



Harish Challenges Congress Got Over Crop Loan Waiver Failure: P2



Punjab Kings Beat LSG By 54 Runs, Remain Unbeaten: P7



KTR Pays Tribute To Statehood Activist 'Telangana Sattemma': P3



Modi Puts Bengal 'Goon' On Notice

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday warned the Trinamul Congress "syndicates" of "elimination" in a "permanent surgery" if the BJP forms a government in West Bengal after the Assembly elections. He also gave the ruling TMC "goons" a "last chance" to surrender to the police before April 29, the date of the second and last phase of the polls in the state. Modi issued the warnings while campaigning for BJP candidates in four western districts - Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram and West Midnapore, known as Jangal Mahal - to woo the local tribal population after they backed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamul Congress in the last Lok Sabha polls. Addressing the rally, Modi said: "Bengal has several tribal and backward communities, but no home has been built for them because a nirmam sarkar of TMC here



is anti-tribal and an enemy of tribals. I'm aware of the pain of the farmers here. As long as the TMC syndicate rules the markets, farmers will face exploitation. No industry will flourish here if the loot by the syndicate continues. You vote for Lotus (the BJP symbol), and the BJP will perform a permanent surgery on this syndicate." Modi added: "I'm giving a last chance to all the goons, syndicates and corrupt leaders of the TMC. Surrender at your respective police stations before April 29 or even April 23 because none will be spared after May 4. The sand, stone and coal mafia of Bishnupur should know that no illegal business will not be tolerated." In a bid to

project the saffron party as a credible alternative to the ruling TMC, Modi claimed that Santhali language and culture have been neglected by the Mamata government for its appeasement politics towards infiltrators who have caused a "demographic change" in the belt. Sharpening his salvo on the present dispensation, Modi alleged: "The TMC has done a PhD in looting the people. But I assure you that the BJP government will take everyone along and ensure development for all but will hold the oppressors and looters fully accountable. From my own experience, I can see no chance of the TMC coming to power this time." Modi further accused the TMC of not supporting the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in Parliament to stop women's representation from growing in public life. "They fear that if more women MLAs are elected, they will raise their voice for their rights.

I-Pac Halts Work in WB, TMC Denies



The Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), the political consulting firm of Trinamul Congress, has halted its operations in West Bengal "with immediate effect" and asked its employees to go for a 20-day leave, dealing a blow to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party barely four days before the two-phase polls start in the state. The I-PAC's move came after the Enforcement Directorate arrested co-founder V. Chandel for alleged money-laundering in a case linked to coal smuggling scam and summoned two family members of the firm's director, Pratik Jain to New Delhi for questioning. While the I-PAC remained silent, the TMC denied any halt in the firm's work. Banerjee, however, accused the BJP of trying to shut down I-PAC in a "conspiracy" and offered the firm's merger with TMC and jobs to its staff. On Saturday night, I-PAC human resources department stated in an email to its staff, "In view of certain legal issues, management has decided to pause operations in West Bengal with immediate effect."

Firecracker Mishap In Tamil Nadu Kills 23 People

The blast occurred when about 30 workers were engaged in routine manufacturing related processes at the firecrackers unit at Kattanarpatti

TAMIL NADU
Wakeup telangana



At least 23 people were charred to death, and six others sustained grievous injuries following a massive explosion at a private firecracker manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu's Vachakarapatti, police said on Sunday. The explosion occurred at the 'Vanaja' fireworks factory owned by one Muthumanickam, in Kattanarpatti near here. The place is located within the Vachakarapatti police station limits. According to police and fire rescue officials, four of the six injured are in critical condition and are undergoing treatment at the Virudhunagar Government Medical College Hospital. Preliminary investigations suggest that the unit reportedly holds a license from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Nagpur. Over 100 labourers were reportedly engaged in work in the complex. The blast is believed to have originated in the front veranda area, where workers were

allegedly handling raw materials and giving finishing to the firecrackers. The impact of the blast was so severe that at least three rooms were reduced to rubble, and several adjacent structures were completely levelled. "We have recovered 18 bodies so far, many of which were charred beyond recognition," a police official told PTI. Of the six injured, three are women and have sustained 60 per cent burn injuries, the official added. Sources said fire and rescue services personnel battled the flames for several hours. Rescue operations were significantly hampered as crackers continued to burst long after the initial explosion. There are fears that more workers may be trapped under the debris. This incident marks the deadliest industrial accident in the region this year. It comes just days after a similar blast in the Vembakottai area of the same district that claimed four lives. Further details are awaited as the search and rescue operation continues. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed his sorrow and said he rushed two ministers to the site to expedite rescue operations. In a post on X, he said, "The tragic news of the deaths of several people in the firecracker unit explosion that occurred in Kattanarpatti, Virudhunagar district, causes immense sorrow. My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives".

Indian Team To Reach Washington On April 20 For India-US Trade Talk

The India-US trade discussion is back on track as a team of dozen officers from India will reach Washington on April 20 for three-day talks with the US authorities on the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Both sides are expected to re-look at the framework of the agreement as the tariff landscape has changed in the US, according to the official sources. Following the decision of the US Supreme Court against the sweeping tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on a number of countries; the Trump administration imposed a 10 per cent tariff on all countries from February 24 for 150 days. "The meeting will happen from April 20-22 in Washington DC. India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain (additional

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

US Negotiators Will Be in Pakistan on Monday for Talks: Trump

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The US president's post on social media Sunday did not detail which official the U.S. would send to a second round of in-person talks with Iran in Islamabad. The White House and the office of Vice President JD Vance, who led the first round of talks, did not immediately respond to messages Sunday morning. Trump in his post accused Iran of violating the ceasefire agreement by firing bul-



Iranian authorities had said that they are not yet ready to hold a new round of face-to-face talks with US officials, a senior Iranian official said Saturday, citing Washington's refusal to abandon "maximalist" demands on key issues

lets Saturday in the Strait of Hormuz, and threatened to destroy civilian infrastructure in Iran if it

does not take the deal the U.S. is offering. "If they don't, the United States is going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran," Trump wrote. Iranian authorities had said that they are not yet ready to hold a new round of face-to-face talks with US officials, a senior Iranian official said Saturday, citing Washington's refusal to abandon "maximalist" demands on key issues.

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

State To Run 100 E-Buses To Connect MMTS Stations

DOHA
Wakeup telangana

The municipal administration (MA&UD) department is planning to procure 100 electric buses to connect to the railway Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) stations as a part of its proposal seeking free travel on the train service. These buses will also offer free services. Sources said the department within the next

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Area (HMA) and Urban Development Department & Sports Department, Government of Telangana has formally submitted a proposal to the South Central Railway for implementation of a free ridership scheme for all categories of passengers using MMTS services

two to three days would send a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) to the South Central Railway (SCR) seeking free travel on MMTS trains and offering to pay for the

charges. If the Railway Board gives the green signal, the free MMTS service, along with free connecting bus service, will start from Telangana Formation Day on June 2. This is part of the government's proposals aimed at reducing traffic congestion and reducing pollution by encouraging public transport. The state government has proposed to pay SCR ₹10 crore annually to reimburse it for

▶ FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 2

Indian Tanker Clears Hormuz as Two Vessels Turn Back After Firing

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

An Indian-flagged crude tanker safely transited the Strait of Hormuz even as two other vessels were forced to turn back after being fired at, prompting New Delhi to raise concerns with Iran over the safety of merchant shipping. Crude oil tanker Desh Garima, with 31 Indian seafarers onboard, crossed the strategic waterway on April 18 and is expected to reach Mumbai on April 22, according to an update released by the government on developments in West Asia. Shipping

Corporation of India (SCI) tanker is the 10th India-flagged vessel to have crossed the strait since early March. In contrast, very large crude carrier Samnar Herad and bulk carrier Jag Arnav reported a firing incident while transiting the strait in the past 24 hours and returned to the Persian Gulf. No injuries were reported among the crew. MarineTraffic data showed oil tankers Desh Vaibhav and Desh Vibhor also reversing course near the chokepoint, taking the number of India-flagged ships in the Persian Gulf to 14.

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ESTD 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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CM Revanth Asks Gov. To Hurry Up MLC Seat For Azhar

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla against the backdrop of the fast-approaching April 30 deadline to nominate minorities minister Md Azharuddin to the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota to avoid disqualification from the Cabinet. The Chief Minister, according to sources, explained to Governor Shukla that the Supreme

Court did not issue any order preventing the latter from clearing the nomination of Azharuddin and Prof. M. Kodandaram. The file pertaining to their nomination has been pending with Lok Bhavan for several months. Sources said some clarity would emerge on April 22 when the ongoing case was listed for hearing in the Supreme Court. The government is likely to seek a clarification from the apex court once again on nominating Azharuddin and Prof. Kodandaram



under the Governor's quota, sources added IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu and adviser Vem Narender Reddy, MP, accompanied the Chief Minister. Revanth Reddy explained the urgency to expedite

CM seeks approval for Kodandaram and Azharuddin, highlighting delays in clearing Governor quota nominations

the nomination of Azharuddin as he would have to step down as minister by April 30 if it did not go through. "Both the Governor and the state government would be in a tight spot if Azharuddin will have to be sworn in

as a minister again. An amicable solution could lie in nominating both Azharuddin and Prof. Kodandaram in the Governor's quota because the Supreme Court has not stopped the Governor from doing so," a senior minister pointed out. Azharuddin was sworn in as minister on October 31, 2025, without being a member of either the Legislative Assembly or Council. To remain in the Cabinet, he must be elected to either House within six months of his

appointment, a deadline that expires on April 30. In case of failure to get approval within the deadline, Revanth Reddy is likely to get Azharuddin sworn-in again as minister, later this month. The Chief Minister, who is making all-out efforts to push Azharuddin's candidature, is also seeking legal opinion in case the former cricketer needs to resign. Revanth Reddy is exploring all options to get him onboard, sources added.

