



Harish Says HAM Roads Tenders Inflated, Alleges Corruption: P2



Delhi Capitals register 7-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals despite Parag's 90: P7

Resolve Power Supply Deficiencies, Says CM Revanth: P8



Trump Says Iran War 'Terminated,' As War Powers Deadline Arrives

The president also criticised repeated congressional efforts to limit his authority to conduct military operations against Iran

WASHINGTON
Wakeup telangana

U.S. President Donald Trump declared that a ceasefire had "terminated" hostilities against Iran, as he sought to bolster his argument that he does not need lawmakers' permission to continue the conflict. In a letter to congressional leaders on Friday, the deadline to come to Congress about the war, Trump said there has been no exchange of fire with Iran since the ceasefire. "The hostilities that began on February 28, 2026, have terminated," he said. Under the 1973 War Powers Resolution, a U.S. president can wage military action for only 60 days before ending it, asking Congress for authorization or seeking a 30-day extension due to "unavoidable military necessity regarding the safety of United States Armed Forces" while withdrawing forces. On Friday, Iranian state news agency IRNA said Tehran had sent its latest proposal for negotiations with the U.S. to Pakistani mediators. Trump swiftly rejected



it. The president formally notified Congress of the conflict 48 hours after the first airstrikes two months ago, starting the 60-day clock that ends May 1. As the date approached, congressional aides and analysts said they expected the Republican president to sidestep the deadline. A senior Trump administration official had said on Thursday the administration's view was that the war powers law deadline did not apply. Trump said he considered the war powers law unconstitutional. Both Republican and Democratic presidents have contended the measure violated the Constitution because it sets limits on the president's powers as commander-in-chief. Legal experts say the matter has not been decided by the courts. "We had a cease-

fire, so that gives you additional time," Trump said before leaving Washington for Florida. Congressional Democrats, who have tried repeatedly to pass war powers legislation that would force Trump to end the war or come to Congress for authorization, dismissed that characterization, saying there was nothing in the 1973 law allowing for a ceasefire. They also said that the continuing deployment of U.S. ships blockading Iranian oil exports was evidence of continuing hostility, not a ceasefire. "After sixty days of conflict, President Trump still does not have a strategy or way out for this poorly planned war," Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement calling the deadline "a clear legal threshold" for Trump to act. In his letter to Congress, Trump acknowledged that the conflict may not be resolved. He said Iran still poses a "significant" threat to the United States and its

armed forces. Trump's fellow Republicans, who hold slim majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives and rarely break from Trump, have voted almost unanimously to block every resolution seeking to end the conflict. The Iran war has killed thousands, caused billions of dollars in damage and roiled world markets, disrupting energy shipments and boosting a wide range of consumer prices. Polls show the war is unpopular among Americans, six months before November elections that will determine who controls Congress next year. The U.S. Constitution says only Congress, not the president, can declare war, but that restriction does not apply to short-term operations or to counter an immediate threat. On Thursday, Trump received a briefing on plans for fresh military strikes to compel Iran to negotiate an end to the conflict. If fighting resumes, Trump can tell lawmakers he has started a new 60-day clock.

Revanth Assures Wages For RTC Strike Period

The government will pay salaries for the three strike days

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced on Friday that wages would be released to the TGRTC staff for the three-day strike period and that the government would withdraw cases filed on agitating workers. He directed transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar and officials to take immediate measures to implement the decisions. Revanth Reddy announced during his meeting with RTC workers unions at his residence on Friday. He told them that the government was committed to resolving their demands and protecting their rights. He said that the government was taking numerous measures to strengthen the TGSRTC financially and ensuring the effective functioning of the corporation. Leaders of RTC trade unions expressed their gratitude to Revanth Reddy for taking the initiative to resolve their issues. The Chief Minister complimented the RTC staff for coming forward



with an action plan aimed at enhancing the RTC's development, ensuring its survival, upholding its dignity, and providing excellent services to the public. The Chief Minister said that the number of buses had been increased and staff recruited to increase the RTC revenue. Further, the government had decided to construct an international-standard bus terminal on 150 acres in Shamshabad and 100 acres was allocated at Gajularamaram for the construction of a bus terminal. In view of increasing financial burden imposed by diesel buses, the CM said that the RTC was procuring 1,000 electric buses (EVs) to establish seamless connectivity with the Metro Rail net-

work, and mini-buses to strengthen the fleet. The RTC was spending ₹2,000 crore on diesel, he noted. Revanth Reddy said that the RTC's dues were not accumulated in the Congress government tenure; nevertheless, it was making earnest efforts to clear the debts. The matter of pending compassionate appointments had been taken up, he said adding that the government would take decisions on financial matters including the Pay Revision Commission soon. The unions should hold discussions among themselves and present viable options to the government for a permanent solution, he suggested. The Chief Minister cautioned the

