



**Exit Poll BJP-sponsored, Rigged, Says mamta: P4**



**Gujarat Titans beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by four wickets in IPL: P7**

**PM Modi to Launch ₹7,823 Crore Projects in Telangana on May 10 Visit: P3**



## Education Kits Deadline June 15, Says Revanth

Centralised procurement to curb irregularities, ensure quality delivery

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed that education kits containing all necessary material be delivered to students in welfare hostels and schools by June 15. He said this was important as students could focus on studies if they were provided with notebooks, educational material and uniforms in time. He said payments to suppliers of the kits would be cleared immediately. Revanth Reddy pointed to irregularities took place when the departments handled the procurement and supply operations individually in the previous years. A centralised procurement policy has been introduced as the old system lacked uniformity, the Chief Minister. He noted that malpractices and misappropriation of funds came to light where each department independently managed the supply of materials, mainly uniforms, notebooks and



trunk boxes.

He was speaking at a meeting to review arrangements made for the centralised procurement of educational material that are to be distributed to students in educational institutions run by the education department as well as the BC, minority, tribal, and SC welfare and ST development wings. The CM warned that such irregularities would not be tolerated and stressed that the centralised procurement system should enhance accountability. The government's objective was to benefit students and not safeguard the interests of suppliers, Revanth Reddy said. He

directed officials to ensure that all the material including notebooks, trunk boxes, plates, glasses, tracksuits, bed sheets, school bags, ID cards, and uniforms were of high quality. The officials were also ordered to pay special attention not only to quality but also to timely delivery.

The Chief Minister suggested appointing of a nodal officer at the mandal level to oversee the distribution of educational material to students and directed officials to take measures to ensure that supplies are distributed from the central point down to the field levels, specifically to schools and

hostels in the villages. All supply material should be photographed and video-recorded to document the distribution process. Officials should verify that every single student has received the complete set of required material and seek feedback from the students regarding the quality of notebooks, uniforms etc. The meeting took a decision to constitute a committee to ensure coordination among the SC, ST, BC, Minority, and Education departments.

Government adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy, MP Vem Narender Reddy, CM's OSD Vemula Srinivasulu, special chief secretary, tribal welfare, Sabyasachi Ghosh, secretaries Yogita Rana (education), Shafiullah (minority welfare), Bala Mayadevi (BC welfare), SERP CEO Divya, higher education commissioner Sridevasena, school education director Dr Naveen Nicholas, TGBCWRIES secretary B. Saidulu and others were present.

## High Drama Over EVMs in West Bengal

Election Commission denies charges of tampering

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

The strongrooms holding EVMs in West Bengal became the focal point of protests after elections on Thursday with TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee urging party leaders, workers and polling agents to maintain a 24-hour vigil at the centres. TMC candidates Kunal Ghosh and Shashi Panja staged a sit-in protest at Khudiram Anushilan Kendra on Thursday, alleging irregular activities inside the facility. The Election Commission, however, dismissed the claims regarding the handling of polled materials at the centre, asserting that all procedures were duly followed and the strongrooms remain secure. "There are seven Assembly Constituency-wise strongrooms inside the Kshudiram Anushilan Kendra, all of which have been closed and sealed in the presence of candidates, their election agents and the general observer after completion of pol-

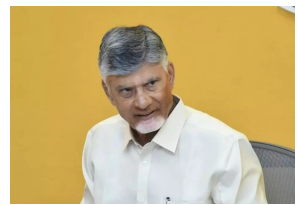


ling," an EC official said. The final strongroom was sealed at around 5.15 am on Thursday, he added. "All strongrooms containing polled EVMs are safely secured and sealed," the official said. In a video message earlier in the day, Banerjee asked party leaders, candidates and workers to remain on high alert during counting and guard strong rooms housing the EVMs. "You must guard the counting centres. If needed, I will also go and guard my area. Candidates must guard themselves. Stay awake. If I can do it, so can you. There is a plan to change the machines while transporting EVMs. Do not

take this lightly," she said. In a post on X, the TMC described the "act" as "murder of democracy in broad daylight", accusing the BJP of colluding with the Election Commission to tamper with ballot boxes and EVMs during the ongoing poll process. In a strongly worded statement, the party claimed that CCTV footage showed ballot boxes being opened without the presence of authorised representatives of political parties, terming it "gross electoral fraud". The TMC further alleged that attempts such as voter intimidation, deletion of names and misuse of central forces had failed,

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## Universities in AP to be Research Hubs



In a comprehensive review of the education sector, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed officials to undertake sweeping reforms aimed at transforming universities into centres of research, innovation and global competitiveness. Alongside, academic programmes should be aligned with future industry needs, the Chief Minister stated. Chairing a high-level meeting at the state secretariat, Naidu emphasised the need for "course forecasting" to anticipate emerging trends and ensure that curricula remain relevant to evolving economic and technological demands.

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## Trump Floats A New Plan To Reopen Strait of Hormuz

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Donald Trump is considering a new strategy to reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz amid ongoing tensions with Iran. According to a senior administration official, the proposed plan involves maintaining a US-led blockade on Iranian ports while working closely with allied nations to ensure the uninterrupted



flow of global energy supplies.

The strategy focuses on forming a maritime coalition that would deter Iran from disrupting shipping routes through the narrow waterway, which carries a

significant share of the world's oil exports. Officials say multiple diplomatic and policy options are being evaluated to pressure Iran into easing its control over the region. The move comes as the prolonged Iran conflict shows no signs of resolution, raising concerns about global energy security and escalating geopolitical risks in one of the world's most critical maritime corridors.

## 4 Killed, 10 Others Missing As Cruise Boat Capsizes In Reservoir

**BHOPAL**  
Wakeup telangana

At least four people were killed and ten others reported missing as a cruise boat capsized in the Bargi reservoir on the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Thursday evening, officials said. "Death of four people has been confirmed, while 15 people were rescued alive. Search and rescue operation has been launched on war footing to save others", a press release is-

sued by the state public relations department late in the evening, said.

According to the press release, tickets were issued for 29 passengers for the cruise in the boat. Sources said that those rescued alive included the captain of the boat. All the passengers in the boat were wearing life jackets, official sources said. Bargi city superintendent of police Anjula Mishra said that the boat sank due to the sudden gale accompanied by thunderstorms that hit the area in the

evening. Chief minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief and shock over the tragic death of four passengers in the cruise boat and said that a rescue and search operation has been launched in the reservoir to save other passengers. Jabalpur district collector and local superintendent of police rushed to the spot to oversee rescue and search operation. The state disaster response force (SDRF) team has been deployed in the operation, officials said.

## Crude Oil Hits \$126/barrel

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee on Thursday touched a historic low of 95.3425 to a dollar as Brent crude prices climbed the roof with June futures moving up to \$ 126 per barrel, the highest in four years. The currency weakness adds to concerns around India's import bill, inflation trajectory, and overall growth outlook, particularly at a time when energy prices are rising sharply. Oil companies and foreign portfolio investors continued to be

buyers of dollars in the markets as the 10-year benchmark yields touched 7.06 per cent.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.02, it made a low of 95.34 level (loss of 46 paise), eclipsing its previous all-time low of 95.21 hit on March 30, before recovering to 94.86 on suspected RBI intervention. It finally closed the day at 94.91, marginally weaker compared to its previous closing of 94.84. Meanwhile, the US Fed kept rates unchanged amid strong inflation pressure triggered

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ESTD 1960

### ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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

## SC Urges Centre to Review Law on Rape Survivors' Abortions

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Taking exception to a plea by AIIMS seeking to set aside its order permitting a 15-year-old rape survivor to terminate a 30-week pregnancy, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to consider amending the law to remove the time limit for termination in such cases. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the law should evolve with changing times and suggested that pregnancies arising out of rape should not

be subject to a statutory limit. "Please amend your law that when there is pregnancy due to rape etc, then time limitation will not be there. The law needs to be organic and in sync with evolving times. Also amend the law so that such trials are completed within a week. Why should the child suffer the pending trauma of the trial also?"

The court said a minor cannot be compelled to continue an unwanted pregnancy and observed that denial of termination could cause lasting trauma. "This is a curative petition. Unwanted pregnancy cannot be thrust on a person.



Imagine... She is a child. She should be studying now. But we want to make her a mother. Imagine the pain, the humiliation the child has suffered in this," it said. The Bench said the decision on termination

should rest with the survivor and her parents, and asked AIIMS to provide counselling to enable an informed choice. It said the institution's role was to offer medical advice, not to decide for the patient. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for AIIMS, submitted that termination at this stage may result in a live birth with complications and raised concerns about the minor's long-term health.

She sought permission for counselling with the survivor and her parents. Responding to this, the court said: "Explain everything to the child and her

parents. If after that they want to change views then we will see," adding that the state should not be in conflict with citizens in such matters. Earlier, on April 24, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan had allowed the minor to terminate the pregnancy and dismissed a review plea by AIIMS, holding that termination of an unwanted pregnancy cannot be denied solely on the ground of advanced gestation or normalcy of the foetus. The Centre has also filed a curative petition, the final legal remedy available.

## Tummala Orders Crackdown on Spurious Seeds, Calls for Zero Tolerance

As part of preparations for the Kharif 2026 season, the Minister reviewed seed availability crop-wise and company-wise. He directed officials to ensure that only high-quality, high-yielding seeds are made available to farmers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday held a comprehensive review meeting with officials of the Agriculture Department, Seed Development Corporation, and representatives of seed companies at the Secretariat here. As part of preparations for the Kharif 2026 season, the Minister reviewed seed availability crop-wise and company-wise. He directed officials to ensure that only high-quality, high-yielding seeds are made available to farmers. The Minister emphasized strict action against spurious seeds and instructed officials to coordinate with the police depart-



ment to curb their production, transportation, and sale. He called for a zero-tolerance policy in dealing with substandard seeds. For Kharif 2026, cultivation is expected in approximately 134.66 lakh acres, requiring an estimated 19.42 lakh quintals of seeds. Currently, 38.21 lakh quintals of seeds are available in the state, nearly double the requirement. In cotton cultivation, with a target of around 52 lakh acres, officials informed that against a requirement

of 104 lakh packets, 212.11 lakh packets are available. The Minister stated that the higher availability compared to last year would boost farmer confidence. Special focus was laid on hybrid seed availability. The Minister directed companies to prioritize supply based on farmers' demand and ensure strict quality monitoring through seed testing laboratories. He warned of stringent legal action against the production and sale of substandard seeds, recall-

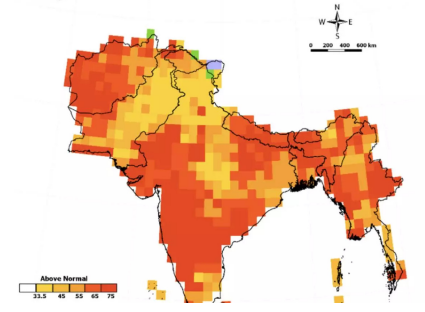
ing that licenses were cancelled in the past for violations. Companies were instructed to submit monthly stock details to the government and bear losses arising from self-certified seeds. The Minister also stressed that paddy varieties should be selected based on inputs from farmers, millers, and consumers, aligning with international export standards. He directed companies to make seeds available to farmers from May 15. To curb illegal seed activities, he ordered the officials of special task force teams from district to mandal levels. Strict vigilance was mandated at state borders to prevent the entry of illegal HT cotton seeds and the movement of loose cotton

seeds. Highlighting the need for transparency, the Minister called for strengthening the licensing system. He directed that GOT-failed cotton seeds be declared unfit for use and prevented from reaching farmers. On co-marketing practices, he noted irregularities where seed identity and branding lack clarity. He stated that the government would not tolerate misuse of legal loopholes to mislead farmers and instructed officials to frame clear regulations, including examining the possibility of banning co-marketing if necessary. Officials also informed that special measures are being taken to promote green manure seeds to improve soil fertility.

