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**WEATHER**

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

### Brief Insights

#### Row Erupts Over Monk's Claim That Tararani Was Jain

A fresh controversy has erupted in Maharashtra after Jain monk Acharya Nayan Padmasagar claimed that Maharani Tararani – the daughter-in-law of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and wife of Rajaram Maharaj – belonged to the Jain community. Shiv Sena UBT leader Sanjay Raut has slammed the re-

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#### Russian Deputy PM To Visit India for Talks

First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Denis Manturov, will visit New Delhi on Thursday for high-level talks with the Indian leadership amid ongoing energy cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold separate meetings with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit follows the bilateral summit held in December last year during Vladimir Putin's visit to India. Russian officials are expecting Prime

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**KTR, Harish Rao hit back at Union Minister over Kaleshwaram remarks: P2**

**PM Modi, President Murmu Complete Self-Enumeration On First Day Of Census 2027: P4**

**Youth Betrayed, Opportunities Denied, Says Kavitha: P3**



## Lok Sabha Passes Amaravati Bill

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a historic move, the Lok Sabha has approved the Bill granting statutory status to Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Union minister of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha under the title, 'The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act.' A discussion on the bill followed for two hours. The Bill, which would now go to the Rajya Sabha for passage, seeks to amend Sec-

The Bill, which would now go to the Rajya Sabha for passage, seeks to amend Section 5(2) of the Reorganisation Act, 2014, formally designating Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh with retrospective effect from June 2, 2024.

tion 5(2) of the Reorganisation Act, 2014, formally designating Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh with retrospective effect from June 2, 2024. The presiding officer, Tenneti Krishnaprasad, later announced the Lok Sabha's approval. The legislation would be taken up in the Rajya Sabha on

Thursday and then sent for Union Cabinet ratification and Presidential assent. Opening the debate, Union minister of state for rural development and communications Pemasani Chandrasekhar said the amendment would end all uncertainty surrounding Amaravati's status. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah for their support.

He called Amaravati the "vision and mission" of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He also credited Jana Sena chief

K. Pawan Kalyan with upholding alliance unity and noted that alleged "suppression" under the YSRC term had turned Amaravati into a national movement. Pemasani emphasised that capitals like Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad had driven state growth, expressing the hope that Amaravati would play a similar role. He also reiterated that the Supreme Court, in 2022, had affirmed that capital-related decisions fall within the Centre's purview.

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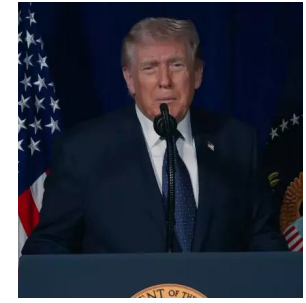
## Trump: US May End Iran War, Quit Nato

**Trump also said he would state in the speech that he was considering withdrawing the US from the Nato alliance.**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The United States will end its war on Iran fairly soon and could return for "spot hits" if needed, American President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, hours before he was scheduled to make a primetime address to the nation. Trump also said he would state in the speech that he was considering withdrawing the US from the Nato alliance. Asked when the United States would consider the Iran war over, Trump said: "I can't tell you exactly ... we're going to be out pretty quickly."

US action had ensured Iran would not have nuclear arms, he said: "They won't have a nuclear weapon because they are incapable of that now, and then I'll leave, and I'll take everybody with me, and if we have to we'll come back to do spot hits." Trump said separately on social media that Iran had asked for a ceasefire but that he would not consider



it until Tehran ceased blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a major fuel shipment route. Iran denied making any such request.

Two security sources from Pakistan, which is mediating in the conflict, earlier said Islamabad had proposed a temporary ceasefire to both sides but had not heard back from either. Trump had signalled on Tuesday he could wind down the war in two to three weeks even without a deal, and scaled up threats to pull the US out of the NATO defence alliance if European states did not help stop Iran threatening the waterway.

US Vice President J.D. Vance communicated with intermediaries from Pakistan about the Iran conflict

as recently as Tuesday, a source briefed on the matter said on Wednesday. At Trump's direction, Vance signalled privately that Trump was open to a ceasefire as long as certain US demands were met, including reopening the Strait of Hormuz, the source said. In his remarks to Reuters on Wednesday, Trump said he would express his disgust with NATO for what he considers the alliance's lack of support for U.S. objectives in Iran.

European states took pains to appear unruffled and France's junior army minister Alice Rufo said operations by NATO in the Strait of Hormuz would be a breach of international law.

The conflict has killed thousands, spread across the region and caused unprecedented energy disruption. IEA head Fatih Birol said the main issue so far from Iran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz was the lack of jet fuel and diesel that was already a problem in Asia

## LDF Has Fevicol Bond With BJP, Says CM Revanth

**KERALA**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy energized the Congress-led UDF cadres while joining an intense campaign in the prestigious Nemom constituency of Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. He appealed for votes for Congress candidate K S Sabarinathan during a roadshow across the constituency. Reddy borrowed Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's iconic dialogue from the Mollywood blockbuster



"Narasimham" to bid farewell to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is seeking a third term.

"Nee po mone Dinesha, Nee po mone Vijayan – your time is over," he declared from atop the cam-

aign vehicle, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Revanth Reddy is a well-known figure in Kerala, having actively campaigned during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The

Congress-led UDF achieved a remarkable victory, winning 18 out of 20 seats. Reddy held street corner meetings, urging voters to bring the Congress-led UDF to power in Kerala and to support Rahul Gandhi in his fight against the BJP and for upholding the Constitution. "Revanth Reddy ji has energized UDF workers by joining the roadshow. Our fight for secularism and development is resonating with the people," said UDF candidate Sabarinathan.

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## Owaisi Alleges Didi-Modi 'Setting' In WB

**KOLAKTA**  
Wakeup telangana

Launching his West Bengal Assembly Election campaign from Murshidabad, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday accused chief minister Mamata Banerjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having a "setting." The Hyderabad MP, whose party has allied with former Trinamul Congress MLA Humayun Kabir's new outfit Aam Janata Unnyan Party (AJUP) here, levelled the allegation while campaigning for Mr Kabir,

contesting at Nowda assembly seat.

Mr Owaisi claimed at a rally in Doobtala of Nowda, "The TMC supremo and the PM are hand in glove in New Delhi and Bengal. In 2005, Ms Banerjee threw files on the floor of the Parliament, bursting in protest against Ghuspetias (infiltrators). In 2014, Mr Modi echoed the same and started targeting poor Muslims as infiltrators. This is nothing but a setting. I'm asking TMC to explain how the BJP MLAs' strength grew here from 3 in 2016 to 77 in

2021."

Mr Owaisi added, "TMC failed to protect poor Muslims and Dalits and provide them welfare here. They aren't eager either. They also sidelined Mr Kabir. They never promoted him as their leader. But people have already chosen him as a leader of Muslims and Dalits. So, I decided to support him as a partner. If the AIMIM-AJUP alliance wins in Murshidabad and other districts, we will support onion farmers for cold storage and agro industries."

## Integrated Bhu Bharati Portal To Go Into Pilot Mode

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The state government will roll out the Integrated Bhu Bharati portal on a pilot basis in five mandals from Thursday. The portal, designed as a unified land records management system, integrates services ranging from surveying to registration on a single platform, enabling citizens to access complete land-related information through a single interface on their smartphones. Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the new portal was designed in line with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to provide

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## PM: Shield People From War Impact

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review measures taken by various ministries, departments in context of the ongoing West Asia conflict. The CCS also discussed further initiatives to be taken to safeguard citizens from the impact of the turmoil. This was the second special CCS meeting on this issue as the West Asia conflict



enters fifth week disrupting global supply lines.

The PM assessed the availability of essential commodities and discussed availability of fertilisers in the country plus steps being taken to ensure its availability in the

Kharif and Rabi seasons. Mr Modi directed that all efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens from the impact of this conflict. He also stressed on the need for timely and smooth flow of authentic information to the public

to prevent misinformation and rumour mongering. He directed the concerned departments to take all possible measures to ameliorate the problems of citizens and sectors affected by the ongoing global situation.

The Union ministers Amit Shah, S. Jaishankar, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, J. P. Nadda, Ashwini Vaishnav, Manohar Lal Khattar, Pralhad Joshi, Kinjarapu Rammo-han Naidu and Hardeep Singh Puri attended the meeting.

## ATF Prices Rise; Govt Caps Hike at 25% Amid Fuel Shock

To prevent a steep rise in airfares, public sector oil marketing companies, in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, implemented only a partial and staggered price increase

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a move aimed at protecting domestic air travel from a sharp global fuel shock, the government has limited the increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines to 25%, even as international benchmarks indicated a potential surge of over 100%. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the decision comes in response to an "extraordinary situ-

ation in global energy markets," triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

To prevent a steep rise in airfares, public sector oil marketing companies, in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, implemented only a partial and staggered increase. "ATF prices in India were deregulated in 2001 and are revised on monthly basis based on a formula of international benchmarks. Due to the closure of Strait of Hor-



muz and extraordinary situation in global energy markets, price of ATF for domestic markets was expected to increase by more than 100% on 1 April," the post read. "In

order to insulate the domestic travel costs from the substantial increase in international prices, PSU Oil Marketing Companies of the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with

Ministry of Civil Aviation, have passed only a partial and staggered increase of 25% (only Rs.15/litre) to the airlines," the Ministry further wrote on X. However, the government clarified that international flight operations will not receive similar relief. "Foreign routes will pay for the full increase in ATF prices consistent with what they pay in other parts of the world," the statement added.

According to the revised

rates effective April 1, 2026, ATF prices across major metro cities have risen notably. In Delhi, prices increased to ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre from ₹96,638.14 in March. Kolkata saw a jump to ₹1,09,450 from ₹99,587.14, while Mumbai's rates rose to ₹98,247 from ₹90,451.87. In Chennai, ATF is now priced at ₹1,09,873 compared to ₹1,00,280.49 last month. ATF prices in India have been deregulated

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ESTD - 1960

### ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

## Displaced farmers get bigger house plots as part of Kakatiya textile park rehab

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant relief measure, house site registration documents were distributed to farmers displaced by the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park (KMTP) in Warangal on Wednesday, April 1. The state government also enhanced the size of plots allotted to beneficiaries from 50 to 75 square yards, addressing long-standing demands for adequate housing space.

The documents were handed over at a formal event held in Geesukonda mandal, where Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, District Collector Satya Sharada, and Kakatiya Urban Development Authority



(KUDA) chairman Enagala Venkatram Reddy participated. The beneficiaries belong to Sangem village and have been affected by land acquisition for the textile park project. The allotted plots are located at Rajiv Gandhi Township, developed as part of the rehabilitation and resettlement package for displaced families. A total of 186

beneficiaries have been covered under this allotment process. According to MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, the initial allocation of 50 square yards per family was later revised to 75 square yards after intervention by Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. He had represented the issue to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, highlight-

ing the need for larger plots to enable families to construct sustainable homes. The government subsequently approved the enhancement. The MLA stated that the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park project has gained momentum under the current administration, with improved coordination between state and Union authorities helping to revive stalled progress.