Harish Rao Challenges Congress Government Over Crop Loan Waiver Failure

Former minister T Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to waive crop loans and neglecting farmers in Khammam district. He criticised Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao and other local ministers for ignoring maize and paddy procurement, alleging they were more focused on commissions than welfare.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

T. Harish Rao on Sunday alleged that the Congress government has failed to fulfil its key promise of waiving crop loans and challenged Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to prove otherwise through a ground-level verification. Addressing a BRS party meeting, Harish Rao said he was ready to visit any location suggested by the Minister to assess whether farmers' crop loans had been fully waived. If the government is unable to implement the scheme, it should admit its failure and apologise



to farmers, he demanded. He further accused the government of neglecting the farming community by failing to release Rythu Bandhu assistance over the past two-and-a-half years, claiming that farmers were deprived of nearly ₹20,000 crore. He also alleged lapses in implementing crop insurance

and providing bonus payments for paddy. Criticising the administration led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao stated that every section of society had been "cheated" and claimed that public sentiment was shifting in favour of the BRS returning to power.

Focusing on Khammam district, he pointed out that despite being a major maize-producing region, procurement has not begun on a full scale, forcing farmers to sell below the Minimum Support Price.

He contrasted this with the previous BRS regime, asserting that every grain of paddy and maize was procured during its tenure.

Harish Rao also targeted district ministers, including Bhatti Vikramarka and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accusing them of neglecting farmer welfare and focusing on personal gains. He alleged internal conflicts among them were affecting gov-

ernance. Referring to the demolition of over 800 houses in Velugumtla, he termed the incident "inhuman" and said patas were issued to only around 300 families, allegedly favouring Congress workers. He demanded that all eligible beneficiaries be given land ownership documents.

He also criticised delays in completing the Sitarama Project and expressed confidence that voters in the erstwhile Khammam district would reject Congress in the next elections, predicting a clean sweep of 10 Assembly seats for the BRS.

Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital Gets New OCT Machine After Two-Year Gap

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital has received a new optical coherence tomography (OCT) machine, restoring a key diagnostic service after nearly two years during which the earlier unit remained non-functional. The Rs 1-crore equipment enables detailed imaging of the retina and other parts of the eye. It supports diagnosis for retinal, corneal and glaucoma conditions and is considered particularly useful in detecting diabetic retinopathy. The previous OCT machine, installed in October 2013, went out of service in 2024 despite undergoing repairs.

The machine was sanctioned by Divya Devarajan, chief executive officer of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and procured by the Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Cor-



poration (TGMSIDC). Hospital authorities said the facility would reduce the need for referrals. "Over 25 patients, who were earlier referred outside for scans every day, can now get them done within the hospital premises. The reports are displayed immediately and can also be printed or downloaded," according to Dr P. Modini Pandharpurkar, superintendent of Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital.

"The machine details the anatomical structure of the retina and helps determine whether it is normal or not. It is essential for people with diabetic retinopathy. As we know, the Telugu states have a high number of diabetic patients, and every third person is diabetic. This

machine allows early intervention, which can save the eye and prevent blindness," Dr Pandharpurkar said. The procedure involves registration using an OP ID, followed by positioning the patient on the device. Based on medical advice, scans are conducted for one or both eyes, and results are generated immediately. Images are shared with patients and later reviewed by doctors before treatment. The machine can perform over 50 types of scans and operates daily from 9 am to 2 pm. A 19-year-old patient, who reported eye pain, underwent a cornea scan and received results within five minutes. Another patient said, "Cement fell into my eye while working six months ago. I kept visiting private hospitals where they cleaned my eye, but the pain and colour change in my left eye did not subside.

State To Run 100 E-Buses To Connect MMTS Stations

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Area (HMA) and Urban Development Department & Sports Department, Government of Telangana has formally submitted a proposal to the South Central Railway for implementation of a free ridership scheme for all categories of passengers using MMTS services

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Santosh chowdary

The municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department is planning to procure 100 electric buses to connect to the railway Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) stations as a part of its proposal seeking free travel on the train service. These buses will also offer free services. Sources said the department within the next two to three days would send a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) to the South Central Railway (SCR) seeking free travel on MMTS trains and offering to pay for the charges. If the Railway Board gives the green signal, the free MMTS service, along with free connecting bus service, will start from Telangana Formation Day on June 2.



This is part of the government's proposals aimed at reducing traffic congestion and reducing pollution by encouraging public transport. The state government has proposed to pay SCR ₹10 crore annually to reimburse it for ticket fares, irrespective of the number of passengers who use the service. The government also asked SCR to increase the frequency of MMTS during peak hours, improve punctuality, and upgrade station facilities. The state

government on its part will provide last-mile connectivity through shuttle bus service run by RTC. Government departments including the MA&UD had on April 4 submitted a proposal to the SCR offering to pick the tab for passengers who could travel for free. In its response, SCR sought a draft MoU outlining the terms of implementation which could be forwarded to the Railway Board for clearance. SCR said MMTS services were

being operated based on passenger demand and subject to operational constraints. However, no final decision has been taken at this stage and the matter remains under due process. "The proposal is on hold, it has neither been accepted nor been rejected. The Board will take a call," said an official from the SCR.

Recently, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy also directed officials to align and strengthen MMTS services. In a review meeting on MMTS services, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the dip in the number of people using the services. While the SCR retains the authority to determine number of service, timings and scheduling, facilities at MMTS stations are provided as per Railway Board norms.

Telangana Asthitva Vedika launched to protect state's identity

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The "Telangana Asthitva Vedika" (TAV), a non-political organisation and a think tank to highlight Telangana's culture and striving to protect its identity, was formally launched at Ravindra Bharathi here on Sunday. The Vedika serves as a forum to engage intellectuals and professionals from diverse fields to examine the issues of protecting Telangana's identity and promoting its culture, besides suggest-

ing measures for addressing the same.

Advocate and writer V Prakash is the Chairman of TAV, while senior journalist Pittala Ravinder and retired irrigation expert Sridhar Rao Deshpande serve as Convenor and Coordinator respectively.

People from different fields, including academicians, journalists, advocates, writers and others participated in the inaugural ceremony. Internationally recognised journalist S Venkat Narayan was felicitated and presented with a "Life-

time Achievement Award" by Dr BR Ambedkar Open University Vice-Chancellor Ghanta Chakrapani, who was the chief guest.

Born in Kamalapur village in Telangana, S Venkat Narayan has been in the field of journalism for over 50 years. During his stint with national and international media organisations, he has interviewed numerous Presidents, Prime Ministers and global dignitaries. "No matter where I live, my roots remain firmly in Telangana. Distance

changes location, not identity. If I speak Telugu anywhere, people instantly recognise where I belong.

That connection is instinctive, not learned," Venkat Narayan said, while replying to the felicitation. Addressing the gathering, BR Ambedkar Open University Vice-Chancellor Ghanta Chakrapani reminded that by claiming Telangana as his brainchild, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had made unwarranted remarks.

Mala Welfare Assn Alleges Caste Survey Conspiracy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Mala Welfare Association on Sunday alleged a large-scale conspiracy in the Telangana caste survey, claiming deliberate undercounting of Mala population and warning of statewide agitation if corrective steps are not taken. Addressing a press conference at Press Club, Basheer Bagh, State President Battula Ram Prasad said the socio-economic, educational and caste survey conducted by the Telangana State Planning Department contains serious discrepancies and should not be used for policy decisions. He argued that the survey violates Article 246 of the Con-



stitution and the Central Statistics Act, 1948.

Citing data, he said the 2011 Shyam Akhtar Commission report recorded the Mala population at 15.27 lakh, whereas the 2026 survey reduced it to 14.77 lakh. Similarly, affiliated caste numbers dropped sharply. In contrast, he claimed significant increases in populations of other castes, raising doubts over the survey's credibility. Ram Prasad also

questioned statements made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and alleged political motives behind the exercise.

The association demanded a thorough review and warned that Malas would intensify protests if injustices continue. Leaders including Nimma Baburao, Uttam Srinivas, Dr. Chaitanya Adarsh, Moriya Srinivasa Rao, Edla Anup Kumar, Dasari Ravikumar and others attended.

Telangana teacher in race for 'America's Favourite Teacher' title

A Telangana teacher is in the fray in America's Favourite Teacher contest finals in the United States for 2026.

Meet Nagulmeera Sheik of Nereduchera in Suryapet district. He has 15 years of teaching experience. He has taught in the UAE, African countries and at Teja Vidyalyaya in Kodad of Suryapet district before moving to the USA. Currently, he is teaching in a public school in Georgia.

He qualified after clearing multiple initial rounds and is competing in the final round of the prestigious contest, organised by Colossal. The winner of the competition will get \$25,000 dollars as prize money apart from a trip to Hawaii and an appearance in the popular magazine Reader's Digest. The winner will also have the opportunity to hold a school assembly with Bill Nye, a well-known American television presenter. Nagulmeera currently stands in third place in the contest with four days still left.

Nagulmeera said that he became a teacher because education transformed his life. Growing up in a poor family, the Mathematics teacher said that he balanced part-time work while earning his Master's in Applied Mathematics and B.Ed.

"This journey instilled resilience and a deep respect for learning. I am committed to giving back by helping students overcome obstacles, build confidence, and realise their full potential," he said.

Tul Kantamma Temple Marks First Re-Consecration Anniversary

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The first anniversary of the re-consecration of Goddess Tul Kantamma's idol was celebrated with devotion and grandeur at Sri Tula Kantamma Temple in Pension Line More Galli on Sunday, drawing a large gathering of devotees.

Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap attended as chief guest and highlighted the significance of unwavering faith, stating that sincere devotion to



the Goddess brings abundant blessings. He participated in special pujas along with temple committee members Hanumantha Rao, Suresh, Atmarao, and Jagadish. The event featured tradi-

tional rituals, including offerings of flowers, incense, and sacred chants, accompanied by rhythmic drumbeats. Devotees such as Kalavathi, Narayana Satyanarayana Jairaj, and Muniraj joined in large

numbers, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere. Temple committee members noted that the re-consecration last year helped revive local traditions and strengthened community unity in New Boynpally. The celebrations reflected both religious devotion and cultural continuity. As the ceremony concluded, devotees received prasad and departed with renewed faith and hope, reaffirming the Goddess's role as a protector and guiding force in their lives.

Hindu Sammelan Celebrated with Devotion in Miyapur

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A grand Hindu Sammelan Utsav was organized on Sunday at Pragathi Enclave Community Hall in Miyapur, drawing nearly 2,000 attendees and showcasing strong cultural unity. Organized by the Hindu Sammelan Utsav Committee, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from children, youth, women, and elders.

The highlight of the program was vibrant cultural performances by children, including Mahisha-



sura Mardini, Vande Mataram, Omkararoopini, Rama Pattabhishekam, and Ananda Tandavam, which captivated the audience.

Chief guest Shiva Swa-

miji emphasized the importance of Hindu dharma, yoga practices for health, and civic responsibility.

Guest speaker Rajeshwari Buddhiraju spoke on family values and social awareness, while Rampalli Mallikarjun inspired youth by recalling Swami Vivekananda's ideals.

The well-decorated venue, smooth arrangements, and annadanam for 2,000 people reflected strong community spirit. Attendees appreciated the organizers and called for more such events.

Be Vigilant During Voter Roll Revision, RPV Tells Citizens

Speakers stressed on the need for public awareness with regard to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that the Election Commission of India will commence in Telangana. At an event here on Saturday, the Rajyanga Parirakshana Vedika (RPV) noted that officials are required to verify voters through gram sabhas and ward-level meetings to ensure transparency. The programme was organised to make people aware of the intricacies and requirements of the SIR process and ensure all eligible citizens can exercise their vote. The event witnessed participation from people from various professions as well as youngsters. Speakers pointed out that in the states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, a large number of voters had been deleted from the lists after the SIR process. This should not be repeated in Telangana, they said. Identification and necessary documents were required to ensure voters stayed

KTR Pays Tribute To Statehood Activist 'Telangana Sattemma'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

K. T. Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, paid heartfelt tributes to Telangana activist Jindan Sattemma, widely known as "Telangana Sattemma," who passed away at the age of 65 on Sunday. A resident of Cheerlavantha village in Thangallapally mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district, Sattemma breathed her last while undergoing treatment for a prolonged illness at a private hospital in Karimnagar. Her demise marks the end of a significant chapter in the grassroots Telangana statehood movement. K.T. Rama Rao visited her residence



to pay his last respects and participated in her funeral procession at Cheerlavantha R&R Colony, where he also shouldered the bier—an emotional gesture reflecting his deep respect for her dedication. He recalled her unwavering commitment to the cause of Telangana and described her as a coura-

geous activist whose life symbolized sacrifice and determination. Sattemma was a devoted supporter of K. Chandrashekar Rao and actively participated in the second phase of the Telangana movement from 2009. Known for her spirited slogans of "Jai Telangana," she was a familiar and energetic presence at public meet-

ings and rallies across the district, inspiring many with her passion. Recognizing her contributions, K.T. Rama Rao had earlier facilitated the allotment of a double-bedroom house to her in the Raguda area of Sircilla municipality. Family members shared that the recent loss of her son had left her emotionally distressed, which further impacted her health. Upon hearing of her demise, Rama Rao cancelled his scheduled engagements to attend her last rites, underlining the party's respect for its grassroots workers. Leaders from across political parties expressed condolences, stating that her absence would be deeply felt in the Telangana movement.

Kavitha Calls for Unity as Bapurao Joins Jagruti

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Kalvakuntla Kavitha has urged leaders and citizens to leave "bourgeois parties" and join Telangana Jagruti, positioning it as an emerging political force focused on people-centric governance. Her call came as former Both MLA Rathod Bapurao formally joined the organisation on Sunday along with his followers. Welcoming him into the fold by draping the party scarf, Kavitha appealed to all those who played a role in achieving Telangana statehood to unite again for its development and reconstruction. She emphasized that the same spirit that drove the statehood movement must now guide efforts to rebuild Telangana. Bapurao expressed strong support for Kavitha's leadership, stating that she should become the Chief



Minister of Telangana. He recalled his long association with Jagruti and noted that he had earlier joined BRS through the platform and served twice as an MLA. However, he cited lack of recognition in both BRS and Congress as reasons for his shift. He announced plans to organise a massive public meeting in Ichchoda to induct more supporters into Jagruti. Highlighting grassroots work, Bapurao remembered organizing medical camps in tribal areas of Both, where recurring fevers during monsoons exposed the need for systemic change—one of the motivations behind the

Telangana movement. Meanwhile, Kavitha also raised key Adivasi issues during a meeting with leaders led by Chanda Lingaiah Dora. She demanded a separate religion column for Adivasis in the national census, inclusion of the Koyatur language in the Eighth Schedule, and strict implementation of tribal protections under constitutional provisions. Criticizing central policies, she alleged violations of the PESA Act and displacement of nearly three lakh tribals due to the Polavaram project, calling for comprehensive rehabilitation.

AI Still Remains an Assistant, Core Idea Comes From Humans

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

For many creators today, artificial intelligence (AI) has gradually become part of the workflow. But if there is one thing they agree on, it is this: AI may speed things up, but the core idea, emotion and the perspective still have to come from humans. Ahead of World Creativity Day on Tuesday, as AI begins to shape how ideas are created and consumed, artists and creators are holding on tighter to what makes their work truly theirs. For Manoghnya P., an organisational psychologist and artist, creativity begins with observation, not tools. She says looking beyond the obvious helps shape ideas. "Being more observant to what's happening around me in travel, architecture, and everyday life helps me find inspiration in simple things," she said. At the same time, she is careful about what she consumes. "I try not to consume anything related to AI or tech that can hamper my creativity. I keep it as old school as I can," she said, adding that while AI is useful, "we need to know where to draw the line and not be consumed by it." That



idea of staying rooted in real experiences comes up across fields. Emcee George Hestern says his work depends on something AI cannot replicate. "It can generate content in seconds, but it can't lean into real conversations or observe the energy of a room," he said. For him, being present is crucial. "No algorithm can replace the skill of noticing small but important things in the moment," he said, adding that AI has only pushed him to be "more real". For filmmaker and editor Harsha Vardhan Endla, AI plays a supporting role. "It's like a brainstorming partner that never sleeps," he said. He explains how it has changed research. "Earlier I would ask a few friends. Now AI helps me find cultural details and nuances much faster," he said. But he is clear about control. "The human mind has to stay in charge. The heart of the

story always comes from the person." Visual artist Sangeeta Kodimiyala takes a different route altogether by keeping AI out of her process. Her work is rooted in physical making and intuition. "There is a dialogue between the material and the surface. That cannot be achieved through AI," she said. She does not use it for image generation or even for ideas. "My work involves feelings and expression. I don't feel threatened by AI," she said. For Livia Varnika, who runs a digital marketing company, AI is already part of daily work. "It's the ultimate creative assistant. It helps turn rough ideas into something tangible faster," she said. But she draws a clear boundary. "I don't let it do the thinking for me. The real magic comes from my own experiences," she said. She also pointed to a shift in audiences.

Youth Rise in Monda: Arun Kumar Warns Extortionists

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A sharp political shift is underway in Secunderabad's Monda Division as Mala Mahanadu leader Arun Kumar warned alleged "extortionists" to back off, urging citizens to report any threats or illegal demands directly to the police. Addressing youth and party activists, Arun Kumar, associated with Mala Mahanadu's IT and Social Media wing, alleged that certain local middlemen are exploiting civic issues such as construction permissions and borewell clearances to extract money. He stressed that such individuals falsely claim influence



over Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials and operate as "blackmailers, not leaders." Highlighting key problem areas, he pointed to rising encroachments in the North Zone, especially around Secunderabad Railway Station, where illegal structures and footpath occupations are worsening public inconvenience and safety. Back-

ing the Congress-led government under A. Revanth Reddy, Arun Kumar said the administration is promoting youth participation and transparent governance, marking a departure from "old-school exploitative politics." He called on educated youth to reject the notion of politics as a shortcut to money and instead work toward clean leadership. Emphasizing accountability, he urged authorities to act against illegal constructions and assured that Mala Mahanadu youth leaders are preparing to enter active politics to offer a credible, corruption-free alternative in the upcoming political cycle.

Papanna Goud Statue Unveiled; BC Welfare Concerns Raised



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A statue of Bahujan icon Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud was unveiled in Veljala village of Talakondapalli mandal, Rangareddy district, by former minister V. Srinivas Goud along with former MLA Jaipal Yadav and other leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Goud expressed happiness over the installation, calling Papanna Goud the first Bahujan emperor who proved that marginalized communities could rule. He highlighted Papanna's contributions to promoting caste-based occupations, developing agriculture, and constructing irrigation ponds. He alleged that Papanna Goud's history

was neglected during the united Andhra Pradesh era but revived under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao, with official celebrations of his birth and death anniversaries and steps toward installing his statue on Tank Bund. Criticizing the present Congress government, Srinivas Goud claimed it has failed to support backward communities, alleging lack of ex-gratia for Geeta workers, no financial aid to Golla Kuruma groups, and neglect of traditional occupations. He demanded implementation of 42% reservation for BCs in legislatures, education, jobs, and local body elections, stating that without such measures, caste-based professions would weaken further.