## Latest Outlook Says Parts of India May Get Excess Rains

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The 'now you see me, now you don't' predictions about how this year's southwest monsoon will play over India continued on Thursday, with the South Asia Climate Outlook Forum predicting below normal rains between May and September, with some parts of the country bucking the trend. Pockets of peninsular India including some parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh along with some areas in Gujarat and Rajasthan and southern Tamil Nadu and south eastern Kerala are among those, the forum said that could receive not just normal rainfall, but could even see some cases of precipitation in the above normal category. Parts of North-east India too are expected to see above normal rainfall if the current predictions hold. The forum, which met in Male, Maldives on Wednesday, according to the World Meteorological Organisation, had representation from nine national met services – Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. The WMO, in a news release said the



latest forecast is based on analysis of global climate conditions, and that there is a strong consensus among experts that El Nino conditions are likely to develop during this year's monsoon season. The forum also took note of how the Indian Ocean Dipole, another key climate driver in the region, was expected to move from a neutral to positive phase. The possibility of a positive IOD was previously reported in these columns on April 16 in the report 'Giant battle between oceans is on, monsoon seems vulnerable'. The WMO release said that the forum also concluded that both the maximum daytime and minimum night temperatures are expected to be above normal between May and September this year across the region.

## Congress to allot BRS-era 2BHK houses under Indiramma Indlu scheme

The Congress government will allot BRS-era double-bedroom houses under the Indiramma scheme, starting with a pilot in Mahabubnagar. Beneficiaries will complete unfinished units with State aid, as the government targets one lakh housewarmings in the first phase

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant policy shift, the Congress government in Telangana has decided to distribute double-bedroom houses built during the previous BRS regime under its Indiramma Indlu housing scheme. If all goes as planned, the government is likely to formally roll out a pilot project in Mahabubnagar district from June and allot them to beneficiaries under the L2 category (those without land). The move comes despite the Congress having repeatedly criticised the earlier BRS government for not prioritising completion of the double-bedroom houses for the poor and then keeping the fully or partially completed houses which were unused for over two-and-a-half years by subsuming them. Now, the same housing stock is set to be handed over to beneficiaries, raising questions over why these units were left vacant for



such a long period. According to officials, over 50,000 houses were completed in urban areas across the State. Another 35,200 houses are in different stages of construction. In Mahabubnagar district alone, both completed and partially completed houses account for nearly 8,500 units. Sources said the officials were directed to give them a fresh coat of white paint, decorated with three colours of the ruling party's flag. The government has set a target to complete housewarming ceremonies for

one lakh houses in first phase by early June, even as it pushes forward with the second phase of the housing scheme. Under the new plan, houses will be handed over irrespective of their construction stage including basement, slab or finishing. Beneficiaries will be tasked with completing the remaining work, with financial support from the government. Contracts with earlier contractors are being cancelled, and beneficiary committees will oversee the comple-

tion of pending works. The government has already announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh per beneficiary under the Indiramma scheme, which will be released in four phases. The financial assistance will be released to beneficiaries in accordance with the condition of the allotted houses in different stages. Meanwhile, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday held a review meeting with the officials and directed them to complete identification of beneficiaries and allotment of double-bedroom houses by May end. He asked them to complete the houses which are in the final stages, while allotting partially completed houses to beneficiaries. He instructed the officials to provide basic infrastructure like power, water and drainage to the double-bedroom housing colonies immediately.

## Telangana sets up border checks amid fuel demand surge

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Civil Supplies department, in coordination with other departments, has set up border check posts to prevent out-of-state vehicles from crossing into Telangana exclusively for refuelling and exhausting local fuel reserves. The department also constituted joint task forces comprising civil supplies, revenue, and police officials, which are conducting aggressive field inspections to halt diversions and illegal hoarding. At a meeting, Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Civil Supplies, said

certain steps are being taken following a sudden spike in fuel demand triggered by the rumours of post-election price hikes and cross-border panic buying from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The strain on the state's retail network was further worsened by commercial consumers exploiting the steep price gap between industrial diesel Rs 150 per litre and retail diesel Rs 95 per litre, which led to localised retail shortages. Stephen Raveendra directed the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to immediately ramp up petrol and diesel supplies

by 10 per cent to 15 per cent across Telangana. He instructed the companies for relentless, round-the-clock distribution operations—including Sundays and holidays—to guarantee zero fuel dry-outs during the critical Rabi harvesting season. "Fuel supplies for harvesters and essential commodity transport are fully secured to ensure the Rabi season remains completely uninterrupted," he said. The department strictly prohibited 'no stock' boards anywhere in the State, with officials tracking outlet indents and stock levels every four

hours. "District Energy Supply Committees are actively managing the crisis, and citizens can report grievances directly to the newly activated 1967 toll-free helpline," he added. As of April 30, daily statewide diesel distribution has skyrocketed by 190 per cent to 21,295 kilolitres, while petrol distribution surged by 118 per cent. The OMCs are currently pumping 34,170 kilo litres of fuel through the state's network, representing a 158 per cent increase over the daily average, a press release said.

## SC Count Drops 25% in Cantonment, Probe Ordered

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A sharp 25.39% decline in the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Secunderabad Cantonment Board between 2001 and 2011—despite a 5.72% rise in total population—has triggered a probe by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Acting on a complaint by activist Sanki Ravinder Babu, the Commission issued notices to Census authorities and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, seeking a detailed report within 10 days. The complaint alleges serious enumeration lapses, noting that SC communities such as Mala and Madiga visibly form a significant share of the local population. Experts warn the discrepancy could have far-reaching consequences. Demographer Dr. Lakshmi Reddy said such



a steep drop amid urban growth indicates possible undercounting or data errors, which can impact welfare schemes, reservations, and political representation. Babu has demanded a comprehensive probe, stricter monitoring in the upcoming census, independent verification of records, and public awareness on data accuracy. Similar inconsistencies reported in other Telangana urban pockets have raised broader concerns about the reliability of census data. With the next census approaching, the issue has intensified calls for transparency and accountability to ensure marginalized communities are not statistically excluded.

## Bill collector in Telangana ACB's net over Rs 35,000 bribe

An outsourcing bill collector in Sangareddy district was caught by the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday, April 30, for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹35,000. The accused, M. Nikhil Reddy, was working under the Municipal Commissioner's office in Sadasivpet town. He was caught red-handed at the complainant's residence while accepting ₹15,000 as part of the bribe. According to ACB officials, Nikhil had initially demanded ₹35,000 to reduce the complainant's property tax from ₹1,04,480 to ₹49,892. He had already collected ₹20,000 earlier, making the total agreed bribe amount ₹35,000. The ACB conducted a trap operation following a complaint and apprehended the accused during the transaction. Officials stated that further investigation is underway and legal action will be taken as per anti-corruption laws. The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau has urged citizens not to pay bribes and to report such demands immediately. People can contact the agency through its toll-free number 1064, WhatsApp number 9440446106, or social media platforms. Authorities assured that the identity of complainants will be kept confidential.

## Revant Reddy defends centralised procurement for student supplies

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revant Reddy on Thursday defended the government's centralised procurement system for student supplies, amid allegations of corruption and delays. A deadline of June 15 was set for the officials to complete distribution across departments, including Education, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC) and Minority Welfare.



A coordination committee will be constituted to streamline work across departments and ensure transparency in the process. Nodal officers will be appointed at the mandal level to monitor distribution. At a review meeting here, the Chief Minister

said the system was introduced to improve accountability and remove irregularities seen under the earlier decentralised model, where departments handled procurement separately. He claimed that the new system would benefit students, but not suppliers and also enable the government to ensure supply of quality products. He directed officials to ensure timely supply of essential items such as uniforms, notebooks, school bags and other

materials to students in government schools and hostels. He said payments to suppliers should be cleared only after delivery. To address concerns over delays, Revant Reddy asked officials to ensure smooth supply to schools and hostels and verify that every student receives all items. He also called for documentation of distribution through photos and videos, apart from collecting feedback from students on quality.

## Grand Chandi Homam at Bowenpally Temple

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Devotion marked the eighth Dwaja Stambha anniversary celebrations at the New Boinappally Edu Gulla Durga Mata Ammavari Temple in Bowenpally on Thursday, with a grand Chandi Homam drawing large crowds. BJP leader T. N. Murari attended as chief guest, while devotees thronged the temple premises. The Chandi Homam, performed by priests with Vedic chants, invoked Goddess Chandi's blessings, creating a spiritually



charged atmosphere. A Sattyanarayana Vratam followed, where families participated in rituals seeking prosperity and well-being. Special offerings were made to Durga Mata Ammavari before anna prasadam was distributed to devotees. Prominent at-

tendees included Om Prakash Yadav, Vara Prasad, and Mukesh Yadav. Temple organizers said the event strengthened community bonds and reaffirmed the temple's importance as a cultural and spiritual hub in Bowenpally.

**25% Discount on LRS Fees From May 1 to July 31**

The government has announced a 25 per cent discount rebate on fees under the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS), valid from May 1 to July 31. The offer applies to those who applied for LRS in 2020, but were yet to clear their dues. The municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department issued orders confirming the concession. Officials said that the rebate was aimed at encouraging people to pay pending amounts within the given time. Officials believed that the discount would help speed up the regularisation process across the state, and urged applicants to make use of the limited-time benefit and avoid missing the deadline. The LRS is a government initiative designed to bring unapproved and illegal layouts into the formal planning system. By regularising those plots, owners can obtain legal status for their land. This also makes them eligible for building permissions and ensures smoother property transactions in the future.