He also assured that eligible members from displaced families would be provided employment opportunities within the textile park, contributing to their long-term rehabilitation. Infrastructure development at the Rajiv Gandhi Township is progressing rapidly, with works worth ₹80 crore currently underway. Planned facilities

include a primary school, primary health centre, gram panchayat office, veterinary hospital, cement concrete roads, culverts, and high-tension electricity lines. Additionally, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) clusters are being established to boost local economic activity.

Emphasizing the importance of planned development, the MLA warned that strict action would be taken against illegal layouts and encroachments in the township area. Authorities have been directed to ensure proper enforcement measures to safeguard the integrity of the rehabilitation project and provide a structured living environment for beneficiaries.

## KTR, Harish Rao hit back at Union Minister over Kaleshwaram remarks

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao and BRS LP deputy leader T Harish Rao gave a strong counter to Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patel over his remarks on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. Criticising the project during a discussion in the Rajya Sabha, the Union Minister said Rs 1 lakh crore public money was wasted on the project.

Taking to social media, Rama Rao opined that the Union Minister fell to false narratives of the Congress on the Kaleshwaram project which transformed Telangana's agrarian landscape. Citing official data, he said paddy production surged, groundwater levels improved, and cultivable land expanded significantly over the past decade because of



the project. "I can give a hundred other data points to tell you how Kaleshwaram empowered Telangana. Maybe it's time to fact-check, sir! (sic)" he said on X, calling it a true national project completed in the last decade.

Referring to the Union government's Economic Survey 2025-26, the BRS working president pointed to the increase in cultivable land from 1.31 crore acres to 2.2 crore acres, after the construction of the Kaleshwaram project. "You may call it waste to suit your political agenda sir, but for

Telangana Kaleshwaram is a massive win," he said, inviting the Union Minister to visit the project site to assess its impact firsthand.

Harish Rao also pointed to the continued flow of water through Kaleshwaram canals as evidence against allegations of wasteful expenditure. Sharing a selfie with BRS leaders at the project's canal network, he said the supply of Godavari River waters to regions such as Siddipet and Dubbaka even during the scorching summer indicated the project's effectiveness.

## Pedda Cheruvu Tank Bund Cleared Before Governance Drive

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With Telangana's "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranālīka" campaign set to launch on April 2, villages in Sangareddy are already mobilising. In Karchal, Sarpanch Kaapu Urmila Srinivas Reddy led a panchayat crew this week to clear thorny prosopis jungle from the Pedda Cheruvu tank bund, using an excavator and local volunteers to restore access to the water body.



The cleanup comes as the Sarpanch convenes a Gram Sabha on 02-04-2026 at 10 AM in the panchayat office,

part of the state's 99-Day Action Plan. Officials will brief residents on welfare-scheme imple-

mentation — Rythu Bandhu, housing assistance, pensions, free bus travel for women, ₹500 gas subsidies and farm-loan incentives — and invite village-level development proposals. The timing links local maintenance with the broader rollout, signaling that Karchal intends to enter the 99-day cycle with its tank bund cleared and villagers prepared to engage on service delivery.

## Flyover Works on NH-44: SP Janaki Issues Safety Directives at Rajapur

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Ensuring commuter safety during ongoing flyover construction, District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS, has issued strict guidelines for road diversions near Rajapur Town Center on National Highway-44. Emphasizing accident-free traffic flow, the SP directed contractor representatives to implement well-planned diversion routes without causing inconvenience to motorists. She instructed that all diversion points must be clearly marked with



proper warning boards, reflective stickers, signal lights, and barricades. Stressing the importance of visibility and precaution, she said these measures are essential to prevent mishaps, especially during night travel

and peak traffic hours. The SP further advised that diversion routes should be constructed in a safe and comfortable manner, ensuring smooth vehicle movement despite the ongoing flyover works. She also urged the

contractor company to expedite construction while maintaining strict safety standards.

Highlighting public safety as the top priority, SP Janaki warned that negligence in diversion arrangements would not be tolerated. The police department will closely monitor the execution of these safety measures. DSP Venkateswarlu, Jacharla Rural CI Nagarjuna Goud, Rajapur SI Rajasekhar, and contractor staff were present during the inspection and review meeting.

## Integrated Bhu Bharati Portal To Go Into Pilot Mode Today

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The state government will roll out the Integrated Bhu Bharati portal on a pilot basis in five mandals from Thursday. The portal, designed as a unified land records management system, integrates services ranging from surveying to registration on a single platform, enabling citizens to access complete land-related information through a single interface on their smartphones. Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the new portal was designed in line with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to provide a permanent solution to land disputes in the state. He described the portal as a revolutionary reform in

the revenue department, aimed at delivering transparent and hassle-free services to farmers by bringing the land, survey, and registration departments under one umbrella.

The pilot project will be implemented in Kusumanchi (Khammam district), Aswaraopeta (Bhadradri Kothagudem district), Amangal (Ranga Reddy district), Vatpally (Sangareddy district), and Kosgi (Narayanpet district) from April 2. Feedback from these mandals will be used to identify gaps and make necessary improvements before extending the initiative across the state. Currently on a tour in Kerala for Assembly elections campaigning, the minister conducted a tele-conference with revenue officials on Wednesday to

review arrangements for the launch. He instructed officials to ensure that the portal is designed from the farmers' perspective and that no inconvenience is caused to the general public, particularly the farming community. District collectors of the pilot areas have been directed to closely monitor the implementation. Within two days, notices are issued to adjacent landowners, and the survey date is finalised within a week. Surveys are conducted using advanced rover technology, replacing traditional tools such as chains and measuring tapes, ensuring faster and more accurate results. The survey data is then uploaded to the system and scrutinised by the mandal surveyor, followed by approval from the tahsildar.

## Singareni misses coal production target amid market slump

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), which is running in profits during the last two decades, failed to achieve its production target this time around. SCCL has fixed a target of 72 million tonnes for the financial year 2025-2026. Instead of a fixed target, about 58 million tonnes (81 percent) production was achieved.

Though 2.81 lakh tonnes of coal has to be produced every day across the company, only 1.90 lakh tonnes was produced due to various reasons. Except Sattupalli and Bellapally, production has come down in all other areas such as Kothagudem, Yellandu, Manugur, Ramagundam-I, II, III, APA and Bhupalapally. Lack of demand for Singareni coal in the market and delay in commencement of new coal mines are said to be the reasons for not achieving the target.

Anticipating lower production, SCCL authorities reportedly reset the target and reduced production in few areas in the wake of objections from thermal power stations to get Grade-14, 15, 16 variety coal. Grade-15 variety coal is widely being produced across the Singareni. However, there was no market for this variety. Moreover, thermal power stations are denying this variety on the grounds of poor quality.

## Podu Farmers Demand Land Rights, Warn of Protest

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

PI district secretary S.K. Sabir Pasha has demanded immediate issuance of land titles to poor podu cultivators and warned of protests if authorities fail to respond. Submitting a memorandum to the Forest Department on Wednesday, he urged officials not to harass farmers dependent on podu lands for livelihood. He alleged that digging trenches and plantation drives in cultivated lands across agency areas, including Bandegiri Nagar,



are disrupting livelihoods. Despite completion of land surveys in several areas, eligible farmers are yet to receive title deeds due to official negligence, he said. Pasha called for immediate distribution of pattas for surveyed lands and

freedom for farmers to continue cultivation. While opposing fresh podu expansion, he insisted that long-time cultivators must be granted legal rights. CPI leaders and local activists participated in the programme

## Dubbak MLA distributes CMRF cheques to 156 beneficiaries



Dubbak MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy distributed Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth Rs 34 lakh to 156 beneficiaries at his camp office on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the BRS MLA said that they were trying to help those who were in need through CMRF. Reddy called upon the people from his constituency to just walk into his office during office hours to get the application filed.

## Wesley Alumni Reunion Revives Memories, Unity

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Over 70 senior alumni of Wesley Boys High School, Secunderabad, gathered for the "High School Reunion-2026" at The Park, Somajiguda, celebrating decades-old friendships and shared memories. The event began with ceremonial lamp lighting and a tree plantation drive, symbolizing wisdom and a commitment to a greener future. Distinguished guests and classmates



participated, making the evening both nostalgic and meaningful. The reunion provided a platform to reconnect, revive school days, and strengthen bonds while embracing social responsibility. Attendees appreci-

ated the blend of tradition and forward-thinking values that defined the gathering. Organizers S. Jagmohan Singh and Kishore Katara ensured the event's success, making it a memorable occasion for all participants.

## Sainika Group Empowers Rural Youth, 175 Secure Defense Jobs

**Dr. Lokesh Mudiraj, a young man from Siddipet district, has mentored 175 candidates to become employees in the Central Forces within the country's defense sector**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Dr. Arige Lokesh Mudhiraj from Gambheerpur village in Dubbak Mandal has emerged as a driving force in youth empowerment through his initiative, 'Sainika Group'. Launched on March 21, 2022, via WhatsApp, the platform has grown rapidly, supporting over 9,000 defense aspirants from the Telugu states. Notably, 175 candidates have already secured jobs in central forces like CISF, BSF, and CRPF.

The initiative focuses on helping economically disadvantaged youth by providing free study materials,



exam updates, and guidance, eliminating the need for expensive coaching. This has opened doors for rural aspirants striving to join the armed and paramilitary forces. To ensure wider reach, Lokesh has

built a structured network across Telangana with district-wise in-charges who coordinate activities at the grassroots level. These teams not only guide aspirants but also conduct awareness campaigns against drug abuse and betting apps.

In partnership with the 'Bhavishya Bharat' NGO, the group provides 60 days of free food, accommodation, and physical training under retired army personnel, boosting candidates' preparedness. Recognized by multiple record organizations, Lokesh now aims to expand the initiative further with government support, aspiring to transform more rural youth into soldiers.

**Early Bird Property Tax Scheme in CURE Area**

The Early Bird scheme for 2026-27 has commenced in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area, offering a five per cent discount on property tax if dues for the current financial year are paid in full by April 30. The scheme is applicable across Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC), but not on arrears. In 2025-26, the three corporations together collected ₹2,558.80 crore in property tax, with CMC generating the highest revenue at ₹1,000.36 crore, followed by GHMC (₹995.82 crore) and MMC (₹562 crore). On March 31 alone, ₹162.94 crore was collected, while the month's total stood at ₹453.98 crore. Additionally, under the one-time settlement scheme, ₹548 crore was collected that day, including ₹233 crore from GHMC, ₹189 crore from CMC and ₹126 crore from MMC.