Ambedkarites Urged to Protect Constitution at Gnana Mala Event

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A strong appeal to protect the Constitution and uphold the ideals of B. R. Ambedkar was made during the 163rd Gnana Mala programme held at his statue in Alwal on Sunday. Chief guest K. N. Laxman Rao urged Ambedkarites to spread Baba-saheb's vision among Bahujan communities and remain vigilant against forces threatening democratic values. Advisor Anantharaj highlighted recent Ambedkar Jayanti



celebrations, including a rally promoting awareness about the Constitution and Ambedkar's legacy. The event also emphasized youth empowerment, with software experts presenting plans for training, placements, and a job mela at the Resource

Study Center. Advisor Ramesh Kamala called for unity to uplift marginalized youth and criticized remarks by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, demanding an apology. The programme witnessed active participation from Ambedkarites.

Ponguleti Urges Motorists To Shun Negligence And Value Life

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday said that the primary goal of the state government is to ensure the safety and well-being of every citizen and urged every individual to prioritise safety so they can return home securely to their loved ones. Participating at an 'Arrive Alive' road safety awareness programme along with panchayat raj minister Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya on the outskirts of



Incharla in Mulugu district on Sunday, Srinivas Reddy told people that while ambition was important, it should never come at the cost of one's life. He cited a recent tragic incident in Khammam to illustrate how a moment of negligence can

lead to lifelong grief for a family. Earlier in the morning, the ministers visited Medaram and inspected ongoing developmental works after offering prayers at the Sannakkasaram Temple here in Tadvai mandal. Minis-

ter Seethakka highlighted the increasing traffic in Mulugu district due to its growing prominence as a tourism hub. With landmarks like Ramappa Temple, Laknavaram Lake and Bogatha Waterfalls attracting thousands, alongside heavy vehicular movement of sand and grain lorries on NH-163, she urged motorists to be extra vigilant. She strictly advised two-wheeler riders to wear helmets and car drivers to use seat belts, stating that personal responsibility is the best defense against accidents.

UGD Works Worth ₹1.32 Cr Launched in Kapra by MLA Laxma Reddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy inaugurated Underground Drainage (UGD) works worth ₹1.32 crore in Gopal Reddy Nagar-Rajiv Enclave of Kapra Division, aiming to resolve long-pending sanitation issues and improve living standards in the locality. The project, taken up with an estimated cost of ₹1,32,00,000, is expected to provide a permanent solution to recurring drainage problems faced by residents. Officials stated that the initiative will significantly strengthen sanitation in-



frrastructure and ensure better public health conditions in the area. Speaking at the program, MLA Laxma Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to developing basic amenities and addressing civic issues at the grassroots level. He emphasized that priority is being given to long-term infras-

tructure solutions rather than temporary fixes, particularly in rapidly growing urban colonies. Senior officials from the Water Works department, including General Manager Appala Naidu, Deputy General Manager Harshitha Reddy, and Assistant Engineer Amarnath, were present and assured timely

execution of the project. The event also witnessed participation from local leaders such as Kapra Division BRS President Bairi Naveen Goud, along with colony association members and several party representatives including Badruddin, Indraiah, Gilbert, Malla Reddy, Mahesh, Bhaskar Goud, Ganesh, Saroja, Srinivas, Linga Reddy, Shivalingam, Krishna Goud, Srikanth Goud, Seenu, Mohan, and Divyalata. Residents expressed optimism that the project will bring lasting relief from drainage concerns.

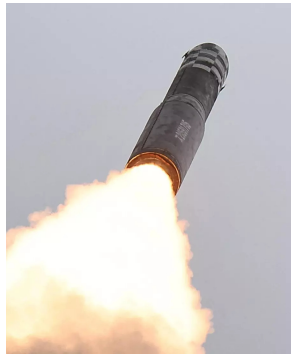
Australia Gets Its First Female Army Chief, Susan Coyle

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

North Korea Fires Multiple Short-Range Ballistic Missiles Into Sea

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

North Korea launched multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Sunday, its neighbours said, days after the UN's nuclear watchdog warned that North Korea was making "very serious" advances in efforts to build nuclear weapons. The missiles fired from the North's Sinpo area flew about 140 kilometres (87 miles) each in a direction toward the country's eastern waters, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It said South Korea maintains a readiness to repel any provocations from North Korea and is closely exchanging information with the US and Japan. In an emergency meeting of the National Security Council, senior South Korean officials expressed concerns about North Korea's repeated ballistic missile tests and urged it to stop them immediately. Sunday's launches came hours before South Korean President Lee Jae



Myung left the country to visit India and Vietnam. The US and Japanese militaries also said they detected the launches. The US Indo-Pacific Command said it remains committed to the defence of the US homeland and its allies in the region. Japan's Defence Ministry said Tokyo strongly protested to Pyongyang, saying the launches threaten regional and international peace and violate UN Security Council resolutions that ban any ballistic activities by North Korea. Sinpo, the launch site, is an eastern coastal city in North Korea that has a major shipyard used for

building submarines. South Korea's military was analysing whether the latest launches were made from a submarine, a land-based launcher or both platforms, according to South Korean media. Asked about where the missiles were launched, Japan's Deputy Minister of Defence Masahisa Miyazaki told reporters that Japan was analysing launch details in coordination with the US and South Korea. If the launches involved a submarine, it would mark North Korea's first submarine-launched ballistic missile test in four years. North Korea obtaining a greater ability to fire missiles from underwater would be a worrying development because it's difficult for its rivals to detect such launches in advance. Last year, North Korea unveiled a nuclear-powered submarine under construction for the first time. Sunday's launches were the latest in North Korea's run of weapons tests this year. Last week, North

Korea said leader Kim Jong Un supervised missile tests from the country's destroyer. In the previous week, North Korea said it had three days of testing activities to examine ballistic missiles armed with cluster-bomb warheads and other new weapons systems. Last month, it said it tested an upgraded solid-fuel engine for missiles capable of reaching the US mainland. Kim has focused on enlarging his nuclear and missile arsenals since his high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with US President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire to restore diplomacy with Kim, and the North Korean leader has recently left open the door for dialogue with Trump but urged Washington to drop demands for the North's nuclear disarmament as a precondition for talks. Trump is to travel to Beijing for a rescheduled summit with Xi Jinping in May. Some observers believe.

ED Raids Didi's Security Officer's House, Arrests Realtor In Land Grab Case

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday raided the residence of senior Kolkata police officer Santanu Sinha Biswas, who is posted in the security detail of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in an alleged land grab case. ED officials also questioned Biswas while searching his address till afternoon. His son called the ED action a "trick" by leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari the BJP candidate at Bhowanipore and Nandigram this time. Biswas, DCP at special security unit in the special branch of the police, was earlier



summoned by the ED to New Delhi for questioning on April 6 in the case under money laundering charges. This is the second time within a week when an aide of the Trinamul Congress supreme came under the radar of a central agency and follows the income-tax department's raid on Miraj Shah, who was among those who proposed Banerjee's candidature at Bhowanipore. Furious over the raid, the CM alleged, "ED

raided the individual who looks after my I-T. Our party candidate Debashis Kumar was kept under confinement for 16 hours. He was not allowed to campaign. There will be a case for each and every incident. We don't spare anyone. We are maintaining records." She claimed, "The officer who takes care of my security has been raided now. Does it mean you want to kill me to grab Bengal? Try it and see if you can." The ED also arrested Joy Kamdar, who owns a realty firm: Sun Enterprise, after raiding his house in Behala and detaining him in the same case. Joy was taken to ED office at CGO Complex in Salt Lake.

India's First 3d Chip Packaging Unit Foundation Laid In Odisha's Bhubaneswar

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The foundation stone for India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit was laid at Info Valley in Bhubaneswar, marking a major step in strengthening the country's semiconductor ecosystem and advancing its Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. The project, which focuses on cutting-edge 3D glass-based packaging technologies, is expected to significantly boost India's capabilities in high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, and next-generation communication systems. With an estimated investment of nearly Rs 2,000 crore, the facility is set to become a cornerstone of India's high-end electronics manufacturing landscape. Once operational, it is projected to produce around 70,000 glass panels annually, along with approximately 50 million assembled units and nearly 13,000 advanced 3D heteroge-



neous integration (3DHI) modules. These outputs will play a crucial role in meeting the rising demand for advanced semiconductor solutions across global markets. Addressing the gathering, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi termed the initiative a "historic milestone" for both the state and the nation. He highlighted that this is the first time such an advanced 3D glass solutions semiconductor project is being established in India, placing Odisha at the forefront of next-generation tech-

nological innovation. The Chief Minister emphasized that Odisha is emerging as a strategic destination in the semiconductor value chain, backed by strong policy support, infrastructure development, and growing investor confidence. He noted that global technology leaders such as Intel, Lockheed Martin, and Applied Materials are closely linked with advanced packaging technologies, and their increasing engagement reflects confidence in the state's evolving electronics manufacturing ecosystem. Further strengthening its

position, Odisha is currently the only state in India to host both the country's first compound semiconductor fabrication unit and its first 3D glass substrate packaging facility. This dual advantage is expected to attract further investments, encourage innovation, and create substantial employment opportunities in the region. The project underscores India's broader ambition to reduce dependence on semiconductor imports and build a robust domestic manufacturing base. By enabling advanced packaging capabilities within the country, it supports the development of a self-reliant, future-ready electronics ecosystem. With this development, Odisha is poised to play a pivotal role in India's journey toward becoming a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing, reinforcing its status as a key player in the rapidly evolving electronics industry.

Iran Accuses EU of Hypocrisy on Hormuz

TEHRAN
Wakeup telangana

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei on Friday sharply criticised the European Union's stance on transit rules in the Strait of Hormuz, accusing the bloc of double standards and hypocrisy over international law. Responding to remarks by EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, Baghaei said Europe selectively invokes international law while ignoring actions by the



U.S. and Israel. He argued that, as a coastal state, Iran has the right to take necessary measures in the strait, particularly if it is used for military purposes against Iran. Baghaei also rejected the concept of unrestricted transit, saying such conditions no longer apply amid heightened military tensions in the region.