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

Six Of Family Killed In ORR Crash



Six members of a family, including children, were killed and one survived after their car rammed into a parked lorry on the Outer Ring Road near Pedda Golconda on Friday evening. The lone survivor was shifted to hospital in critical condition. Samshabad police said the victims were returning from Yadagiriputta temple when the accident occurred between milestones 15 and 13. The car, travelling on the extreme left lane, crashed into the rear of a stationary lorry, leaving the front portion mangled. The family had recently moved into a new house in Sanathnagar and had

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

India Asserts Claim On Buddhist Legacy

LEH/LADHAK
Wakeup telangana

In a bid to counter China's claim of being the land of Buddhism, India on Friday opened an exposition of sacred Piprahwa Relics of Gautam Buddha at Leh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the exposition of sacred holy relics of Tathagata Buddha and the 2569th Buddha Purnima celebrations at Jive-Tsal by offering prayers. Speaking there, Shah underlined that Buddhism originated in India and then spread to China and several other



countries. Shah also mentioned Tibet and the Dalai Lama in his speech while stressing on the deep connection between the Buddhism of Ladakh and Tibet and how they are interlinked.

It is rare for the home minister to do such messaging. However, given the Chinese claim over the origin of Buddhism, including that the Buddha was of Chinese origin,

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Commercial LPG Prices Hiked 2 Days After Polls

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Two days after Assembly elections, the Centre on Friday raised prices of commercial LPG cylinders, 5-kg market-priced LPG cylinders and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for international airlines, citing a surge in global energy prices amid the West Asia crisis. In the Hyderabad market, the price of a 19-kg cylinder

Steep 40% hike compared to April prices

was revised from Rs 2,321 to Rs 3,315, an increase of Rs 994. It is a rise of over 40 per cent compared to April prices. The price of 5-kg market-priced LPG cylinders was raised from Rs 549 to Rs 810.50 per bottle. The 5-kg FTL cylinder

now costs just a shade lower than the Rs 913 rate for a 14.2-kg cylinder used in household kitchens (called domestic LPG). The rate for bulk LPG was also raised from Rs 122 per kg to Rs 175 per kg, up by Rs 53 per kg. This is the third revision by oil marketing companies since the West Asian crisis began on February 28. ATF for international airlines was

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Hike In Fuel Prices Likely In Future As OMC Losses Mount

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Sources have indicated that a future increase in petrol and diesel prices cannot be ruled out, as losses mount due to a prolonged freeze in retail rates despite rising global crude prices. State-owned oil firms said the decision to keep domestic fuel prices unchanged would provide relief to consumers and domestic airlines, which had flagged financial

stress due to rising fuel costs. In a statement, Indian Oil Corporation said retail prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG cylinders remained unchanged, insulating households from global price volatility. It added that price revisions were limited to select industrial fuels, which account for a smaller share of consumption and are subject to periodic adjustments based on international rates.

ESTD - 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

Election Bill: Rahul Slams Govt on Commercial LPG Price Hike

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Friday attacked the Modi government over the hike in price of commercial LPG cylinder, with Rahul Gandhi saying this is an "election bill" and the next "strike" will be on petrol and diesel. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said he had warned that the heat of inflation would strike after the elections. "Today, commercial gas cylinders have become Rs 993 more expensive. This marks the single largest hike in a single day. This is an election bill," Gandhi said in his post in Hindi

on X. "Since February: A hike of Rs 1,380, an 81% increase in just three months. Tea stalls, 'dhabas', hotels, bakeries, sweet shops - the burden on every kitchen has increased. And this will inevitably impact your plate as well," Gandhi said. The first strike was on gas; the next will be on petrol and diesel, he added. The Congress also said the ruling party's regard for the common Indians' suffering is limited to election gimmicks, after which they are left to their own devices. In a post on X, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said, "Just as the election cycle



