



**Harish Rao Alleges Treasure Hunt Behind Temple Demolition: P2**



**Delhi Capitals beat PBKS by three wickets, keep playoff hopes alive: P7**

**Revanth Orders Fast-Track Probe in POCSCO Case: P8**



**WEATHER**  
 MAX: 39.0°C  
 MIN: 27.0°C  
 RH: 23%  
 RAINFALL: 0MM  
 FORECAST: MAINLY CLEAR SKY  
 MAX/MIN temp. 40/28°C

**Naidu Flags AP Issues, Seeks Centre's Support**



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday and urged him to release funds for Andhra Pradesh. Naidu requested funds for several centrally sponsored schemes, as well as for projects for which assurances had been given earlier. He is also learnt to have briefed Amit Shah on several pending issues related to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and sought his intervention to establish central agencies in Amaravati. He further sought support for the development of Andhra Pradesh, along with allocation of funds for various schemes and projects in the Union Budget.

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# Modi: India Won't Bow On Nuke Tests

PM Modi attacks forces backing appeasement politics

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Drawing parallels to the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that no power in the world can make India bow or succumb under pressure. Addressing a gathering at Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, marking 75 years since the inauguration of the restored Somnath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva in Gujarat, Prime Minister Modi also said that "forces" in the country continue to prioritise appeasement politics over national self-respect. He noted that a similar mindset was seen during opposition to the construction of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

In Vadodara, Modi urged citizens to take all steps to reduce imports to avoid spending foreign currency. Modi also performed "maha pooja" and other rituals at the Somnath Temple as part of the Mahotsav. After holding a roadshow in Somnath, he entered the temple and performed the ritual of pouring holy water on the Shiv Ling amid the chanting of Vedic mantras. Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed "Kumbhabhishek", wherein holy water gathered from prominent pilgrimage sites across the country



was sprinkled atop the temple's "shikhar" (towering spire) by using a crane. The Prime Minister, accompanied by Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and his deputy Harsh Sanghavi, watched an airshow performed by the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran aerobatic team over the temple. Addressing a gathering at the Somnath Temple complex, he said: "While India attained Independence in 1947, the pran pratishtha (consecration ceremony) of Somnath in 1951 served as a proclamation of India's liberated consciousness," he said. He stressed that the "Amrut Mahotsav" of Somnath was not just a commemoration of the past, but it was also a festival of inspiration for India for the next thousand years.

"May 11 is a significant date as it not only marks the consecration of the Somnath temple, but also India's nuclear tests in 1998 under the leadership of then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee," he said. "On May 11, 1998, the nation conducted its nuclear tests. Our scientists demonstrated India's capabilities and potential to the entire world," Modi pointed out, adding that the tests "sent shock waves across the globe" and triggered angry reactions from several countries.

Who is India to conduct nuclear tests? The world reacted with anger," Modi said, referring to the international response following the Pokhran tests. He said global powers then tried to isolate India through sanctions and economic pressure after the tests. "Global powers mobilised to suppress India. Various sanctions were imposed, and every passage to avert a potential economic crisis was blocked," the PM said. He said, "Anyone else would have faltered. When the world's major powers launch such a massive offensive, it becomes difficult to find a path ahead. But we are built differently," Modi asserted. He mentioned that India went ahead with two more nuclear tests on May 13.

# Nothing Political in PM's Mere Se Jodo, Says CM Revanth

During his Sunday city visit, the Prime Minister jokingly reacted to the Chief Minister recalling Manmohan Singh government's generous funding to Gujarat.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday sought to underplay Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "mere se hi judo" remark, stating that there was nothing political in either the suggestions made by him for the development of the state, or Modi's invitation to join him in achieving it. The Prime Minister, who was in city on Sunday, had made the light-hearted comment in reaction to the Chief Minister's reference to the generous funding by then Manmohan Singh government to Gujarat when Modi was Chief Minister. "As Chief Minister, I made certain promises on the GSDP growth and suggestions for country's development including setting up task force for six metropolitan, which work as growth engines for PM's vision of Viksit Bharat," Revanth Reddy said. "He accepted my suggestions in toto. What he meant by saying "mere se hi judo" was to join him in developing the nation."



Asked how the Congress Central leadership would view a top BJP leader inviting a Congress Chief Minister to join him, Revanth Reddy said it was aware of his character and would understand the context in which the Prime Minister made the comment. "The previous BRS regime never made an effort to walk along with the Centre in the last 10 years due to whimsical approach of then Chief Minister. Now there is a clear distinction between governance and politics," he added. The Chief Minister made light of the "ab ki baar Telangana sarkar" call given by the Prime Minister at Sunday's public meeting, and predicted the fall of BJP government at the Centre in the next elections. He reminded that the Congress had witnessed a revival

from the South during the days of Indira Gandhi. "It is common for the BJP to make tall claims but the results in the Jubilee Hills bypolls, in which they lost their deposit, and in the urban local bodies, speak the other way," Revanth Reddy said. While Revanth Reddy refused to comment when asked who the next Chief Minister of Kerala would be, he saw in the Tamil Nadu saga yet another instance of the BJP making a mockery of democracy. On allegations of the Congress ditching the DMK despite being a partner of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, Revanth Reddy referring to other constituents of the DMK alliance lending support to the TVK. He dismissed also rumours of an imminent Cabinet reshuffle.

# New Rural Employment Law (VB-G RAM G) To Roll Out From July 1

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Centre has notified the rollout of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 from July 1, replacing the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the ministry of rural development said on Monday. Union rural development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the new law aims to



strengthen income security and promote sustainable rural development for labourers, women, self-help groups and farmers. The ministry said the new Act marks a shift in the rural employment framework, aligned with the "Viksit Bharat @2047" vi-

sion. With its implementation, MGNREGA, 2005 will stand repealed from the same date. Under the Act, every rural household with adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work will be entitled to 125 days of wage employment annually, up from 100 days under the previous scheme.

For 2026-27, the Centre has allocated Rs 95,692.31 crore, the highest budget estimate for a

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# Hyderabad Heatwave Hits



Amid soaring temperatures in Hyderabad, commuters cover themselves completely to escape the intense summer heat while travelling on city roads.

# Fissures In AIADMK As 30 MLAs To Back Velumani

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The State Assembly met on Monday with the Pro-Tem Speaker M V Karupiah presiding over the nearly half day proceedings and administering the oath of office to all the newly elected 234 members of the House, including Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and other Ministers, when cracks in the AIADMK showed up with two groups of members nam-

ing different leaders for their legislature party. The division among the 47 AIADMK MLAs was evident even as they trooped into the Assembly to take the oath of office. Since they came in two groups, both expressing open hostility towards the other, it became obvious that they had differences.

During the day, one group gave a letter to the Pro-Tem speaker urging him to nominate former Chief Minister and party

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# CM Vijay Calls On Political Leaders In The State

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Ushering in a refreshingly healthy political culture in the State, newly appointed Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay called on a wide range of senior political leaders, including former Chief Minister M K Stalin, by driving down to their homes where his gesture was reciprocated with a warm welcome and bonhomie by the political rivals and their families. The Chief Minister's motorcade started traversing the roads of Chennai after the completion of the swearing in of all the 234 elected MLAs of new Assembly, which Vijay witnessed by sitting through the entire proceedings in



the House, before going from one

house to another. Among the top leaders Vijay visited and sought their blessings were Stalin, where he was welcomed by former Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, MDMK founder Vaiko, Naam Tamilar Katchi chief coordinator Seeman and PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss. The 'courtesy calls' made by the new Chief Minister to his political rivals actually began in the Assembly in the morning as he exchanged pleasantries with former chief ministers Edappadi K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam. Stalin said that he gave his wishes and some advice to Vijay who had called on him out of political decency. Shawls were ex-

changed during the meeting at Stalin's Alwarpet residence, where Udhayanidhi Stalin presented him with a book on DMK's history titled, 'Kalaithin Niram Karuppu Sivappu - DMK 75.' Vijay went to the Akkarai residence of Anbumani Ramadoss and also to the house of Vaiko, where he was welcomed by Durai Vaiko. The Chief Minister meeting opposition leaders reminded him of a similar gesture by DMK founder C N Annadurai, Vaiko said, adding that he had advised him to follow the path of secularism. The gesture also sent out a positive message on the need for encouraging healthy politics in Tamil Nadu, he said.

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## Harish Rao Alleges Treasure Hunt Behind Temple Demolition

Temple Demolition Sparks Political Storm: Harish Rao Alleges Hidden Treasure Hunt Behind Kakatiya Shrine Destruction

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

T. Harish Rao on Monday visited the demolished 800-year-old Shiva temple of the Kakatiya era in Ashok Nagar village of Khanapuram mandal in Narsampet constituency, Warangal district, and launched a sharp attack on the Congress government led by A. Revanth Reddy.

The former minister, accompanied by local residents and BRS leaders, performed special pujas at the demolished temple premises before addressing the media. Harish Rao alleged that the historic temple was deliberately destroyed in the name of constructing an integrated school.

He accused the Congress



government of not only halting educational development programs initiated during the tenure of K. Chandrashekar Rao but also targeting religious structures. "Under Revanth Reddy's rule, schools have stopped and temples are being demolished," he alleged.

Harish Rao claimed the Shiva temple, believed to have been constructed

during the reign of Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva, was destroyed as part of a secret hunt for hidden treasure. According to him, a 24-foot-deep pit was allegedly dug beneath the sanctum sanctorum between midnight and 1 am.

"If the purpose was to build a school, why were excavations carried out in the dark at midnight?" he

questioned, alleging that the operation was conducted under political directions in search of hidden funds and "Lankan coins."

The BRS leader further stated that an Archaeological Department official had reportedly submitted a written complaint to the district collector on May 7 alleging illegal excavation for hidden treasure. Despite the complaint, he said, no FIR had been filed, machinery seized, or action initiated against those responsible.

Harish Rao demanded immediate restoration of the historic Shiva temple and urged the government to hand over the site to the Archaeological Department under provisions of the 1958 Act protecting

heritage structures older than 100 years.

He also raised allegations of corruption in integrated school construction tenders, claiming contracts worth hundreds of crores were awarded with nearly identical excess percentages. Citing the Narsampet Package-8 tender, he alleged that public funds worth nearly Rs 500 crore were looted through inflated contracts. Demanding cancellation of the tenders, Harish Rao challenged the government to act if it believed contractors linked to the projects were associated with him. Former MLAs, ex-corporation chairman Errolla Srinivas, and several BRS leaders participated in the visit.

## Farmers Furious Over Delayed Grain Procurement

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy along with BRS leaders staged a lightning protest at procurement centres in Talla Cheruvu, Chinaganthapally, Gopalpet and Wanaparthy Market Yard, demanding the immediate purchase of paddy and maize. After visiting the centres and interacting with farmers, Niranjan Reddy accused the Congress government of neglecting farmers who had waited for months to sell their produce.

