a beligerent Heinrich Klaasen cracked half-centuries to help Sunrisers Hyderabad, put in to bat, set up a challenging target of 195 for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL league match at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Saturday night. Abhishek

Sharma made serious amends for the first-ball duck in the previous match against Rajasthan Royals here, with his trademark blows to upset the CSK game plan of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mathew Short. The explosive left-hander hit him for three fours and two sixes in the fifth over, even as his partner Travis Head was not at his imperious best

despite hitting a six over covers off pacer Anshul Kamboj. Not surprisingly, Abhishek was in a hurry and reached his 50 off just 15 balls with five fours and four sixes. In the sixth over, Head (23, 20b, 3x4, 1x6) perished, hitting a harmless full toss from pacer Mukesh Choudhary straight to mid-off and off the next ball, captain Ishan Kishan.





## Telangana to add 5,000+ seats in government polytechnics for 2026-27

More than 5,000 new seats will be up for grabs in the government polytechnics, with the launch of new programmes in emerging technologies in the forthcoming academic year 2026-27.

Of the total, 2,400 new students will be added in new 10 diploma programmes, including semi-conductor technology, advanced manufacturing technology, aircraft maintenance, automation and robotics, construction technology and management, interior design, and landscape design.

These industry-driven diplomas are aimed at increasing enrolment in the government polytechnics, besides focusing on rural, low-income and first-generation students. In addition, the Technical Education department has added 2,880 seats in core programmes, taking the total available seats in 59 government polytechnic colleges to 18,330 for the academic year 2026-27.

## Hyderabad likely to face no summer water shortage, says HMWSSB MD

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

This summer, Hyderabad might not be facing any water supply issues as all drinking water sources, except for Singur, have adequate levels, said HMWSSB Managing Director K Ashok Reddy.

Speaking to media persons here on Saturday, he said the water board was ready to provide 600 million gallons of water per day (MGD) to meet the demand, but due to a poor water supply network (Manjeera), it was able to supply 570 MGD. The remaining 45 days of summer were as crucial, and the water board is geared up with arrangements to tackle the water supply issues, he said. Regarding Singur, Ashok Reddy said the State government allowed the HMWSSB to



draw water up to 8 TMC due to dam repair. "We will easily overcome this summer, but as a standby, we have made alternate arrangements for setting up emergency pumping to avoid inconvenience to the customers."

The tanker demand has kept rising every year, and the water board has made 1.08 lakh trips in January, and the demand gradually rose to 1.50 lakh trips by April, he said. According to real-time data on tanker supply, the demand was seen primarily in only

five divisions of Durgam Cheruvu, SR Nagar, Kukatpally, Manikonda and Hafeezpet.

Out of 14.50 lakh consumers of the HMWSSB, only 48,000 consumers were frequently booking tankers and the rest were booking based on their need. He said this trend indicated that, due to groundwater depletion, tanker bookings have risen.

Responding to concerns over a change in water colour in Hyderabad's twin reservoirs, Ashok Reddy said consumers need not panic and meas-

ures were being taken to ensure clean water. He said due to the severe summer, the water in Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs saw a slight change in colour. HMWSSB this summer:

- \* To launch a mobile app, 'Paani' (Promote Awareness And Nurture Initiatives), aimed at enabling users to register complaints related to wastage of water
- \* To deploy Robotic Technology to address polluted water complaints
- \* To begin purchasing treated sewage water from 800 private STPs established by gated communities, villas and housing projects
- \* Tankers with a red colour will be used for this purpose

## Asaduddin Owaisi flags Hyderabad man's death in UAE

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



AIMIM president and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi has written to the Consul General of India in Dubai, seeking urgent assistance for the repatriation of the mortal remains of a Hyderabad resident who died under unclear circumstances in the UAE.

In a letter dated April 17, Owaisi urged the Indian assistance to intervene in the case of Mohammed Arief Ahmed, an Indian national from his constituency, who had travelled to Dubai for employment and passed away there.