**Hyderabad Police Launch 'Day with CP' Student Initiative**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad City Police on Wednesday launched a 45-day student outreach programme titled "A Day with the CP" to promote awareness about policing and encourage social responsibility among government school students. The initiative was inaugurated by Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar at the CCS office in Basheerbagh. Under the programme, 20 meritorious students — 10 boys and 10 girls — from Classes 8 to 10 in government schools across Hyderabad will participate each day from 10 am to 6 pm, gaining firsthand exposure to police operations. On the



opening day, students from Mangalhat Government School interacted with the commissioner through a video conference on security arrangements for the Sri Veera Hanuman Vijay Yathra. Students also observed grievance redressal proceedings, where complainants presented their cases and officials explained the legal process in detail. As part of the programme, participants visited key police units including the Integrated Command and Control

Centre in Banjara Hills, the main control room, IT Cell, Special Branch, SHE Teams, Cyber Crime Wing, and CAR headquarters. Senior officers briefed students on the role of technology in crime prevention, women's safety initiatives, and the responsibilities involved in maintaining law and order. The sessions aimed to provide practical insights into modern policing systems and public service functions. Addressing the partici-

pants, Sajjanar stated that the police force is not merely meant for crime control but functions as a service-oriented system ensuring public safety and social security. He emphasised that the programme seeks to instill respect for the law and build responsible citizenship among young students. The initiative also educates participants on social issues such as cybercrime and drug abuse while fostering trust in the policing system. Certificates and books were distributed to the students at the end of the session. The programme is being coordinated by Dr Lavanya and her team from the Women Safety Wing, according to an official release.

**TG GST Collections Hit ₹60,840Cr**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana has recorded steady growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections and registrations during 2025-26, reflecting improving economic activity and stronger tax compliance across the state, according to the data released by Centre on Wednesday. The number of GST registrations (GSTINs) in Telangana rose significantly to 3,21,043 as of March 31, 2026, compared to 2,48,378 in the previous year, indicating a robust expansion of the taxpayer base. During the financial year April 2025 to March 2026, the state generated a total GST revenue of ₹60,840 crore. Of this, Central GST (CGST) accounted for ₹18,212 crore, State GST (SGST) contributed ₹22,685 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) stood at ₹19,943 crore, pointing



to a balanced contribution across tax components. In terms of growth, CGST collections increased by 10.3 per cent, while SGST grew by 4.9 per cent, resulting in an overall GST growth of 7.4 per cent during the year. The figures highlight a stable upward trend in revenue mobilisation. Monthly data for March 2026 also showed strong performance. Pre-settlement SGST collections rose sharply from ₹1,822 crore in March 2025 to ₹2,168 crore in March 2026, registering a 19 per cent growth, well above the national average. Post-settlement SGST collections increased from ₹3,685 crore

to ₹4,020 crore, marking a 9 per cent growth, again outperforming national trends. On an annual basis, Telangana maintained consistent growth in SGST collections. Pre-settlement SGST increased from ₹21,292 crore in 2024-25 to ₹22,685 crore in 2025-26, reflecting a 7 per cent rise, while post-settlement SGST grew from ₹44,025 crore to ₹46,202 crore, registering a 5 per cent increase. Officials noted that the higher growth in pre-settlement SGST indicates strong underlying tax generation, while steady post-settlement growth reflects stable revenue realisation after adjustments. They opine Telangana's GST performance points to solid fiscal health, sustained economic momentum and improved compliance, with growth rates broadly in line with or exceeding national averages in key segments.

**Youth Betrayed, Opportunities Denied: Kalvakuntla Kavitha**

Telangana Jagruthi President alleges systematic job suppression through GOs

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha delivered a fierce critique of the state government, accusing it of "institutionalizing injustice" against unemployed youth by using Government Orders (GOs) as tools to restrict fair recruitment. Speaking at the Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills, Kavitha said that what should have been a transparent hiring process has now turned into a "policy maze" designed to filter out genuine candidates. She alleged that GO No. 4, linked to degree lecturer recruitment, introduces biased evaluation criteria such as excessive weightage for PhD holders and discretionary interview marks, thereby undermining merit. She argued that this is not an isolated case but part of a broader pattern. According to her, GO 104 (DSC), GO 29 (Group services), GO 46 (Police recruitment), and GO 81 (Gurukul institutions) are collectively restricting access to jobs for lakhs of aspirants. "Instead of opening doors, the government is building walls through



"skewed priorities." She questioned why massive allocations are being made to projects like the Musi river while essential support systems remain underfunded. Jagruthi Youth Wing Vice President Ravi Rathod echoed similar concerns, stating that unemployment has reached a critical stage and that the government's inaction is deepening frustration among youth. He warned that delays in notifications and results are eroding trust in the system. The issue of ration cards also came under sharp criticism, with leaders alleging that the government is attempting to remove lakhs of beneficiaries on technical grounds such as income tax filings or minor private employment. They termed the move unjust and harmful to economically weaker sections. Kavitha demanded an immediate rollback of all controversial GOs and called for a fair, transparent, and time-bound recruitment process. She made it clear that if corrective steps are not taken, Telangana Jagruthi will intensify its agitation and take the fight to the grassroots.

highlighting systemic gaps, she pointed out that the State Eligibility Test (SET) has not been conducted for the last three years, leaving many candidates ineligible despite years of preparation. She also criticized the delay in releasing results of key recruitment exams, stating that such lapses are causing uncertainty and distress among aspirants. On the welfare side, Kavitha alleged that students and vulnerable sections are being neglected. She cited unpaid fee reimbursements, irregular salaries for anganwadi workers, and discontinued maternal welfare schemes as examples of the government's

**Primary Graduation Day Celebrated with Multilingual Performances**

MESCO Grades High School Primary Graduation Day Celebrated with Multilingual Student Performances

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

MESCO Grades High School celebrated its Primary Graduation Day with great enthusiasm, marking a proud milestone for students, parents, and faculty. The event was held in the esteemed presence of Honorary Secretary Dr. Mohammad Iftekhar Uddin and Dr. Iftekhar Hussain, HOD ALEEF MESCO, who applauded the young graduates for their achievements. The highlight of the Cele-



bration was a series of vibrant student performances presented in four languages—English, Urdu, Arabic, and Telugu. Students impressed the audience with their confidence, fluency, and

strong command over each language, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic and multilingual education. Their performances received wide appreciation from dignitaries and parents alike.



The program showcased not only academic progress but also the cultural and linguistic talents nurtured within the institution. The presence of esteemed guests added significance to the occa-

sion, encouraging students to continue striving for excellence. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of graduation certificates to the young learners. The moment marked a proud transition in their academic journey, leaving parents delighted and teachers gratified. Overall, the event stood as a memorable celebration of learning, growth, and achievement, reinforcing the school's dedication to shaping confident and capable individuals.

**Grand Hindu Sammelan to Be Held in Hyderabad on April 19**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant initiative aimed at preserving Hindu (Dharma), culture, and traditions while strengthening social unity, a grand Hindu Sammelan is set to take place on April 19 at 5:00 PM. The event will be at the premises of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Ashok Nagar, Uppuguda, Hyderabad. The organizers formally release the invitation for this prestigious gathering today under the leadership of Committee President Sri Penta Reddy, Secretary Bhikshapathi, Treas-



urer Sumanth Reddy, and Ashok Nagar Basti Chairman Srihari. Addressing the gathering, the leaders emphasized that the time has come for the Hindu community to stand united and urged every Hindu to actively participate in the event. The Sammelan will feature a rich lineup of activities, including spiritual discourses, patriotic songs, cultural perform-

ances, and devotional bhajans. Organizers expressed that the primary objective of the program is to spread a message of unity and cultural pride among the Hindu community. They have extended a warm invitation to all Hindu brothers and sisters to attend the event in large numbers along with their families and contribute to making it a grand success.

**CBIT Students Win Second Prize at SYNERGIA 2026**



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Students of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) secured second prize at SYNERGIA 2026, a national-level technical fest held at BVRIT College of Engineering for Women on March 30-31, 2026. The team—P. Vamsi, M. Aditya Ram, A. Charan Teja (MCA), and M. Srinath (CET)—excelled in the "EMBEDX" event, earning a cash prize of ₹5,000.

Their achievement underscores strong technical skills, innovation, and teamwork. Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, MCA Head Dr. B. Indra, and faculty members congratulated the students, praising their dedication and performance. The institute lauded the team for bringing recognition to CBIT and expressed confidence in their continued success in future competitions.

**Fire Safety Drill Held at Mahbubnagar Clinic**

**MAHBUBNAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

In a proactive step to strengthen emergency preparedness, the Mahbubnagar Fire Department conducted a fire safety awareness and mock drill at Sri Susheela Medical Clinic under the leadership of District Fire Officer (DFO) P. Kishore. The drill focused on equipping hospital staff with essential firefighting skills and emergency response techniques. Fire personnel demonstrated "First Aid Fire Fighting"



methods and explained how to handle fire accidents effectively during the initial critical moments. Addressing the participants, DFO P. Kishore stressed that preventing fire accidents through awareness and training is as important as respond-

ing to emergencies. He highlighted the department's ongoing efforts to educate the public and institutions on fire safety measures. During the session, the team showcased the proper usage of firefighting equipment, ensuring that staff members under-

stand how to act quickly and responsibly in case of a fire. The training aimed to empower hospital employees to function as first responders until professional help arrives. The initiative received appreciation from the medical staff, who acknowledged the importance of such drills in safeguarding lives and property. The Fire Department reaffirmed its commitment to conducting similar awareness programs across the district to enhance public safety.

**Seenaiiah Panel Promises Transparent Jubilee Hills Governance**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A new independent team, Seenaiiah's Growth & Governance Panel, led by Bollineni Seenaiiah, has entered the Jubilee Hills Co-operative House Building Society elections, promising transparent, accountable, and future-ready leadership. The panel was unveiled at a press conference in Banjara Hills, where it positioned itself as a fresh alternative with no association to previous groups. Seenaiiah said the team is



committed to integrity, structured governance, and prioritizing members' needs while ensuring the society's long-term development. Emphasizing changing member expectations, the panel called for a shift towards transparent admin-

istration, improved service delivery, and planned infrastructure development. It assured members of continuous accessibility, respect for all existing memberships, and strict adherence to society rules, particularly in handling newly admitted

memberships. Outlining its vision, the panel aims to preserve the prestige and heritage of Jubilee Hills Society while transforming it into one of the country's leading residential communities. Its mission focuses on efficient governance, timely maintenance, and a member-first approach in decision-making. Key priorities include enhancing administrative transparency, strengthening infrastructure, and implementing structured long-term growth plans.