concluded, the Modi government wasted no time to increase prices of LPG cylinders." "A whopping increase of nearly Rs 1000 on commercial cylinders will affect crores of Indians who rely on food from small eateries for sustenance. Similarly, crores of small food businesses will have to bear the burden of this hike," he said. The BJP's regard for the com-

mon Indians' suffering is limited to election gimmicks, after which they are left to their own devices, Venugopal said. "In the three months since the Iran war began, the government should have prepared a solid plan to shield ordinary Indians from the price shocks, instead of passing on the financial burden," he said. Gandhi on Tuesday had warned that the prices of petrol and diesel will be increased after the assembly elections conclude on April 29. He had also attacked the government for allegedly profiteering from low global crude oil prices and said it will now put burden on the public as the

prices are rising. "Election relief over, inflation's heat is on its way! After April 29th, watch out - petrol, diesel, everything will get expensive. "When (crude) oil was cheap, the Modi government pocketed the profits. Now that it's expensive, it'll dump the burden on you," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. "A government that loots when it's cheap - leaving the public to bear the brunt of inflation," he had alleged. The price of commercial LPG was hiked by the steepest ever Rs 993 per 19-kg cylinder on Friday, marking the third straight monthly increase due to rising global energy prices linked.

Harish Says HAM Roads Tenders Inflated, Alleges Corruption

Harish Rao flags inflated HAM road tenders, alleges ₹4,000 crore scam, warns of debt burden and demands cancellation of contracts

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Senior BRS leader and Assembly Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Friday alleged large-scale corruption in the allotment of rural road contracts under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), accusing the state government of inflating project costs and burdening public finances. Addressing reporters, Harish Rao claimed that tenders floated by the Panchayat Raj and Roads & Buildings (R&B) departments have resulted in bids significantly exceeding the government's estimated costs.



He pointed out that while the R&B department invited tenders for projects worth ₹11,000 crore, the bids received were as high as ₹15,000 crore, reflecting nearly a 25 percent escalation. He stated that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) had earlier warned during the last Assembly sessions that contractors would quote inflated prices under the HAM system. "Our prediction has now come true. The tenders clearly show ex-

cessive quoting, indicating large-scale corruption," he alleged. Harish Rao further criticised the funding structure of the HAM projects, explaining that the government plans to mobilise 60 percent of the required funds through bank loans. These loans, he said, would be repaid over a 15-year period along with interest, placing a heavy financial burden

on the state exchequer both immediately and in the long term. Raising serious concerns over fiscal responsibility, he warned that such financial commitments could strain future budgets and limit the government's ability to invest in welfare and development programmes. He argued that the inflated contract values, combined with long-term loan repayments, would adversely impact Telangana's financial stability. The BRS leader also objected to the government's reported decision to reintroduce mobilisation advances, under which contractors would receive 10 percent of the project cost upfront. He

recalled that the BRS government had abolished this system after coming to power in 2014 to curb corruption and ensure accountability in public works. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao alleged that the reintroduction of mobilisation advances has once again opened the door for misuse of public funds. He demanded immediate cancellation of all HAM road project tenders and called for a transparent review process. Reiterating BRS's stance, he said the party would continue to raise the issue both inside and outside the Assembly until corrective measures are taken.

Uttam Slams Rs 993 LPG Hike, Seeks Rollback

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has strongly criticised the Centre's decision to increase the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by '993. He described it as "very unfortunate" and a move that would burden small businesses, street vendors, hotels, restaurants, and ultimately the common man. In a media statement on Friday, the minister accused the BJP-led Central government of "cheating the people of India" by timing the price rise strategically. "We have been telling right through that the BJP government is cheating the people of India. They were waiting for the polling to be over to raise the prices and within 24 hours of West Bengal polling being over, they have raised the prices of commercial LPG," he remarked. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the hike — amounting to nearly 30-35 per cent — would have an immediate effect on food prices across. "This will have a cascading effect and the cost of food prices on the street will go up and will



affect the common man in a very big way," he stated. The minister pointed out that commercial LPG cylinders are widely used by hotels, cafes, restaurants, small businesses, and street vendors. "Now the cost of the commercial LPG cylinder, which was around ₹2,000 in most metropolitan cities, is ₹3,000-plus." He said. "Very unfortunate." The minister denounced the move strongly, saying the Congress had consistently warned against such policies. "We criticise this move of the government," he declared, while demanding an immediate rollback of the hike to protect small traders and the common man from the inflationary impact.