According to the letter, Ahmed had gone to Dubai to work as a sales executive at Sharjah Airport. It is learnt that he died under unknown circumstances, leaving his family in Hyderabad anxious and awaiting

clarity. Asaduddin Owaisi, in his communication, requested the Consulate to take up the matter on priority and extend all necessary assistance to facilitate the return of the deceased's body to India.

He said the family is keen to perform the last rites in Hyderabad and requires official support to complete the formalities involved in repatriation.

"I request your good office to kindly take up the matter and provide the necessary assistance for the repatriation of the deceased's mortal remains to India," the MP wrote,

pointing to the family's distress. The letter notes that Ahmed's parents are in deep grief and are waiting for the return of their son's body.

Owaisi stressed the need for timely intervention so that the final rites can be conducted without further delay.

He also shared contact details of the deceased's brother, who is coordinating efforts from Dubai to assist authorities with the process. Repatriation in such cases involves coordination between local authorities, the Indian mission and the family, often requiring multiple clearances and documentation.

Owaisi's appeal comes as the family continues to navigate these formalities, hoping for swift action from the Consulate to bring Ahmed's remains back home at the earliest.

## Telangana Haj Committee gears up for May 4 departures from Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As the first batch of Indian pilgrims arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, April 18, the Telangana Haj Committee has begun preparations for those departing for the pilgrimage from Hyderabad Airport from May 4.

A total of 6,660 pilgrims from Telangana are scheduled to travel this year from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA). The number is likely to rise as 2,500 applicants are on the waiting list, State Haj Committee Chairman Syed Ghulam Afzal Biabani told Decan Chronicle. Worshippers will be provided with transit accommodation at the Haj House

flight booking and boarding passes, smart watches, baggage screening, luggage check-in, medical care, vaccination, security arrangements, transport from Haj House to RGIA and customs clearance on arrival. A 24/7 control room will also be set up at the State Haj Committee office.

He also said that this year, the committee has introduced a Haj package of about 25 to 30 days. "Pilgrims will stay in Makkah for 20 to 25 days and in Madinah for four to five days," he said, adding, "Flights for this package are scheduled between May 19 and May 21. Return flights from Madinah to Hyderabad are between June 13 and June 18."

## Mohd Saleem Slams BJP Over Women's Bill

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

TPCC Secretary Mohd Saleem strongly criticized the BJP-led NDA government, calling the handling of the Women's Reservation Bill an "historic defeat" driven by political motives rather than genuine intent. Addressing the media, he alleged that the bill was introduced as an election strategy rather than a sincere effort to ensure women's representation.

Saleem argued that the BJP has a pattern of raising sensitive issues ahead of elections for political gain. He cited past promises such as creating two crore jobs, bring-



Mohd. Saleem, Secretary, TPCC

ing back black money, and depositing ₹15 lakh into citizens' accounts, claiming these remained unfulfilled. He further pointed to issues like Ram Mandir, Triple Talaq, Article 370, CAA, and NRC as examples of

what he termed "election narratives."

He questioned the credibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, stating that public trust has eroded due to repeated "jumla" politics. According to him, people have begun to recognize what he described as the BJP's true approach to governance.

Criticizing the structure of the Women's Reservation Bill, Saleem said the proposal to allocate seats from an expanded strength of 850 MPs, rather than the existing 543, exposed what he called the party's "hypocrisy." He claimed that while proposing 280 seats for women, the BJP in-

tended to retain control over the majority of existing seats.

He also termed the proposed expansion of parliamentary seats as undemocratic, alleging lack of wider consultation or consensus. Saleem further accused the BJP of attempting to maintain regional imbalance, arguing that southern states play a crucial role in India's economic growth while facing political marginalization.

Concluding, he said the developments reflect growing public awareness and signal a political shift against what he described as arrogance and centralized dominance.

## Action plan underway for new airports in TG: Ponguleti

An action plan is being prepared for the proposed airports in Warangal, Adilabad and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts and steps are being taken to accelerate land acquisition, technical approvals and infrastructure development, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said on Saturday, April 18.