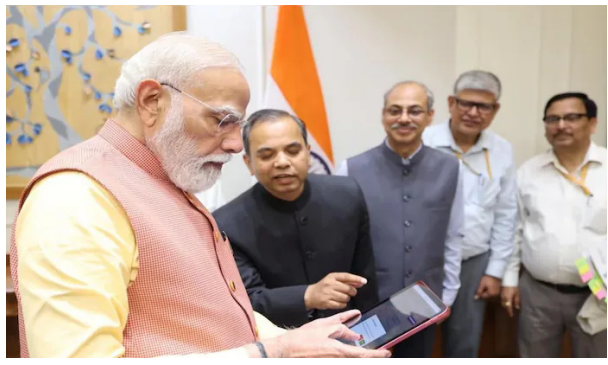
# PM Modi, President Murmu Complete Self-Enumeration On First Day Of Census 2027

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The first day of self-enumeration under Census 2027 in the national capital on Wednesday saw hundreds of persons including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking part in the exercise.

The exercise, to be concluded on April 15, was kicked off in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi Cantonment Board areas. According to officials, 1,000 people logged in to the Census portal and the app for self-enumeration by the evening, out of which around 500 completed the process.

"Officials visited the residences of the president of India, the prime minister and the vice president to



assist them in completing their self-enumeration. The exercise will also cover other constitutional authorities and ministers in the coming days," said a senior officer of the Delhi revenue department. The entire process, being undertaken digitally, did not receive any major complaints of technical issues, he said. Prime Minister Modi completed his self-enumeration and appealed to people to participate in the Census process. The last Census of India was conducted in 2011. Census 2027 will be

the 16th in the series and the eighth since Independence.

In other areas of the city falling under Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) jurisdiction, the self-enumeration exercise will take place from May 1 to 15.

Self-enumeration has been introduced in the current and 16th Census of India, allowing people to submit information through a Census portal. According to a senior government officer associated with the work, all preparations for the House

Listing and Operations (HLO) phase, including the formation of teams and training of personnel, have been completed.

In Delhi, the HLO exercise will take place in two 30-day windows.

The NDMC and Delhi Cantonment areas will undergo the exercise from April 16 to May 15, and the MCD areas from May 16 to June 15.

Self-enumeration is a secure web-based facility by which respondents can enter their information online in 16 languages before the door-to-door survey under the HLO exercise, officials said.

They said individuals can log in using the CMMS app or the official portal [www.se.census.gov.in](http://www.se.census.gov.in) to complete the process, which is expected to take about 15-20 minutes.

The Delhi divisional commissioner will function as the census com-

missioner, assisted by the 13 district magistrates (DMs) at the district level. Apart from revenue officials, personnel from other departments will be part of the Census teams that will conduct the door-to-door survey.

Delhi has been divided into multiple 'charges' -- 250 in MCD areas, nine in NDMC regions and one in the Delhi Cantonment -- each led by a designated officer.

In NDMC zones, these responsibilities will be handled by additional district magistrates and chief engineers, with a separate 'charge' created for VVIP areas, including locations housing key constitutional authorities.

The cantonment will have its own dedicated officials, while in the MCD areas, the 'charge' officers will largely be school principals.

# Russian Deputy PM To Visit India for Talks

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Denis Manturov, will visit New Delhi on Thursday for high-level talks with the Indian leadership amid ongoing energy cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold separate meetings with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit follows the bilateral summit held in December last year during Vladimir Putin's visit to India. Russian officials are expecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Russia later this year for the next summit.

In a parallel engagement, Secretary of the



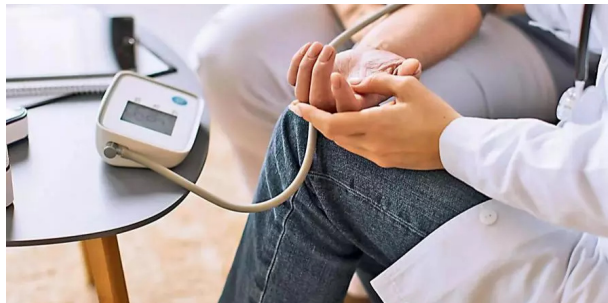
General Council of United Russia, Vladimir Yakushev, is also visiting India this week. He will meet Indian parliamentarians and Jaishankar to discuss inter-parliamentary, trade, economic and cultural cooperation. The visit comes days after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, during which bilateral ties and regional and global is-

ssues were reviewed, including developments in West Asia. Earlier, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said India deserves "deepest respect" for pursuing an independent foreign policy based on strategic autonomy. In a virtual address to a conference on bilateral ties, Jaishankar said both countries aim to increase annual trade from \$68.7 billion to \$100 billion by 2030 in a balanced and sustainable manner.

# 9.61% Army JCOs/OR have Hypertension: PAC

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Public Accounts Committee has noted that 9.61 per cent of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks (JCOs/OR) in the Indian Army were affected by hypertension, based on data up to December 31, 2023. In its report tabled in Parliament, the Committee cited a submission by the Ministry of Defence stating that the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes among JCOs/OR stood at 9.61



per cent and 2.78 per cent respectively, which is nearly half of the corresponding figures in the general population.

The ministry said the lower prevalence compared to national averages -- 18.3 per cent for hypertension and 4.9 per

cent for diabetes as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) -- reflects ongoing health promotion measures and preventive policies within the armed forces. The panel, however, reiterated concerns over lifestyle diseases contributing to

disability among personnel and sought comprehensive data, including root cause analysis and effectiveness of remedial measures. It also observed that medical officers show a higher incidence of such conditions, attributing it to irregular working hours and early detection due to domain knowledge. The Committee has asked the ministry to provide further details on disability patterns across ranks and the impact of measures taken to address lifestyle-related ailments.

# India Begins Long-Delayed Census, Read to Know Why it Matters

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India has begun the world's largest national population count, which could reshape welfare programs and political representation across the country. The previous census in 2011 recorded a population of 1.21 billion. It's now estimated to be more than 1.4 billion, making India the most populous nation. The new census had been planned for 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical challenges. Counting more than 1.4 billion people the first

phase of the count started Wednesday and will roll out around the country through September. The workers will spend about a month in each area collecting information on homes and available facilities and will document housing stock and living conditions.

The exercise will blend in-person surveys with a digital option where residents can submit information through a multilingual smartphone application that integrates satellite-based mapping. The second phase to be conducted from September to next April 1 will record more detailed in-

formation, like people's social and economic characteristics, including religion and caste.

More than 3 million government workers are expected to be deployed over the course of the year. In 2011, nearly 2.7 million enumerators surveyed more than 240 million households nationwide. A politically sensitive caste count The second phase of the census will attempt a broader accounting of caste beyond historically marginalized groups. Caste is an ancient system of social hierarchy in India and is influential in defining social standing and deciding

who gets access to resources, education and economic opportunity. There are hundreds of caste groups based on occupation and economic status across India, particularly among Hindus, but the country has limited or outdated data on how many people belong to them. The last attempt to gather detailed caste information through a census dates to 1931, during British colonial rule. Since independent India's first census in 1951, it counted only Dalits and Adivasis, members of marginalized groups known as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

# Will Bring Together 35 Nations, Take Steps To Reopen Hormuz Strait: UK PM

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The UK will host an international diplomatic conference this week on ways to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. He further stated that 35 countries have signed a statement committing to work together on restoring maritime security to the key oil transport route.

The meeting will "assess all viable diplomatic and political measures that we can take to restore freedom of navigation, guarantee the safety of trapped ships and seafarers and resume the movement of vital commodities", Starmer said.

"Following that meeting, we will also convene our military planners to look at how we can marshal our capabilities and make the strait accessible and safe after the fighting has stopped," he added. Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands are among those to have signed it.

The British PM said the impact of the war would "define us for a genera-



tion" and could be similar to the increase in energy prices in the 1970s.

Starmer's comments come after repeated criticism from US President Donald Trump and a day after the Republican leader told off countries that did not help America in strikes against Iran to "go get your own oil".

"All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the U.S., we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT", Trump wrote.

Trump criticised European countries that refused to join the war against Iran, calling out Britain and France, as

transatlantic relations deteriorate from the conflict that has driven up energy prices.

The president warned Britain and other countries to "start learning how to fight for yourself" because the US "won't be there to help you anymore".

After Starmer refused to join the US-Israeli war on Iran, his relationship with Trump publicly deteriorated.

Starmer initially denied a request from the US to attack Iran from two British bases but later agreed to allow what he calls defensive missions aimed at protecting residents of the region, including British citizens.

Asked about Trump's criticism, Starmer said, "the US and UK are close allies and have been for a very, very long time" and he would act in the British

## 24 BRS MLAs.....

IEA head Fatih Birol said the main issue so far from Iran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz was the lack of jet fuel and diesel that was already a problem in Asia and would hit Europe in April or May. Businesses around the world are struggling, with cosmetics and tea among the latest sectors to report difficulties. However, global stocks rallied and oil prices reversed gains on Wednesday as hopes of a de-escalation fuelled the biggest rebound in regional equities in more than three years. Higher fuel prices are already weighing on U.S. household finances before the November midterm elections, with two-thirds of Americans believing the U.S. should work to exit the Iran war quickly, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

Drones hit fuel tanks at Kuwait's international airport, causing a big blaze, and authorities in Bahrain reported a fire at an undisclosed company facility from an Iranian attack. Qatar said an oil tanker leased to state-owned QatarEnergy was hit by an Iranian cruise missile in Qatari waters, but that there were no injuries or environmental damage. An overnight strike hit Shahid Haghani Port, Iran's largest passenger terminal, deputy regional governor Ahmad Nafisi told state media, calling it a "criminal" attack on civilian infrastructure. Iran has fired repeatedly on Gulf countries, some home to US bases, during the conflict, and is using the Strait of Hormuz, a

conduit for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas, as a bargaining chip. Iran's Revolutionary Guards have threatened to hit US companies in the region including Microsoft, Google, Apple, Intel, IBM, Tesla and Boeing, from 8 pm Tehran time on Wednesday. Trump has said he was not concerned.

## ATF Prices Rise.....;

According to the revised rates effective April 1, 2026, ATF prices across major metro cities have risen notably. In Delhi, prices increased to ₹1,04,927 per kilolitre from ₹96,638.14 in March. Kolkata saw a jump to ₹1,09,450 from ₹99,587.14, while Mumbai's rates rose to ₹98,247 from ₹90,451.87. In Chennai, ATF is now priced at ₹1,09,873 compared to ₹1,00,280.49 last month. ATF prices in India have been de-regulated since 2001 and are revised monthly based on international benchmarks.