Kallas, however, stressed that international law requires key waterways like the Strait of Hormuz to remain open and free for navigation. She warned that any move to impose transit fees could set a dangerous global precedent and urged Iran to abandon such plans. She added that Europe stands ready to help restore normal shipping flows once hostilities ease, noting that EU naval missions could be expanded to safeguard maritime routes. The exchange

follows Iran's indication that it would prioritise vessels complying with new protocols, including payment for security and safety services, citing limited transit capacity. Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced that the strait would remain closed until a naval blockade on Iranian vessels and ports is lifted. The force warned ships against approaching the area, saying violations would be treated as co-operation with hostile actors.

C'garh Vedanta Plant Mishap Toll Rises to 24

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

One more worker, injured in the April 14 mishap in the Vedanta power plant in Chhattisgarh's Shakti district, died on Sunday, taking the death toll in the industrial accident to 24, officials said. The worker, identified as Manish Kumar- a native of Uttar Pradesh-, died in the Raigarh Medical College Hospital on Sunday morning, officials said. Eleven other workers, injured in the incident, were under-



going treatment in different hospitals in the state and conditions of two of them were said to be critical, officials said. The deceased include seven labourers from West Bengal, five from Chhat-

tisgarh, four from Jharkhand, four from Uttar Pradesh and two each from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The incident occurred when the tube connecting the boiler to the turbine burst, leading to the tragedy. Preliminary official investigation has attributed the incident to negligence in maintenance and operation. Chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai has already ordered the Bilaspur divisional commissioner to probe the matter and submit a report within 30 days.

FROM FRONT PAGE

US Negotiators.....

"If they don't, the United States is going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran," Trump wrote. Iranian authorities had said that they are not yet ready to hold a new round of face-to-face talks with US officials, a senior Iranian official said Saturday, citing Washington's refusal to abandon "maximalist" demands on key issues. In an interview with The Associated Press on the margins of a diplomacy forum in Turkiye, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh also said his country will not hand over its enriched uranium to the United States, rejecting claims made by US President Donald Trump. The strategic Strait of

Hormuz was again closed on Sunday in the stand-off between Iran and the United States, with Iran's powerful parliament speaker signalling a final peace deal remained "far" off despite some movement in negotiations. As mediation efforts continued following high-level talks in Pakistan that failed to reach a deal, Iran said it will not allow the crucial maritime trade chokepoint to re-open until the United States ends a blockade of Iranian ports.

I-Pac Halts Work.....

It added, "In this backdrop, all employees and team members are requested to avail a short leave for a period of 20 days. At the end of this period, by 11th May, we will regroup, review the situation, and

decide the next steps. You may reach out to us in case of any queries. We appreciate your cooperation, patience, and understanding." As soon as the email went viral on Sunday morning, the Trinamul Congress claimed, "This claim is completely baseless and appears to be a deliberate attempt to create confusion on the ground. IPAC WB team remains fully engaged with AITC, and campaign operations are continuing as planned across the state." It alleged, "These narratives are a deliberate attempt to distract from the clear mood on the ground. The people of Bengal are fully capable of seeing through these attempts and will respond democratically. West Bengal will not be swayed by misinformation or intimidation.

They will respond decisively on the 23rd and 29th and the results on May 4 will reflect their verdict." Lashing out at BJP, Banerjee later said, "ED is raiding us daily. Why does it come to your mind during polls? Why are you asking our agency, working for our party, to leave Bengal? You may have 50 agencies but we have only one for lack of power. If they are intimidated, they will merge with our party. We will employ and build them. I won't leave anyone jobless. I spoke to Abhishek in the morning about this. This is your conspiracy." **Indian Team To.....** India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain (additional secretary in the department of commerce) is leading the

team. Officers from customs and external affairs ministry are also part of the Indian team," the sources said. "As far as the deal is concerned, we expect the agreement will have to be recalibrated, redrafted and that amount of change will take place from their side. In our case (India), since the agreement has not been signed, we have got the option where we can right now change whatever needs to be changed," the sources said. Further, the two unilateral investigations launched by the US Trade Representative (USTR) may also figure in the three-day deliberations. India has strongly rejected allegations made by the US Trade Representative in those two investigations under its Section 301 of

trade law and has requested to terminate the probes as the initiation notice has failed to provide cogent rationale to substantiate the claims. **Indian Tanker.....** India's foreign secretary summoned Iran's ambassador in New Delhi to convey "deep concern" over the incident and underscored the importance of ensuring the safety of merchant shipping and mariners. He urged Tehran to relay India's position to its authorities and to resume facilitating India-bound vessels through the route at the earliest. "The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi was called in yesterday by the Ministry of External Affairs for a meeting with Foreign Secretary.

CRIME

Police Arrest 32 Bank Officials For Multistate Cybercrime Racket

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The city cybercrime police arrested 52 people, including 32 bank officials, for allegedly facilitating a pan-India cyber fraud network through mule accounts to siphon off victims' money across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Cases have been registered against the accused for their alleged role in opening and operating fraudulent bank accounts used in cybercrimes. The arrests were made under "Operation Octopus 2.0", a coordinated crackdown targeting insider involvement in financial fraud networks. According to police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, Operation Octo-



pus 2.0 was launched to dismantle organised cyber fraud networks involving bank officials. "There has been a significant rise in investment scams, trading frauds, and "digital arrest" scams, wherein fraudsters exploit victims through manipulation, intimidation, and emotional coercion, leading to substantial financial losses," he said. The operation was carried out across nine states by 16 special teams over

seven days. The accused include bank employees such as relationship managers, KYC approvers, probationary officers, clerks and field officers from multiple banks, who allegedly colluded with fraudsters to enable the creation of mule accounts, police said. The arrested officials are from several banks located across the states. Investigators said 15 account holders knowingly allowed their accounts to be used for

laundering illicit funds, while five middlemen allegedly procured such accounts and routed money to masterminds behind the frauds. Through an intensive investigation, the commissioner said the cybercrime police station (CCPS), Hyderabad, uncovered a nexus of 350 bank accounts used to siphon off victims' funds linked to 850 cases across India, involving transactions amounting to nearly Rs 150 crore. The frauds include investment scams, trading frauds and "digital arrest" scams, where victims were manipulated and coerced into transferring money. During the operation, police seized 26 mobile phones, 14 cheque books, storage devices, laptops and other materials used in the offences.

Wife Allegedly Hires Gang To Kill Husband In Parkal

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hyderabad Cracks Down On Drunk Driving With Stricter Enforcement

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Aswaraopeta in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Thursday. Police identified the deceased as Kovvasi Nagaraju, 41, and Chittu Chukkaiah, 52, both residents of Aswaraopeta. The injured were identified as Soyam Ramesh, Madakam San-

thosh, Madakam Somaraj and Gaddala Venkat Rao. According to police, the accident occurred near Rythu Vedika when a tractor carrying the victims was hit by a lorry coming in the opposite direction. The lorry, reportedly loaded with rice bags and travelling from Khammam to Kakinada, hit the tractor, resulting in the fatalities on the spot. The lorry driver fled from the scene after the acci-

dent, police said. Aswaraopeta police reached the spot and shifted the injured to Government General Hospital, Khammam for treatment. A case has been registered and investigation is underway. Two people, Kovvasi Nagaraju (41) and Chittu Chukkaiah (52), lost their lives in a road accident near Rythu Vedika in Aswaraopeta, located in Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

Hyderabad Cracks Down On Drunk Driving With Stricter Enforcement

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Drunk driving enforcement in the city is no longer limited to weekend drives or routine fines with the traffic police adopting a stricter, process-driven approach that extends from on-road checks to court action, counselling, and in severe cases, there is imprisonment. Hyderabad Traffic DCP II Kajal said that cases are registered under the Motor Vehicles Act if a driver's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) ex-

ceeds 30 mg/100 ml. Once caught, the immediate priority of the police is to ensure road safety. "The individual is already a threat on the road. We contact a family member or a relative to take them home safely," she said. Another officer adding to it said that enforcement is not without challenges. In several cases, drivers fail to produce vehicle documents or are not even the owners of the vehicle. "Some argue that they are in control and would have reached home safely if not stopped. Others question

why police are concerned, saying it's their money they spent on alcohol," an officer noted, highlighting the resistance faced during checks. Police clarified that drunk driving checks are not confined to weekends. Surprise checks are conducted across the city even on weekdays, and enforcement teams frequently change locations to counter WhatsApp groups that alert motorists about checkpoints. An important aspect of enforcement is identifying repeat of-

fenders. Police said that the system immediately points out whether a person has prior offences. Following the booking, a chargesheet is filed, and the case is presented before the court, which decides the punishment, said the DCP. Apart from legal action, the department has introduced counselling as a corrective measure. "We do not just counsel the driver, but also call their family members. They are made aware of the legal consequences, psychological impact, and risks involved, the DCP said.

EDITORIAL

OIL SHOCK PUSHES INDIA TO SIXTH ECONOMIC RANK

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's recent slip from the brink of becoming the world's fourth-largest economy to sixth place highlights a recurring and deep-rooted vulnerability: its exposure to external shocks. Chief among these are fluctuations in global crude oil prices and the volatility of international capital flows. Only months ago, India appeared set to overtake Japan, buoyed by strong growth projections and macroeconomic stability. However, escalating geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran disrupted this trajectory, sending crude oil prices sharply higher and exposing structural weaknesses in India's economic model. India's heavy dependence on imported crude oil makes it particularly susceptible to such global disruptions. As oil prices surged, the country's import bill expanded significantly, widening the current



account deficit. At the same time, uncertainty in global financial markets triggered an outflow of foreign institutional investments from emerging economies like India. This combination of rising import costs and capital flight put considerable pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves and led to a sharp depreciation of the rupee, which touched a historic low of 95 against the US dollar. The weakening of the rupee carries far-reaching implications. Beyond increasing the cost of imports, it also diminishes the dollar value of India's GDP, directly af-

fecting its standing in global economic rankings. Consequently, India slipped behind the United Kingdom, demonstrating how exchange rate movements can alter rankings without reflecting a genuine decline in domestic economic activity. While such rankings may not directly impact the everyday functioning of the economy, they hold symbolic importance and influence global perception. India had previously overtaken the UK in 2016 when the pound weakened following Brexit, underscoring how external currency movements can reshape

economic hierarchies. The current reversal mirrors that dynamic, driven more by global volatility than domestic weakness. Despite this setback, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, with projected growth rates of 6-7 percent. The country continues to aim for the third position globally by 2028. However, sustaining this growth will require addressing fundamental vulnerabilities. Reducing dependence on imported crude oil is critical. India must accelerate its transition towards renewable energy, invest in domestic energy production, and adopt innovative technologies to enhance efficiency. Strengthening economic resilience against external shocks is essential not just for improving rankings, but for ensuring long-term stability and strategic autonomy in an increasingly uncertain global environment.