**PM Modi to Launch ₹7,823 Crore Projects in Telangana on May 10 Visit**

Speaking at a press conference here, Reddy highlighted the party's strengthened position post-Lok Sabha elections, with 40 lakh new members and victories in MLC, panchayat, and municipal polls.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate and dedicate projects worth ₹7,823 crore to the people during his first visit here in his third term on May 10. He will later address a public meeting at the Secunderabad Parade Ground. Speaking at a press conference here, Reddy highlighted the party's strengthened position post-Lok Sabha elections, with 40 lakh new members and victories in MLC, panchayat, and municipal polls. He noted that the Modi government had sanctioned ₹85,000 crore in railway projects, most of them nearly 90 per cent complete including the rail manufacturing



unit in Warangal which would generate 10,000 jobs. Reddy said tender works for MMTS Phase II from Hyderabad to Yadadri-gutta had been issued and land acquisition was awaited. Construction on the Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University campus would start soon, with ₹1,000 crore approved. A ₹400 crore National Science Centre at Tarnaka nears completion, set to boost research in defence, pharma, medical, IT, and allied sectors. The detailed project report for

the Regional Ring Road (South) was being finalised, with land acquisition to follow Cabinet approval — after which the Prime Minister will inaugurate the works. Modi will also launch the greenfield smart industrial city at Zaheerabad, one of 12 nationwide "plug-and-play" projects. With ₹1,695 crore in infrastructure, it promises 1.52 lakh direct jobs and 10 lakh indirect ones, Reddy said. At Warangal's Kakatiya PM Mitra Mega Textile Park—one of seven national hubs with ₹2,000 crore investment—MoUs are signed with KiteX, Youngone (a Korean MNC), and another exporter. These units have started construction, targeting 24,000 jobs. Modi will inaugurate a ₹611 crore petroleum products

terminal at Malkapur (1.6 lakh KL capacity for petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, and lubricants) to serve the state. He will virtually lay foundations for ₹3,175 crore national highway projects in Mahbubnagar, plus the ₹1,243 crore Kazipet-Vijayawada third rail line, and bypass roads at Kazipet and Peddapalli to ease congestion. Reddy pledged to push for Metro Phase II approval after a new DPR, noting the state government's takeover of Phase I smoothed transitions as L&T declined Phase II. He slammed BRS and Congress for poor financial management, alleging police now guard the finance minister's Secretariat chamber amid contractor pressures for dues clearance.

**NHRC Warns as TG Hits 46°C Heatwave**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has listed Telangana among nearly 20 states asked to take urgent steps to protect people from intensifying heat, as temperatures across the state remain high without a fresh public advisory. On Thursday, maximum temperatures in Telangana touched 46°C in Adilabad, with several districts including Kamareddy, Nirmal, Jagtial and Kumuram Bheem recording between 45.8°C and 45.9°C. Most other districts remained in the 42°C to 45°C range, indicating sustained heat stress conditions. Despite this, the state's public health and family welfare (DPH&FW) department has not issued a



new heatwave advisory. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Dr B. Ravinder Naik, director of the department said: "An advisory was in place and an updated one will be released soon." The last advisory, however, was issued nearly three weeks ago. The Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPs) has identified heatwave conditions in multiple mandals over the past two days, based on temperatures crossing 45°C. "In the absence of a clear

heatwave advisory, people often underestimate the risk and delay basic precautions like hydration, avoiding peak hours, or seeking medical help," said Dr S Karunesh, a consultant general physician. "That can quickly lead to heat exhaustion or even heatstroke, especially among children, the elderly and outdoor workers." In Hyderabad, temperatures continued to stay above 41°C across all circles, with peaks touching 42.5°C in areas such as Hayathnagar and Secunderabad. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast that high temperatures will persist for the next few days, with only isolated thunderstorms offering limited relief until around May 3-4.

**Delay in procurement of paddy produce irks farmers in Mancherial**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Farmers are facing inconvenience due to delay in a full-fledged procurement of paddy produce belonging to Yasangi season-2026. Farmers raised the paddy crop despite challenges in the form of shortage of urea and delay in releasing Rythu Benefits. They started harvesting the crop from the first week of this month. According to information provided by agriculture officials, the paddy crop was grown in 1.22 lakh acres in the district in this Yasangi season. Officials estimated that the district would register a yield of 2.20 lakh metric tonnes of paddy this time. The Civil Supplies Department said that 313 centres were identified by various agencies including Indira Kranthi Pathakam (IKP), Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and District Cooperative Marketing Societies (DCMS) to procure the paddy across the district. They stated that basic amenities were created



for the convenience of the farmers. They claimed that the process of the paddy produce procurement was commenced in the middle of April. The State government has already declared that it would procure all the grains from the farmers. The growers shifted the paddy produce to nearby centres expecting the grains would be weighed and procured by the government. They alleged that over 50 centres were set up so far, causing inconvenience and affecting the process of paddy procurement. They stated that they were guarding heaps of paddy at the centres, waiting for weighing and procurement of the grains. The farmers regretted that the paddy

produce would be drenched if the district sees unseasonal heavy rains, resulting in huge losses to them. They requested the officials to take steps to expedite the process by commencing the process at all centres. It is learned the rice mills identified for taking up customized the rice milling (CMR) process were not tagged so far. Vehicles were not hired for shipping the grains from the centres to the mills. The farmers feared that they would be forced to sell the grains to private traders if the process of paddy procurement was delayed further. The farmers recalled that the produce used to be procured by the government without any hitches during the regime of BRS.

**Ministers ignoring problems at procurement centres: Rythu Sangham**

**KHAMMAM**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Rythu Sangham district secretary Bonthu Rambabu alleged that three Ministers in the district were deliberately ignoring the difficulties faced by farmers at maize and grain procurement centres across the district. Speaking at a district-level meeting of the Sangham here on Thursday, he stated that farmers were enduring severe hardships at procurement centres due to an inadequate supply of gunny bags and transport trucks. Farmers were forced to purchase gunny bags at exorbitant



prices in the open market to sell their maize produce. Due to the unavailability of trucks and citing delays in the timely unloading of maize sacks, truck owners and drivers were levying additional charges ranging from Rs 30 to Rs 50 per quintal from the farmers. It was a result of the government's lack of prior planning, he said.

Rambabu noted that a farmer who has harvested 100 quintals of produce ends up bearing an additional financial burden of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. The process of procuring maize from tenant farmers following their online registration through the marketing department was not being fully implemented in Khammam. He urged agriculture officials to resolve the issues without delay. Farmers have already sold 80 per cent of paddy they produced at meagre prices; government officials were now struggling to procure the remaining 20 per cent.

**CPI Leaders Demand Action Against Kanamettu Lake Encroachments**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

CPI state leaders Panuganti Parvathalu and T. Ramakrishna have demanded immediate and strict action against illegal encroachments and constructions on Kanamettu Lake in Serilingampally mandal. Alleging that encroachers are misusing Kukatpally survey numbers to Encroachment valuable land worth crores, they said fake survey numbers are



being created to erase lakes and drainage channels. The leaders criticized officials for their negligence, stating that authorities are turning a blind eye to such large-scale violations. They questioned why HYDRA officials, who act swiftly against huts of the poor,

are ignoring illegal constructions by the wealthy. They warned that failure to act would raise suspicions of collusion between officials and encroachers. The leaders said they would complain to the Collector and, if needed, pursue legal action in court.

**Epilepsy Surgery Emerging as Key Solution to India's Treatment Gap**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Epilepsy surgery is increasingly being recognised as a life-changing solution for millions of Indians suffering from drug-resistant seizures, with experts urging early intervention to reduce risks and improve quality of life. According to the Indian Epilepsy Society, nearly 10-12 million people in India live with epilepsy, and about one-third continue to have seizures despite medication. This large "treatment gap" exposes patients to injuries, social stigma, poor academic performance, and even life-threatening complications. Dr. Raghu Samala, Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon at AIG Hospitals, said surgery is no longer a last resort but a proven option for eligible patients. "Those who do not respond to two appropriate medications should be evaluated early," he noted. Epilepsy surgery involves identifying and targeting the seizure-causing area in the brain through advanced diagnostics such as MRI and video-EEG monitor-



ing. Procedures range from resective surgeries and disconnection techniques to minimally-invasive laser ablation and neuromodulation devices. Studies by the International League Against Epilepsy show that 60-80% of well-selected patients achieve seizure freedom after surgery. Recovery is relatively quick, with many patients returning to normal life and reducing medication dependence. However, limited awareness, high costs, and access barriers continue to restrict uptake, with fewer than 5,000 surgeries performed annually in India. Specialists emphasise that expanding access to centres and increasing awareness can significantly bridge this gap and offer patients a seizure-free future.

**Poster Released for National Conference at SIET**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Sri Indu Institute of Engineering and Technology (SIET), Hyderabad, on Thursday unveiled the poster for the National Conference on Converging Technologies in Computing, Electronics and Future Engineering (NCCTCEF'2026), scheduled to be held on June 19 and 20. Organized by the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, the conference aims to bring together academicians, researchers, indus-



try experts, and students to deliberate on emerging technologies and real-world applications. The event will feature keynote lectures, technical paper presentations, workshops, and panel discussions led by experts from academia and industry. The conference will cover major domains such as Artificial Intelligence,

Machine Learning, Internet of Things, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, Renewable Energy, and advanced communication technologies. Organizers have invited original research papers, with accepted entries to be published in proceedings carrying an ISBN, while select papers will be recommended for UGC-CARE listed journals.

The poster was released in the presence of Chairman R. Venkat Rao, Secretary and Correspondent R. Anup Chakravarthy, Executive Member J. Sreekar, Director-Academics Dr. A. Ramakrishna Rao, and Principal Dr. K. S. Sadasiva Rao. Convenor Dr. S. V. Pavankumar and Co-Convenor Dr. Perigisetty Vedavalli are leading the organizing team, supported by an advisory panel comprising national and international experts.

**Prominent Poets Felicitated by Bhairapaka**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Sri Indu Institute of Engineering and Technology (SIET), Hyderabad, on Thursday unveiled the poster for the National Conference on Converging Technologies in Computing, Electronics and Future Engineering (NCCTCEF'2026), which will be held on June 19 and 20. Organized by the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, the conference aims to bring together academicians, researchers, industry experts, and students to explore advancements



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## Norway Plans Social Media Ban For Under-16s

Norway said Friday it will present a bill this year making it the latest country seeking to ban social networks for under 16s, adding that technology companies will be responsible for verifying the age of its users. "We are introducing this legislation because we want a childhood where children get to be children. Play, friendships, and everyday life must not be taken over by algorithms and screens," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said in a statement. "This is an important measure to safeguard children's digital lives," he added. Several European countries, such as France, Spain, and Denmark have already said they will introduce a digital age of majority for social networks and others like Australia and Turkey have already done so. The European Commission has also made clear its determination to take action to protect children and adolescents, notably by unveiling in mid-April an age-verification app that will soon be made available to European citizens.