The intervention comes amid an extraordinary global energy situation triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil transit chokepoint. Earlier today, the prices of LPG cylinders have been revised upward with effect from April 1, with commercial and smaller cylinders witnessing a significant increase across key cities. In Delhi, the price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased to Rs 2,078.50, marking a rise of Rs 195.50. Meanwhile, the 5 kg FTL cylinder is now priced at Rs 549 per refill, reflecting an increase of Rs 51, sources said. In Kolkata, the price of a 19 kg commercial LPG

## FROM FRONT PAGE

cylinder has gone up by Rs 218, indicating a broader trend of rising fuel costs across urban centres. Meanwhile, domestic cooking gas LPG rates, which were last hiked by Rs 60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, remain unchanged. It costs Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi. The latest revision comes against the backdrop of escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, involving the United States, Israel and Iran, which has led to a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key global transit route for crude oil and energy supplies.

## Lok Sabha Passes...

Congress MP Manickam Tagore extended unequivocal support to the Bill, urging the Centre to allocate sufficient funds to build Amaravati into a world-class capital. However, he flagged the pending promise of special category status for Andhra Pradesh and called for the fulfilment of all assurances made at the time of bifurcation. Jana Sena MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry announced his party's full support, stating that Amaravati had emerged under "compelling circumstances" following the 2014 bifurcation. He criticised the previous government for creating hurdles and insisted that the people-backed capital must remain permanent.

Voicing strong criticism, Vizianagaram MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu said it was "unfortunate" that while most parties supported the Bill, the YSRC opposed it. He alleged that YSRC members staged a walkout in the Lok

Sabha, thereby "insulting the sacrifices of farmers" who contributed land for the capital. BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari observed that Amaravati became the capital under unavoidable circumstances following what she termed an "irrational bifurcation."

## Bill on Legal Status...

Speaking at a Jain community event in Mumbai, the monk claimed that Maharani Tararani, the legendary Maratha queen who fought against Aurangzeb, belonged to the Jain community. He said that Tararani was born "to destroy Aurangzeb."

"When Muhammad Ghori invaded the country, a Jain queen of Mewar drew her sword. After that, for many years, no one dared to raise an eye on our country. Taking up the sword to protect traditions and culture is called religion.

Vikramaditya helped free the entire India. Aurangzeb captured and mistreated Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. At that time, another Jain queen was born, and she was Tararani," said Padmasagar. Maharani Tararani was the daughter of Hambirrao Mohite, the commander-in-chief of the Maratha empire. After the deaths of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and Rajaram Maharaj, Tararani led the fight against Aurangzeb and later established the throne at Kolhapur. Her contributions are widely recognized as a symbol of Maratha leadership and resistance.

## CRIME

### Illegal High-Rises Trigger Urban Crisis in Serilingampally

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Unchecked illegal constructions in Sri Ram Nagar under the Serilingampally zone have sparked widespread outrage, with residents blaming the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Urban Planning Department for administrative failure and alleged corruption. Residents allege that developers are openly violating building norms by constructing 6-7 floors on plots permitted for only 2-3, primarily to maximize rental income. This has not only resulted in significant revenue loss to GHMC but also exposed glaring lapses in enforcement by officials, including the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant City Planner, and Town Planning authorities. Despite repeated complaints through the "Praja Vani" grievance system, locals say no meaningful action has been taken. The inaction has raised serious concerns about whether officials are merely negligent or complicit in allowing unauthorized



constructions to flourish. The impact of these violations is now visible across Raghavendra Colony and Sri Ram Nagar A, B, and C Blocks. Basic infrastructure is struggling to cope with the sudden population surge caused by high-density illegal buildings. Residents report frequent water shortages, clogged drainage systems, and severe traffic congestion due to the absence of mandated parking spaces. In many cases, constructions are being carried out on small plots

ranging between 100 and 300 square yards without adhering to setbacks or safety norms, further worsening living conditions. Citizens warn that such unregulated growth could lead to long-term environmental and civic hazards if not addressed immediately. The controversy has intensified following specific complaints about illegal structures at Plot Nos. 331, 332, and 1015, where authorities have allegedly failed to intervene. This has fueled public anger, especially among senior citizens and retired officials who accuse the Urban Planning Department of prioritizing builder interests over public welfare. Residents are now demanding urgent corrective measures, including demolition of unauthorized floors, strict penalties against negligent officials, and a comprehensive audit of all ongoing constructions in the Kondapur division. "The builders profit, but citizens suffer with water scarcity, blocked roads, and poor sanitation," said a concerned resident, questioning the accountability of civic authorities.

## EDITORIAL

### TELANGANA'S BOLD INITIATIVE SAFEGUARDING THE GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Aftab Ahmed

In a progressive and much-needed move, the Telangana Legislative Assembly passed the Telangana Advocates Protection Bill, 2026 on March 30, 2026, by voice vote. This landmark legislation, piloted by Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, demonstrates the Congress government's strong commitment to strengthening the justice delivery system by protecting those who form its backbone — the advocates. The bill addresses longstanding concerns of the legal fraternity regarding rising incidents of violence, threats, harassment and intimidation against lawyers while they discharge their professional duties. It also extends protection to their family members and introduces comprehensive welfare measures. The timing is significant, coming in the backdrop of tragic incidents like the daylight murder of advocate couple Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife Nagamani, which had deeply shocked the legal community and society at large. The Telangana Advocates Protection Bill, 2026, is not just reactive but holistic. It prohibits acts of violence, assault, criminal intimidation, harassment and even malicious prosecution (filing false cases to harass advocates). Importantly, the bill provides for police protection to advocates facing credible threats. It establishes a robust grievance redressal mechanism through committees at state,



**The Telangana Advocates Protection Bill, 2026, is not just reactive but holistic. It prohibits acts of violence, assault, criminal intimidation, harassment and even malicious prosecution (filing false cases to harass advocates).**

district and mandal levels, with the state-level committee chaired by the Chief Justice, ensuring swift and impartial resolution of complaints. On the welfare front, the government has shown genuine care for the legal profession's well-being. The bill includes provisions for insurance coverage, health cards for eligible advocates to reduce financial vulnerabilities and infrastructure development under the 'Nyaya Nirman' initiative. Special focus has been given to facilities for women advocates in Bar Associations. These measures collectively aim to ensure that advocates can practice their

profession fearlessly, upholding the dignity and independence of the Bar while strengthening public trust in the judicial system. The passage of this bill reflects the proactive and people-centric approach of the Revanth Reddy-led government. The Cabinet had cleared the proposal on March 23, 2026, showing how swiftly the administration moved from intent to legislation. Minister Sridhar Babu rightly described it as a "big step" for the safety and dignity of advocates. The Telangana Bar Council has welcomed the initiative, appreciating the government's intention to safeguard the legal fraternity's security and professional environment. This legislation positions Telangana as a forward-thinking state that values the rule of law and protects its key stakeholders in the justice ecosystem. By ensuring advocates are secure, the government is indirectly strengthening access to justice for every citizen of Telangana. A fearless Bar leads to a more robust and equitable legal system. This bill, passed alongside the Gig Workers' Welfare Bill, underscores the state's broader vision of inclusive welfare and protection for all sections contributing to society. The government continues to deliver on its promise of good governance, social justice and institutional strengthening. Telangana has set a commendable example for other states to follow. This is not merely a law — it is a powerful message that the guardians of justice will themselves be guarded with dignity and resolve. (The Writer is a Political Analyst and Strategist)

### Arbitrary Freezing of Bank Accounts Violates Fundamental Rights: HC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has made it clear that although statutes empower investigative agencies to direct banks to freeze accounts during the course of an investigation, such powers cannot be exercised arbitrarily or indefinitely without due process and justification. Justice E.V. Venugopal noted that freezing a bank account in the absence of cogent reasons or a prima facie link to a cognisable offence would amount to a serious infringement of fundamental rights. The court held

that such actions violated the right to livelihood and the freedom to carry on trade and business under Article 19(1)(g), as well as the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. The judge was dealing with a petition filed by Khammam-based Bottle Restaurant and Bar, whose bank account had been frozen following instructions from the cybercrime wing police of Etawah district in Uttar Pradesh. The petitioner establishment contended that it had no connection with the alleged offence under investigation and that its name.

### Flat Building Contractor writ plea dismissed

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin dismissed writ appeals challenging cancellation of allotment of an unfinished residential tower in a housing project at Pocharam. The appeals were filed by Mahandi Builders and several flat purchasers questioning the action of Telangana Rajiv Swagruha Corporation Limited in cancelling the allotment of

a residential tower and forfeiting the amount paid. The corporation allotted the unfinished tower consisting of 120 flats to the builder for about ₹29.51 crore under an "as-is-where-is" condition, requiring payment of 10 per cent of the amount initially and the balance within 120 days. The builder paid the initial amount with a delay and failed to pay the remaining consideration even after extensions were granted. The corporation thereafter cancelled the allotment and forfeited the amount paid.

### Cops arrest fake dentist in Neredmet

A case was registered by Neredmet police against a fake doctor for running a dental clinic without valid licence. Acting on a tip-off, a team conducted a surprise inspection at Anjalika Dental Clinic located in Satya Aditya Towers near Three Temple Street. During the inspection, it was found that the clinic was being operated for more than 10-year without obtaining permissions from the department concerned. Police identified the accused as Gupta Ramesh Kumar, who was found practicing modern dentistry without BDS degree. Officials said the accused was misleading the public by falsely claiming that he was holding a BDS degree and thereby putting the lives of patients at risk.

### Mahabubnagar Police Bust Prostitution Racket, Arrest Several

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Mahabubnagar police busted a prostitution racket on April 1, 2026, arresting several individuals and rescuing women during a surprise raid by the Two-Town Police. Acting on credible information, the operation was conducted under DSP Venkateswarlu, with Inspector Ejazuddin leading the team at Sri Sai Balaji Towers, Flat No. 309. The alleged kingpin, Santosh Reddy, escaped and is currently absconding, while his associate Ajay was arrested. Several customers present at the premises were also taken into custody. Police rescued the women and ensured they received necessary support and counseling.



Officials seized mobile phones and other incriminating materials from the site. A case has been registered under Crime No. 87/2026, under Sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), and a manhunt is underway to nab the main accused. DSP Venkateswarlu stressed zero tolerance toward such crimes, while SP D. Janaki praised the police team for their effective action.

### Spurious pickle unit busted in Jiyaguda

In a joint operation, the Task Force Golconda team and Kulsumpura police raided manufacturing units in Venkatesh Nagar, Jiyaguda, on Tuesday and arrested one person for producing and supplying spurious pickles. Raw material and property worth ₹3 lakh were seized. Police said K. Ravinder, 62, was manufacturing pickles without a valid licence, using low-quality ingredients in unhygienic conditions. Additional DCP Task Force Anand Srinivas Rao stated that stale mangoes and lemons were being preserved with rock salt and supplied to kirana stores, restaurants, and hotels. Officials warned that consumption of such pickles could pose serious health risks.