Addressing the protest, he said the government's failure to procure grain despite repeated assurances had pushed farmers into severe distress. He alleged that statements by ministers and officials promising to buy "every grain" remained confined to advertisements and publicity



campaigns, while farmers continued to suffer due to delayed procurement. Niranjan Reddy criticized the government for failing to supply adequate electricity, irrigation water and urea to farmers on time. He said farmers cultivated crops with great difficulty, but procurement delays, power cuts and lack of basic support were causing heavy losses. He also blamed officials for failing to address shortages of transport vehicles, porters and gunny bags at procurement centres. The former minister expressed concern that

millers and officials were exploiting farmers by deducting nearly 10 kilograms per quintal in the name of moisture and wastage, despite there being minimal depreciation in the Yasangi crop. Citing official figures, he said paddy was cultivated in 65.45 lakh acres during Yasangi season, with the government targeting procurement of 1.5 crore metric tonnes. However, only 15.16 lakh metric tonnes had reportedly been procured so far. He further stated that maize cultivation covered 16.46 lakh acres this season due to inadequate rainfall, yet the government had failed to procure even a single quintal of maize. Warning of intensified agitation, Niranjan Reddy demanded immediate procurement of paddy and maize at support prices.

## Telangana's Next Chapter is BJP: Etela Rajender

BJP Targets Telangana Power After Massive Modi Rally Success

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Declaring that Telangana is heading toward a major political transformation, Etela Rajender on Sunday asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party is poised to emerge as the next ruling force in the state following the massive public response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting at Parade Grounds in Hyderabad.

Addressing a press conference held at Gayatri Garden in Sikh Village of Secunderabad Cantonment, the Malkajgiri MP thanked the people of Hyderabad and the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency for attending the Prime Minister's public meeting in huge numbers despite intense summer temperatures. He described the overwhelming turnout as a clear indication of growing public confidence in the BJP and PM Modi's leadership.

Etela Rajender said the "Modi wave" witnessed at Parade Grounds reflected the people's aspiration for political change in Telangana. He claimed that after expanding its influence in West Bengal,



the BJP has now strategically focused on Telangana with the aim of forming the next government in the state. Launching a sharp attack on regional and family-based political systems, the BJP MP remarked that the people of Telangana have rejected dynastic politics and are seeking a governance model centered on development, transparency, and nationalism. He alleged that the Congress government in the state has failed to meet public expectations and said voters are now looking toward the BJP as a credible alternative.

Referring to the Prime Minister's speech, Etela also emphasized the importance of transforming India into an export-driven economy rather than depending heavily on imports. He stated that strengthening exports would improve the country's foreign exchange reserves and further accelerate economic

growth. The press meet was organized under the leadership of Cantonment Board Nominated Member Bhanuka Narmada Mallikarjun and witnessed the participation of several BJP leaders and party workers from the Secunderabad Cantonment region. BJP leaders BN Srinivas, Bhanuka Mallikarjun, LV Chenna Rao, Bhanu Prakash, Vijayanand, Visalini, Katta Kumar, Subbarao, Padma Prasad, RK Srinivas, and Giri were among those present.

Political observers view the successful mobilization for the Prime Minister's visit as a significant morale boost for the BJP cadre in Hyderabad and surrounding constituencies. The large-scale participation at Parade Grounds is being seen as an indication of the BJP's increasing grassroots strength ahead of future electoral battles in Telangana.

### Last Rites Ceremony of Maram Vijayalakshmi Held in Ghatkesar



The tenth-day funeral ritual ceremony of late Maram Vijayalakshmi, wife of Ghatkesar Circle JAC Convener Maram Laxma Reddy, was held solemnly at L Convention under the jurisdiction of MMC Ghatkesar Circle on Sunday. Former Minister and Medchal MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy and MLC Kodandaram attended the programme and paid floral tributes to the portrait of the deceased, remembering her services and expressing condolences to the bereaved family. Several political leaders, public representatives, social activists, and JAC members participated in the programme. Among those present were Maram Laxma Reddy, Singireddy Ramireddy, Bandari Srinivas Goud, former MPP Enugu Sudarshan Reddy, Palugula Madhava Reddy, Mekala Nursing Rao, Resu Laxma Reddy, Komidi Raghava Reddy, Bandari Anjaneyulu Goud, Bethala Nursing Rao, Chandupatla Venkata Reddy, Mekala Padma Rao, Mandadi Srinivas Reddy, Bontha Sudhakar, Bokka Vishnuvardhan Reddy, and Samala Sandeep Reddy.

### Grand Conclusion to Idol Consecration Celebrations at R. Itikyala Village

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Thalka anjaiah

The three-day grand idol consecration celebrations held at R. Itikyala village in Regode Mandal of Medak district concluded on Monday amid a spiritually vibrant atmosphere and devotional fervor. The final day witnessed the successful consecration ceremony of the Hanuman temple idol, conducted with traditional Vedic rituals, sacred chants, and special prayers in the presence of a large gathering of devotees and villagers.



Former Andole Constituency MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran attended the celebrations as the chief guest and participated in the special spiritual rituals and Pooja ceremonies. District Chairman Manjusri Jaipal Reddy, senior leaders from Vatpally region, and BRS leaders from Regode Mandal also

attended the event and conveyed their greetings to the villagers. The celebrations were organized under the leadership of former R. Itikyala village Sarpanch Sunke Ramesh. Villagers, youth, women, devotees, party activists, and local leaders participated enthusiastically in large numbers,

making the spiritual event a grand success. Journalist Sunke Sangameshwar also actively participated in the religious festivities. Speaking on the occasion, village elders expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful conduct of the celebrations. The event concluded with prayers for peace, prosperity, and harmony in the village, echoing the sacred message: "Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu" — May all beings in all worlds live happily and peacefully.

### Khaidiamma Kunta Beautification Works Gain Pace

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The beautification and development works at Khaidiamma Kunta Lake are progressing swiftly, with efforts underway to transform the area into a major recreational and relaxation destination for local residents. Congress leader Baling Gautam Goud visited the lake on Monday to inspect the ongoing works and review the progress with officials.

During the inspection, officials including AE Ghulam, DE Rajasekar, and in-charge Chaitanya briefed him about the de-



velopment activities being carried out under their supervision. The project focuses on improving the overall appearance and public utility of the lake surroundings by introducing greenery, modern walking tracks, better sanitation facilities, and other amenities for visitors. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Baling Gautam Goud said the development of Khaidiamma Kunta would provide people with a peaceful and attractive environment for leisure activities, morning and evening walks, and family outings. He emphasized the need to complete the works within the scheduled timeframe while maintaining quality standards. He also appreciated the efforts of the officials and workers involved in the project. Local leaders, public representatives, and officials participated in the inspection program and reviewed the ongoing works at the site.

### Huge Turnout at PM Modi's Meeting Signals Political Shift in TG : Attikari Malleesh



Senior BJP leader from the Kukatpally constituency, Attikari Malleesh, hailed the massive success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent public meeting in Secunderabad, describing it as a definitive turning point for Telangana's political landscape. Expressing his gratitude to the citizens, party workers, and supporters who flooded the venue, Malleesh stated that the overwhelming crowd is a testament to the growing desire for change in the state.

Malleesh noted that the enthusiasm mirrored the BJP's recent electoral successes in West Bengal and other states, proving widespread faith in PM Modi's leadership. He praised the Prime Minister's governance model of 'Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas', calling him a leader for all ("Andari Vadu") who transcends caste and religious barriers to deliver central welfare schemes directly to the poor. "These visits are more than just rallies; they are a blueprint for national development," Malleesh said, asserting that the BJP is now viewed as the only viable alternative for a progress-oriented Telangana.

### Grand Celebration of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Bicentenary at Tyagaraya Gana Sabha-Satyam Mailarsm Participated

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Thalka anjaiah

The bicentenary celebrations of social reformer and visionary leader Mahatma Jyotirao Phule were held in a grand manner through the "BC Kavita Bheri" literary programme at Tyagaraya Gana Sabha, Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, on Sunday. The event was organised under the leadership of P. Mallikarjun and Bade Saheb with the objective of spreading the ideals of Mahatma Phule, promoting social awareness among BC com-



munities, and using literature as a platform for social transformation. Prominent BC leader R. Krishnaiah, Telangana Intellectuals Forum President Jajula Srinivas Goud, Chiravulu, P. Poornachandra Rao, P. Surya Rao, and former Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly Ma-

dusudhana Chary attended the programme as chief guests. Speakers on the occasion remembered the immense contributions of Mahatma Phule towards social equality, education, and the upliftment of oppressed communities, stating that his ideals remain highly relevant in today's society. More than 200 poets from various districts of Telangana participated in the literary gathering and presented poems focusing on social justice, educational reform, women empowerment, and the philosophy

of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule. The programme echoed with powerful messages of social consciousness and progressive thought. Young poet and teacher Satyam Mailaram from Mator village of Motakondur Mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district emerged as one of the special attractions of the event. Known for authoring several poetry collections with ease and creativity, Satyam Mailaram earned appreciation for his humble nature and service-minded personality.

### NBKA Clinches Best Team Award With 19 Medals

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

NAYAK BUDOKAN KARATE ACADEMY (NBKA) delivered an outstanding performance at the Season 4 Super Gold Karate League 2026, held on May 9 and 10 at Guru Madal Ashramam, by winning 19 medals and securing the prestigious Best Team Award.

A total of nine students represented NBKA in various Kata and Kumite categories, showcasing excellent skill, discipline, and determination throughout the tournament. The academy won



an impressive 16 gold medals and 3 silver medals, emerging as one of the top-performing teams in the competition. The students' remarkable teamwork and dedication earned NBKA the coveted Best Team Award. On the occasion, NBKA President P. Ganesh

Nayan congratulated the students and emphasized the importance of karate in building self-defense skills, confidence, discipline, physical fitness, respect, and mental strength. He encouraged students to continue practicing sincerely and aim for greater success.

## Students Welcome Instant Eapcet Scores

Students welcomed the state government's new initiative of delivering instant Eapcet scores after the exam, saying it reduced anxiety and gave them a fair idea about their expected rank and college admission. Only the Eapcet is providing instant temporary marking in Telangana, apart from BITS-Pilani. The instant scores were displayed on students' computer screens as per the preliminary key. Final scores, along with ranks, will be awarded based on the final key and normalised marks. Sanni Vas, a student, said the new feature helped him predict his rank by comparing previous years' marks and ranks hosted on the website. Vamshi Madhav, said the scorecard shown on the computer matched his expectations and reduced the anxiety of waiting until the final key or results. Vaishnavi D. noted that students who performed well may feel confident, while those who did not could feel disappointed in the exam hall itself. Anirudh Sai Vignesh said seeing the score immediately gave him confidence about which college he could get into. "It helped in understanding how much I scored after attempting all the questions," he added.