No progress on Peddavagu project revival after two years

Nearly two years after a major breach, the Peddavagu irrigation project remains defunct, with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana yet to decide on fund sharing. Farmers have lost multiple crop seasons as reconstruction works have not begun despite repeated assurances.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Nearly two years after the devastating breach of the Peddavagu irrigation project, the crucial lifeline for thousands of farmers on the Telangana-Andhra Pradesh border remains defunct, with no concrete steps taken towards its revival. The medium irrigation project at Gummadavalli in Aswaraopet mandal suffered a massive setback on July 18, 2024, when a 250-metre-long breach occurred following heavy inflows triggered by intense rainfall in its catchment area. The crisis was worsened as crest gates reportedly malfunctioned and could not be lifted in time, leading to uncontrolled flooding. Adding to the damage, a ring bund on the left side of the spillway was washed away during floods in early September 2024, allegedly due to poor construction quality. These



back-to-back failures resulted in severe losses to farmers across both States. Despite the scale of destruction and its impact, the governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have failed to reach a consensus on rebuilding the project. Officials indicate that there is uncertainty over whether repairs would be viable or yield long-term benefits, further delaying decision-making. Constructed in 1981, the Peddavagu project has a storage capacity of 40,000 cusecs and irrigates approximately 16,000 to

16,500 acres of farmland. Of this, around 2,360 acres lie in Telangana, while the majority falls within Andhra Pradesh. As a joint project, funding responsibility is to be shared in an 80:20 ratio between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, respectively. However, multiple high-level meetings held in Hyderabad and Amaravati have failed to produce a clear agreement on financial allocation. Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao had earlier announced plans to enhance the pro-

ject's capacity to 80,000 cusecs and install three additional gates during reconstruction. Yet, these proposals remain on paper with no visible progress on the ground. Mounting pressure from farmers and political groups has added urgency to the issue. CPI Andhra Pradesh State Secretary G. Eswaraiah, along with Kothagudem district leader Shaik Sabir Pasha, led a padyatra in April demanding immediate action. Eswaraiah also appealed to Chief Ministers A. Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu to allocate ₹500 crore for reconstruction. Farmers, having already lost four crop seasons, fear further losses if delays continue. During a recent visit, Godavari River Management Board Chairman P. Dorje Gyamba assured that efforts would be made to restore the project, offering a glimmer of hope to affected farmers still awaiting decisive action.

Khammam Indiramma housing allotment sparks row: 'Poor' beneficiary's son abroad, daughter in govt job

KHAMMAM
Wakeup telangana

Questions are being raised over the selection of Indiramma housing scheme beneficiaries if the testimonial of a 'poor' woman at an official programme attended by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy is any indication. In an intriguing incident that took place at 'Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika' meeting recently in the Minister's Palair constituency in the district,



the woman, Neelamma, approached the dais to thank Srinivas Reddy for allotting her an Indiramma house. When the Minister asked her how many children she had and what they were doing, the woman gave a rather curious

reply. She stated that she had four children: the younger son went to London, the elder son runs a political strategy firm and a daughter works in the electricity department. She went on to add that the family had a tiled-roof house, had faced many

troubles and with the help of the State government and the Minister Srinivas Reddy, she got an Indiramma house. "We could now happily claim we have a house of our own" she said. A video clipping of her conversation with the Minister has gone viral on social media with Netizens commenting that Indiramma houses are, in principle, meant to be allotted to the poor. They are appealing to the authorities to ensure the selection of genuine

Quit Smoking Now, Says Tobacco Control Activist

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Calling for collective action against tobacco use, Tobacco Control Hero Machana Raghunandan urged citizens to take a firm pledge to quit smoking ahead of World No Tobacco Day on May 31. Speaking in Khairatabad on Friday, he emphasized that the entire month should be observed with a strong sense of social responsibility to curb to-



people smoking cigarettes and bidis in public places, explaining the dangerous consequences of tobacco use in his distinctive awareness style. "Quitting smoking is a celebration for the heart and a festival for the lungs," he remarked, stressing that giving up tobacco can significantly improve overall health and well-being. He appealed to everyone to adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute to a tobacco-free society. He actively engaged with

people smoking cigarettes and bidis in public places, explaining the dangerous consequences of tobacco use in his distinctive awareness style. "Quitting smoking is a celebration for the heart and a festival for the lungs," he remarked, stressing that giving up tobacco can significantly improve overall health and well-being. He appealed to everyone to adopt healthier lifestyles and contribute to a tobacco-free society. He actively engaged with