### Mahabubnagar Police Ban DJs for Hanuman Jayanti Processions

**MAHABUBNAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

In a firm move to ensure peace and public safety during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, the Mahabubnagar Police have imposed a strict ban on the use of DJs in all Shobhayatra processions across the town. Authorities warned that any violation of this order will invite strict legal action. Acting on the directives of District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS, One Town Inspector Appayya convened a meeting with DJ operators at the Mahabubnagar One Town Police Station on



Wednesday. During the meeting, he issued clear instructions prohibiting the use of high-volume DJ systems during the religious processions, citing concerns over law and order, noise disturbances, and public safety. Inspector Appayya emphasized

that the decision was taken as a precautionary measure to maintain communal harmony and avoid any untoward incidents during the festival. He made it clear that the police department would closely monitor the processions and take immedi-

ate action against anyone found violating the guidelines. As part of enforcement, all DJ owners within the town limits were formally bonded over in the presence of the Mahabubnagar Urban Tahsildar, ensuring their compliance with the orders. This step reinforces the administration's commitment to strict implementation. The police have urged organizers and the public to cooperate with the authorities and celebrate the festival responsibly, contributing to a peaceful and harmonious environment across Mahabubnagar.



# Rupee gains 15 paise against US dollar in early trade amid positive market cues

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee strengthened by 15 paise to 94.70 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, supported by positive domestic equity markets and a softer greenback overseas. However, the currency continued to face underlying pressure from rising crude oil prices and persistent foreign fund outflows, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a strong note at 93.62 but later pared gains to trade at 94.70, marking a modest recovery from its previous close of 94.85 — an all-time low recorded on Monday after breaching



the 95-per-dollar mark for the first time. Markets remained closed on Tuesday on account of Mahavir Jayanti. The recent movement in the rupee comes amid regulatory tightening by the Reserve Bank of India, which has capped banks' Net Open Position (NOP-INR) at USD 100 million through a circular issued on March 27, with compliance mandated by April 10. This measure has

prompted banks to reduce their exposure to currency volatility. Globally, the dollar index — which tracks the US currency against a basket of six major currencies — slipped 0.13 per cent to 99.63, offering some relief to emerging market currencies including the rupee.

However, elevated crude oil prices continued to weigh on sentiment, with Brent crude

rising 1.50 per cent to USD 105.53 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic front, equity markets surged sharply, lending support to the rupee. The Sensex jumped 1,722.48 points (2.39 per cent) to 73,670.03, while the Nifty advanced 540.55 points (2.42 per cent) to 22,871.95 in early trade. The rally was driven by optimism over easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Market sentiment improved after US President Donald Trump indicated that American military actions against Iran could conclude within two to three weeks, raising hopes of reduced disruptions in global oil supply routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz. Despite the equity

rally, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers, offloading equities worth ₹11,163.06 crore on Monday, adding pressure on the rupee. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman maintained that India's economic fundamentals remain strong, asserting that the rupee is performing relatively well compared to other emerging market currencies. Since the onset of the West Asia conflict on February 28, 2026, the rupee has depreciated over 4 per cent. On a broader scale, it has weakened nearly 10 per cent against the US dollar during the 2025–26 financial year, reflecting sustained external pressures despite intermittent recoveries.

# Global Headwinds Test India Inc Credit Stability

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

India Inc's credit outlook is turning cautious as global headwinds intensify, even though overall resilience remains intact. According to CareEdge Ratings, the credit ratio — measuring upgrades versus downgrades — moderated to 1.93 in H2FY26 from 2.56 in H1FY26, signalling early stress despite staying above the 10-year average of 1.55. A total of 363 entities saw upgrades, while 188 were downgraded during the period. The downgrade rate held at 7%, below the long-term average of 10%, but upgrades slowed to 13% from the historical 15%, indicating selective improve-

ment. Reaffirmations remained strong at 80%, reflecting stability across most rated entities. This stability is supported by sustained corporate deleveraging, with gearing significantly reduced to 0.50 times as of March 2025 from 1.04 in 2016. However, rising geopolitical tensions, particularly the West Asia conflict, pose fresh risks. CareEdge warns that if crude oil averages \$100 per barrel in FY2027, India's GDP growth could dip to 6.5%, while inflation may rise to 5.1–5.3%, impacting fiscal and external balances.

Sectorally, manufacturing and services improved with a credit ratio of 2.06, driven by pharmaceuticals, auto ancillaries, real estate

leasing, hospitality, and healthcare. Conversely, chemicals, seafood exporters, and small commodity players faced pressure.

Infrastructure saw normalization to 1.67 due to base effects, though fundamentals remain stable.

The BFSI sector improved to 2.25, supported by strong NBFC performance and stable banks, with stress limited to smaller lenders. Going forward, MSMEs and export-linked sectors remain most vulnerable. While strong balance sheets and domestic demand provide a cushion, prolonged global disruptions, energy risks, and trade uncertainties could keep credit quality range-bound in the near term

# Israeli defence firm supplies first batch of light machine guns to India

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) has delivered the first batch of 2,000 Negev 7.62×51 (LMGs) to India under the 'Make in India' initiative, marking a significant milestone in defence cooperation between the two nations. The delivery forms part of a larger contract for 41,000 units, with an additional 4,000 LMGs scheduled for supply later this

year. The manufacturing and delivery were carried out by PLR Systems, a joint venture between IWI and India's Adani Group. Notably, PLR Systems has emerged as the first private sector company in India to manufacture small arms and ammunition domestically. The development follows the successful completion of technology transfer from Israel, a crucial component of the 'Make in India' pro-

gramme aimed at strengthening indigenous defence production capabilities. According to IWI, the delivery highlights its commitment to adhering to contractual timelines while maintaining high-quality standards. It also reflects a broader effort to support India's evolving defence manufacturing ecosystem by enabling local production of advanced weapon systems. The Negev 7.62×51 LMG is widely regarded



as one of the lightest weapons in its class. Currently deployed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the weapon is designed to operate effectively in extreme and harsh environments. It offers both

semi-automatic and fully automatic firing modes, ensuring operational versatility across combat scenarios. Its lightweight structure, combined with the use of 7.62 mm ammunition, enhances its ability to penetrate for-

tified structures, making it particularly suitable for urban warfare and critical combat missions. The weapon is also adaptable for mounting on helicopters, ground vehicles, and naval platforms, providing flexibility across multiple operational domains. Equipped with Picatinny rails and tritium night sights, the LMG is optimized for improved targeting, especially in low-light conditions. Additionally,

its compliance with NATO standards ensures durability and reliability. The system is also compatible with computerized fire-control systems, enabling soldiers to engage targets with greater precision, even under stressful conditions.

In a further boost to defence ties, PLR Systems has secured another major contract to supply 170,000 close-quarter battle (CQB) carbines to Indian forces, with the

first 18,000 units expected to be delivered this year. This expansion reflects the deepening strategic partnership between India and Israel. The development follows a bilateral agreement signed in November last year to enhance defence, industrial, and technological cooperation, paving the way for increased co-development and co-production of advanced military systems.

# Rs 2,000 banknotes withdrawal nears completion, says RBI

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced that 98.45% of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes have been returned to the banking system, reflecting the near-completion of the currency withdrawal process initiated in 2023. As per official data, the total value of ₹2,000 notes in circulation has dropped drastically from ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023 — the day the with-

drawal was announced — to just ₹5,501 crore as of March 31, 2026.

This sharp decline underscores the public's active participation in returning the high-value currency notes. The RBI had announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes as part of its currency management strategy, aiming to streamline circulation and reduce reliance on high-denomination cash. Despite this move, the central bank has reiterated that ₹2,000 notes continue to remain legal tender, meaning they are still



valid for transactions. To ensure a smooth transition, the RBI has provided multiple avenues for the public to return or deposit these notes.

Since May 2023, exchange facilities have been available at 19 designated RBI issue offices across the country. From October 9, 2023, these of-

fices have also been accepting ₹2,000 notes for direct deposit into bank accounts. In addition, the RBI has enabled a convenient option through India Post.

Members of the public can send ₹2,000 notes from any post office to RBI issue offices, where the amount is credited to their bank accounts. The central bank reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a hassle-free process while continuing efforts to optimize currency circulation across the economy.

# CBDT hails new Income Tax Act as milestone towards Viksit Bharat

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025 from April 1, 2026, marks a significant milestone in India's taxation system, replacing the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961 and ushering in a more streamlined and user-friendly framework. According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the new legislation represents a major step toward simplifying tax compliance while supporting the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. One of the key highlights of the new Act is the reduction in the volume and complexity of the law. By adopting simpler language, a reorganized structure, and a clearer presentation, the Act aims to make tax provisions more accessible to taxpayers, professionals, and administrators alike. Importantly, while the format and readability have been significantly im-



proved, the core tax policies and principles remain unchanged, ensuring continuity and stability.

A major reform introduced under the new law is the replacement of the traditional "previous year" and "assessment year" system with a unified "tax year" concept. This change is expected to eliminate confusion and make compliance easier, especially for individual taxpayers and small businesses who often find the earlier terminology difficult to navigate. The transition to the new regime has been carefully planned to ensure minimal disruption. The Income Tax Department has confirmed that its e-filing portal will support compliance

under both the old and new laws during the transition period. All ongoing assessments, appeals, and proceedings related to earlier financial years will continue under the provisions of the 1961 Act until their resolution. Taxpayers filing returns for Assessment Year 2026–27—covering income earned under the old system—will continue to use forms prescribed under the earlier law.

However, advance tax payments for the Tax Year 2026–27, starting June 2026, will be governed by the new Act. Another taxpayer-friendly provision is the allowance for claiming TDS refunds even when Income Tax Returns are filed after the deadline, without incurring penalties. Overall, the new Act seeks to enhance transparency, reduce compliance burden, and modernize India's tax administration system.

# Mahindra reports 21 per cent growth in March auto sales

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian prominent automobile manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra on Wednesday announced that overall auto sales for March 2026 stood at 99,969 vehicles, marking a growth of 21 per cent including exports.

Utility Vehicles domestic sales touched 60,272 units in March, up 25 per cent, while overall UV sales including exports reached 62,109 units. Domestic Commercial Vehicles sales for the month were 24,928, marking a growth of 11 per cent.

The company reported year-to-date exports rising 18 per



cent to 40,990, while total exports eased 4 per cent year-on-year to 3,968 vehicles in March.

The financial year concluded with all-time-high volumes of 6,60,276 SUVs and 2,89,597 light commercial vehicles under 3.5 tonnes, delivering robust YoY growth of 20 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, across both

segments, the company said in a release.

"In March, we achieved SUV sales of 60,272 units, a growth of 25 per cent and light commercial vehicles under 3.5 tonnes of 24,928 units, a growth of 11 per cent YoY," said Nalinikanth Gollapunta, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd. Passenger vehicle domestic sales for March comprised 60,272 UVs, and no cars or vans were reported in the release.