## Iran's Central Bank Confirms Strait of Hormuz Toll Revenue Deposited in Cash

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly objected to the Centre over an additional airfare charge imposed on Haj pilgrims, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the circular issued by the Haj Committee of India. In a statement posted on X on Thursday, the Hyderabad MP criticised the decision to levy an extra surcharge of about USD 100 (approximately ₹10,000) per pilgrim, calling it "exploitation" of economically vulnerable devotees. He urged the Union government to revoke the order and refund the excess amount collected from pilgrims. The controversy stems from a recent circular issued by the Haj Committee, which cited a sharp



rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices due to the ongoing tensions in West Asia as the reason for revising fares. According to the circular, airlines had requested a base fare increase exceeding USD 100, leading to the imposition of the additional charge. Owaisi pointed out that pilgrims had already paid ₹90,844 each a few months ago for travel from the Mumbai embarkation point, arguing that the revised fare now makes the cost nearly double compared to prevailing

ticket prices for individual travellers. He questioned whether pilgrims opting for the Haj Committee route were being unfairly penalised. "Are pilgrims being punished for going through the Haj Committee? This is just exploitation and nothing else," Owaisi said, highlighting that most Haj applicants are not affluent and often spend years saving for the pilgrimage. He emphasised that Haj is a religious obligation and not a luxury, making the financial

burden even more concerning. Tagging Union ministers Kiren Rijju and K. Ram Mohan Naidu in his post, Owaisi called for urgent intervention to address the issue.

The hike has triggered widespread dissatisfaction among applicants, with several political leaders also raising concerns over the sudden increase in airfare. Critics argue that the decision lacks transparency and disproportionately impacts middle- and lower-income pilgrims who rely on the Haj Committee's arrangements for affordability and convenience. The Centre has yet to issue an official response to the criticism, even as calls grow louder for reconsideration of the surcharge and relief for affected pilgrims.

## Jailed MP Engineer Rashid Visits Father After Court Relief

**SRINAGAR**  
Wakeup telangana

It was an emotional and deeply human moment at a Srinagar hospital when Awami Itihad Party (AIP) leader and Baramulla MP Abdur Rashid Sheikh—widely known as Engineer Rashid—embraced his ailing father after arriving from New Delhi. The reunion, witnessed by hospital staff, security personnel, and a small circle of family members, quickly turned into a scene of raw emotion. Both father and son broke down as they held each other, and those present found their own eyes welling up at the sight. Rashid had travelled directly from the Srinagar airport to the Government-run Sri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, choosing to see his father before



anything else. His release from Delhi came at dawn, following the Delhi High Court's decision to grant him a week of interim bail. The AIP leader has been incarcerated since July 2019, after being arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with a case involving allegations of money laundering and terror funding. His return to Kashmir on Thursday marked his first visit home in years. Officials confirmed that he landed at the Srinagar airport in the afternoon and was immediately escorted to the hospital,

where his father has been undergoing treatment. The Delhi High Court had granted him interim bail earlier in the week specifically to allow him to visit his father, whose health had reportedly deteriorated. The High Court's order, issued by a bench comprising Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Madhu Jain, laid out strict conditions for the temporary release. The court clarified that during the one-week period, Rashid would be permitted only two locations—the hospital where his father is admitted and his own home. He would be accompanied at all times by at least two police personnel in plain clothes, and the court emphasised that Rashid would not be responsible for any travel or logistical costs associated with their deployment.

## Shah to inaugurate Buddha relic exposition in Ladakh

**LADAKH**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Leh on Thursday for a two-day visit that carries both administrative significance and deep spiritual resonance for the region. His visit coincides with Buddha Purnima and the inauguration of the first-ever international exposition of the holy relics of Gautama Buddha within India, an event that Ladakh's administration has described as historic. Immediately after landing at Leh's Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Shah was received by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and senior officials of the civil and police administration. People from across Leh, dressed in traditional attire, lined the roads leading to the airport to welcome him, reflecting the enthusiasm and reverence surrounding both his visit and the sacred occasion. Soon after his arrival, the Home Minister began a series of meetings with



government functionaries, public representatives, and local stakeholders to discuss a wide range of issues concerning the strategically important Himalayan Union Territory. These discussions are expected to cover developmental priorities, administrative challenges, and security considerations, with senior officials from various agencies scheduled to brief him on key matters affecting Ladakh.

Shah's engagements on Friday will begin with his participation in the exposition of the holy relics and a cultural ceremony marking Buddha Purnima at Choglamsar, Leh. Following this, he will virtually lay the foundation stone for a

10-thousand-litres-per-day capacity dairy plant in Kargil from the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, along with launching several other dairy-related initiatives aimed at strengthening Ladakh's rural economy. The centrepiece of Shah's visit is the international exposition of the sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha, which have been brought to Ladakh for public veneration. These relics, discovered at the archaeological site of Piprahwa in present-day Uttar Pradesh near the Nepal border, hold immense historical and spiritual significance. They were transported to Leh on Wednesday in a special Indian Air Force aircraft by Drukpa Thuksey Rin-

poche and Khenpo Thilash Chosal of Matho Monastery. Upon arrival, the relics were accorded a ceremonial reception, with residents gathering along the route to pay homage.

The exposition marks the first time these relics have been brought out from their original place of preservation for display within India, despite having been exhibited internationally in countries such as Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Russia, Singapore, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. Their renewed global attention in recent years follows the repatriation to India in July 2025 of associated gems and offerings that had remained in private British collections for over a century. Lieutenant Governor Saxena described the exposition as a rare and momentous occasion for Ladakh, noting that the decision to host it in the region reflects its deep-rooted connection with Buddhism and centuries-old spiritual traditions.

## Didi: Exit Poll BJP-sponsored, Rigged

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

Calling the exit poll results of the Assembly Election in West Bengal "BJP-sponsored" and thus "rigged", chief minister and Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee sounded confident on Thursday about her party's fourth term in power in the state with more than 226 seats out of 294 this time. She also declared that she would give rounds as a TMC candidate at the counting



centres in her home turf, Bhowanipore, on May 4, the date of the announcement of the results, for monitoring the counting of votes and directed her party rank and file to be

vigilant till all votes are counted. In a veiled reference to the BJP, Ms Banerjee said in a video message, "Those who wanted to silence people of Bengal with the entire machinery of the union government, from Prime Minister to home minister, along with the ministers and leaders from 19 states and money, muscle and force power, fell silent in vote boxes." Rejecting TMC's defeat in the exit poll, the CM pointed out, "Whatever is shown on TV is

rigged. It was circulated from the BJP office at 1.08 pm on Wednesday amid polling. I got to know about it immediately in a specific information received from the media. Money was spent to ensure the broadcast. It was forcibly stated in a message that nothing can be shown beyond this. The reason is that we can get 200-300. We will anyway cross 226 this time. I have full faith in people for their huge voting."

## LDF, UDF Claim Victory Post Exit Poll Results

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
Wakeup telangana

Exit poll results in Kerala have sparked mixed reactions, with all three major political fronts making claims and counterclaims ahead of the official results on May 4. Most polls predict a win for the Congress-led UDF, though with varying seat margins, while the ruling LDF refuses to accept defeat based on projections alone. Interestingly, none of the agencies foresees a



complete wipeout for the CPM-led Left Democratic Front. Seat estimates for the UDF range from 75 to 93 at the high end and 45 to 69 at the low, while the BJP has reason to cheer as surveys suggest it could win up to three

seats, marking its entry into the assembly. With exit poll results not matching their expectations, the LDF leadership is reacting cautiously. "We are not worried about the exit polls. These clearly show two things: there is no anti-incumbency against the LDF government, and Pinarayi Vijayan remains the top choice of the people of Kerala for Chief Minister," said CPM state secretary M V Govindan. In one survey, 33 per

cent want Vijayan to continue as CM, followed by opposition leader V D Satheeshan with 21 per cent. Ramesh Chennithala trails with 8 per cent, K C Venugopal has about 3 per cent, and BJP's Rajeev Chandrasekhar holds 4 per cent. Govindan noted that the exit polls give the LDF between 60 and 69 seats, just two short of a majority. With a reported margin of error of 7 to 10 seats, there's still a strong chance of the LDF returning to power, he

### FROM FRONT PAGE

#### High Drama Over.....

"CCTV footage has exposed how @BJP4India, in active collusion with the @ECISVEEP, is opening ballot boxes without the presence of any relevant party stakeholders. This is gross electoral fraud being committed openly with the full knowledge and protection of the Election Commission," the TMC posted. "They have tried every dirty trick, name deletion, voter intimidation, Central Force terror, cash flooding, and failed miserably. Now, in sheer desperation, they have stooped to tampering with EVMs. But Bengal is not Maharashtra, Delhi, or Bihar. We will not sit silently and watch them loot our democracy," it added. Earlier, West Bengal Chief

Minister and Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Thursday rejected exit poll projections for the Assembly elections, terming them "BJP-sponsored" and "rigged", and expressed confidence that her party would secure more than 226 seats in the 294-member House. In a video message, she alleged that the exit poll results were circulated during polling and questioned their credibility. "Whatever is shown on TV is rigged. It was circulated from the BJP office at 1.08 pm on Wednesday amid polling. I got to know about it immediately in a specific information received from the media. Money was spent to ensure the broadcast. It was forcibly stated in a message that nothing can be shown beyond

this. The reason is that we can get 200-300. We will anyway cross 226 this time. **Crude Oil Hits.....** Anindya Banerjee, head of commodity and currency Research, Kotak Securities, said, "What we are witnessing is a textbook reflexive trade - rising oil prices triggering FII outflows, FII outflows compounding the dollar demand from oil importers, and the combination overwhelming whatever defence the RBI is putting up." April alone has seen FII outflows of \$7.5 billion, taking calendar-year-to-date outflows past \$20 billion, and that is sitting on top of an oil import bill that has expanded materially as Brent has moved from \$72 in February to \$126 during the

day. The two channels - trade deficit and capital account - are pulling in the same direction, and the rupee has no natural buffer, said experts. "The next important level we are watching is 96, and a sustained break above 96 opens the path to 97 - a level we see as achievable if Brent breaches \$125 and the Hormuz situation deteriorates further," said Banerjee. According to him, on the downside, 94.80 is now a meaningful support zone; anything between 94.50 and 94.80 should see strong dollar buying interest from importers who have been waiting on the sidelines, while anything below 94.50 would require a significant drop in oil prices, meaning a diplomatic breakthrough at Hormuz, which is not the base case today.