## BRS Women Leaders Seek Independent Probe in Bandi Sanjay Son's POCSO Case

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Women leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi on Monday approached the Telangana State Women Commission demanding an independent investigation into the POCSO case registered against Bandi Sai Bhagirath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The leaders alleged that police deliberately weakened the case and failed to take meaningful action against the accused.

In a representation submitted on May 11, the BRS leaders accused police of invoking only minor provisions of the POCSO Act despite serious allegations made by the victim's family. They also alleged that authorities acted swiftly on a counter-complaint filed by the accused while ignoring the concerns of the minor girl and her family.



According to the complaint, the victim's mother approached Pet Basheerabad Police Station on May 8, alleging repeated sexual harassment, molestation, coercive physical harassment, emotional manipulation, digital harassment and exploitation of the minor over an extended period. The incidents allegedly took place at apartments, farmhouses and isolated private locations in Hyderabad.

Despite the gravity of the allegations, police registered a case only under Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

and Sections 11 and 12 of the POCSO Act. The BRS leaders claimed that stronger provisions were intentionally omitted and that no custodial interrogation or protective measures had been initiated against the accused.

The representation further highlighted that on the same day the POCSO case was registered, Bhagirath filed a complaint at Karimnagar Two Town Police Station against the minor girl and her parents, accusing them of intimidation and extortion. Police allegedly converted the complaint into an FIR

immediately under multiple BNS sections.

Calling it a "clear case of biased policing," the BRS leaders urged the Women Commission to call for all case records, recommend addition of stringent POCSO sections, ensure protection to the victim's family and seek explanations from the officers concerned. They also requested continuous monitoring of the investigation to prevent political influence or intimidation from affecting the case.

The controversy has already reached the highest levels in the State. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed DGP C. V. Anand to form special teams and speed up the probe, questioning why no action had been taken despite the registration of the case. The Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has also sought suo motu action from Hyderabad Police.

## BRS protest demanding arrest of Bandi Sanjay's son



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS women activists staged a dharna at Telangana Chowk here on Monday, demanding the immediate arrest of Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Sai Bageerath in the POCSO case. They raised slogans against the Union Minister. They displayed placards printed with closed-eye pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shut-up gesture

photos of AICC leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The agitating workers pasted posters on saffron cloth arranged by BJP cadre on the eve of the Hindu Ektha Yatra to be held in the town on Tuesday. However, police tore them off. Speaking on the occasion, former district libraries chairman Ponnampati Anil Kumar Goud demanded that the Union Minister take oath in the name of the goddesses of Mahashakti temple that

his son has no relation with the minor girl. Unfortunately, the State government has not responded to the incident, he said, and suspected that CM Revanth Reddy was supporting the Union Minister in the minor girl's case. Sanjay Kumar should prove his sincerity by resigning from his ministerial post as well as MP post. Demanding the arrest of Sai Bageerath, he said that the BRS would continue its agitation till justice was done to the minor girl.

## Bageerath POCSO case: FIR reveals shocking details

**An FIR registered by Petbasheerabad police against Sai Bageerath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, contains allegations of repeated sexual abuse, emotional manipulation and coercion of a minor girl. The complaint also alleges intimidation, circulation of private information and incidents leading to self-harm attempts**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The First Information Report, registered by the Petbasheerabad police against Sai Bageerath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, reveals shocking facts about the multiple instances of sexual abuse by the suspect towards the minor victim and distress she underwent. The mother of the victim made a three-page complaint at Petbasheerabad police station, mentioning a detailed account of the sexual abuse of the minor girl at the hands of Bageerath. The police had invoked Sections 27 and 75 of BNS, 11 r/w 12 POCSO Act 2012 against Bandi Bageerath and others. In the complaint, the woman stated that, "my daughter, being minor at all relevant points of time, was approached, gradually drawn into a relationship by Bandi Bageerath, through mutual contacts in or around June 2025, initially via in-person introduction and subsequently through social media platforms including Instagram and Snapchat." She further alleged that Bageerath induced her daughter into a relationship by making false assurances of marriage upon her attaining majority, thereby exploiting her emotional vulnerability. "Over a period of time, he exercised continuous psy-



chological control, including restricting her educational decisions, isolating her from independent choices, and subjecting her to repeated emotional blackmail," she alleged.

In the complaint, the victim's mother further stated that there are several communications which clearly indicate that Bageerath was in a state of remorse and repeatedly expressed regret for the harm caused to my daughter. "The communications further reveal persistent demands for physical involvement, including instances where he insisted that my daughter come to the service apartment to meet his physical needs, and occasions where he exerted pressure on her against her will. My daughter disclosed that previously, in my own apartment, Bageerath had behaved inappropriately with her. On 25 October 2025, at midnight, he took my daughter to an apartment in Nanakramguda with two other friends and forced her to stay for 2-3 days and forced her to perform physical acts. Similar incidents took place during a farm stay at Moinabad on 13 No-

ember 2025," she alleged. She further alleged that on the night of December 31, Bageerath took her to a farmhouse at Moinabad along with other friends. "During the late night hours, Bageerath, who was intoxicated, entered her room and forcefully subjected her to physical acts such as molesting her, touching inappropriately on private parts, etc."

The victim, on two instances of January 19 and January 26, 2026, had attempted self-harm as Bageerath allegedly abruptly ended the relationship on January 7. The victim's mother alleged that Bageerath is aware of the mental trauma caused by his behaviour to her daughter, and on knowing about it got worried and checked about the health of the victim.

The woman further alleged that when they were initiating steps to seek legal remedy in March 2026 against Bageerath, on April 21, a false complaint was made by one Sriram at the Nirmal police station against them, alleging they were blackmailing the accused and their family.

The mother of the victim in the complaint further alleged that Bageerath had been circulating personal and private information/photos of the victim and spreading defamatory statements, further aggravating her distress.

## Rathi Raju Organises Traditional Bullock Cart Pulling Competition in Telangana

**RANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana  
Sriram Venkatesh

A traditional bullock cart pulling competition was organised under the leadership of Rathi Raju, drawing attention from local farmers and rural communities. The event was conducted to promote Telangana's agricultural traditions and showcase the strength and importance of bullocks in village life. Participants from different areas took part in the competition with great en-



thusiasm, while local residents gathered in large numbers to witness the event. Organisers said the programme aimed to preserve traditional rural sports and encourage younger generations to stay connected with Telangana culture and farming heritage. During the programme,

Rathi Raju highlighted the importance of respecting farmers and protecting traditional agricultural practices. The event also recognised outstanding participants in the bullock cart competition.

On the occasion of Kisan Diwas, representatives of Triveni Educational Institutions presented a cheque of ₹1,00,116 to former Telangana Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan as part of a farmers' welfare initiative. Organisers stated that supporting farmers and rural communities remains their key objective.

## POCSO Row: Koppula Eshwar Demands Arrest



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Minister Koppula Eshwar has strongly criticized the state government and police over the handling of the POCSO case registered against Bandi Bhagirath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar. In a press statement, Eshwar condemned the alleged mental and sexual harassment of a BC community girl, calling the incident "extremely heinous." Questioning the delay in arresting the accused despite a POCSO case being registered, Eshwar asked whether there was "one law for common people and another for the son of a Union Minister." He also demanded that a case be filed against Bandi Sanjay, alleging that he was intimidating the victim's parents. Eshwar expressed sus-

picion over the accused remaining untraceable while Bandi Sanjay continued attending public meetings "without concern." He alleged that weaker provisions under Section 11 of the POCSO Act were intentionally applied instead of stricter Sections 5 to 7 to shield the accused.

The former minister further claimed that police acted only after the victim's family allegedly threatened suicide ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. He accused the ruling Congress government of indirectly supporting BJP leaders and alleged an "unholy alliance" between Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the BJP. Eshwar demanded the immediate arrest of Bandi Bhagirath, his production before a magistrate, and protection for the victim's family.

## CBIT Launches SPARK for Govt Students

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology launched "SPARK - Summer Programme for Awareness, Resilience & Knowledge" at Government Boys High School Sultan Bazar on May 11 under the Telangana Government's Samagra Shiksha initiative.

The programme aims to equip students of Classes VI to X with life skills, emotional resilience, digital awareness and aca-



demical support during the summer break. CBIT Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu inaugurated the initiative along with education officials and faculty members. Around 80 students and teachers participated on the opening day. The programme will

continue till June 3 with CBIT faculty and student volunteers mentoring participants. The initiative reflects CBIT's commitment towards social responsibility and empowering government school students for a better future.

## Indiramma House Fulfills Poor Family's Dream in Jeerlapalli

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Thalka anjiah

The dream of owning a permanent house became a reality for Bagari Poolamma and her husband Bichayya of Jeerlapalli village in Jharasangam Mandal, Zaheerabad Constituency, as they celebrated the grand Gruhapravesam of their newly constructed Indiramma House on Monday. The ceremony was attended by Venkat Reddy, father of Telangana Chief Minister's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy (IAS),



who participated as the chief guest and took part in the traditional house-warming rituals. Addressing the gathering, Venkat Reddy said the Telangana Government's

prestigious Indiramma Housing Scheme is bringing dignity and stability to economically weaker families by helping them own permanent homes. He encouraged beneficiaries to complete construction works quickly and utilize the scheme effectively.

The programme was conducted in a festive atmosphere with mangala vadyams, drum beats, floral decorations, and special pujas. Villagers and residents from nearby areas attended the event in large numbers.

Village Sarpanch and youth leader Dr. B.

Vishnu actively participated in the programme and interacted with local residents throughout the ceremony. Public representatives, officials connected with Indiramma housing works, and local leaders were also present.

As a mark of respect, Poolamma and Bichayya felicitated Venkat Reddy with a shawl and sweets. Family members expressed happiness that their new home was inaugurated in his presence, stating the Indiramma House brought new hope, dignity, and happiness into their lives.

## S.C. Dept Reviews Southern Telangana Strategy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Dp Srinivas rao

The S.C. Department leadership on Monday held a key coordination meeting in Hyderabad to strengthen organizational activities and expand grassroots outreach across southern Telangana districts. The meeting was conducted under the directions of Kovvampally Satyanarayana, Chairman of the S.C. Department and MLA from Manakondur constituency. Senior leaders reviewed district-



level programs and discussed strategies to improve coordination among party cadres. The session was supervised by observer team leader Ch. Vinod Singh along with other prominent leaders, including Karan Singh, C. Dheraj

Kumar, Mayur Kumar and Mohan Kumar. District Chairmen and Vice Chairmen from Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy and Jogulamba Gadwal participated in the meeting and presented reports on local activities, outreach programs and organizational

progress within S.C. communities. Leaders stressed the need for stronger coordination between state observers and district units to ensure effective implementation of party initiatives at the constituency level. The meeting also highlighted ongoing strategic tours aimed at consolidating support across the region. The program concluded with party workers raising slogans of "Jai Congress, Jai Jai Congress," reflecting unity and enthusiasm among leaders and cadres.