KTR condoles Sircilla residents' deaths in ORR accident, promises support



BRS working president and Sircilla MLA KT Rama Rao expressed deep shock over the death of six Sircilla residents in a road accident at Outer Ring Road on the outskirts of Hyderabad. He extended condolences to the bereaved families and assured full support to the families of the deceased and also the injured. BRS leader Bolli Rammo-han's brother Raju was among the deceased. Rama Rao assured support to the victims, both personally and also on behalf of the BRS. Rama Rao spoke to the victims' families over phone, and consoled them. He directed his personal assistant Mahender Reddy to rush to the accident site and oversee relief measures. He also spoke to Shamshabad ACP Nagabhushanam to gather details on the cause of the accident and ensure prompt assistance. Following his directions, staff reached the spot and facilitated advanced medical care for the injured. Arrangements were also made to shift the bodies of the deceased to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem.

Failure Isn't Final: Balanagar SHO Motivates Students After Results

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In the wake of Telangana's Class 10 results, Balanagar Circle Inspector Narasimha Raju delivered a reassuring message to students who did not pass, emphasizing that exam outcomes do not define one's future. Addressing a special session at Zilla Parishad High School, he urged students to treat the results as a temporary setback rather than a final judgment. Highlighting the importance



of resilience, he shared a simple yet powerful analogy: like waves that rise again after falling, students too must continue striving despite failures. He stressed that an exam reflects performance at a single moment

and cannot measure a person's full potential or character. Narasimha Raju also appealed to parents to be supportive during this sensitive phase. He cautioned against placing undue pressure on children or

comparing them with others, noting that such actions can harm their confidence. Instead, he encouraged parents to recognize individual strengths and stand by their children. Reinforcing his message, he reminded students that many successful individuals have faced academic setbacks. He concluded by stating that failure is not the end but a stepping stone toward future success, shifting the focus toward mental well-being and perseverance.

May Day Celebrated with Fervour in Moosapet

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Marking the 139th International Workers' Day, grand May Day celebrations were held at Moosapet under the leadership of INTUC Kukatpally Constituency President Karka Nagaraju. The event took place at the PJR statue on Goods Shed Road, where Congress leader and TPCC Vice President Bandi Ramesh attended as the chief guest and hoisted the flag. Addressing the gathering, Bandi Ramesh described May Day as a symbol of workers' unity and struggle, stating that it commemorates the



recognition of labour rights worldwide. He emphasized that the Congress party has historically safeguarded workers' rights and played a key role in establishing public sector institutions in India. Highlighting the evolution of labour conditions,

he noted that working hours reduced from 18 to 8 hours due to workers' sacrifices and struggles. The event witnessed participation from senior Congress leaders, labour union representatives, and GHMC workers, reflecting strong solidarity among the working class.

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

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

Telangana Secures APEDA Accreditation; Set to Boost Global Organic Exports via TG Organics

The TG Organics app will carry only those farmers whose fields and produce have been inspected and certified by TSSOCA.

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Agriculture officials acknowledged that until recently, the lack of a recognised state-level organic certification body constrained Telangana's ability to access overseas markets, even as national studies note that India's organic exports have already crossed ₹5,000 crore annually and are growing at a compound rate of around 15-20 per cent. The accreditation of Telangana Seed and Organic Certification Authority (TSSOCA), by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has plugged this gap, enabling Telangana's certified organic produce—from



paddy, pulses, oilseeds, cotton seed, chilli and medicinal crops—to meet international standards and become eligible for export consignments, APEDA-linked functionaries said. A professor of an agriculture university said the state's diverse agro-climatic zones, including fertile black soils in the interior and cooler high-altitude belts, provide a strong natural base for

value-added organic exports to West Asia, Southeast Asia and Europe, where "India Organic" labels increasingly command a premium. The TG Organics app will carry only those farmers whose fields and produce have been inspected and certified by TSSOCA. Every listed product will be traceable back to a certified farm, and buyers can verify authenticity through the associated

scope and transaction certificates, valid for one year, TSSOCA authorities said. This is expected to sharply reduce the circulation of counterfeit organic products and give genuine growers a stronger competitive edge. Broader projections by agricultural economists suggest that if Telangana can scale up its certified organic acreage to 10-15 lakh acres over the next decade, the state could realistically capture billions of rupees of additional income annually from the domestic organic market and several hundred crores from exports, while also conserving soil and water resources and reducing the environmental burden of chemical inputs.