Gfolio Launches Digital Gold Gifting and Wealth Platform

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A new chapter in India's digital wealth and gifting space began with the soft launch of Gfolio, a next-generation platform designed to transform how consumers buy, save, and gift gold and silver. Positioned at the intersection of fintech, culture, and commerce, Gfolio introduces a seamless ecosystem that blends emotional value with long-term financial growth. Targeting India's USD 65 billion gifting market—traditionally dominated by flowers, cakes, and gadgets—Gfolio offers a meaningful alternative by enabling users to gift digital gold and silver. This approach converts everyday celebrations into enduring investments, combining sentiment with wealth creation.



The platform features three core offerings: GiftFolio, which allows instant gifting of digital precious metals; GoldFolio, enabling users to buy, sell, and trade gold and silver along with access to loans against holdings; and GrowFolio, focused on disciplined investing through SIPs and gold-backed fixed deposits. To ensure security and transpar-

ency, Gfolio has partnered with established industry players including Augmont Gold, Muthoot Fincorp, and Sequel Logistics. All digital assets are securely stored in insured, world-class vaults in Mumbai, ensuring full ownership and reliability. Founded by Shubham Jain, Raj Tolasaria, Yogesh Agarwal, and

Kaustav Mishra, the company brings together expertise in finance, technology, and operations. With a team of 10–15 professionals, Gfolio aims to make wealth creation more accessible and personal. "Gifting is about creating memories, and wealth is about creating legacies. With Gfolio, we are bringing both together in a seamless digital experience," a company spokesperson said. With over 12 metric tonnes of digital gold already stored across India and rising consumer trust in digital assets, Gfolio is well-positioned to capitalize on this growing segment. The company plans to expand into advanced investment products, gold-backed credit solutions, and corporate gifting, aiming to build a comprehensive financial ecosystem.

Prof Srinath Reddy Stresses Research-Driven Clinical Care

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Continental Hospitals hosted ContiCon 2026, a two-day internal medicine conference in Gachibowli on April 18–19, bringing together over 300 delegates and 50+ faculty members to promote evidence-based clinical excellence. The conference's highlight was the Third GDR Memorial Lecture delivered by K. Srinath Reddy, who emphasized that research represents the highest form of clinical care. Speaking on "The Curious Physician: Why Research Is the Highest Form of Clinical Care," he underscored the importance of scientific inquiry, multidisciplinary research, and context-driven healthcare solutions in strengthening modern medical systems. Prof Reddy high-



lighted the evolving role of artificial intelligence, big data, and advanced analytics in healthcare, noting that these tools are reshaping research methodologies and policy frameworks in the post-information era. He stressed that effective healthcare policies must be grounded in rigorous research and collaboration across disciplines. The GDR Memorial Lecture series has previously featured global experts such as Kalpalatha Guntupalli and John B. Kisiel. Founder and

Chairman Guru N Reddy said the conference theme, "Evidence to Excellence," reflects the institution's commitment to data-driven healthcare. He noted that evidence-based medicine strengthens clinical expertise and improves patient outcomes. ContiCon 2026 focused on bridging the gap between research and clinical application, enabling physicians to deliver cost-effective, high-quality care while reinforcing the critical role of internists in modern healthcare.

CII Proposes Unified National Industrial Land Bank To Expedite Acquisition

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Leading industry lobby Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Sunday called for the creation of a unified national industrial land bank with a computer-backed facility to offer real-time information to investors and expedite land acquisition for companies to spur manufacturing. Modelled on the Goods and Serv-

ices Tax (GST) framework, a national industrial land council or NILC will set national standards, harmonize land-related regulations across states, monitor implementation and act as a dispute-resolution body as well. In a statement, the CII also said that this geographic information system (GIS)-enabled land bank would provide a wide spectrum of inputs, including on

land availability, zoning status, utilities, environmental constraints, encumbrances and title clarity. The recommendation is part of a report — CII Land Mission: Framework to Reform Industrial Land Management in India, prepared by T. V. Narendran, Tata Steel managing director and past president of CII. As per the CII, industrial land remains a foundational input for

manufacturing, infrastructure, renewable energy, and logistics. "However, the current landscape across states is characterised by fragmented processes, regulatory complexity, unclear land titles, delayed possession, and underutilisation of allotted parcels," the industry body said, adding that these challenges significantly increase the cost of capital, delay project

commissioning, and undermine investor confidence, particularly for MSMEs and greenfield investments. "The challenge in industrial land is not only acquisition, but readiness and utilisation. Even after allotment, projects get stuck due to possession issues, infrastructure gaps, unclear titles, and prolonged downstream approvals. The land mission proposals focus

on end-to-end reform, right from clean land banks and faster acquisition to utilisation norms, dispute resolution, and institutional accountability," Narendran stated in his report. Chandrajit Banerjee also stated that India's manufacturing ambitions under Make-in-India, national industrial corridors, renewable energy expansion, and modern logistics cannot be real-

ised unless industrial land becomes predictable, transparent, and investment ready. "The CII land mission provides a practical, implementation-oriented framework that respects social safeguards while enhancing time efficiency, predictability and coordination across the land value chain," Banerjee said. The report further emphasised the need for digitisation of land records, integra-

tion of state-level portals, and adoption of uniform standards for land valuation and usage. It also called for stronger coordination between central and state agencies to ensure seamless clearances and faster project execution. By leveraging technology and institutional reforms, the proposed framework aims to unlock idle land parcels, improve ease of doing business.

AI 4 Impact Hackathon Drives Social Innovation at CBIT



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Kavion.ai, in collaboration with Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), successfully concluded the national-level "AI 4 Impact" hackathon and workshop, aimed at leveraging artificial intelligence for real-world social solutions. Held from April 15 to 18, 2026, the four-day event attracted over 280 participants from more than 75 teams representing 15+ institutions across India. Team Neo from Symbiosis University secured first place, followed by The Dead Coders from Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology (GRIET). The third position was shared by Team Abhila and Team Nexorithm from CBIT. Spe-

cial mentions included teams from Institute of Aeronautical Engineering (IARE), Woxsen University, and LIET. The event featured a two-day hands-on workshop followed by a 30-hour hackathon, focusing on solving challenges in healthcare and social welfare. Participants received mentorship through dedicated sessions and review rounds, enhancing innovation and scalability. A prize pool of ₹1 lakh was awarded to top performers. Led by Kavion.ai Founder & CEO Suneetha Vegasana and Chairman Sanjeev Deshpande, the initiative highlighted CBIT's commitment to fostering impactful, technology-driven solutions for societal change.

Global tech layoffs cross 73,000 in early 2026 as firms shift to AI

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

Global technology firms accelerated job cuts in the first quarter of 2026, with over 73,200 layoffs by 95 companies, according to industry data. The data from Layoffs.fyi showed that the past two weeks saw a fresh surge in headcount reductions. Snap Inc., The Walt Disney Company, Meta Platforms and Oracle Corporation, announced layoffs recently as firms streamline operations to cut costs and shift resources toward artificial intelligence. Social media platform Snap Inc. said it would cut about 1,000 jobs or roughly 16 per cent of its workforce and eliminate over 300 open roles to boost efficiency and accelerate growth. Chief Executive Officer Evan Spiegel said advances in AI were enabling automation of repetitive tasks, and with streamlining operations, the company expects savings of over \$500 million by the second half of 2026, while severance costs are estimated at \$95 million–\$130 million. It announced four months' severance pay, continued healthcare and accelerated equity.

Rebaari Jewels Opens Hyderabad Store

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Rebaari Jewels has expanded its retail presence with the launch of a new store in Madinaguda, Hyderabad, on April 19, marking a significant step in the brand's growth journey. The launch event was graced by chief guest Daksha Nagakaur and celebrated with exclusive inaugural offers valid until April 30, 2026. To mark the opening, customers can avail limited-time benefits, including jewellery worth ₹35,000 free on purchases of ₹1,00,000, ₹18,000 on ₹50,000, ₹9,000 on ₹25,000, and ₹4,500 on ₹10,000. The offers aim to attract both new and loyal customers as the brand strengthens its footprint in South India. Founded by Nitin Gupta, Rebaari Jewels is built on the belief that jewellery should go beyond aesthetics and reflect personal identity. The brand focuses on creating ver-



satile, premium designs that can be worn daily while still feeling distinctive and meaningful. This approach addresses a gap in the market, where traditional jewellery is often limited to occasions and minimal designs lack character. Rebaari's collections combine heritage craftsmanship with modern sensibilities. Key offerings include Nakshi designs inspired by traditional artistry, Jadau pieces rooted in Mughal-era craftsmanship, Polki jewellery featuring uncut diamonds, contemporary

CZ jewellery, and vintage-style Victorian collections. The range spans from maang tikkas to toe rings, catering to weddings, festive wear, and everyday styling. The brand traces its origins to Jaipur, a city renowned for its jewellery heritage, and is backed by over 30 years of manufacturing expertise. What began as a passion for fashion and silver jewellery has grown into a widely appreciated label with a strong and expanding customer base. A notable share of Re-

baari's support has come from southern markets, particularly Hyderabad, which played a key role in the decision to establish a physical presence in the city. The new store is positioned as a step toward building closer connections with customers who have contributed to the brand's growth. Rebaari Jewels aims to expand further across cities while staying rooted in its core philosophy — creating jewellery that carries emotion, tells stories, and enhances individuality.