**Municipal Recruitment Scam: ED Arrests Former Bengal Minister Sujit Bose After 10-Hour Grilling**

Former West Bengal fire and emergency services minister Sujit Bose was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) late on Monday evening after a marathon grilling over 10 hours in the municipal recruitment scam. He is the first Trinamul Congress heavyweight to have been taken into custody by a central agency close on the heels of the Assembly Election in which he also suffered defeat at Bidhannagar seat. Mr Bose, who was under the ED scanner before, during and after the polls, appeared at the central agency's office in CGO Complex of Salt Lake along with his lawyer after getting fresh summons in the case related to illegal appointments at South Dum Dum Municipality. At around 9.15 pm, the ED arrested him. His son, Samudra, who has also been under the lens, was inside the central agency's office. Initially, Mr Bose had claimed to the ED during his previous appearance that his name did not feature in the chargesheet filed by Central Bureau.

# Totally Unacceptable: Trump Rejects Iran Peace Terms

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump on Sunday branded Iran's terms for ending the Middle East war "totally unacceptable," raising the likelihood of renewed conflict after weeks of negotiations. Iran had responded to Washington's latest peace proposal earlier in the day, while warning it would not hold back from retaliating against any new US strikes or permit more foreign warships in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump himself provided no details on Tehran's counterproposal, but in a brief post on his Truth Social platform made clear he was rejecting it. "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it --



**TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!** Trump said. The back and forth came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu -- whose forces launched the war on Iran along with the US military on February 28 -- insisted the conflict was not over until Iran's enriched uranium was removed and its nuclear facilities dismantled.

Tehran publicly maintained its defiant line, despite behind-the-scenes diplomacy. "We will never bow down to the enemy, and if there

is talk of dialogue or negotiation, it does not mean surrender or retreat," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Sunday on X. According to state broadcaster IRIB, Tehran's response to the US plan, passed to Pakistani mediators, focuses on ending the war "on all fronts, especially Lebanon" -- where Israel has kept up its fight with Iran-backed Hezbollah -- as well as on "ensuring shipping security."

It offered little detail,

though the US proposal had reportedly focused on extending the truce in the Gulf to allow for talks on a final settlement of the conflict and on Iran's contested nuclear program. The impasse unnerved global energy markets, with oil prices opening sharply higher Monday. The international benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.69 percent to \$104.01 a barrel on July delivery. Netanyahu said in an interview which aired Sunday that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium must be removed before the war can end. Meanwhile The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, said Iran laid out its own demands to Washington and proposed to have some of its highly enriched uranium diluted.

## China, US Jointly Bust Transnational Drug Smuggling Ring Ahead of Trump Visit

**BEIJING**  
Wakeup telangana

Chinese and US drug enforcement agencies jointly dismantled a transnational drug smuggling network, arresting five suspects in coordinated operations carried out in both countries. Chinese authorities announced on Monday ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing this week. According to China's Ministry of Public Security, the operations were conducted in early April by the narcotics control bureau and the US Drug Enforcement Administration under the Department of Justice. Raids were carried out in Liaoning and Guangdong provinces in China and in Florida and Nevada in the United States. Authorities arrested five people, including two Chinese nationals and three US nationals, and



seized a batch of illegal drugs, including protonitazene, a synthetic opioid, and bromazolam, a sedative. Officials said the operation successfully disrupted a cross-border drug trafficking route operating between China and the US.

The ministry described the crackdown as a major achievement in practical anti-drug cooperation between the two countries and said it reflected their shared commitment to combating international drug-related crimes. The announcement comes just days before Trump's scheduled visit to China

from May 13 to 15, during which he is expected to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on several bilateral issues, including efforts to curb drug smuggling into the US. For years, Washington has pressed Beijing to strengthen action against the illegal flow of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids into the United States.

The fentanyl crisis has contributed to widespread addiction and overdose deaths across America, making narcotics control a key issue in US-China relations.

# Netanyahu Warns Iran War Will Continue Until Uranium Is Removed

**LUCKNOW**  
Wakeup telangana

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium must be removed before the ongoing US-Israeli conflict involving Iran can be considered fully resolved. Speaking during an interview aired Sunday on the American television program "60 Minutes," Netanyahu said Iran's nuclear capabilities remain a major concern despite recent military setbacks faced by Tehran. According to him, the war is "not over" because Iran still possesses enriched uranium and active nuclear enrichment facilities that could potentially be used to revive its nuclear ambitions. Netanyahu stressed that the enriched uranium stockpile must be physically taken out of Iran. When asked how that could happen, he replied, "You go in and you take it out," suggesting that Israel and its allies could remove the material directly if necessary. He added that US President Donald Trump had privately expressed a similar



position. According to Netanyahu, Trump told him, "I want to go in there," indicating support for stronger action against Iran's nuclear infrastructure. However, Trump's public comments appeared somewhat different from Netanyahu's tougher tone. In an interview with independent journalist Sharyl Attkisson, Trump claimed Iran had already been "militarily defeated" and insisted the uranium could be dealt with whenever the United States wanted. Trump said American forces would continue monitoring the nuclear sites closely and warned that any attempt to move or access the uranium stockpile would trigger a military response. His remarks come amid growing domestic pressure in the United States for an

end to tensions and military involvement in the Iran conflict. Despite emphasizing the need to eliminate Iran's nuclear material, Netanyahu said he still preferred a diplomatic solution rather than military intervention. He explained that if an international agreement could allow inspectors or allied forces to enter Iran and remove the uranium peacefully, that would be the "best way." Still, he refused to discuss whether Israel has military plans ready to seize the uranium stockpile or dismantle Iran's facilities by force. Netanyahu also highlighted broader regional security concerns linked to Iran. He said Iran continues to support proxy groups including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, while also at-

tempting to strengthen its ballistic missile program. According to him, although Israel and its allies have weakened these networks significantly, the threats have not been eliminated completely. He argued that if Iran's ruling regime were eventually to collapse, it could lead to the weakening or even the end of the broader network of Iran-backed militant organizations across the Middle East. The Israeli leader further alleged that China has been assisting Iran by supplying components related to missile manufacturing, though he declined to provide detailed evidence publicly. Netanyahu additionally surprised many observers by saying Israel should gradually reduce its dependence on American military aid, which currently amounts to approximately \$3.8 billion annually. He suggested that over the next decade Israel should work toward ending its reliance on US defense assistance and becoming more self-sufficient militarily and economically.

# Suvendu Keeps 42 WB Depts With Him

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

Creating a record, new West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari kept 42 portfolios among the 54 state departments with him and allocated the remaining 12 to his five cabinet colleagues on Monday. His move makes the first BJP government to have the smallest cabinet in the history of the state for the time being. In yet another surprise move, Mr Adhikari made senior IAS officer Manoj Agarwal, who supervised the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voters' list and the recent Assembly



Election as the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal and was accused by the erstwhile ruling party-- Trinamul Congress-- of bias, as the state chief secretary in place of Dushyant Nariala. Mr Adhikari is also likely to vacate Nandigram seat and finance, one of the portfolios under his belt now, for economist Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, to allow him to contest and win there in a bypoll so that he can be inducted as finance minister in the state cabinet. Mr Sanyal was not only vocal before the polls for a political and economic change in the state but also attended the swearing-in ceremony of Mr Adhikari and five other ministers at the Brigade Parade Ground on May 9. According to a press release on the first council of ministers issued by the state secretariat Nabanna, Dilip Ghosh has been made minister of three departments-- panchayat

and rural development, animal resource department and agriculture marketing-- while Agnimitra Paul got two portfolios: women and child development and social welfare. Two more departments, food and supplies and cooperation, went to Ashok Kirtania with three others-- tribal development, backward classes welfare and minority affairs and madrasah education-- were allocated to Khudiram Tudu. Nishit Pramanik has become ministers of two departments-- North Bengal Development and Youth Services & Sports.

# Abhishek To Lose Z-Plus Security Cover

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

The BJP government in West Bengal has decided to withdraw Z-plus category security cover by the state police to Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee's MP nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The decision, which includes removal of pilot car and additional cops from his convoy in phases



in the coming days, was taken at a security review meeting chaired by chief minister Suvendu Adhikari at the state secretariat, Nabanna, with top

bureaucrats. Mr Banerjee, who is also TMC national general secretary, enjoyed the top security ring for almost 10 years during which almost 20 cars used to be in his convoy while a deployment of nearly 3000 police personnel became a routine in his travel route to districts. Mr Adhikari however made clear that unnecessary deployment of cops and cars to flaunt

power and influence would not be allowed in a convoy if threat perception does not pose danger to any politician's life. His step comes days after the Kolkata Police withdrew its personnel and security systems from Mr Banerjee's palatial residence, Shantiniketan, on Harish Mukherjee Road in Kalighat following the downfall of the TMC regime.

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

### Fissures In AIADMK....

Later on, former Ministers C V Shanmugham and S P Velumani from the other group, claiming to have the support of 30 members, handed over a letter naming Velumani as the leader. It is said the group with the maximum supporters will have its way, which can put Palaniswami in a fix as he will have to adhere to the dictates of the whip who could be appointed by the Velumani faction. Since it is the Speaker who would have to decide on the group having the majority members to identify the leader of the legislative party, it can happen only after the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip are appointed. JCD Prabhakar, representing the Thousand Lights con-

stituency from the TVK, who filed his nomination for the Speaker's post, is likely to be the Speaker as there has been no other nomination. During the swearing in of the MLAs, Shanmugham representing Mailam constituency, was not present in the House and did not take the oath when his name was called out. He later on took the oath at the Speaker's chamber at around 3.15 pm. The conduct of Shanmugham and other AIADMK MLAs in the House pointed to an impending split in the party itself and it is expected that one of the factions might openly support the TVK government when the vote of confidence is taken in the House on May 13.