Telangana State Govt. To Institute PJR Awards

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Labour, Employment and Mines minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy on Friday announced that the state government will institute the PJR Lifetime Achievement Awards to honour distinguished individuals for their contributions to the labour sector. The awards, named after late Congress leader and labour champion P. Jannardhan Reddy, will be presented annually on May Day. The decision was taken in recognition of Reddy's lifelong struggle for the rights of workers and oppressed sections. Acting on a representation from former MLC Ramulu Naik, the government has directed the Labour Commissioner to frame guidelines and eligibility



criteria. The awards will be conferred from May Day 2027. On the occasion, the minister also presented the Shrama Shakti Awards to trade union leaders, workers and management representatives. More than 100 awardees were recognised for implementing labour laws and ensuring workforce welfare, with several labour

leaders honoured for their contributions to workers' rights. Fulfilling an assurance given by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Vivek handed over financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of two deceased gig workers — delivery personnel Garlapati Shashidhar Reddy and Dharavath Mahesh — who lost their lives while on duty.

Malkajgiri Civic Body Acts on Railway Track Dump Issue

Clean-up drive, fencing planned to curb dumping along railway track; officials seek public cooperation for long-term sanitation improvement in affected colonies

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Additional Commissioner (Sanitation) Raghu Prasad conducted a field inspection following a request from NGO representative Karunakar regarding severe sanitation issues along a 2-km stretch of the military railway track near IN Nagar. During the visit, officials observed significant accumulation of garbage, overgrown weeds, and unmanaged waste on both sides of the railway track. The affected stretch runs between several residential colonies, including IN Nagar, Malikarjun Nagar, Gopal Nagar, and Uttam Nagar, causing inconvenience to residents and raising concerns about public health and environmental safety. Acting on a request from South Central Railway Senior Section Engineer Chandrasekhar, authorities decided to initiate corrective measures. These include the installation of an 8-foot-high iron mesh fence along both sides of the railway track to prevent further dumping of waste, along with a comprehensive clean-up drive using JCB



machinery to remove existing debris and vegetation. Considering the scale of waste removal required, additional transport vehicles were requested to ensure efficient clearance. Municipal authorities promptly approved the deployment of extra vehicles to support the operation. Karunakar expressed gratitude to the officials for their quick response and coordinated efforts in addressing the long-pending issue affecting local residents. Speaking during the inspection, Raghu Prasad stated that while the clean-up drive is being undertaken as part of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, achieving a permanent solution requires active participation from the public. He urged residents not to dispose of household waste in open areas and instead hand it over to designated auto-tippers. This practice, he noted,

would help prevent the spread of diseases, eliminate foul odors, and reduce the need for repeated sanitation drives. He further highlighted that the municipal corporation has significantly strengthened sanitation infrastructure by deploying additional vehicles and machinery. Nearly 100 trips of waste have already been cleared from the area, reflecting the administration's commitment to improving cleanliness standards. Citizens were also encouraged to support monthly sanitation initiatives and participate in Swachh Survekshan feedback surveys to help improve the municipality's national ranking. The inspection was attended by AC Sanitation Jaggaiah Sultana, Deputy Commissioner Chinta Srinivasachari, Supervisor Chittibabu, and staff members Saritha, Swapna, Dayanand, and Ram.

Bhatti Vikramarka assures swift action on PRC, DA and health cards

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that the State was working with sincerity to resolve the issues faced by employees in the State. He held a meeting with leaders of various employee unions here on Friday. During the meeting, union leaders mainly raised long-pending issues such as PRC (Pay Revision Commission), DA (Dearness Allowance), and health cards. Regarding the second PRC im-



plementation, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the report from the committee chaired by Shivashankar would be immediately obtained and examined. TGEJAC representatives would be invited for a fresh round of discussions to facilitate a swift decision, he assured, the TGEJAC said in a

statement. He also indicated that the five pending Dearness Allowance (DA) installments would be merged into the second PRC settlement. Regarding the pending bills, the Deputy Chief Minister announced that the outstanding dues of pensioners, totaling Rs 6,000 crore, would be fully cleared as a lump sum within 100 days, the TGEJAC leaders stated. He further stated that the payment of pending bills for employees would continue at a rate of Rs.1,000 crores per month.