He held a review meeting with Airport Authority Southern Region Executive Director Raj Kishore and Aviation Director Bharat Reddy at the Secretariat.

The Information and Public Relations Minister informed that around 953 acres of land for the Warangal Airport have been acquired and handed over to the Centre. The foundation stone for the project will be laid soon, he said. The Adilabad airport will be jointly developed by the state government, the Defence and the Union Civil Aviation Department. "The airport is significant as it would improve connectivity in northern Telangana," he said.

For Bhadradi Kothagudem airport, the minister said the site proposed earlier had been found unsuitable for airport construction by the Union Civil Aviation Ministry. He directed officials to conduct a detailed study and submit a feasibility report on alternative locations.

## Traffic woes worsen on NH 44 stretch near Bahadurpura in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Driving on the road stretch between Petlaburj city police headquarters and Dargah Hazrat Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui Quadri, Bahadurpura, on the National Highway 44 in the city is proving to be a difficult task for the motorists.

The frequent slow-down of traffic movement is causing hardship for the travellers and consuming their travel time during peak hours. "It takes around 10 minutes to cover the distance between police headquarters and Dargah Hazrat Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui Quadri during peak hours. During normal times, it is just a three-minute commute," complains Mohd Rahmath Ali, a resident of Bahadurpura.

Despite the presence of traffic police at the stretch, the road conditions are not in favour of commuters. The roadside near Purnanul crematorium is badly



damaged and the pavement is encroached, reducing the road width. Near the bus stop, the manhole covers are broken, further compounding the woes of the motorists.

"The buses also stop for a minute or two on the busy road to pick up passengers. It is also affecting the free flow of traffic on the busy road during the evening," pointed out Shiva Krishna, a resident of Shivarampally. The road, being part of the NH 44, witnesses a huge volume of traffic throughout the day, which increases during afternoons and evenings when district-bound buses enter and leave the city. The stretch between the Dargah Muhammed

Abdul Qadeer and the Purnanul Darwaza is narrow and struggles to accommodate the huge volume of traffic, resulting in the traffic slowing down.

The traffic police, on the other hand, point out that they have asked the GHMC and the other agencies concerned to take up the road repair works. "Due to the current situation, more traffic policemen are deployed on the road stretch to streamline the traffic. Also, a road divider was erected on the road to streamline the traffic flow on either side of the road. This is the maximum that can be done here due to road width issues," said a traffic police official.

## Osmania University cautions against fake job ads

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Osmania University (OU) on Saturday cautioned job seekers against fraudulent advertisements circulating regarding staff recruitment for the Examination Branch. In a statement, the OU said no recruitment notification has been issued for the Examination Branch.

"The viral messages and links are total fabrica-

tions designed to defraud job seekers. Candidates are warned not to share personal data or pay any application fees to unauthorized individuals or portals," it said.

All official notifications will be published exclusively on the University's official website, the OU said.

The University is initiating legal action against the perpetrators, it said and informed job seekers not to fall victim to scammers.

## TRSMA seeks clarity on book counters in private schools

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Recognised School Management Association (TRSMA) urged the School Education Department to issue necessary directions, clarifying that operation of book counters by unaided private schools on a "no profit, no loss" basis is permissible under the existing government orders and judicial directions. In a representation to School Education director Dr E Naveen Nicolas, TRSMA pres-

ident Sadula Madhusudan and general secretary N Ramesh Rao said some field-level officials directed schools to discontinue their book counters based on the complaints lodged by certain students and community organisations. The TRSMA pointed out that GO Ms 91 issued in 2009 permits the private unaided schools to set up book sale counters in school premises on a "no profit, no loss" basis, ensuring timely, convenient, and affordable access to prescribed learning materials for students and

parents. Further, the TRSMA said Telangana High Court had directed the Education Department not to seize books or seal book counters in private schools. "In view of the above, we request you to issue clear instructions to all DEOs, MEOs and other officials concerned, clarifying that the operation of book counters by unaided private schools on a "no profit, no loss" basis is permissible under the existing government orders and judicial directions," they said.

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