### Naidu Flags AP.....

Later, Naidu met Union jal shakti minister C. R. Patil in New Delhi and sought his support to complete the Polavaram Irrigation Project before the commencement of Godavari Pushkaralu in June 2027. The Chief Minister appealed to the Union minister to resolve key issues in the execution of the Polavaram project so that all required construction could be completed, enabling water storage up to 41.15 metres in the first phase. Naidu said, "I have personally visited the Polavaram project site five times so far to review the progress of the works." He added that the construction of the new diaphragm wall was completed by April 2, 2026, and major works on the

earth-cum-rock-fill dam at Gap-1 and Gap-2 were progressing at a brisk pace. Naidu also sought the Union Minister's intervention to permanently withdraw the 'stop-work order' issued in 2011. He noted that the order had been issued due to delays in obtaining public opinion regarding submergence in parts of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. He said that withdrawing the order would help continue the project without hurdles. He further informed the minister about the increase in the capacities of both the Polavaram Right Main Canal and Left Main Canal to 17,500 cusecs, compared to the original plan, to meet irrigation requirements in their command areas. Naidu noted that the Right Main Canal works were 95 per cent com-

plete, while the Left Main Canal works had reached 78 per cent completion. He urged the Centre to release reimbursement funds for the completed works and for the remaining construction. In a letter submitted to the Jal Shakti Minister, the Chief Minister sought funds under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, launched with the motto "Har Khet Ko Pani," to undertake repair, revival, modernisation, desiltation, and strengthening of canal bunds in the state. **New Rural.....**

For 2026-27, the Centre has allocated Rs 95,692.31 crore, the highest budget estimate for a rural employment programme. Including state contributions, the total outlay is expected to exceed Rs 1.51 lakh crore. The ministry said existing works under MGNREGA as on June 30 will continue and be transitioned into the new framework without disruption. Employment will remain uninterrupted during the transition period. It said e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards will remain valid until new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued. Workers without job cards can continue to register at gram panchayats, and employment will not be denied due to pending e-KYC verification. Chouhan said rules for the new Act are being finalised in consultation with states, adding that arrangements have been made to ensure continuity of employment during the transition.

CRIME

# Cyberabad Police Seize 400 Kg Ganja Worth ₹2 Crore; Interstate Drug

**RANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana  
Srirangam Venkatesh

Cyberabad Police arrested seven members of an interstate ganja smuggling gang and seized 400 kg of dry ganja worth around ₹2 crore near Muthangi under Patancheru Police Station limits. The operation was carried out jointly by the Special Operations Team (SOT), Kukatpally Zone, and Patancheru Police based on credible information. Police also seized one DCM vehicle, one Ertiga car, and six mobile phones from the accused. According to police, the ganja was being transported from Odisha to Maharashtra through Hyderabad Outer Ring Road. The contraband was alleg-



edly supplied from Malkangiri in Odisha and was hidden inside a DCM vehicle under empty vegetable trays. The arrested accused belong mainly to Solapur district in Maharashtra. Police said the main receiver from Maharashtra and the supplier from Odisha are currently absconding. One minor was also found involved in the

case. The accused were intercepted near Muthangi on May 11 while transporting the ganja consignment. A case was registered under relevant sections of the NDPS Act at Patancheru Police Station. The operation was conducted under the supervision of DCP SOT P. Shoban Kumar and other senior officers. Cyberabad Commissioner of Police

appreciated the efforts of the SOT and Patancheru Police teams. Police appealed to the public to share information related to drug suppliers through Dial 100, Cyberabad NDPS Enforcement Cell (7901105423), or the Cyberabad WhatsApp number (8712663333), assuring confidentiality of informants.

EDITORIAL

# JOBS, MIGRATION & REALITY: BJP'S POST-POLL CHALLENGE

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Storytelling is critical in electoral politics. But the gap between political data and official data has rarely been wider. The BJP offered voters a storyline about industrial revival, jobs, cash support for the vulnerable, and an end to economic despair, alongside huge dollops of Hindutva, its calling card. The narrative was emotionally potent: other governments fail the people; the "double-engine" BJP model delivers. It worked. The BJP enters mid-2026 with unprecedented political dominance: direct control of 16 states and influence over nearly three-fourths of India's population through its NDA alliance partners. With the polls over, bread-and-butter concerns must be centre stage. The challenge for the BJP: operationalising its promises across the country. Out-migration was a potent election issue. In West Bengal, BJP

leaders painted grim pictures of lakhs of desperate workers fleeing their states. Exaggeration proved to be a potent electoral strategy. The data, however, tells a more nuanced story. People all over India are on the move, not just from West Bengal to other states in search of work. As the late Bibek Debroy and Devi Prasad Misra noted in EAC-PM's (Economic Advisory Council to PM) December 2024 working paper "400 Million Dreams" -- "Mumbai, Bengaluru Urban, Howrah, Central Delhi, Hyderabad are the districts attracting most migrant arrivals; while Valsad, Chittoor, Paschim Bardhaman, Agra, Guntur, Villupuram and Saharsa are the top origin districts." Even though Census 2011 is the last comprehensive, door-to-door official count of migration, experts and government bodies use alternative high-frequency proxy data to estimate current migration patterns. Debroy and Misra used high-

frequency railway unserved ticket data and telecom roaming records as proxies to assess domestic migration. West Bengal ranks in the top five for total outbound migrants, but is nowhere near the top two. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have far higher figures for work-related inter-state migration. "There has been significant out-migration from West Bengal to Kerala and other southern states. However, Bengal is not the only source state. Since we have not had a Census since 2011, there is no official, comprehensive data on internal migration patterns in India. Migration is normal, natural and is one of the fastest ways of intergenerational social mobility for a person from disadvantaged communities in rural India. In India, a large number of migrants move to southern states, which offer better incomes and opportunities. Bengal is merely one among many states from where rural Indians are migrating in search of

livelihoods, driven by a lack of local job opportunities exacerbated by climate change," points out Dr Benoy Peter, migration expert and executive director, Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development. Framing any state as the worst in every way is political storytelling. The reality: large-scale distress migration from all poorer, populous northern and eastern states to western and southern industrial hubs. The BJP tapped into real voter pain, but the exaggeration raises the bar for delivery. Reversing entrenched migration patterns will take years of sustained industrial growth, beyond campaign rhetoric. Another hugely relevant issue across India -- investment and the quality of jobs on offer. Job growth trails GDP growth. Millions of Indians continue to survive through self-employment (mostly low-productivity) and casual labour. This gap between promise and reality became visible in mid-April 2026.

## Court orders pending payment to contractor

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti of the Telangana High Court directed the state to release ₹31.89 lakh due to a contractor for Mission Kakatiya works, along with interest at 6 per cent per annum, holding that payments cannot be withheld after completion of work and issuance of quality certification. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by Gona Srinivas Rao, a contractor, alleging non-payment for restoration of Medi Cheruvu in Nalgonda district despite

completion of work and issuance of a quality control certificate in 2017. The petitioner contended that the work was executed under an agreement entered in 2015 and a supplemental agreement in 2017, and that the quality of work was certified as satisfactory for Rs.31.89 lakh. It was argued that even after generation of a payment token in October 2022, the amount was not released. The state submitted that payment would be processed upon consideration of the representation and that the authorities would

examine the claim. The judge noted that once work stood completed and certified, the state was bound to release payment within a reasonable time. It was observed that delay of nearly three years after the generation of token was unjustified and that the contractor could not be made to wait indefinitely. Holding that non-payment would cause financial loss and hardship, the judge directed the respondents to release the due amount with interest at 6 per cent per annum from the date it became payable, within 16 weeks.

## Youth Dies By Suicide As Parents Refuse To Buy Mobile

A 20-year-old man died by suicide at Chintalapalli village in Thorur mandal of Mahabubabad district after his parents refused to buy him a new mobile phone, police said. The deceased was identified as K. Sai Kumar. Police said he had damaged his mobile phone recently and had been asking his parents, who work as daily wage labourers, to buy him another handset. On Friday night, Sai Kumar, allegedly in an inebriated condition, argued with his parents over the demand. They told him they could not afford a new phone immediately and asked him to wait for a few days. Police said Sai Kumar later took the extreme step while the family was asleep. His family found him dead early on Saturday morning. Police shifted the body to a government hospital for post-mortem examination and registered a case.

## 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.

## Temple Vicinity Turns Tense Over Illegal Toddy Shop

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tension is rising in Prem Nagar, Khairatabad, after residents demanded the immediate closure or relocation of an alleged illegal toddy shop operating near the Tolta Sai Baba Temple at 6-3-243/6. Locals say the outlet has become a major nuisance in the densely populated residential locality, disturbing public peace and creating insecurity for devotees, women, children, and senior citizens. Residents allege that the toddy shop is functioning in violation of excise norms that prohibit liquor outlets near temples and residential zones. According to locals, drunken brawls, loud arguments, littering, and broken bottles have become a daily sight around the area, especially during evenings. Women and elderly devotees claim they



feel unsafe visiting the temple due to groups loitering near the premises. Parents also expressed concern over children's safety and the deteriorating environment in the neighborhood. A formal representation has reportedly been submitted to the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, seeking immediate intervention. Citizens urged authorities to cancel the shop's permission or shift it to a non-residential area to restore peace and maintain the sanctity of the temple surroundings.

## Traffic Police Launch Road Safety Summer Camp for Children

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Traffic Police launched the Road Safety Summer Camp-2026 for children at the Traffic Training Institute, Goshamahal, on Sunday. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis inaugurated the camp and urged children to become responsible traffic ambassadors by spreading road safety awareness among family members and friends. The camp, organised for children aged between 10



and 15 years, focuses on traffic awareness and road safety education along with personality development activities. Around 100 children have registered for this year's programme. Speaking on the occasion, Joel Davis encour-

aged students to dream big, work hard and make their parents and the country proud. He said learning road safety at a young age would help reduce fatalities caused by road accidents in the future. The summer camp also

includes sessions on basic life support, fire safety, dance, music, painting and handwriting improvement to help children develop life skills along with awareness on road discipline. The inaugural programme was attended by DCP Traffic-II Kajal Singh, Honda Group General Manager Shishir Chaturvedi and representatives from Aryan Dance Academy and Raj Events, besides instructors and facilitators associated with the camp.



# No Gold Purchases To Hit \$80 Bn Industry, Livelihood Of 5 Million People

**“Gold purchases are another area where foreign exchange is used extensively. In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year”.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**CHENNAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to the people not to buy gold for one year to protect forex reserves amid rising crude prices and unrelenting war in West Asia. While lesser gold consumption will help curb forex outgo, the livelihood of 5 million people working in the \$80 billion gold and jewellery industry will be jeopardised and lakhs of investors will be deprived of the opportunity to hedge inflation risk and preserve wealth.