Free Mega Artificial Limb Fitment Camp on May 3



HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Narayan Seva Sansthan will distribute 815 artificial limbs and calipers to 745 pre-selected differently-abled individuals at a mega free fitment camp on May 3 at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally. The camp, organized with CSR partners Make A Change Foundation and Shri Swaminarayan Temple Willesden, will run from 8 AM to 6 PM, providing advanced Narayan Modular limb fitments. Beneficiaries will also receive professional training to improve mobility, balance, and daily functionality. Addressing the media, NSS Patron Alka Choudhary, Hyderabad Ashram Head Mahen-

dra Singh Rawat, and Camp In-charge Hari Prasad Ladda highlighted the initiative's focus on restoring independence and dignity. NSS President Prashant Agarwal said similar camps are being conducted nationwide to expand access to assistive devices. All beneficiaries were identified during a prior screening held on February 1. The event will also honour donors, CSR partners, and social workers for their continued support. Founded in 1985 by Kailash Manav, NSS has provided over 39,000 artificial limbs and treated more than 4.5 lakh individuals, reinforcing its mission of service and self-reliance.

₹40-Crore Transplant Centre, Milk Bank Opened Gandhi Hospital

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A Rs 40-crore state organ transplant centre and a Mother Milk Bank were inaugurated at Gandhi Hospital on Friday, as the government expanded advanced treatment and neonatal support facilities. Health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha reviewed the new transplant centre, where doctors explained the functioning of its departments. The facility has



six modular operation theatres, three ICUs with 25 beds, and an isolation ward. "This surgery, which would normally cost lakhs, was carried out free in a government hos-

pital," he said, referring to a recent liver transplant performed on an 18-month-old child at Osmania Hospital. He later felicitated Dr. Madhusudan for the procedure.

May Day Celebrated with Labour Unity in Secunderabad

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Marking International Workers' Day, former Cantonment Board Vice-President Jampana Pratap led May Day celebrations at Ambedkar Chaurasta in New Bowenpally, Secunderabad, on Wednesday, emphasizing the enduring struggle and dignity of the working class. The event witnessed strong participation from local residents and labour representatives, who gathered in large numbers to pay floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The venue turned into a sym-



bol of solidarity as attendees raised slogans supporting workers' rights and unity. Addressing the gathering, Pratap highlighted the historical roots of May Day, recalling the sacrifices of workers in Chicago who protested against 16-hour workdays. He noted that their struggle led to the

establishment of the 8-hour workday, a cornerstone of modern labour rights. He stressed that these rights were achieved through sacrifice and must be protected in today's evolving economic landscape. Pratap urged continued vigilance to safeguard workers from

exploitation and ensure fair conditions across sectors. He reaffirmed the importance of collective action in strengthening labour rights. Prominent participants included Malyadri, Muppidi Madhukar, Saibaba Yadav, Mukesh Yadav, Madhu, Yadagiri, Suresh, Satyanarayana, Narasimha, Painter Srinu, Pawan, Srikanth, Shashi, and Varaprasad. The programme concluded with a renewed pledge to uphold the values of labour unity and social justice in the Secunderabad Cantonment area.

Pournami Anna Prasadam Unites Devotees at Tadband Temple

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A grand Anna Prasadam distribution marked the auspicious Pournami at Sri Bhavani Shivalingeswara Swamy Temple in Tadband, Cantonment Sixth Ward, drawing large crowds of devotees on Friday evening. The temple premises were filled with devotion as residents from nearby Bastis gathered under the full moon to participate in the sacred feast. The programme,



organised by the temple committee, witnessed active involvement from key members including founder Sada Anita Kesava Reddy, Nagarjuna Reddy,

Shiva Reddy, Dhanunjaya Goud, Galipally Durgayya, and Yadagiri Veerender. Durgayya played a pivotal role in ensuring smooth distribution, personally serv-

ing food to devotees. Speaking on the occasion, Kesava Reddy said the monthly Pournami tradition promotes unity and devotion. Devotees, including local residents and women from the Basti, praised the initiative. The prasadam, comprising rice, dal, vegetables, and sweets, symbolised service and spiritual harmony, reinforcing the temple's role as a community hub.