In the commercial vehicle and three-wheeler mix, LCVs under 2 tonnes remained stable at 3,526 in March, while LCVs in the 2–3.5 tonne segment rose 13 per cent to 21,402. Three-wheeler

sales, including electric three-wheelers, surged 39 per cent to 10,801 in March, and YTD volumes for three-wheelers reached 1,12,003, up 30 per cent. The company had reported strong sales growth in February 2026, with overall auto sales rising 18 per cent year-on-year to 97,177 vehicles, including exports. The company said its UV segment remained a key driver of growth. Mahindra sold 60,018 SUVs in the domestic market, registering a 19 per cent increase compared to the same month last year. Following this, shares of M&M were trading at Rs 3,051, an increase of 3 per cent on the NSE on Wednesday noon.

Wake Up Telangana | HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | APRIL 2, 2026

# Dhurandhar Tops Chetak Screen Awards Nominations

The Indian Express Group's Screen Academy has announced nominations for the 2026 Chetak Screen Awards, with Dhurandhar emerging as the frontrunner with 24 nominations ahead of the April 5 ceremony. Close behind are Saiyaara with 17 nods and Homebound with 15, reflecting a competitive year for both theatrical and OTT releases. The awards, established in 1995, continue to emphasize credibility and transparency. Governed by the Screen Academy—an independent, not-for-profit body of over 50 filmmakers and artists—the selection process saw participation from more than 95% of members. Each category was evaluated by an average of 38–40 jurors using a trimmed mean scoring method to ensure fairness. Adding further rigor, Professor Priya Jaikumar of the University of Southern California designed a detailed evaluation rubric. In a significant shift, this



year's ceremony will be broadcast live for the first time in two decades. Through a partnership with YouTube, the event will reach global audiences, alongside telecasts on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony Liv. Top acting nominations feature prominent performances across cinema and OTT. In the Best Actor (Male) category,

Ranveer Singh for Dhurandhar, Vicky Kaushal for Chhaava, and Vishal Jethwa for Homebound lead a strong lineup. The Best Actor (Female) category includes Triptii Dimri, Yami Gautam Dhar, and Konkona Sen Sharma among others. In direction, Aditya Dhar (Dhurandhar), Mohit Suri (Saiyaara), and Neeraj Ghaywan

(Homebound) headline the nominations, underscoring their films' dominance this year. Technical categories also highlight Dhurandhar's strength, with nominations spanning cinematography, editing, costume, and dialogue. Meanwhile, Homebound and Saiyaara have secured multiple mentions across key creative fields, indicating their broad critical acclaim.

The Best Film category presents a diverse mix, including Dhadak 2, Dhurandhar, Haq, Homebound, Saiyaara, Sitaare Zameen Par, Superboys of Malegaon, and Chhaava. This wide-ranging list reflects the evolving landscape of Indian storytelling, where both mainstream cinema and nuanced narratives find equal recognition. With strong contenders across categories and a renewed focus on global accessibility, the 2026 Chetak Screen Awards promise a landmark celebration of Indian cinema and digital storytelling.

# Rishab Unfollows Everyone on Instagram

MUMBAI  
Wakeup telangana

Rishab Shetty, best known for the blockbuster Kantara, has reportedly entered a self-imposed "hermit mode" as he prepares for the next phase of his career. The actor has unfollowed nearly everyone on Instagram, keeping only his wife on his list, and has stepped away from social engagements to concentrate fully on his craft. The move comes after the success of Kantara: The First Chapter and ahead of his debut in Tollywood with *Jai Hanuman*. Currently fluent only in Kannada, Rishab is said to be dedicating significant time and effort to mastering Telugu to ensure authenticity in his performance. According to sources close to the actor, he has hired a professional lin-



guistic and voice coach. His goal is not just to learn the language, but to perfect pronunciation, diction, and emotional inflections. He reportedly believes that even minor flaws in delivery could affect audience connection, especially in a language-driven industry like Telugu cinema. To achieve this level of pre-

cision, Rishab has consciously cut down distractions and is focusing intensely on training. In addition to Telugu, he is also working on improving his Hindi, as he is on the verge of signing his first project in the language. This disciplined approach reflects his commitment to evolving as a pan-Indian actor.

# Extended 7.5-hour Dhurandhar director's cut may release in theatres on April 5



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Rumours around filmmaker Aditya Dhar's ambitious 7.5-hour director's cut of "Dhurandhar", starring Ranveer Singh, have sparked curiosity online, with claims suggesting a limited theatrical release on April 5.

As per reports, the extended version combines the duology 'Dhurandhar' and Dhurandhar: The Revenge' has surfaced through a CBFC certificate dated March 31, 2026.

However, when IANS reached out to the makers, they were unavailable for comment. There is still no clarity or official statement regarding the ongoing news. As per a source close to IANS, this could also be an April Fool's joke.

Dhurandhar stars Ranveer Singh, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, R. Madhavan, Sara Arjun, Rakesh Bedi, Gaurav Gera and Danish Pandor.

Backed by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, the film will be showcased in pre-

mium formats including IMAX and Dolby Cinema, with select theatres hosting two shows per weekend.

Originally envisioned and shot as a single film, the project was later split into two parts for its theatrical release due to its length. The curated director's cut stitches the narrative back together, offering a seamless and more immersive viewing experience spanning 450 minutes.

The screenings reportedly will feature three intervals, English subtitles,

and technical enhancements such as clearer vocals.

Talking about Dhurandhar: The Revenge, the film, as of March 30, it raked in a staggering Rs. 1,365 crore worldwide since its release on March 19. A tweet from the film's banner Jio Studios on X shared a day-wise break-up that the Ranveer Singh-starrer collected Rs. 867 crore in India NBOC, with a strong hold beyond its opening week, adding Rs. 53 crore on Day 8, Rs. 42 crore on Day 9, Rs. 64 crore on

Day 10, and Rs. 71 crore on Day 11.

Globally, the film has amassed a whopping Rs. 1,365 crore gross, including Rs. 1,023 crore from India and Rs. 342 crore from overseas markets. The first part of the duology, which released in December 5, 2025, too was a box-office success, grossing over Rs. 1,000 crore worldwide within three weeks of its release.

The first part centres on a high-stakes covert counter-terrorism operation.

# Rizvi's unbeaten fifty steadies Delhi ship as Capitals crush LSG

MULLANPUR  
Wakeup telangana

Sameer Rizvi gave ample display of his talent, coming in as an 'Impact Substitute', as Delhi Capitals cantered home by six wickets against Lucknow Super Giants despite initial stutters to make a winning start in the IPL here on Wednesday.

Chasing a lowly target of 142, DC were reduced to 26 for 4 within first five overs but Rizvi (70 not out off 47 balls), substituting T Natarajan, conjured an unbroken 119-run stand for the fifth wicket with the seasoned Tristan Stubbs (39 not out off 32 balls) to ensure full points in just 17.1 overs. Rizvi showed exemplary maturity as he first saw off a spell from Mohammed Shami (1/28 in 4 overs), Mohsin Khan (1/19 in 4 overs) and Prince Yadav (2/20 in 3 overs). In all, he hit five fours and four sixes to make a chase look ridiculously easy on a seamer-friendly track.

Once he played the ramp shot over keeper's head for a six off Anrich



Nortje, he opened up. The turning point was Shahbaz Ahmed's lone over — the 10th of the DC innings. Rizvi slog swept him behind square, pulled him to the square leg and tickled one through fine leg with 16 coming off that over. After that, there was no stopping Rizvi, who lofted Aiden Markram over long-on and pulled Mohsin for good measure as he slowly and surely knocked the stuffing out of LSG's sails.

To defend a small total, LSG needed early breakthroughs and Shami was

right on the money as KL Rahul was gone for first-ball duck trying to slash one over point. Mohsin, who was playing his first game in one year, got one to bounce a tad bit extra and had Nitish Rana caught at slip. Pathum Nissanka's first game ended in a disappointing note as he mistimed a pull off Prince Yadav with Rishabh Pant taking a well judged catch running backwards. DC's most dependable player, their skipper Axar Patel got a beauty from Prince Yadav, a delivery

that tailed in getting him clean bowled.

But then, Rizvi and Stubbs had other ideas as they slowly and surely ensured an impressive win. Earlier, LSG put up an embarrassing batting display with some questionable tactical calls to be shot out for 141 in 18.4 overs after Delhi Capitals skipper Axar opted to bowl first.

Even though the Ekana Stadium wicket wasn't a belter, there couldn't be any tangible excuse for LSG unit for its pathetic batting display.

A fit-again T Natarajan (3/29 in 4 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (2/31 in 4 overs) and the brilliant Lungi Ngidi (3/27 in 3.4 overs), who bowled perhaps a contender for the 'ball of the tournament', made life miserable for the home team, which looked as bad on field as it had seemed on paper as per the pre-tournament predictions.

Captain Rishabh Pant, in a surprising move from the team's perspective, broke a successful opening pair of Aiden Markram and Mitchell March and promoted himself.

# AMF Para Cyclists Win 11 Asian Medals

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian para cycling team, trained under the Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF), delivered an exceptional performance at the Asian Track Championships 2026 in the Philippines, securing a total of 11 medals and reinforcing India's rising stature in international para cycling. Competing against participants from 11 countries at the Tagaytay Velodrome, the AMF-trained cyclists clinched 7 silver and 4 bronze medals, marking a significant milestone for the nation in track cycling. The achievement highlights the effectiveness of structured training, scientific preparation, and consistent athlete support provided by the foundation. Leading the charge, cyclist Vishwa showcased remarkable consistency and endurance across multiple events, earning five silver medals in the



Para cyclists trained at the Aditya Mehta Foundation (L-R - Backrow) Anshuman, Aabid, Aaryavardhan, Arshad, Sameer, Jalaluddin; (L-R - front row) Vishva Vasani, Lisha, Pavan Kumar with Dr. Asha, Performance Director, Team Aditya Mehta Foundation; at the Asian Track Championships 2026, held at the Tagaytay Velodrome, Philippines.

1km Time Trial, Elimination Race, Sprint, Scratch Race, and Individual Pursuit. His performance reflected discipline, tactical execution, and strong competitive spirit against top international contenders. Lisha further boosted India's medal tally with an impressive all-round performance, securing two silver medals in the Elimination Race and Sprint, along with three bronze medals in the 1km Time Trial, Scratch Race, and Individual Pur-

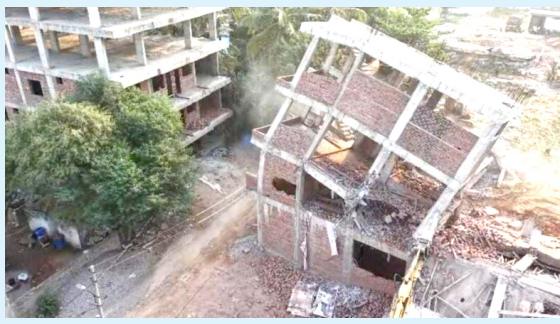
suit. Her achievement underlined versatility and resilience across both speed and endurance events.