“Gold purchases are another area where foreign exchange is used extensively. In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a



year,” he said. An appeal to make no purchases will hit the \$80 billion industry and the livelihood of 5 million workers and artisans employed in this industry, including those in manufacturing, trade, wholesale and retail. India’s gems and jewellery market is valued around massive \$85 billion and 80 per cent of this comprises gold. Of India’s \$28 billion gems and jewellery exports, around \$12 billion com-



prises studded gold and plain jewellery. “The gems and jewellery exports are already struggling with US tariffs and the West Asia war. Curbs on consumption in the domestic market will further worsen the situation of the people depending on the industry,” said Vipul Shah, former chairman, GJEPC. Further, for lakhs of Indian investors, gold is a hedge against inflation, that is rising due to crude prices, rupee weak-

ening to record lows on a regular basis. Gold and silver have been the two best performing assets with gold appreciating 61 per cent and silver 128 per cent in FY26.

In the March quarter, India consumed 151 tonnes of gold, valued Rs 2,27,530 crore and of this, 82 tonnes went towards investment demand, which clearly shows how investors use gold as an asset. “Looking from an investor’s standpoint, this is not the best thing to do. Gold is not just an inflation hedge; it also preserves wealth at difficult times. The global uncertainties are forcing individuals similar to the country to look for ways to preserve wealth. The appeal is not likely to be

effective without giving investors alternative avenues to preserve their wealth,” said Anil Rego, founder, Right Horizons. According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA, measures to moderate demand for fuels while prices are elevated, would certainly help to contain the increase in the Current Account Deficit. “With a feared EL Nino, rural demand for gold may anyway be muted this year,” she said. In the baseline scenario, presuming crude oil averages US\$85/barrel in FY2027, India’s CAD would jump to 1.7 per cent of GDP. If crude oil averages a higher \$105/barrel, then the CAD would be even wider at 2.4% of GDP, finds ICRA.

## Rupee crashes 139 paise to 94.90 as Trump rejects Iran peace proposal

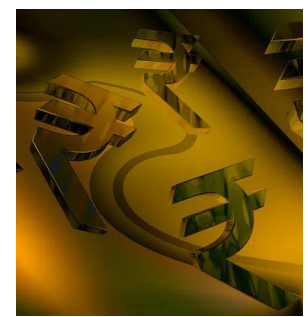
**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The rupee crashed 139 paise to 94.90 against the greenback in early trade on Monday after President Donald Trump rejected Iran’s response to the US’s peace proposal, following which crude oil prices surged rapidly. A strengthening US dollar and steep FPI outflows further pressured the local unit, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 94.97 against the US dollar before inching up to 94.90, down a staggering 139 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee pared its losses and ended with a sharp gain of 71 paise at 93.51 against the greenback.

Iran has sent its response to the latest US ceasefire proposal via Pakistani mediators and wants negotiations to focus on



permanently ending the war, Iran’s state-run media said on Sunday.

Trump rejected Iran’s proposal to end the months-long war as “totally unacceptable” without sharing details even as a key Republican leader urged him to consider the “military option”.

“After US President Donald Trump rejected Iran’s response to the US Peace proposal, Brent oil rose higher, dollar index also higher and risky assets lower. Israeli attacks on Lebanon continued while Hezbollah said it struck Israeli army camps with drones while the UAE also intercepted drones from Iran,” Anil Kumar

Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

“Thus the war continues keeping oil prices higher and accordingly rupee opened lower than Friday’s close,” he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.20, up 0.20 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose sharply by 4.17 per cent to USD 105.5 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex plummeted 810.35 points, or 1.05 per cent, to 76,517.84, while the Nifty tanked 225.40 points, or 0.93 per cent, to 23,950.75.

Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 4,110.60 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

# Bank of Baroda targets 10 per cent corporate loan growth in FY27

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

State-owned Bank of Baroda is targeting a 10 per cent growth in its corporate loan book during FY27, with a current lending pipeline of Rs 50,000 crore, according to Managing Director and Chief Executive Debaddatta Chand. The bank’s corporate advances presently stand at Rs 4.56 lakh crore, and officials remain optimistic despite concerns over sluggish

private sector capital expenditure. Speaking about the bank’s lending outlook, Chand said nearly two-thirds of the proposals in the pipeline are term loans, while the remaining are working capital requirements, indicating sustained investment demand from industries.

Of the Rs 50,000 crore pipeline, around half has already been sanctioned and awaits disbursement, while the rest consists of proposals currently under



discussion. The bank is witnessing strong credit demand from sectors such as renewable energy, steel and cement, where companies are pursuing capacity expansion projects.

Chand said the growing focus on infrastructure and green energy investments is expected to continue supporting corporate credit growth over the coming quarters. On expo-

sure to the telecom sector, Chand said fresh lending opportunities could emerge if the right policy support and coordination among lenders and stakeholders materialise, especially in the case of Vodafone Idea, which is undergoing a revival process.

To protect its net interest margins, the bank plans to realign a larger part of its corporate loan portfolio towards external benchmark-based lending rates. Chand said the hardening

of government security yields may help the bank secure better spreads in the coming months. However, he acknowledged that the bank does not expect any immediate relief in deposit costs under current market conditions and would therefore focus on improving yields on advances. Apart from deposits, the lender will continue exploring alternative funding avenues to manage liabilities efficiently. Chand noted that the bank remains comfort-

able operating with a credit-deposit ratio in the range of 81-83 per cent, which has historically been higher than many other state-run banks. On asset quality, Chand expressed confidence in the bank’s micro, small and medium enterprises portfolio, stating that there are no major concerns at present.

He also highlighted that the government-backed Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) continues to

support borrowers in the MSME segment. Addressing concerns regarding provisioning, Chand clarified that the floating provision of Rs 1,500 crore created during the March quarter was not specifically meant for the expected credit loss framework. He maintained that the bank already has sufficient buffers to manage future transition requirements effectively.

## Hong Kong-based Crown Worldwide Group launches new facility in Coimbatore

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Hong Kong-based logistics and records management firm Crown Worldwide Group on Monday announced the launch of its new facility in Coimbatore.

The development marks a significant expansion for the company in India, one of its key global markets, and strengthens its ability to serve a growing client base with integrated storage and information management solutions, the company said in a statement.

Located on a 4.5-acre site, the facility is designed with future growth in mind and supports a phase 1 capacity of more than 468,000 Standard Carton Equivalents (SCE), with expansion potential up to 720,000 SCE in phase 2 through an additional 45,000 sq ft, without disrupting ongoing operations, Crown Worldwide said.

The facility will also support Crown Relocations and Crown Workspace, including its renewing centre, which focuses on refurbishing and reusing workplace assets, it said. “As Asian economies continue to grow, so does the demand for infrastruc-

ture partners,” said Jennifer Harvey, Group CEO, Crown Worldwide Group. “India is one of our fastest-growing markets, and this new facility strengthens our ability to support clients with physical document and corporate asset storage, digitalisation, and information management solutions,” she added.

India continues to be a key growth driver for Crown globally, with sustained demand across sectors and an increasing need for secure, scalable information and asset management, the company said, emphasising that the launch of the facility reflects the group’s continued investment in building long-term infrastructure aligned with this growth.

“We invest in markets with sustained growth and India continues to stand out in that regard. This facility significantly strengthens our ability to serve clients operating in and out of India,” said Tze Shen Kong, CEO, Asia, Crown Worldwide Group. “India is not just a growth market for Crown, it is increasingly central to how we are building capacity for the region,” said Srinivas Krishnan, Regional Managing

# Markets Crash On Oil Shock Fears

**Sensex Falls Over 1,300 Pts as High Crude Oil Prices, PM Austerity Appeal Unnerve Investors**

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian stock markets extended losses for a third straight session on Monday, with the benchmark indices plunging sharply amid rising crude oil prices and growing concerns over the escalating West Asia conflict. The BSE Sensex tumbled 1,312.91 points, or 1.70 per cent, to close at 76,015.28, while the NSE Nifty fell 360.30 points, or 1.49 per cent, to settle at 23,815.85.

The sharp decline came after crude oil prices surged following the failure of peace negotiations between the United States and Iran. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 2.23 per cent to USD 103.5 per barrel, raising fears of inflationary pressure and a worsening current account deficit for India.

Investor sentiment weakened further after US



President Donald Trump reportedly rejected Iran’s latest peace proposal, calling it “totally unacceptable.” The development dashed hopes of an immediate diplomatic resolution and intensified concerns over prolonged geopolitical instability in the Gulf region.

Adding to market nervousness, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to adopt austerity measures to conserve foreign exchange amid the crisis. Addressing a BJP rally in Hyderabad on Sunday, Modi appealed to people to reduce fuel consumption, postpone gold

purchases and foreign travel for one year, and increase the use of public transport and electric vehicles.

The Prime Minister stressed that rising crude oil and fertiliser prices due to the West Asia conflict could put pressure on the Indian economy. His remarks triggered concerns among investors over fuel inflation, weakening consumption demand, and pressure on forex reserves.

Market experts said the combined impact of geopolitical uncertainty and concerns over India’s macroeconomic outlook

led to aggressive selling across sectors. Titan emerged as the biggest loser among Sensex stocks, plunging nearly 7 per cent. Shares of Inter-Globe Aviation, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries also witnessed heavy losses. However, gains in Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Hindustan Unilever and ICICI Bank limited the broader market fall to some extent.

In the last three trading sessions, the Sensex has lost nearly 1,950 points, while the Nifty has slipped over 515 points. Foreign Institutional Investors also remained net sellers, offloading equities worth Rs 4,110.60 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Analysts warned that unless geopolitical tensions ease and crude prices stabilise, volatility in domestic markets is likely to continue in the near term.

## Canara Bank reports 10 per cent fall in Q4 net profit

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

State-owned Canara Bank on Monday reported a 10 per cent year-on-year decline in standalone net profit for the March quarter of FY26, even as the lender showed improvement in asset quality and annual profitability.

The Bengaluru-headquartered bank posted a standalone net profit of Rs 4,506 crore during the January-March quarter, compared to Rs 5,002.66 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The bank’s total income during the quarter also declined by 1.85 per cent to Rs 36,662 crore, down from Rs 37,353 crore reported in the same period last year, according to a regulatory filing. However, the lender registered steady growth in its core earnings. Net interest income (NII), which reflects income earned from lending activities, rose nearly 4 per cent to Rs 9,808 crore during the quarter under review, compared to Rs 9,442 crore in the year-ago period. Canara Bank also recorded a significant

improvement in its asset quality. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, declined to 1.84 per cent of gross advances as of March 2026, against 2.94 per cent recorded at the end of March 2025. In absolute terms, gross NPAs came down sharply to Rs 22,740 crore from Rs 31,530 crore a year earlier.