#### Universities in AP.....

Officials, he said, must restructure courses across schools, intermediate, higher education, and skill development sectors to foster both career-building and character-building among students. Highlighting the importance of innovation, the CM said universities must evolve into hubs that promote research, startups and cutting-edge discoveries. He called for the introduction of new courses in high-growth sectors such as logistics and green energy, noting that these areas were poised to be game changers. The CM also lauded Andhra University for launching the state's first course in quantum technology. Stressing global competitiveness,

Naidu urged institutions in AP to establish partnerships with top 200 universities worldwide and ensure that each university is linked with an industry partner. He also suggested setting up dedicated departments for foreign language training, including German, to enhance students' international employability. The CM directed the education department to seek recommendations from premier institutions such as IIT Madras and implement best practices in curriculum design. He also called for digitisation of university records and revealed that reputed organisations have come forward to establish specialised universities in logistics, aviation and horticulture in the state. Naidu proposed organising a state-level

CRIME

# Telangana HC Seeks Report on Owaisi College

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Taking serious note of the inaction of public authorities over the alleged large scale illegal constructions by the Barrister Fatima Owaisi Educational Campus KG- PG, and the Salar-e-Millat Educational Trust in the lake bed area including the full tank level and buffer zone of Salkam Cheruvu at Badangpet, the Telangana High Court has directed principal secretary, revenue, the civic body and the irrigation and school education departments to conduct a detailed enquiry to identify officers who did not take action during the course of construction of the college from 2015. The court directed the authorities to furnish a detailed report to

the court by July 3, after completion of the inquiry and the action taken. Justice N.V. Shrahan Kumar further directed the school education authorities to take immediate steps to shift students from the Institutions to any government school or college to pursue free education, if they received applications to that extent from the coming academic year. The judge said that these steps were being directed in order to ensure that the academic career of the students studying in the institutions would not be disturbed. Justice Sharavan Kumar was dealing with a petition filed by advocate Vijay Gopal highlighting the inaction of HYDRAA and government agencies against the illegal constructions in

the Salkam Cheruvu and not initiating action based on the complaints submitted by him on encroachments by the institutions in the lake area. On April 13, the High Court had made it clear the academic year starting from 2026 would be affected by further orders in the petition. The court, in its earlier order, also informed the parents and students pursuing their study in the alleged illegal constructions that their decision was subject to the outcome of the writ petition. Following that the High Court on Thursday issued these directions to the school education authorities. Justice Shrahan Kumar also on April 13 had directed the municipal administration and GHMC authorities to take appropriate

steps in coordination with revenue and irrigation department officials to survey the Salkam Cheruvu, identify and fix the FTL and buffer zone and thereafter prepare a detailed report listing unauthorised constructions in the area. The court also directed them to issue final notification of FTL and buffer zone within of two weeks. On Thursday, the HMDA submitted that once the inspection was complete, the report would be submitted to HYDRAA, which heads the lake protection committee. As per the instructions of the HYDRAA, the final notification would be notified in the HMDA official website. Counsel sought two months to complete the exercise.

## Techie Loses Rs 77 Lakh to Online Trading Scam

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A 48-year-old software employee from Pragathinagar was allegedly cheated of over Rs 77 lakh in a cyber fraud between February 15 and April 13, involving a WhatsApp-based trading and investment scheme. The victim came across online trading content promising high returns, Cyberabad cybercrime police, quoting her complaint, said. On responding, the victim was redirected to join a WhatsApp group. The fraud-



sters, posing as representatives of a reputed securities firm, used its branding and regulatory details to gain her trust. She was shown fabricated profit screenshots and was repeatedly persuaded to transfer money under various pretexts, including trading investments, large channel fees,

and transaction or tax certificates. Despite making multiple payments, the victim was continuously pressured to deposit more funds, with assurances that her returns would be released only after completing pending payments. The fraudsters also used multiple identities, including individuals posing as fellow investors and even a purported police official, to create credibility. They shared unverifiable transaction details and documents to further mislead her.

## Fake Number Plate Scam Busted, Two Held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad police have busted a fake number plate racket, arresting two individuals for tampering with a vehicle registration to evade traffic challans. In Hyderabad, traffic and Kachiguda police identified the accused as Shaik Abbu Baba (41) and Shaik Rihaan (19), residents of Ramanthapur. Police said the duo altered the original number of a Hero Glamour bike to resemble another registered vehicle, causing wrongful challans to be issued to a Honda Activa owner in Kukatpally. A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicles Act. Officials warned strict action, citing CCTV and ANPR surveillance tracking violations.

## 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.

## High Court stays DBT Fee Collection Ban

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Thursday temporarily suspended a key clause in GO order 7 dated April 29, issued by the Scheduled Castes development department, that barred colleges from collecting tuition fees directly from students under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Justice Juvvadi Sridevi passed the interim order while hearing writ petitions filed by private educational institutions challenging the GO, which shifted the Post Matric Scholarships,

including reimbursement of tuition fee and maintenance fee, to the DBT mode from the academic year 2026-27. Clause-XII of the order mandated that institutions shall not insist on payment of tuition and other eligible fees at the time of admission. Instead, students were required to pay fees after receiving scholarship amounts directly into their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts under the DBT mechanism. The court took note of an earlier order in a batch of writ petitions recognising substantial dues payable to the petitioner institutions

and the resulting financial hardship. As an interim measure in that batch of petitions, institutions were earlier permitted to collect tuition fees directly from students belonging to the SC, ST, EBC, BC, minorities and other categories from the academic year 2026-27 onwards, subject to the outcome of the petitions. Senior counsel L. Ravichander submitted that the impugned order contained no timeline for crediting amounts into student accounts, despite acknowledged dues running into several crores to each institution.

## Verdict Reserved on Sops to Protect CSWS

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed that the media accreditation cards issued earlier by the state government shall remain valid until June 16, pending the adjudication of writ petitions challenging the new accreditation rules. A division bench comprising Justice P. Sam Koshy and Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda issued the interim order while hearing petitions filed by Hitech Print and Electronic Media Associa-



tion and others. The petitions contested the validity of GO Ms. No. 252 dated December 22, 2025, issued under the Telangana Media Accreditation

Rule 2025, as amended by GO Rt. No. 103 dated January 24, 2026. Counsel for the petitioners argued that the impugned GOs prescribe arbitrary eligi-

bility criteria for accreditation, including conditions relating to circulation, gross income, broadcasting duration, and digital metrics such as unique visitors. It was contended that these stipulations were illegal, arbitrary, and violative of principles of natural justice. The petitioners submitted that the rules were inconsistent. Special government counsel informed the bench that the government had already decided to extend the validity of the cards until May 31.

EDITORIAL

# GOVT, LEGISLATURES MUST ACT AGAINST HATE SPEECH

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The strong observations contained in the Supreme Court’s judgment on hate speech and the ways to tackle it must work as an eye-opener for the Indian state and its citizens. The observations have come not one day late, and every arm of the state, whether legislative, executive or judiciary, and above all, the citizenry, must respect their spirit and act on them, lest the republic suffer irreparable damage to its body politic. While declining to introduce new mechanisms to deal with cases of hate speech, the court left it to the wisdom of the legislature to frame new laws to take on the menace but reminded the government that the existing legal framework empowers and arms it with sufficient powers to crack down on it as of now. The erstwhile IPC and the replacement laws have provisions in them to check the unbridled use

of the freedom of speech to cut at the roots of the constitutional value of fraternity, the court has pointed out. The apex court has practically put the ball in the court of the executive. Hate speech runs counter to the history and culture of the republic, the court said. In a series of poignant observations, the court said hate speech is not merely a deviation from acceptable discourse, it is “fundamentally antithetical to the constitutional value of fraternity and strikes at the moral fabric of our republic”. Making the point that the spreading of hatred runs counter to the deeper civilisational ethos of India, the court reminded all that “the land historically known as Bharat has, across centuries, been a refuge for diverse communities fleeing persecution, offering not merely shelter but acceptance and assimilation. This tradition of inclusivity is not episodic, but deeply embedded in the cultural

consciousness of the nation”. As inheritors of such a past, it is the larger responsibility of the citizenry who also enjoys the fruits of fundamental and constitutional rights to faithfully observe their duties as well, the court said. The preservation of a constitutional order is not the responsibility of the state alone, and individuals and public figures must also bear it, it insisted. “Individuals and public figures must remember that words have consequences in a diverse society like ours.” There is no gainsaying the fact that the law can do only so much in protecting the social order as it is equally the responsibility of every stakeholder. “While the law provides mechanisms to address conduct that threatens public order or communal harmony, the more enduring safeguard against the menace of hate speech lies in the collective constitutional conscience of society,”

it said. “Ultimately, the Constitution does not survive merely through institutions or legal frameworks, but through the sustained fidelity of its citizens to the values it embodies,” the court said. It was not very long ago that the apex court directed the state police chiefs to take suo motu cognizance of those who make hate speeches anywhere in India and warned those failing to do so that they would be held accountable. Unfortunately, that order is observed more in its breach than its adherence. Political and community leaders continue to make hate speeches of the worst kind and go scot free with police looking the other way. Those who make such speeches and those who refuse to act on them are undermining the ethos on which the republic is built; a threat to them is a threat to the very foundation of India. It is time we got the message.



# India's used-car market may reach \$70 billion by FY31: Report

**HYDERABAD**  
Wake up telangana

India's used-car market is set for significant expansion, with its value projected to reach around \$70 billion by FY31, nearly doubling from approximately \$35 billion in FY26, according to a report by Redseer Strategy Consultants. This rapid growth is being driven by multiple structural shifts, including rising affordability, evolving consumer preferences, shorter ownership cycles, and increasing formalisation within the sector. Currently ranked as the world's fifth-largest used-car market, India is expected to climb to the third position globally by the end of the decade, trailing only the United



States and China. The report estimates that annual retail used-car sales could scale up to nearly 10 million units by FY31, supported by a growing base of vehicle ownership and strong demand fundamentals across urban and semi-urban regions. One of the most significant factors fueling this growth is the shortening of the car replacement cycle. While vehicles were typically replaced every 7-8 years in FY21, this cycle is expected to

shrink to around 4-5 years by FY31. This trend is particularly visible in metropolitan and Tier 1 cities, where consumers are increasingly upgrading vehicles more frequently due to higher disposable incomes and changing lifestyle aspirations. The report also highlights the role of rising income levels, premiumisation trends, and improved access to financing in shaping the market. These factors are expanding both demand and supply in the used-

car ecosystem. Consumers are no longer viewing used cars solely as budget-friendly alternatives but are increasingly considering them for value optimisation, quality assurance, and convenience—especially through organised digital platforms. A notable insight from the study is that nearly 65% of used-car buyers in India are first-time car owners. This underscores the segment's importance in enhancing mobility access and serving as an entry point into car ownership for a large population. Financing is expected to play a crucial role going forward, with penetration in the used-car segment projected to rise to about 40% by FY31. Easier access to loans is

likely to improve affordability and drive higher transaction volumes. Despite this strong growth trajectory, the market remains largely fragmented, with nearly 80% of transactions still taking place in the unorganised sector. This presents a substantial opportunity for organised, full-stack platforms to expand and address concerns around trust, transparency, and standardisation. India's used-to-new car ratio, currently at around 1.4, is expected to improve to 1.7 by FY31. Although still below levels seen in more mature markets, this indicates considerable headroom for further growth in the coming years.