Adding to the success, Pavan Kumar contributed a bronze medal in the Elimination Race, emphasizing the growing depth of talent within India's para cycling ecosystem. The collective performance of the athletes demonstrated not only individual excellence but also the steady emergence of India as a com-

petitive force in para track cycling. This accomplishment reflects the Aditya Mehta Foundation's commitment to nurturing para-athletes through world-class infrastructure, expert coaching, and holistic development programs. The foundation's high-performance training environment continues to produce athletes capable of competing and excelling on global platforms. AMF

also acknowledged the support of its partners — Invesco, Alcon, Gmmco, NTT Data Business Solutions, and Flutter Entertainment India — whose contributions have been instrumental in enabling athletes to compete at the highest level. The strong medal haul at the Asian Track Championships signals India's growing competitive edge and promises an even brighter future for para cycling on the international stage.

## HYDRAA demolishes illegal constructions on playground land



The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) on Wednesday said its teams had demolished illegal structures built on a playground earmarked in an HMDA-approved layout at Shastripuram Colony in Old City (Mailardevpally). According to a press release, Hydraa teams pulled down five buildings under construction, each planned as G 3 floors, along with two single-room structures. As per the layout, more than 1,800 plots were allocated, with 6,500 square yards designated for a playground. The Hydraa, on receiving complaints from locals that encroachers were selling plots for the past three years without permission, inspected the site along with GHMC and revenue officials and confirmed the land was earmarked for a sports field. On Wednesday, Hydraa demolished the encroachments, including the five buildings under construction and the two small-room structures, while sparing two other buildings that were already occupied, an official said.

## Hyderabad ORR toll plazas introduce QR code payments to cut cash use



In line with Central government orders, 19 toll plazas on Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road (ORR) will now accept payments through QR codes to reduce reliance on cash transactions. In a major step towards modernising highway travel, NHAI is implementing a complete ban on cash payments at toll plazas across the country. From April 1, commuters will have to pay toll charges only through digital modes such as FASTag or UPI. The move is aimed at improving efficiency and bringing more transparency to toll collection on national highways and expressways. Officials believe that a fully digital system will help vehicles pass through toll plazas faster, reducing long queues and saving travel time. With the removal of cash lanes, authorities expect a smoother flow of traffic, especially during peak hours. Faster processing at toll booths is also likely to cut fuel consumption and reduce vehicle emissions, contributing to a cleaner environment. However, the transition may cause inconvenience for some travellers, particularly those who are not prepared for digital payments. Vehicles without a valid FASTag or sufficient balance may face penalties or could even be stopped at toll plazas. In such cases, commuters will have the option to make instant payments using UPI by scanning QR codes available at toll booths. But officials have warned that network issues could sometimes affect these transactions, leading to delays. To avoid disruptions, travellers are advised to ensure that their FASTag is active, properly linked to their bank account, and has enough balance before starting their journey.

# Hyderabad Marks Transgender Visibility Day

Speakers across government and civil society framed the day as more than symbolic

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad marked International Transgender Day of Visibility with a public programme on Wednesday that foregrounded dignity, access, and institutional accountability, amid debate over the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026. Addressing the gathering, Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar emphasised that the day represents more than celebration. "It is a day of self-respect and recognition," he said, assuring continued institutional support until equal respect is ensured. The event, held at Little Flower High School in Abids, was organised by the Queer Bandhu Parents Association (QBPA) in



C. V. Anand participated in the International Transgender Day of Visibility programme at Little Flower School in Hyderabad, organized by the Queer Bandhu Parents Association in collaboration with the Montfort Social Institute, Vasavi Kinnar Welfare Society, and Prajwala,

collaboration with Montfort Social Institute, Vasavi Kinnar Welfare Society, and Prajwala. It brought together government officials, civil society groups, parents, and members of the transgender community. Anita Ramachandran,

Secretary to the Government, Women Development and Child Welfare, highlighted ongoing efforts in employment and identity documentation but stressed the need to ensure these processes uphold dignity and inclusion

in practice. Divya Devarajan, CEO of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, noted that institutional mechanisms like the Transgender Welfare Board emerged through sustained dialogue and collective advocacy, strengthening community engagement with the state. QBPA representative Mala Mukunda underlined the role of families and systems, stating that true progress lies beyond visibility—in acceptance, access, and everyday dignity. The programme also featured cultural performances, community felicitations, and the release of QBPA's report Building Circles of Care, documenting work in healthcare, legal access, livelihoods, and awareness.

## Traffic Restrictions for Hanuman Jayanti Vijaya Yatra

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Traffic diversions will be in place from 9 am to 8 pm on Thursday in connection with the Sri Hanuman Jayanti Vijaya Yatra procession across various parts of the twin cities, the Hyderabad Traffic Police said. Diversions will be enforced at Gowliguda Ram Mandir, Putlibowli crossroads, Narayanguda crossroads, Chikkadpally crossroads, RTC crossroads, Ashoknagar, Gandhinagar,

backside of Viceroy Hotel, Sattva Necklace Mall, Kavadi Guda, CGO Towers, Bansilalpet road, Bible House, Ghasmandi, City Light Hotel, Bata, Ujjaini Mahankali Temple and between Old Ramgopalpet Police Station and Paradise crossroads.

Commuters have been advised to avoid the procession routes during the notified hours and plan travel accordingly. Traffic police said updates will be available on the Hyderabad Traffic Police

Facebook page and on X handle @HYDTP. In case of emergency, commuters may contact the traffic helpline at 9010203626. The diversions and road closures will be lifted after the procession passes through the respective points. Suggested routes between 9 am and 2 pm: Commuters travelling from Lakdikapal towards Dilsukhnagar or the Old City via Koti, Bank Street and Chaderghat have been advised to take the route along Basheerbagh,

Old MLA Quarters, Himayatnagar Y junction, Narayanaguda flyover, Barkathpura, Tourist junction, Nimboliadda, Chaderghat causeway and Nalgonda crossroads. Those travelling from Dilsukhnagar towards Mehdiapatnam via Koti and DM&HS have been advised to travel via LB Nagar, Uppal, Tamaka and Secunderabad or alternatively via LB Nagar, Aramghar, Attapur and Mehdiapatnam.

## Economic Offences Wing police station set up in Malkajgiri



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

An Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Police Station was inaugurated at the Police Quarters in Neredmet in Malkajgiri by Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty on Wednesday, April 1. The EOW police station will register cases of financial fraud involving cheating, criminal breach of trust and fabrication of documents where the fraud exceeds Rs 2 crore. It also addresses the cases under the Telangana State Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments Act,

1999 (as amended in 2023), involving amounts above Rs 1 crore, and any other cases as directed by the commissioner of police, Malkajgiri. Aninash Mohanty formally launched the police station's operations by making a General Diary (GD) entry. The EOW police station will presently run under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Road Safety, K Manohar, with two Assistant Commissioners of Police, P Sathiaiah and C Anjaiah, and 3 Inspectors, K Bhaskar, A Surya Nayak and K Ravi Kumar.

## Paediatrician Seeks Apology Over ORSL Renaming

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad-based paediatrician Dr Sivaranjani Santosh has demanded that companies manufacturing ORSL drinks, now renamed as ERZL electrolyte drinks, issue an unconditional public apology to families. She also said the products should be rebranded clearly to remove confusion and state that such drinks are not meant for children. Addressing a virtual conference on Wednesday, Dr Santosh said there is still confusion among consumers. She pointed out that medical stores continue to sell ERZL over the counter, as the product has

been reintroduced with minimal changes in packaging and branding, which may mislead buyers. She urged the government to ensure better coordination between regulatory bodies such as the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. She also called for restrictions on the sale of non-ORS drinks in pharmacies. Dr Santosh stressed that diarrhoea remains a major cause of child deaths, claiming 4.5 lakh to 5.5 lakh lives globally every year, including around 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh in India, making it the third leading cause of death among children under five.

## Deadly Herbicide Paraquat Banned in Telangana

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government on Wednesday banned the sale of paraquat herbicide, which is claimed to have resulted in many deaths in the state, with immediate effect for 60 days. This is the maximum period a state can ban an agrochemical under the provisions of the Insecticide Act of 1968, and can extend the ban for another 30 days. A permanent ban on the use of pesticides or herbicides can be imposed only by the Central gov-



ernment. On March 30, the Telangana Assembly had already passed a resolution requesting the Central government to ban Paraquat. Agriculture minister Tummala Nagewara Rao who moved the resolution, is learnt to have ensured that the ban orders were issued. The state government's ban will apply to the distribution, stocking, selling, and

manufacturing of paraquat dichloride and its derivatives and formulations. The government, in its orders, said the decision was taken following feedback and reports on the adverse impacts of the herbicide on human and animal health, and in view of the health of farmers exposed to the chemical. The orders said the director of agriculture will take further action on implementing the ban and initiate stringent action against anyone who violates the ban order. While the ban will take the agrochemical away

from shelves, the agriculture minister, soon after the government orders were issued, initiated measures to stop the sale of Paraquat or its derivatives on e-commerce platforms on which the herbicide has been freely available and could be ordered by anyone. Earlier, the demand for banning paraquat in the state was also taken to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by the Telangana agriculture commission chairman M. Kodanda Reddy, following which Revanth Reddy assured him that the issue would be pursued.

## Chicken Shops Shut Over Margin Row

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chicken shops across Telangana shut down from Wednesday, April 1, as traders launched a statewide protest demanding higher commissions amid rising operational costs. The Telangana State Chicken Shop Owners Association called for an indefinite bandh, with nearly 2.5 lakh retailers expected to participate in a 'mahadharna'. The protest stems from declining profit margins, with traders alleging that poultry companies reduced their commission from Rs 26 per kg to Rs 16 per kg, making business unsustainable. Association president

Gaddameedi Raju said retailers are seeking a revision to Rs 40 per kg to offset increased expenses on electricity, labour, and transportation. In a public notice, the association accused poultry firms of imposing unfair pricing practices, pushing small traders into financial distress. Shop owners have urged consumers to cooperate during the shutdown. Leaders also appealed to the Telangana government to intervene and facilitate discussions with poultry companies to ensure fair margins and stable pricing. The strike will continue until their demands are addressed, raising concerns over supply disruptions.

## Advocate Qurram Ali Meets Legal Dignitaries at HC Event



Advocate Mir Qurram Ali, Chairman of the Society for Civil Legal Aid, met with Telangana High Court elected President Sudheer Reddy and Advocate General of Telangana A. Sudarshan Reddy, along with Advocate Khaja Vizarath Ali and Supreme Court Advocate Mirza Asad Ali Baig, during the Telangana High Court Advocates' Association "Annual & Cultural Day Celebrations" held at the High Court for the State of Telangana.



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