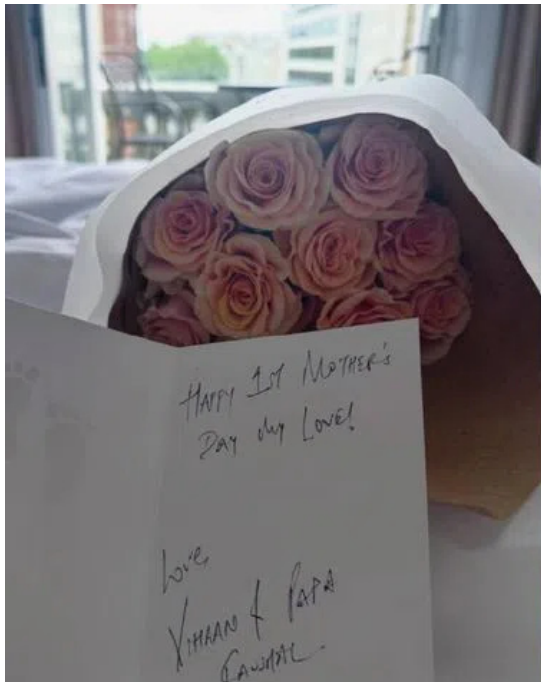
Similarly, net NPAs improved to 0.43 per cent, amounting to Rs 5,209 crore, compared to 0.7 per cent or Rs 7,353 crore in the corresponding period last year. The bank’s board has recommended a dividend of Rs 4.20 per equity share for FY26. The proposal is subject to shareholders’ approval at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. For the full financial year FY26, Canara Bank reported a 12.7 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 19,187 crore. Its total income also rose to Rs 1,53,204 crore from Rs 1,42,208 crore in FY25. Meanwhile, shares of Canara Bank were trading 3.16 per cent lower at Rs 130.1 on the BSE during afternoon trade.

# Katrina Kaif receives sweet Mother's Day gift from her son Vihaan

**B**ollywood actress Katrina Kaif received a heartwarming surprise on the occasion of Mother's Day, making the celebration even more special for the actress. On Sunday, Katrina took to Instagram to share two adorable pictures that instantly won over fans on social media.

The first picture featured a beautiful bouquet of roses along with a handwritten card signed by her husband Vicky Kaushal and their son Vihaan Kaushal.

The touching message from Vicky read, "Happy 1st Mother's Day, my love," leaving fans emotional and showering the family with warm wishes online. Katrina and Vicky welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Vihaan Kaushal, in November 2025. Although the couple chose to keep the news private initially, they officially confirmed the



arrival of their son in January 2026 through social media, where they also shared the baby's name and a glimpse of him for the first time. The announcement quickly became a major talking point among fans and the film fraternity.

Throughout her pregnancy, Katrina maintained a low profile and stayed away from frequent public appearances. Since embracing parenthood, both Katrina and Vicky have continued to balance

their personal and professional commitments carefully, making only selective appearances at events and public gatherings. Interestingly, the couple named their son Vihaan after Vicky's memorable character from the blockbuster war drama Uri: The Surgical Strike. Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot on December 9, 2021, in a grand yet intimate ceremony held at the luxurious Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. The wed-



ding festivities spanned three days and included traditional ceremonies such as haldi, mehendi and sangeet. The couple maintained strict privacy throughout the celebrations, with only close friends and family members attending the event. For their wedding, the couple wore outfits designed by renowned fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Katrina looked stunning in a red lehenga paired with traditional jewellery, while Vicky

opted for an elegant ivory sherwani. Their official wedding photographs later went viral across social media platforms, with fans praising the royal setting and tasteful celebrations. On the work front, Vicky Kaushal is preparing for the release of Love & War, directed by celebrated filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, and is slated for a theatrical release in January 2027.

# Trisha's 'Love Is Always Louder' caption sparks buzz

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

A day after her rumoured beau Vijay was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, actress Trisha Krishnan shared a cryptic caption about "love is always louder".

Trisha, on Monday, shared a picture of herself looking every inch gorgeous in an aqua-blue silk saree, which seems to be made of a silk blend. The saree has a gold zari border running along the edges and pallu.

For the caption, she wrote: "The love is always louder (sic)."

The 43-year-old actress attended the swearing-in ceremony of Vijay on May 10 in Chennai and was accompanied by her mother, Uma Krishna. For the occasion, the actress opted for a teal and gold saree paired with a cream blouse as she headed to Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai for the swearing-in ceremony.

Finally, Vijay is forming the govern-



ment in Tamil Nadu with the support of several smaller parties after it secured 108 seats in the recently conducted Tamil Nadu assembly elections.

With its victory, TVK has ended the alternating rule of the State's two dominant Dravidian parties, DMK and AIADMK. The Governor has also directed Mr Vijay to seek a vote of confidence in the Assembly on or before May 13, 2026. Talking about the actress, she made her debut in 1999 with a minor role in the Tamil film Jodi. She was seen as a lead actress for the first time in the 2002 film Mounam Pesiyadhe.

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# Biggest Surprise Team So Far, Fans Didn't Expect

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The story of the Punjab Kings in IPL 2026 has been one of the biggest surprises of the season. At the start of the tournament, very few experts considered PBKS serious title contenders. For years, the franchise had built a reputation for inconsistency, often showing flashes of brilliance before collapsing during key moments.

However, the momentum gained during IPL 2025 has clearly carried forward, transforming Punjab Kings into one of the most dangerous and confident teams in the competition. Before this recent resurgence, Punjab's most memorable IPL campaign came in 2014, when the team was still known as Kings XI Punjab. Led by Australian captain George Bailey, the franchise produced an outstanding season and finished runners-up. The batting lineup, powered by Glenn Maxwell and David Miller, terrorized bowlers throughout the tourna-

ment. Punjab topped the league stage with 11 wins from 14 matches and entered the final as one of the strongest teams in the competition. Even though they lost the final to Kolkata Knight Riders, the team earned immense praise for their fearless cricket. Chasing a massive target of 200 in the final, Punjab fought till the very end and nearly pulled off an unforgettable victory.

That season remained the benchmark for the franchise for many years, as Punjab struggled to recreate similar success in the following campaigns. A major turning point came after the franchise rebranded itself as Punjab Kings in 2021. The management began focusing on building a stronger core and maintaining long-term consistency instead of relying on individual brilliance alone. Those efforts finally started producing results during IPL 2025. Under fresh leadership and with a balanced squad, Punjab Kings topped the league phase

and reached the final once again. Although they narrowly lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru by just six runs, the season restored belief among fans that the franchise was finally moving in the right direction. That confidence has continued into IPL 2026. Under the captaincy of Shreyas Iyer and the guidance of head coach Ricky Ponting, Punjab Kings have developed a fearless and aggressive style of cricket. Their batting lineup has become one of the most destructive in the tournament, capable of chasing down huge totals under pressure. The team had already demonstrated its batting power in IPL 2024, when it achieved a record chase of 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders. Now, with improved consistency and confidence, Punjab Kings are no longer seen as underachievers. Instead, they are emerging as genuine title contenders capable of rewriting their IPL history and finally ending their long wait for a maiden IPL trophy.

# Delhi Capitals beat PBKS by three wickets, keep playoff hopes

**DHARAMSHALA**  
Wakeup telangana

David Miller and captain Axar Patel engineered a record run chase for Delhi Capitals with their counter attacking knocks as the visitors upstaged Punjab Kings by three wickets to stay alive in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

Aggressive knocks from Miller (51 off 28) and skipper Axar Patel (56 off 30) allowed Delhi Capitals to gun down 211 in 19 overs for the highest chase at the HPCA Stadium.

Priyansh Arya hit half a dozen sixes in his whirlwind 33-ball 56 before Delhi Capitals pacers tweaked their lengths to limit Punjab Kings to 210 for five.

Having remained unbeaten in the first half of the tournament, Punjab Kings have now lost four in a row and need at least two wins from their remaining three games to make the play offs.

Barring Arshdeep Singh, the bowlers let the team down with their wayward display. However, the



home team's bowlers did the job in the powerplay. Punjab Kings struck thrice for the first time in the powerplay, leaving Delhi Capitals reeling at 47 for three in the first six overs. Arshdeep Singh, who has been rather expensive this season, returned impressive figures of two for 21 in four overs.

It was Yash Thakur who provided the first breakthrough by casting Abhishek Porel with a ball that seamed back in from length to knock out the middle stump. K L Rahul was caught at

fine leg after mistiming a whip off Arshdeep. The young Sahil Parakh played a few impressive strokes in his brief stay before being crammed up for space by Arshdeep to be caught at short third man.

It became 74 for four with the run out of Tristan Stubbs extending the struggles of DC batters. However, Miller (51 off 28) and Axar (56 off 30) brought life back into the game with their counterattacking 64-run stand off 34 balls. Eventually, Ashutosh

Sharma (24) and Madhav Tiwari (18) came up with timely cameos to keep DC alive in the competition. DC, struggling to stay alive in the tournament, opted to field in the first game of the season at the scenic venue here after making five changes to their side.

The ball generally flies off the bat in the high altitude of Dharamshala and that was very much evident in the first over of the game from Mitchell Starc, who proved rather expensive on the night. Priyansh took the veteran Australian pacer to the cleaners in the over that went for 22 runs. His onslaught included a six square of the wicket on either side.

The southpaw not only dispatched Starc for a first ball six, he also meted out the same treatment to the wily Lungi Ngidi and Mukesh Kumar.

Starc understandably went full to search for the swing but DC pacers realised that bowling full was not the way go on this surface after conceding 51 runs from the first three overs.

Aquib Nabi was the man behind DC's comeback as he got the ball to seam from length, particularly making life tough for Priyansh in the second half of the powerplay.

Priyansh's opening partner Prabhsimran Singh did not have much rhythm in his 15-ball 18 before getting caught at fine leg off Mukesh.

Madhav Tiwari got his first wicket of the IPL by getting Priyansh caught at deep point in the ninth over.

Punjab Kings were off to a flyer but by the halfway mark they could only reach 107 for two in 10 overs.

Captain Shreyas Iyer (59 not out off 36) and Cooper Connolly (38 off 27) shared 83 off 52 balls for the third wicket but they were not able to change gears as swiftly as they would have liked.

In the 19th over, Starc got rid of Marcus Stoinis and Shashank Singh off successive balls before Suryansh Shedge hit a couple of breathtaking sixes off the high profile speedster.

## 7 interstate drug peddlers held near ORR while transporting 400 kg ganja

Seven interstate drug peddlers were arrested near Nehru Outer Ring Road (ORR) on Monday, May 11. Around 400 kg of ganja and other items worth Rs 2 crore were seized. Police said that one Manisha Padwal from Maharashtra's Solapur contacted her supplier, Pratap Haridas Pawar, and ordered 400 kg of dry ganja from Odisha. Haridas finalised the deal with the help of another drug supplier named Tribune, who arranged the transportation of drugs with the help of Anand Mayappa Howal, who owns a truck. On May 8, Howal and Haridas, along with Balaji Ganesh Honmani, Rohith Howal, Chandanshive Audumbar, Ranjeet Rajender Gadge alias Govind and a 17-year-old minor, travelled to Odisha, loaded the dry ganja and started for Maharashtra. The consignment was covered with empty vegetable plastic trays to avoid any suspicion.