India uses AI with digital infrastructure to empower rural communities

PUNE
Wakeup telangana

India is pairing artificial intelligence with digital public infrastructure, local-language systems and governance safeguards helping farmers, women and village institutions can use AI directly rather than through urban intermediaries, a report has said. The report from One World Outlook said India's approach counter structural challenges such as weak physical infrastructure and high friction in language, literacy, and access. It made services legible, local and usable by embedding AI into familiar tools such as WhatsApp-style interfaces, voice systems and panchayat systems, shifting the technology from urban spectacle to rural service. The report cited President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga's remarks on "small AI" at IMF Spring Meetings as a testimony of India transforming AI from an urban-centric productivity tool to a rural equaliser. It highlighted that the model focuses on low-cost, low-compute, high-utility systems to enable rural adoption.

Kalki Koechlin Recalls Battling Insomnia After Heartbreak: "I Just Could Not Sleep"

A Actor Kalki Koechlin has opened up about a deeply challenging phase in her life, revealing that a painful breakup once led to months of severe insomnia, ultimately affecting both her mental health and professional life. Speaking candidly on the All About Her podcast, Kalki shared how the emotional distress from heartbreak translated into physical symptoms, leaving her unable to sleep for an extended period. Recalling the experience, she said, "I did have a series of months of insomnia from heartbreak, and it really made me realise how psychological it all is." Kalki described how her nights became restless and unpredictable, with sleep constantly eluding her. "I just could not sleep. I would wake up at 2 or 3 in the morning and end up playing the guitar or doing something to occupy myself, because there was no way of going back to sleep," she added. This pattern continued for nearly four months, turning what should have



been restorative nights into long stretches of wakefulness. The prolonged lack of sleep soon began to take a toll on her day-to-day functioning, particularly her work. Kalki admitted that during this period, she often felt disoriented and detached while on set. "On the days I had to work, I remember feeling like I didn't know if I was in a dream state or

awake," she said. The confusion blurred the boundaries between reality and exhaustion, making even routine tasks feel overwhelming. Her experience highlighted how untreated emotional strain can significantly impact professional performance and overall well-being. Although Kalki did not specify which relationship triggered this phase, her most well-known past relation-

ship has been with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap. The two met while working on Dev.D, eventually marrying in 2011. However, the relationship ended in separation in 2013, followed by a divorce in 2015. Despite the difficulties, Kalki has previously shared that time and distance allowed both of them to heal, and they now share an amicable bond, occasionally reconnecting on friendly

terms.

Kalki has also spoken in the past about how her childhood experiences, including her parents' separation, shaped her emotional outlook and approach to relationships. These early influences, combined with her personal experiences, have contributed to her understanding of emotional resilience and the importance of self-awareness.

Her honest reflection sheds light on a rarely discussed aspect of heartbreak—the way it can disrupt not just emotions but also basic physical functions like sleep. By sharing her story, Kalki emphasizes the deep connection between mental and physical health, reminding people that emotional pain, if unaddressed, can manifest in profound and unexpected ways. Today, Kalki appears to have emerged stronger from that period, carrying forward valuable lessons about healing, self-care, and the importance of addressing emotional well-being before it begins to affect everyday life.

Varun's Film Under Fire As AI Baby Teaser Backfires



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Varun Dhawan is facing a rough patch, and his upcoming comedy Hai Jawaani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is only adding to the troubles. Directed by his father David Dhawan, the film has unexpectedly sparked backlash even before release—thanks to a controversial AI-generated teaser. The teaser, intended to create buzz, features two animated babies resembling Varun Dhawan engaged in a quirky conversation. The twist reveals that both babies share the same father—named Jass—hinting at Varun's reported double role in the film. However, what may have been designed as a humorous and inno-

vative promotional idea has instead been widely criticised online. Many social media users have labelled the teaser "creepy," "bizarre," and "tone-deaf," questioning the use of AI in such a manner. As criticism mounted, the film's team attempted damage control. In an official clarification, they distanced the core filmmaking process from the controversial teaser. According to the makers, the AI-generated content was developed by a third-party creative agency specifically for promotional purposes and does not reflect the actual tone or storytelling of the film. They emphasized that David Dhawan directed the movie in his signature style—relying on

traditional on-set filmmaking with actors and practical execution. Despite the clarification, the backlash appears to have already impacted public perception. The teaser has drawn more negative attention than curiosity, with many viewers placing the film on their "avoid" lists even before its release. The controversy also raises larger questions about the use of AI in film promotions and whether such experimental marketing tactics can backfire. For Varun Dhawan, who has been striving to regain box office momentum, this episode adds yet another hurdle. Whether the film itself can overcome the early negativity and win audiences over remains to be seen.

Punjab Kings Beat LSG By 54 Runs, Remain Unbeaten

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Priyansh Arya, one of the country's most talked about T20 batting talent alongside Vaibhav Suryavanshi, smashed his way to a magnificent 93 as Punjab Kings clinically demolished Lucknow Super Kings by 54 runs in an IPL match here on Sunday. The 24-year-old Delhi man, whose knock came off just 37 balls, joined hands with Cooper Connolly, the most talked about next-gen batting star in Australia, who also oozed class in his 45-ball-87 as Punjab Kings posted an insurmountable 254 for 7 in 20 overs. The duo added an astounding 182 runs off just 80 balls with 16 sixes (9 from Priyansh and 7 from Connolly) and 12 fours shared between them. In reply, Lucknow Super Giants despite a reasonably good Powerplay that fetched 61 runs were never in contention as they finished on 200 for five in 20 overs. The likes of skipper Rishabh Pant (43 off 23 balls) and Mitchell Marsh (40 off 28 balls) tried but their intent and execution paled in



comparison to the six-hitting exhibition of Priyansh and Connolly. Vyshak Vijaykumar (1/30 in 4 overs) was brilliant with his pace-on and pace-off variations that stopped both Marsh and Pant in their tracks. Once both were gone, wrapping up the match was a mere formality for Shreyas Iyer's men, itching to go one better than their previous runners-up finish in 2025. When Punjab Kings batted, the Powerplay score of 63 for one was good, they were even better in the middle phase between overs 7th and 11th in which 66 runs

came. Priyansh, the beefy southpaw, just stood and delivered with minimal footwork and maximum bat speed as balls flew thick and fast. The full balls were muscled down the ground or over extra cover. The short and wide deliveries were slashed or ramped while bouncers on the shoulders were either pulled or hooked without an iota of expression on his face. It seemed like a regular job for the man, who also learnt ropes from Gautam Gambhir's childhood coach Sanjay Bhardwaj.

Future Kids School Sweeps Rising Stars Basketball Championship

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Waheed Uddin

Future Kids School delivered a dominant all-round performance to emerge as the overall champion at the Rising Stars Basketball Championship-2026, held at St. Joseph's School on April 18 and 19. Competing across Under-14 and Under-19 categories for both boys and girls, the school clinched titles in multiple divisions, underlining its supremacy in the tournament. In the Under-19 Boys



final, Future Kids School defeated Teen Titans 45-38 after overcoming SJPS-KK 32-28 in the semifinal. Teen Titans had entered the final by beating KVBR Stadium 42-

34. The Under-19 Girls team also secured the title, defeating Johnson Grammar School 28-18 in the final. Earlier, Future Kids beat NASR School 34-29 in the semifinal, while

Johnson Grammar advanced after a 34-28 win over DPS. In the Under-14 Boys category, Future Kids School registered a convincing 26-19 victory over

YMCA in the final. The team had earlier defeated SJPS-KK 19-14, while YMCA overcame Brother Academy 14-10 in the semifinal. The Under-14 Girls team added another title, edging past NASR School 10-9 in a thrilling final. Future Kids had defeated SJPS Vanasthalipuram 24-13 in the semifinal, while NASR beat Holy Family 24-16. With consistent victories across categories, Future Kids School stood out as the undisputed champion of the championship.

Taekwondo Premier League Season 2 Leg 1 Ends Successfully

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Taekwondo Premier League (TPL) Season 2 - Leg 1 (Male) concluded successfully at Hotel The Park, Somajiguda, showcasing high-intensity bouts and exceptional talent from top athletes across India. Teams including North East Heroes, Telangana Risers, Gujarat Thunders, Bengal Tigers, Delhi Warriors, Maharashtra Avengers, Haryana

Hunters, and Rajasthan Rebels delivered thrilling performances. The event was inaugurated by distinguished guests including MLC Addanki Dayakar, former Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumantharao, MLCs Madhu Sudhana Chary and Banda Prakash, alongside TPL leadership. Chairman Raunaq Yar Khan and Telangana Risers founder Sandeep Jain added prestige. Winners were felicitated during the closing ceremony. Founder



Ganesh Duvvuri and co-founders reaffirmed their commitment to grassroots development and athlete empowerment, including free

training initiatives. The league now sets the stage for upcoming legs and international participation opportunities.

RWAs propose fire safety cells to tackle fire accidents in residential colonies

The United Federation of RWAs, an apex body of RWAs in Greater Hyderabad, has proposed setting up Fire Safety Cells to tackle fire mishaps in residential colonies. The proposal emerged after the Director General, Fire Services, had sought RWA participation during the ongoing National Fire Service Week celebrations, in the context of fire mishaps reported in recent times at apartments in several areas, said UFER-WAS secretary general, RSV Badrinath. At a Fire Service Week meeting at the DG Fire Services office at Nanakranguda, Badrinath spoke about the role of residential welfare associations, saying that over 30,000 RWAs can act as first responders in gated communities and are critical to last-mile fire safety. UFER-WAS proposed the formation of RWA Fire Safety Cells in all colonies with more than 1,000 units.