# Rupee gains 4 paise against US dollar

**HYDERABAD**  
Wake up telangana

The rupee on Thursday gained 4 paise to settle at 94.84 against the US dollar, tracking a correction in global crude prices and a strengthening greenback overseas. However, uncertainties over US-Iran talks weighed on the local currency and capped gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.01 against the US dollar, then lost further ground to hit an all-time intraday low of 95.34 before closing at 94.84, up 4 paise from the previous close. On Wednesday, the domestic currency lost 20 paise to close at 94.88 against the US dollar, its previous all-time low. The local unit recorded its earlier intraday low of 95.22 on March 30. "The

rupee has come under strong pressure from the cumulative impact of three factors. One, the sharp spike in Brent crude to USD 123 is feared to widen India's trade and current account deficits. Two, there appears to be no end to the sustained selling by FPIs in the context of the AI trade gaining momentum, attracting portfolio flows to a few AI stocks. "Three, rising inflation in the US has pushed up the US 10-year bond yield to 4.4 per cent, which will further incentivise capital outflows," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The forex market will remain closed on Friday for Maharashtra Day and Buddha Purnima. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength

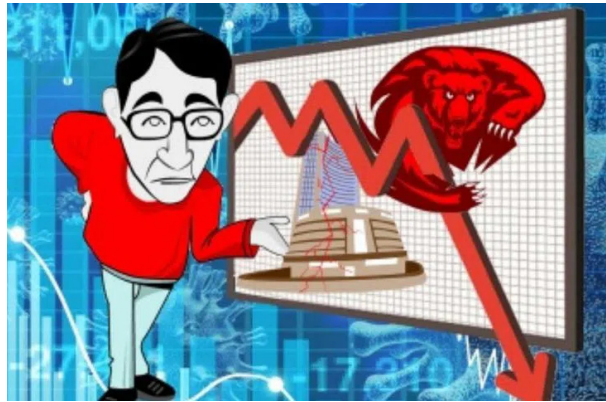
against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.36 per cent to 98.47. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, corrected by 1.65 per cent to USD 116.08 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 582.86 points to settle at 76,913.50, and Nifty declined 180.10 points to 23,997.55. Foreign Institutional Investors off-loaded equities worth Rs 8,047.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on month-end dollar demand from importers and rising global crude oil prices, which have raised inflation concerns. Geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran, FII selling, may also pressurise the rupee.

# Sensex and Nifty fall as crude oil prices surge amid Iran-US tensions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wake up telangana

Indian equity benchmarks Nifty and Sensex ended lower on the day, weighed down by rising crude oil prices amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran. The Nifty declined by 180.10 points, or 0.74 per cent, to close at 23,997.55, while the Sensex fell 582.86 points, or 0.75 per cent,

to settle at 76,913.50. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that 24,100-24,150 remains an immediate resistance band, followed by the 24,300-24,400 zone, which continues to act as a crucial hurdle. "On the downside, the 23,800 level continues to act as a key support, where buying interest has emerged, preventing further decline," an analyst stated.



The weakness in the market came as global sentiment turned cautious following a sharp spike in oil prices.

Brent crude prices surged after reports indicated that the US had rejected Iran's peace proposal and moved to

intensify the blockade at the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route. The development raised concerns over supply disruptions and inflationary pressures, impacting investor sentiment across equities. On the index, stocks such as Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Eternal, and Hindalco Industries emerged as the top losers on the Nifty.

The broader market also mirrored the weakness in the benchmarks. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.98 per cent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap index slipped 0.48 per cent. Sectorally, there was a mixed trend. Defensive pockets such as the Nifty IT and Nifty Pharma indices managed to outperform the broader market, while cyclical sectors faced the brunt of the selling.

The Nifty Metal and Nifty Construction Durable indices were among the worst hit, dragged down by concerns over rising input costs and global uncertainty. Analysts said that the market closed on a weak note as geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices dampened investor confidence, overshadowing sector-specific resilience in IT and pharma

stocks. Meanwhile, Rupee came under fresh pressure, weakening towards 95.20, as a sharp rally in crude prices near \$120 significantly worsened India's import bill outlook. "Near-term, support is seen around 95.45, while resistance is placed near 94.60, with volatility expected to remain elevated," an analyst mentioned.

# Gold and silver prices rise amid West Asia tensions



**HYDERABAD**  
Wake up telangana

Gold and silver prices rose on Thursday amid surging crude oil prices driven by the West Asia conflict, gaining up to about 2 per cent. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June 5 opened at Rs 1,49,499 per 10 grams, up Rs 449 or 0.30 per cent, from the previous close of Rs 1,49,050. At around 1 pm, gold was trading at Rs 1,50,770, up Rs 1,720 or 1.15 per cent. During the session, the yellow metal touched an intra-day high of Rs 1,51,514 (up Rs 2,464 or 1.65 per cent) and a low of Rs 1,49,069. Silver contracts for July 3 opened at Rs 2,40,784 per kg, rising Rs 2,530 or

1.06 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,38,254. At the time of filing, silver was trading at Rs 2,38,900, up Rs 646 or 0.27 per cent. During the session, it hit a high of Rs 2,44,000 (up Rs 5,746 or 2.41 per cent) and a low of Rs 2,38,755 (up Rs 501 or 0.21 per cent). According to a commodity market expert, the near-term outlook for both gold and silver remains cautious to bearish, influenced by geopolitical developments, dollar strength and broader macroeconomic uncertainty. Global markets also reflected a similar trend, with gold on COMEX trading marginally higher by 0.05 per cent at \$4,563 per ounce, while silver gained 0.43 per cent to \$72.40 per ounce.

# Brent crude tops US\$ 125 a barrel on Iran war worries

**MUMBAI**  
Wake up telangana

The price of Brent crude oil surged past US\$ 125 a barrel early Thursday as stalled US-Iran talks raised doubts over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a permanent end to the Iran war. Brent crude to be delivered in June jumped 6.2 per cent to US\$ 125.36 and Brent to be delivered in July rose 3.1 per cent to US\$ 113.85. Benchmark US crude climbed 2.3 per cent to US\$ 109.38 per barrel. Before the start of the war in late February, Brent crude was trading around US\$ 70 per barrel. The Iran war, which is in its ninth week, still sees no clear path to an end. The US has continued its blockade of Iranian ports while the Strait of Hormuz, is closed, pushing oil prices higher. Reports Thursday suggesting an possible escalation by US President Donald Trump doused hopes for a quick end to the conflict. "The breakdown of talks between the US and Iran, along with President Trump reportedly rejecting Iran's proposal for a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, has the market losing hope for any quick resumption in oil flows," ING Bank strategists Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey wrote in a research note.

# Jio Emerges as Undisputed 5G Network Leader in Warangal

Across Warangal's key hotspots—Kakatiya University, NIT Warangal, and the Railway Station—Jio achieved 100% call setup success with zero call drops.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wake up telangana

In a major boost to its market leadership, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has confirmed that Reliance Jio delivers the best 5G network performance across Warangal and Telangana, according to the latest Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted in March 2026. The report places Jio ahead of all competitors—Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and BSNL—across key parameters including download speed, voice quality, latency, and signal strength. The findings reveal that Jio recorded the highest average download speed of 260.01 Mbps in auto-selection mode in the AP & Telangana telecom circle. This puts it significantly ahead of Airtel, which logged 161.18 Mbps, while Vodafone Idea and BSNL trailed at 27.83 Mbps and 8.32 Mbps respectively. At

high-demand locations in Warangal, Jio's performance further improved, delivering an average speed of 308.92 Mbps. In 5G-specific testing, Jio achieved peak average speeds of 471.60 Mbps at Hanamkonda Bus

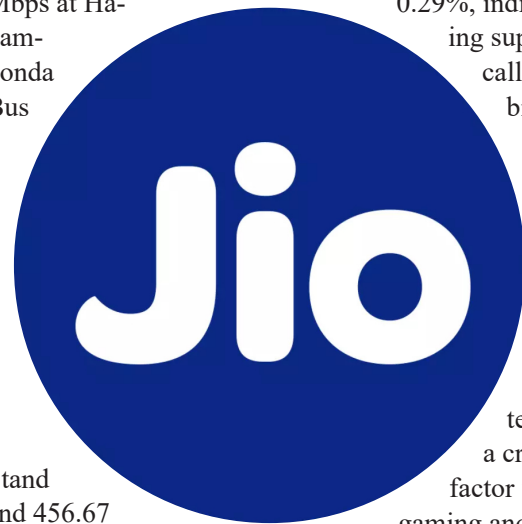
(3.76), and BSNL (2.97). A notable 86.74% of Jio's voice samples were rated "Excellent," compared to Airtel's 82.79% and Vodafone Idea's 48.81%. Additionally, Jio reported the lowest silence call rate at just 0.29%, indicating superior call stability. Latency, a critical factor for real-time applications, was lowest on Jio's network at 21.94 milliseconds. In comparison, Airtel recorded 38.36 ms, Vodafone Idea 43.70 ms, and BSNL 57.81 ms, highlighting Jio's responsiveness advantage. Signal strength metrics also favored Jio. The op-

erator recorded the highest proportion of "Excellent" signal strength in both voice (46%) and data (24%) categories, surpassing Airtel and Vodafone Idea by a significant margin. This translated into more reliable connectivity for users across diverse environments. Across key hotspots such as Kakatiya University, NIT Warangal, and the Warangal Railway Station, Jio maintained a 100% call setup success rate and zero call drops. The network also recorded an impressive call setup time of just 0.77 seconds across the licensed service area. With these strong, regulator-verified results, Reliance Jio has reinforced its position as the fastest and most reliable 5G network provider in Telangana, offering a superior digital experience to users in Warangal and beyond.