# Revanth Orders Fast-Track Probe in POCSO Case

Speed Up Probe Into POCSO Case Against Bandi's Son: CM Revanth Order to DGP

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday directed DGP C. V. Anand to constitute special teams and expedite the investigation into the POCSO case registered against Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Bhageerath, following allegations of sexual harassment of a minor girl. The Chief Minister sought an explanation from the DGP over the delay in action despite the complaint being registered on May 8. According to Revanth Reddy, the DGP informed him that nearly 10,000 police personnel, including senior officers, were deployed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Hyderabad on May 9 and 10, which delayed the investigation process. Revanth Reddy said the probe would now be accelerated under the supervision of Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj. He added that the investigation would examine both the complaint filed by the girl's family at Pet Basheerabad police station and the counter-case registered by Bhageerath in Karimnagar. Addressing reporters during an informal inter-



action at his residence, the Chief Minister stressed that the matter involved a minor girl and required sensitive handling. He instructed the DGP to appoint a senior woman IPS officer to interact with the victim's family and record the girl's statement. "No one is above the law. The Congress government has spared no one so far and will not do so in future either," Revanth Reddy stated, asserting that the investigation would proceed strictly according to legal procedure. Responding to criticism from BRS leaders K. T. Rama Rao and R. S. Praveen Kumar, the Chief Minister said the government would not function based on political pressure or directions from opposi-

tion leaders. He remarked that both leaders were free to approach police authorities if they possessed any evidence related to the case. On Bhageerath's claim that the girl was not a minor, Revanth Reddy said every aspect of the allegations would be thoroughly investigated and clarified that the law remained equal for everyone. Meanwhile, the Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights took suo motu cognizance of the alleged POCSO violation. Commission chairperson K. Sita Dayakar Reddy directed the Cyberabad Police Commissioner to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a priority status report.

## Will arrest Bandi Sai Bhagirath in POCSO case, says DCP Ritiraj

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Ritiraj, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Kukatpally, who has been deputed to head the Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi



Sanjay's son Bandi Sai Bhagirath, has said that the accused has been absconding, and that if found, he will be definitely arrested. She said that Bhagirath's cell phone has been switched-off for the past couple of days, and that efforts were being made to locate his whereabouts. She said that much documentation regarding the case has been prepared by the police over the last two days. She said a plan of action has been drafted to review the action taken, and what needs to be done next.

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## Raja Singh opposes demand for Bandi Sanjay's suspension

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh has found fault with those demanding the suspension/resignation of Bandi Sanjay from his ministerial post. In a video message, he said that the SIT will ascertain

whether there was a conspiracy to frame Bandi Sai Bhagirath, or otherwise. "There is a demand for the resignation of Bandi Sanjay. But he has not opposed any enquiry by SIT on the case. He said even if his son was found at fault, action will be taken as per law. Even the BJP

leaders have maintained the same stance. If the SIT finds Bandi Sanjay's son or anybody else of perpetrating the crime, they should be punished 100 percent. Neither Bandi Sanjay, nor any BJP leader will obstruct the investigation," Raja Singh assured.

## Telangana CEO orders acceleration of SIR mapping process

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer, C Sudharsan Reddy, on Monday, May 11, held a video conference with the District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to discuss Special Intensive Revision (SIR) from the CEO Office in Hyderabad. He instructed the Collectors and DEOs to expedite the mapping process and achieve 90 per cent progress by the end of this month, since the Election Commission of India will soon be announcing the dates of SIR. Reddy urged the officials to seek help from residential associations and gated communities for mapping. The EROs, Assistant EROs, Booth Level Officer (BLO) Supervisor, along with the BLOs, should visit gated communities and slum areas with the respective representatives of the areas. He asked the DEOs, EROs, and supervising officers to build help desks as a preemptive method to guide voters during the mapping phase. Reddy also asked to involve self-help

groups, ration shop dealers, and employee unions to speed up the process in their constituencies.

Concentrate on the deceased, migrant, and permanently shifted voters, CEO Reddy said, urging them to take appropriate action as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and also start mapping of influential residents. The CEO directed collectors to ensure EROs hold weekly meetings with political parties every Wednesday to review SIR mapping progress. A strict warning was issued to BLOs against sharing information or OTPs with unauthorised individuals, noting that any violations will result in stringent action. Reddy clarified that assistance should be sought exclusively from Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for identifying residences or voters. Additionally, the focus must remain on identifying and immediately rectifying all mapping errors. Collectors were instructed to utilise print and electronic media to provide extensive publicity for the SIR process within their respective districts.

## Activists Slam Police Inaction in Bandi Son POCSO Case

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Students, activists, intellectuals, and working people from all over the city participated in a protest demonstration held at the People's Plaza on the Necklace Road in Hyderabad on Monday, May 11, against the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl by Bandi Sai Bhagirath, the son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay. "From Kuldeep Singh Sengar to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and Prajwal



Revana, what unfolded were not merely isolated incidents but the very products of the 'Sanskari' which BJP leaders keep talking about, and of Brahmanical ideology," she said, noting that it is the state's patronage which has been promoting these crimes against

women. Geetha, on behalf of Disha Students' Organization, spoke about how, from filing the First Information Report (FIR), to adding charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Telangana police has been de-

laying action, and has been trying to protect the son of the union minister. "Even days after the assault was reported, the accused is roaming around freely," she said, also criticising the "Godi Media" for indulging in victim blaming, rather than demanding action against the accused. She questioned as to whose side the Congress-led Telangana government was on. "Is it siding with the people of Telangana and fighting for the safety and security of women, or is it

working hard to protect sexual offenders enjoying the patronage of the BJP? Why has Bhagirath not been arrested yet," she sought to know. On behalf of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha, activist Hina appealed to the youth and common people to build a revolutionary militant mass movement against patriarchy. She explained that it is the profit-centric system which perpetuates and benefits from patriarchy and other forms of social oppression.

## Eight held in Hyderabad for killing man over ganja dispute

The Attapur police on Monday arrested eight persons who had allegedly brutally beaten up a man on Attapur Road two days ago, resulting in his death. The suspects were identified as K Prashanth, Mitta Jagadeesh, Ram Roshan Yadav, G Tarun Kumar, A Nikhil, G Raj Kumar, K Vengal Rao and M Prashanth. According to the Attapur police, the victim, Mohammed Hussain alias Waseem, a resident of Langer Houz, allegedly took Rs.700 from the prime suspect, Prashanth, assuring him that he would provide ganja. However, he neither supplied the ganja nor returned the money. A dispute arose between Prashanth and Hussain, following which the former allegedly caught hold of Hussain on Attapur Road on Saturday night. Soon, Prashanth's friends joined him, and the group of 10 persons allegedly beat up Hussain with metal knuckles on his head, leading to his death, said Attapur Inspector K Nageshwar Rao. The police are making efforts to nab two more suspects who are absconding.

## Five Killed In Mahbubnagar High Speed Crash

According to preliminary information, the bike racing could have caused the accident: Police

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A high-speed crash involving a high-end 1,340-cc sports bike and a car on the NH-167 bypass road near Palakonda crossroads in Mahbubnagar claimed the lives of five persons, including two minors and a woman in the four-wheeler and the duo on the bike. The bike rider was identified as Maqdoom Textiles managing director Abid Moinuddin's nephew and his friend. According to police, the accident occurred around 12.30 am on Monday when a car driven by Basheed was returning to Premnagar after attending a family function at UB Garden beside the bypass road. Family members, including women and children, were travelling in the vehicle. As the car was reportedly taking a U-turn near Shivaji statue, the bike (HR26 BP 1491) allegedly rammed into the vehicle at high speed from the Christianpally side. The impact was so severe that three occupants of the car



wearing a helmet just on May 2 of this month. Sources added that Afzal was part of a group of around 12 bikers who had come to attend a function. The other bikers had moved ahead while Afzal remained behind before the fatal collision occurred. Speaking to Decan Chronicle, a grieving family member said the family was just minutes away from reaching home when tragedy struck. "The bike must have been speeding above 150 kmph. Even though the car gave indication while taking the U-turn, the bike crashed into the left rear door. The people seated at the back suffered fatal injuries," he said. The victim added that, "Four adults and four children were packed inside the car, returning happily after a family event which turned fatal within seconds." Police registered a case against the deceased bike rider and 11 other bikers who were racing on the road under culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

namely Sara Begam, Abdul and two-year-old Ahmed died on the spot. The bike rider identified as Afzal, and pillion rider Yakub also died instantly. Several others travelling in the car sustained grievous injuries, including fractures and head injuries, and are undergoing treatment at hospitals. A source said Afzal was the son of a textile businessman associated with Maqdoom Textiles and had reportedly purchased the bike second-hand. Investigators are verifying ownership documents, as traffic challans linked to the motorcycle were reportedly issued under the name of one Tushar Agarwal, indicating that ownership transfer may not have been completed. In a recent challan, the violation was flagged by the Goshamahala traffic police and was charged for not

## GHMC reports 1.27 lakh online self-enumeration entries

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

GHMC Commissioner and Principal Census Officer for Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) RV Karnan said a total of 1.27 lakh households across the CURE region had completed self-enumeration online. Speaking to media persons here on Monday, Karnan said a total of 19,868 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) in the CURE area had been created and digitally demarcated on the Census

portal. He said 21,773 enumerators and 3,402 supervisors, including reserve staff, taking the total to 25,175 personnel, were trained through 693 training batches. Enumerators will identify all buildings and census houses within the HLBs and carry out systematic numbering in a structured sequence as per guidelines. Building numbers and census house numbers will be marked at the main entrance of structures to facilitate uniform identification and future.

## Governor Adopts Tiger Cubs at Nehru Zoological Park

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla adopted two tiger cubs during the International Big Cat Alliance programme held at Nehru Zoological Park on Monday, promoting wildlife conservation and public awareness. The Governor adopted a 9-month-old male tiger cub named Ishan and a female cub named Vanya. The cubs were born on July 30, 2025, to tigers Prabhas and Mala at the zoo. Forest Minister Konda Surekha had recently named the cubs. Participating in the pro-



gramme, the Governor stressed the importance of protecting wildlife and encouraging people to support conservation initiatives. The adoption initiative was organized to raise awareness about endangered species and

the need to preserve natural habitats. Zoo officials expressed gratitude to the Governor for supporting wildlife conservation efforts and encouraging public participation in animal adoption programmes.

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