Telangana real estate slump deepens as registration revenue falls

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The real estate sector in Telangana continues to face sustained pressure, with revenue trends from the Registration and Stamps Department reflecting a gradual slowdown over the past two financial years. According to official data, the department collected ₹14,588.06 crore in 2023-24. This declined to ₹14,214.42 crore in 2024-25, indicating a dip in property transactions and registration activity. In the current financial year 2025-26, revenue stood at ₹12,443.64 crore up to January 31, 2026. Although collections improved in February, pushing the total to ₹13,775.51 crore, the overall momentum remains weak compared to previous years. The department had initially projected around ₹15,200



crore for the full fiscal year. However, with the present trend, officials and industry observers feel that achieving this target is increasingly unlikely. Despite the slowdown, an ambitious target of ₹16,021 crore has been set for 2026-27, raising concerns within the sector about feasibility under current conditions. Industry stakeholders say the real estate market has not fully recovered since the Congress government came to power. Developers and builders point to a combination of external and domestic factors contributing to the slug-

gish demand. Global economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and instability in West Asia have all impacted buyer sentiment. Additionally, concerns within the IT sector and a broader economic slowdown have led to cautious spending patterns, particularly among salaried professionals. Real estate representatives from CREDAI note that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and corporate employees are increasingly adopting a wait-and-watch approach, leading to reduced enquiries and slower conversions. This cautious

sentiment has persisted over several months, affecting overall sales momentum in key urban and peri-urban markets. Developers also cite certain policy-related developments as contributing factors. While the government has defended initiatives such as Pharma City and actions taken by HYDRAA against illegal constructions, industry players argue that such moves have created uncertainty among buyers. They maintain that even minor concerns in regulatory or policy perception can significantly slow down market activity. As a result, unsold inventory is reportedly rising across several projects. Despite current challenges, developers remain hopeful that market conditions could improve in the ongoing financial year if confidence returns and demand stabilises.

Thunderstorms lash Hyderabad, trees uprooted across city

A sudden spell of gusty winds and thunderstorms hit Hyderabad and Cyberabad on Sunday evening, leading to waterlogging on major roads and uprooting of trees in several localities including Quthbullapur, Kompally and Alwal. Geographic Reference

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Gusty winds accompanied by thunderstorms lashed several parts of Hyderabad and Cyberabad on Sunday evening, causing widespread disruption across the northern corridors of the city. The sudden weather change brought intense rain that led to waterlogging on key roads and traffic slowdowns in multiple busy areas. Localities including Suchitra, Kompally, Alwal, Gajulamaram, Pragathi Nagar, and Quthbullapur reported incidents of uprooted trees due to strong winds. The fallen trees blocked several stretches of roads, leading to temporary traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. Residents also faced difficulties as rainwater ac-



cumulated on major roads, affecting smooth vehicular movement. The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) control room received multiple complaints regarding waterlogging and tree falls. Responding swiftly, Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams were deployed across affected locations to clear obstructions and restore normalcy. Officials confirmed that all reported incidents were attended to

on priority. According to an official press release, Quthbullapur recorded around 4 cm of rainfall. Strong winds resulted in tree falls at nearly 53 different locations across the city. The northern parts of Hyderabad witnessed the highest impact, with water stagnation reported at about eight locations. Authorities stated that all uprooted trees were cleared and traffic restored by around 8.30 pm, ensuring quick relief to affected commuters.

Govt to set up 79 new dialysis centers in Telangana: Health minister

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Saturday, April 18, said that 79 more dialysis centres with a capacity of 416 beds will be set up in the state to ensure that every patient reaches the centres within 20 to 25 minutes. Speaking at the annual conference of the Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism at Mind Space in Hyderabad, the minister stated that non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and kidney disease have become a major challenge to public health, especially in urban areas. He said that dialysis services have been significantly expanded in government hospitals, and with the establishment of 16 new dialysis centres last year, the total number of centres has reached 102. Additionally, 155 additional new dialysis machines are being set up to reduce waiting time in 67 centers. Around 16,500 patients are being given free dialysis services under the Aarogyasri scheme, with 10,000 people receiving services in government hospitals and 6,500 people in private hospitals. The government is undertaking an expenditure of Rs 220 crore every year for these services. To tackle this, the government is developing a comprehensive health system that creates awareness on disease prevention and helps in early-stage disease detection, treatment, and rehabilitation. He said that dialysis services have been significantly expanded in government hospitals, and with the establishment of 16 new dialysis centres last year, the total number of centres has reached 102. Additionally, 155 additional new dialysis machines are being set up to reduce waiting time in 67 centers. Around 16,500 patients are being given free dialysis services under the Aarogyasri scheme, with

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Heatwave, thunderstorms to batter Telangana for next four days: IMD

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

It's a double whammy of sorts, as people across Telangana are in for grueling weather conditions for the next four days! According to an India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, forecast on Sunday, almost all the districts in Telangana will face scorching day time heat followed by sudden evening thunderstorms and gusty winds till Wednesday, April 22. The IMD, Hyderabad has



warned that maximum temperatures in most of the districts are expected to hover between 40 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius. The scorching heat of afternoons are expected to give way to

more volatile conditions in the evening, triggering thundershowers and gusty winds of speeds ranging between 30 kmph and 40 kmph. The thunderstorm alert between Sunday and Wednesday covers several districts Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancheril, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Peddapalli, Karimnagar, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajiri, Rangareddy,

Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar and Nagarkurnool. According to forecasts from IMD, New Delhi and Hyderabad, due to extreme daytime temperatures of 40 degree Celsius to 44 degree Celsius, the hot air rises rapidly and forms massive cumulonimbus (thunder clouds) clouds by evening. When the rising heat meets moisture laden winds blowing from Bay of Bengal, it triggers thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds.

Fire breaks out at scrap godown in Hyderabad's Balapur, no casualties

A major fire broke out at a scrap godown in Balapur on Sunday, April 19, causing panic among residents. According to fire department officials, the fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit within the godown. The presence of large quantities of combustible scrap materials significantly contributed to the rapid spread of the flames, making firefighting efforts more challenging. Residents in the vicinity were alarmed upon noticing thick smoke and rising flames, leading to a brief period of panic in the area. Authorities acted swiftly, with four fire tenders rushing to the spot to control the blaze. Personnel from the Balapur Police Station also arrived at the scene to manage the situation and ensure public safety. Firefighters carried out an intensive operation for nearly three hours before successfully bringing the fire under control. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident. An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire and to assess the extent of property damage.

Ashish Goud Stands Firm Against Prakash Raj's Remarks

BJP youth leader Ashish Goud Says actor's comments on Lord Ram and Lakshman hurt sentiments: demands strict legal action

Ashish Goud made a controversial statement against the actor, saying he would "die like a dog" one day, accusing him of hurting the sentiments of thousands



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP youth leader Ashish Goud has strongly reacted to actor Prakash Raj's controversial remarks allegedly made on Lord Ram and Lakshman during the Kerala Literature Festival, stating that such comments have deeply hurt the sentiments of a large section of people and should not be taken lightly. Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Ashish Goud maintained that Prakash Raj's statements were not just personal opinions but remarks that had the potential to disturb social harmony and offend religious beliefs. He asserted that in a diverse society, public figures must exercise responsibility while

expressing their views, especially on matters connected to faith and culture. Goud demanded that the police and concerned authorities take strict legal action against the actor, emphasizing that freedom of expression should not be misused to provoke or hurt religious sentiments. He added that many citizens across the state were upset over the remarks and were expecting accountability from the system. During his interaction, Goud also made strong comments against the actor, which later drew controversy and sparked debate in political circles. However, his supporters

argue that his reaction reflects the anger and frustration of people who feel their religious beliefs were insulted. Prakash Raj, known for his outspoken views on political and social issues, has often been at the center of public controversies, with both supporters and critics engaging in heated debates over his statements. The incident has once again highlighted the sensitive balance between freedom of expression and respect for religious sentiments, with BJP leaders standing firmly against what they describe as repeated provocative remarks from public personalities.

UoH wins top prize for wall calendar at TGPR conference

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant recognition of its creative excellence and visual communication, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) was awarded the first prize in the wall calendar category at the 4th Telangana State Public Relations (TGPR) conference held here on Sunday. KV Ramana Chary, former advisor to the State government, who presented the award lauded the university's commitment to high stan-

dards in institutional branding. The 4th TGPR conference served as a premier platform for PR professionals, academics, and corporate communicators to celebrate excellence in the field of public relations and communications. For the UoH, this win adds another feather to its cap, reinforcing its position not just as a centre for academic excellence, but also as a leader in effective institutional outreach, the university said.

Afraid of KCR meeting, Govt announces to give Rythu Bharosa

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the state government has announced payment of Rythu Bharosa to farmers within a day or two only because it was afraid of the public meeting of the BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao slated to be held in Jagtial on Monday. Congress leaders, who criticised the BRS president for not attending the Assembly, have become jittery after the BRS announced that Chandrashekar Rao will attend the Jagtial meeting. Srinivas Yadav made these comments while addressing a



press conference here on Sunday. Besides implementing the promises made to the public, a number of other schemes were also implemented during the BRS regime led by Chandrashekar Rao. However, except for its demolition attitude, the Congress government has done nothing for the welfare of the public so far.

Various schemes such as KCR Kit, Dalit Bandhu, old age pension, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima and others were successfully implemented by the BRS government. The Congress party, which promised to double the benefit of all the schemes before the elections, stopped them after coming to power. Not a single project that would benefit the public was constructed during the last two and a half years. Moreover, Rs 3.5 lakh crore was borrowed. Talking about the Jagtial meeting scheduled on Monday, he appealed to the people to participate in the meeting in large numbers and make it a grand success.

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