# Govt Secures Urea, Output Steady Amid Crisis

**HYDERABAD**  
Wake up telangana

The government on Thursday said domestic urea production has reached 37.49 lakh tonnes in March-April, nearly matching last year's levels despite the West Asia crisis, while securing 37 lakh tonnes of imported urea to meet the shortfall ahead of the Kharif season. Total domestic fertiliser production stood at 62.37 lakh tonnes during March-April, while imports were at 15.39 lakh tonnes. "The domestic production and import of fertilisers after the crisis have been strong as ever... approximately 78 lakh tonne of fertilisers has been added to availability in the crisis situation," said Aparna S Sharma at the inter-ministerial briefing on developments in West Asia. India produced 16.49 lakh tonnes of urea in March and 21 lakh tonnes in April, taking the total to 37.49 lakh tonnes. "It was almost the same during the same period last year, and we have reached that level," Sharma said. The urea shortfall is being met through imports. "We floated a global tender and secured about 37 lakh tonnes of urea to meet the shortfall," she added. Domestic production of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) reached 4.79 lakh tonnes, NPK at 12.69 lakh tonnes and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) at 7.40.



# Village Singer Turns Voice of Resistance

In Telangana's Palamuru region, folk singer and poet Goreti Ramesh has emerged as a powerful cultural voice, using music to highlight social inequalities and amplify the concerns of marginalized communities. Through over 100 songs and a growing digital presence, he has transformed from a village performer into a widely recognized advocate for social justice.

Born on May 5, 1987, in Madgula village of present-day Ranga Reddy district, Ramesh's journey reflects deep-rooted connections to rural life. Coming from a middle-class family, his parents Goreti Ramulamma and Moguliahya shaped his early understanding of hardship and resilience. These experiences later became the foundation of his songwriting, which often captures the struggles of farmers, caste oppression, and the impact of



political decisions on everyday lives.

Ramesh began exploring music during his school years and was already composing tunes by the time he reached the 10th standard. His turning point came in 2003 when he joined Prajanatya Mandali, a cultural organization known for promoting socially conscious art. While pursuing his degree, he simultaneously refined his skills as a singer and lyricist, devel-

oping a distinct style rooted in Telangana's janapada (folk) tradition.

Today, at 38, Goreti Ramesh is not just a singer but also a writer and public speaker whose work blends cultural expression with activism. His songs address a wide range of themes—from environmental concerns and rural displacement to tributes honoring social reformers like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Jyotirao Phule.

His lyrics frequently critique governance, question policies, and encourage public discourse on pressing issues. Ramesh's influence has expanded significantly through digital platforms. His YouTube channel, "Goreti Gonthu," has become a hub for folk music lovers, drawing audiences from across Telangana and beyond. His performances, both online and at public gatherings,

continue to resonate with listeners who identify with his messages of justice and equality. Cultural organizations and grassroots groups across the state regard him as a key figure in keeping the spirit of Telangana's folk traditions alive while adapting them to contemporary realities.

His ability to merge storytelling with activism has made him particularly relevant among younger audiences seeking both cultural identity and social awareness.

Goreti Ramesh's rise underscores the enduring power of folk music as a medium of resistance and reform. From the fields of Palamuru to digital platforms, his voice continues to challenge inequality and inspire change, reinforcing the idea that music can serve as both art and advocacy.

## Saif Ali Khan returns to OTT with 'Kartavya'

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who was last seen in the streaming movie Jewel Thief, is gearing up for another OTT project, Kartavya. The film also stars Rasika Dugal, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain, Manish Chaudhari, and Saurabh Dwivedi. The film is directed and written by Pulkit and showcases a tense heartland story of a police officer pushed to his limits in a morally complex world.

Kartavya follows a police officer, played by Saif, as he navigates rising threats while grappling with the weight of his duty and the safety of his family. As the lines between right and wrong begin to blur, the film unfolds as a layered exploration of power, guilt, and the consequences of silence, inviting audiences to question morality and the true cost of justice.

Ruchika Kapoor Sheikh, Director, Original Films, Netflix India, said in a statement, Kartavya is a thought-provoking story that explores the complexities of making the right choices. Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and directed by



Pulkit in our second association with him following the success of Bhakshak, the film builds on our ongoing creative partnerships with the two powerhouses whose high-quality and socially relevant storytelling brings a distinct authenticity to the film.

Led by a powerful performance from Saif Ali Khan alongside a stellar ensemble, the story draws from the lived realities of Indian hinterlands while speaking to themes that travel far beyond its immediate setting. We remain focused on backing creators with distinct ideas and unique voices, and Kartavya reflects that intent with a gripping story that is sure to stay with you well beyond the final frame.

The film is produced by Gauri Khan under the banner of Red Chillies Entertainments Pvt. Ltd.

and offers a compelling look at the fragile balance between duty and personal truth, leaving audiences to confront the weight of every decision.

Venky Mysore, CEO, Red Chillies Entertainments Pvt. Ltd shared, Kartavya is a story that stays with you because it asks difficult questions, about duty, about conscience, and about the choices we make when there are no easy answers. Pulkit's nuanced storytelling, elevated by compelling performances from Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Mishra, Rasika Dugal, Zakir Hussain, Manish Chaudhari, and a striking debut by Saurabh Dwivedi, lends the film a powerful and authentic voice. We are proud to bring this layered film to Netflix, further strengthening our partnership to bring thought provoking narratives to the fore.

## Struggling Delhi Capitals take on confident Rajasthan Royals

**JAIPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Delhi Capitals have little time to dwell on what has been a bruising stretch of results as they gear up to face a confident Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League match here on Friday.

It has been a difficult run for the Axar Patel-led side this season. They have swung between extremes in the last two games, from posting a 250-plus total only to concede a world-record chase to being bowled out for 75 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Add to that a one-run defeat against Gujarat Titans earlier this month, and Delhi have had their share of emotionally damaging results. With three wins and four losses, they are seventh on the table and need a turnaround soon. Delhi's biggest concern has been their inconsistent batting. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all contributed in patches, the unit has failed to click collectively.

In the last match, Abhishek Porel's knock as an Impact Player was one of



the few positives, helping the team avoid a record-low total, and the team management will be tempted to give him a go in the playing XI.

There is some good news on the bowling front. Pace ace Mitchell Starc is set to return after getting clearance from Cricket Australia to play from May 1. With Lungi Ngidi still unavailable, Starc's inclusion comes as a timely boost. He is likely to replace either Kyle Jamieson or Dushmantha Chameera.

Delhi's bowlers could not do much while defending 75 in the previous game, but they will need to be sharper against a strong Rajasthan batting line-up.

Their top order has been aggressive, with fearless Vaibhav Sooryavanshi taking on world-class bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins from the

outset, and Yashasvi Jaiswal showing good touch.

The fourth-placed Royals, in contrast, come into this match with confidence. They recently handed Punjab Kings their first defeat of the season, which was their sixth win in nine games. Another positive for Rajasthan is the middle order finding form after a slow start. That gives them more balance and makes them harder to contain across the innings.

Against a Delhi attack that has been under pressure, Rajasthan will back themselves to continue their momentum.

For Delhi, the focus is clear. The batters need to put together a complete performance instead of relying on individual efforts. The bowlers, with Starc back, must find ways to control the scoring, especially against an attacking top order.

## Gujarat Titans beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by four wickets in IPL

**AHMEDABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Jason Holder was immense on the night, taking two wickets and three catches. Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler then backed his all-round performance with handy cameos as Gujarat Titans sealed a nervy four-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in an IPL match here on Thursday.

Holder's two-wicket burst (2/29) and those sharp catches helped the Titans bowl out defending champions RCB for a modest 155 in 19.2 overs. But with Gill (43, 18b), Buttler (39, 19b) and later Rahul Tewatia (27 not out, 17b) leading the charge, GT ended up at 158 for six in 15.5 overs. RCB remained second in the table with 12 points, while GT also stayed fifth but added two valuable points to take their tally to 10 after this game.

After the early departure of Sai Sudharsan, the Titans' charge to victory started with Gill's aggressive knock of 43 off 18 balls (4x4, 3x6). Taking on the new-ball attack, Gill hammered Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a



four and a six before going after Josh Hazlewood, hitting the Australian with three fours and two sixes in a 24-run over as GT raced to 36 without loss in just two overs.

On the other hand, Buttler, who was dropped on 1 by wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma off Hazlewood, made RCB pay instantly. He scooped the very next ball cleanly for a six over fine leg and never looked back.

Buttler finished the powerplay in style with a four and a six as GT surged to 69 for 2.

He continued the charge after the field spread, smashing spinner Suyash Sharma for back-to-back

required rate never climbing beyond four an over, Holder and Tewatia kept it simple before the Windies all-rounder got out for 12. But Tewatia held his nerves to seal the chase as GT registered back-to-back wins.

Earlier, returning to the venue where they had lifted the title last season, RCB were cruising at a run rate in excess of 10 with Kohli leading the charge, smashing Kagiso Rabada for 21 runs in his opening over, which included five fours in a row. But Gill persisted with his strike bowler and the call paid off handsomely. Rabada (1/38) struck back to remove Kohli for a blazing 28 off 13 balls, triggering a collapse as RCB lost wickets in a cluster through the middle phase.

Left-arm pacer Arshad Khan wrapped up the tail and returned with 3/22. From a strong 71/2 after seven overs, RCB slipped to 96/6 in 10.3 overs, losing Rajat Patidar (19), Jitesh Sharma (1), Tim David (9) and Krunal Pandya (4).

However, RCB stuck to their attacking approach despite the slide, which seemed to have cost them 20-30 extra runs, and they

were bowled out in 19.2 overs.

Amid the collapse, Devdutt Padikkal looked set to anchor the innings, with Romario Shepherd playing second fiddle.

But the ever-reliable Rashid Khan produced a fine delivery to clean up Devdutt for 40 (24 balls), a skidding ball that cramped him for room and led to a chop-on. The Afghan returned with figures of 2/19.

But the star of the show was Holder, who dismissed Shepherd and Jitesh, besides taking excellent catches to remove Patidar, David and Krunal.

Holder first pulled off a brilliant running catch near the deep square boundary to dismiss Patidar, holding on to the skier despite almost colliding with Rabada.

He then dismissed Jitesh before completing two smart catches at short midwicket to remove David and Krunal, capping an outstanding all-round effort.

The other standout moment was the Kohli vs Rabada contest. Kohli smashed the Proteas pacer for five successive boundaries.

## Hyderabad to face 24-hour water supply disruption from May 2

Several areas in Hyderabad will face a disruption in water supply for 24 hours starting Saturday, May 2, due to maintenance work undertaken by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB).

The water board is undertaking the cleaning of an old balancing tank at the Asifnagar filter bed from 6 am on Saturday till 6 am on Sunday. During these hours, several areas will experience low water pressure or interruptions in supply, a press release said.

Areas of disruption Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division-XIII (Goshamah and Karwan Circle): Red Hills, Nampally, Mallepally, Seetarambagh, Ghode ki Khabar, Hindi Nagar, Assembly, Secretariat New MLA Quarters, Adarshnagar, South Central Railway, Nampally, Gunfoundry, O&M Division-XIV (Golconda Zone): Chintal Basti, Vijayanagar Colony, Old Mallepally, Asifnagar, Ahmed Nagar within its scope O&M Division-XVII (Kavadi-guda Circle): Covers Kavadi-guda Ward, Gandhinagar Ward, Domalaguda, O&M Division-XV (Jubilee Hills Circle): Banjara Hills ward within its jurisdiction. Consumers of the above-mentioned areas are asked to use water sparingly, officials said.

# Telangana Congress govt drops bombshell on students

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A cash-strapped Telangana Congress government, which owes private professional and degree colleges Rs 12,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues, has now dropped a bombshell on students, particularly those hailing from economically weaker and marginalised sections.

Commencing from the academic year 2026-27, the tuition fee has to be paid by students to colleges after receiving it from the State government, as against the present practice of direct fee transfer to colleges.

While the colleges have been asked not to insist that students pay the fee during admissions, the government did not give a timeline as to when the tuition fee amount will be transferred to eligible stu-

dents.

Given the pending dues spanning four academic years from 2021-22, students and parents, particularly those from economically weaker sections, will be forced to shell out tuition fees upfront to continue their studies, as colleges are likely to insist on payment either during admission or after the first year of the course.

The new rules are expected to result in dropouts among students due to financial constraints.

“We strongly oppose the order, which has been issued only to gradually stop the scheme that had aided lakhs of students pursued higher education,” said T Nagaraju, general secretary of the SFI Telangana unit.

As per GO Ms 7 issued by the Scheduled Caste Development Department, the entire scholarship

amount, including the tuition fee and maintenance fee components, will be paid into the Aadhaar-seeded bank account of the eligible student through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System in direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode from the academic year 2026-27.

The State government backed the new rules, citing the High Court’s recent interim order that allowed petitioner institutions, which approached the court over pending fee dues, to collect fees from students upfront from the academic year 2026-27. However, the court directed colleges to refund the collected tuition fees to students in the event of dismissal of the writ petitions.

Further, the State government also cited the Central government’s adoption of DBT mode for releasing post-matric

scholarships to SC students from the academic year 2024-25.

Issued by Special Chief Secretary to Government (Welfare) Sabyasachi Ghosh, the order states that colleges should not insist that students pay the tuition fee and other eligible fees at the time of admission. The student should, in turn, pay the fee to the institutions out of the amount credited to his or her account through the DBT mode.

“Why should colleges not insist on payment of the fee upfront when the government has decided to pay students directly? The colleges are already reeling under a severe financial crisis due to pending fee reimbursement dues of the last four academic years, and now there is no other option but to charge fees from students,” said a private professional college owner.

## Kismatpur Mosque Incident Sparks Tension

Mosque Vandalism in Kismatpur Triggers Tension; Police Launch Probe

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tension prevailed in Kismatpur under Rajendranagar on the night of April 29 after an unidentified individual allegedly entered Masjid-e-Bilal and vandalised religious material, prompting swift police action and deployment of additional forces to maintain law and order.

According to police, the incident came to light around 11:30 pm when CCTV footage revealed a man, dressed in a blue shirt and pants, entering the mosque premises wearing footwear. Within moments, he exited carrying several books, raising suspicion among locals and mosque authorities.

Rajendranagar Police Station House Officer Muthu Yadav confirmed



that a case has been registered against an unknown person for trespassing, theft, and hurting religious sentiments. “Six books, including a Quran, were reportedly stolen. However, there was no structural damage to the mosque,” he clarified. Authorities are currently examining CCTV footage and other evidence to identify and apprehend the suspect.

As the news spread, concern grew among residents, briefly creating a

tense atmosphere in the locality. Police responded quickly by increasing security presence to prevent any escalation. Officials stated that the situation is now under control and remains peaceful.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) MLC Mirza Rahmath Baig visited the site and condemned the act, calling it a deliberate attempt to provoke unrest. He said the mosque committee has formally lodged a complaint and demanded strict action against those responsible.

Police have urged the public to remain calm and assured that all efforts are being made to resolve the case at the earliest. Investigations are ongoing, and officials have refrained from speculating on the motive behind the incident at this stage.

## Haragopal Flags Saffronisation, Privatisation in Education



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Growing concerns over saffronisation, privatisation, and corporatisation of education were voiced at the TPTF State Education Conference held at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram on Thursday.

AIFRTE leader Prof. G. Haragopal alleged that these trends are being driven to advance political agendas. He cautioned that attempts to introduce religious ideology into textbooks in the name of nationalism could weaken secular and democratic values, while also undermining scientific temper and critical thinking among students. He called for a

broad-based people’s movement to safeguard constitutional principles in the education system. TPTF State president Chakinalla Anil Kumar stressed the need to ensure equitable, free, and quality education for all. He urged the government to strengthen public schools and work towards implementing a common school system.

State general secretary Nanneboyina Tirupati emphasised that sustained public pressure is essential to achieve these goals.

MLC Prof. M. Kodandaram noted that government education is in crisis and called for collective efforts to protect and revive it.

## Hyderabad sees fresh protest against tree felling near KBR park

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A protest was held against the felling of trees for flyovers and underpasses between Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Maharaja Agrasen Island, here on Thursday.

This happens to be the second protest after the Save KBR Park campaign in the span of four days against massive tree felling for flyovers and underpasses around KBR. A press release on Thursday stated that even as concerns mounted over



the ongoing works under the H-CITI project, tree felling and on-ground activity continued unabated

around the park. “Despite the public outcry, and legal ambiguity, it is observed that tree fel-

ling at the Cancer Hospital Junction continued on the ground. As a result, we have decided to escalate our protest,” it said.

Expressing anguish, Aditya, a protestor said, “Trees, once lost, are gone forever. If the court later rules in our favour, who will undo this irreversible damage?”

Another protestor, Dr. Srinivas Reddy said, “It is deeply painful to watch this happening before our eyes. In this scorching heat, shouldn’t sustainability take precedence over unchecked, concrete-

heavy development?” Vijay Mallangi, representative of the “Save KBR” campaign said, “It is ironic that while the leadership speaks strongly about preserving biodiversity in places like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, similar values are not being upheld here. It raises uncomfortable questions.”

The citizens reiterated their demand for immediate suspension of all tree felling and construction activities until legal clarity is established.

## HYDRAA releases helpline to report unsafe, dilapidated buildings

Citizens can now report dilapidated and dangerous buildings that pose a public safety risk and a potential risk to life by calling HYDRAA’s helpline number at 9000113667. HYDRAA is taking proactive measures to identify old and structurally weak buildings and ensure their safe demolition to prevent accidents, the agency stated in a release on Thursday, April 30. This applies not just to buildings in residential areas but also to places with heavy foot traffic.

This initiative has been undertaken in the wake of a recent incident in Bengaluru, where a compound wall collapsed near Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar, following heavy rains, resulting in seven deaths and several injuries.

Similar incidents involving old structures have occurred in Hyderabad in the past, and to avoid such tragedies, HYDRAA is strengthening its monitoring system and coordinating with municipal corporations for inputs on unsafe structures. Citizens are encouraged to actively participate by sharing location details, along with photographs and live location, to the helpline number for immediate action. Urging prompt reporting, the agency said such accidents are not limited to the monsoon but can occur anytime, especially during unseasonal rains.

## Congress leader Arham Adil condemns ₹10,000 Hajj cost hike

Arham Adil slams ₹10,000 Hajj surcharge, seeks rollback and transparency in cost escalation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Congress senior leader Arham Adil on Thursday strongly condemned the Haj Committee of India’s decision to levy an additional ₹10,000 on pilgrims for Hajj 2026, calling the move unjust and exploitative, and demanding its immediate rollback.

In a media statement, Arham Adil said the decision would disproportionately affect ordinary pilgrims, particularly those from modest backgrounds who spend years saving money to undertake the pilgrimage. He pointed out that many families plan carefully and deposit substantial amounts well in advance, leaving little room to accommodate sudden financial demands.

The Haj Committee has asked all selected pilgrims to deposit the additional amount by May 15. The directive follows a sharp rise in global oil prices triggered by ongoing geopolitical tensions



involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, which has led to increased airfare, transportation, and overall logistical costs associated with the pilgrimage. This year, 1,75,025 pilgrims from India are scheduled to perform Hajj. With the additional ₹10,000 per person, the cumulative financial burden on pilgrims is estimated to exceed ₹175 crore, adding to the already significant cost of the journey.

Arham Adil said the issue was not limited to the amount alone, but also the manner in which the decision was implemented. He expressed concern that pilgrims were not informed in advance about the possibility of such revisions

when initial payments were collected, and are now being asked to pay more close to the departure period.

Seeking accountability, the Congress leader called for a clear and detailed explanation of the cost escalation, including an itemised breakdown of expenses. He urged the authorities to explore alternative measures to manage the increased costs instead of passing the entire burden on to pilgrims.

Describing Hajj as a deeply significant religious obligation, Adil said it should not be treated as a commercial transaction. He warned that sudden financial impositions could cause distress not only to pilgrims but also to their families who support them in undertaking the journey. He further urged the Union government to intervene, review the directive, and take necessary steps to ensure that fluctuations in global markets do not translate into additional hardship for pilgrims.

## Governor Honours Dr. Gayatri Palat with Yudhvir Memorial Award



Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla addressed the 33rd Yudhvir Foundation Memorial Award function at KLN Prasad Auditorium, FTCC, Red Hills, Hyderabad. He later presented the award to Dr. Gayatri Palat, MD, in recognition of her distinguished contributions to palliative care and her exceptional commitment to alleviating human suffering. The award carries a citation and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh. Chairperson Aruna Bahuguna, the awardee, and trustees were present on the occasion.

## Narayana Students Shine in SSC Results

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Narayana School delivered an outstanding performance in the SSC (10th Class) results announced on Wednesday, achieving a 100 percent pass rate. G. Sri Lahari topped the school with 595 out of 600 marks, followed by Khan Muzammil with 594 marks. Sai Krishna and Bharde Komal secured 592 marks each, showcasing strong academic excellence.

In total, 13 students



scored above 580 marks, 31 crossed 550, and 68 students scored over 500 marks, reflecting consistent high performance across the batch. GM Gopal Reddy appreciated the students’ dedication and encouraged them to aim higher.

The achievement was celebrated with enthusiasm as students burst firecrackers and shared their joy. AGM Bala Parameswara Rao, Coordinator Azad, Principal Vishaka, AD Mahesh, AD Zubair, and staff congratulated the students.

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