TN polls: Stalin Meets Senior DMK Leaders To Discuss Victory Prospects

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday met DMK senior leaders at the party headquarters here and discussed victory prospects in the just concluded Assembly elections. The meeting comes in the wake of exit polls of various media indicating that DMK will be back in power in the state. The Tamil Nadu Assembly elections were held on April 23. DMK sources said Stalin met senior ministers, including K N Nehru, EV Velu and K R Periyakarpunan. Also, party deputy general secretary A Raja, organising secretary RS Bharathi and communications wing head TKS Elangovan were present. As the counting of votes for the TN Assembly elections will be held on May 4, sources said that Stalin discussed the party's victory prospects with the senior party functionaries in their respective regions. The chief minister also advised the party leaders to provide proper instructions to the counting agents besides asking them to closely monitor the counting process.

What Happens Between Exit Polls and Counting Day in India?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

In Indian elections, the period between the publication of exit polls and counting day is a tightly regulated and politically sensitive phase, during which official institutions, media organisations, political parties, and voters shift from speculation to anticipation of results. Exit polls are conducted immediately after voting concludes, when voters are asked whom they supported as they leave polling stations. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), exit polls can only be conducted and published after voting has ended, and their dissemination is regulated under electoral law to prevent influence on ongoing polling phases in multi-phase elections. Once exit polls are released, the official electoral machinery enters a "silent administrative phase" leading up to counting day. During this



period, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and postal ballots are secured in strong rooms under multi-layered security arrangements supervised by election authorities and candidates' representatives. The Election Commission oversees continuous monitoring of these strong rooms, often under CCTV surveillance, with political party agents permitted to stay in designated areas outside counting centres. This stage is intended to ensure transparency and prevent allegations of tampering before votes are counted. At the same time, political parties and candidates

begin internal assessments based on booth-level feedback, polling day trends, and exit poll interpretations. These internal reviews are informal and not part of the official electoral process, but they often shape early post-poll political narratives. Exit poll projections dominate media coverage during this interval, generating widespread discussion but carrying no legal authority. The Election Commission does not endorse or validate exit poll results, and they remain speculative until counting is completed and certified results are declared. In the final days before counting, administrative

preparations intensify. Security forces are deployed around counting centres, and access is tightly controlled. In recent elections, the Election Commission has introduced additional verification mechanisms, including digital entry systems such as QR-based authentication for counting hall access, aimed at improving security and transparency. Political parties also deploy counting agents, who are formally authorised to observe the counting process at designated tables inside counting halls. These agents play a key role in monitoring round-wise counting updates and ensuring procedural compliance. On counting day, votes from EVMs and postal ballots are tallied under the supervision of Returning Officers, with results declared constituency-wise. Trends begin emerging within the first few hours, but final results are only confirmed after all rounds of counting are completed.

Rescue Operations Begin in MP To Save Cruise Capsize Victims

BHOPAL
Wakeup telangana

The rescue and search operation launched in the Bargi reservoir in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district following Thursday's cruise vessel tragedy has unfolded a heart-wrenching sight of a mother clutching her four-year-old son before meeting the watery grave as well as the miraculous survival of a one-year-old kid. The Agra-based divers, deployed in the rescue operation, described how they spotted the woman inside the vessel, sunk in the reservoir following a sudden inclement weather, and found it challenging to bring her outside. "We spotted the woman inside the vessel and tried to bring her out, thinking that she may be alive. But she appeared to be stuck. Later, we discovered that she clutched her son tightly under a life jacket. Both mother and her son were



found dead, clinging to each other when they were brought out. It was a heart-rending sight. We were deeply moved by it", one of the divers said with a choking voice. Even the onlookers broke down when the 'inseparable' bodies of mother and son were brought ashore on Friday morning. The two deceased were part of a family of four which came all the way from Delhi to enjoy the cruise ride in the serene and scenic Bargi reservoir on the mighty Narmada on the fateful day, officials said. The two survivors of the family are the father and daughter, officials said. A survivor, identified as Roshan

Anand, narrated how a youth started distributing life jackets to the tourists when the vessel began sinking after the sudden storm accompanied by rains lashed the reservoir. The youth was carrying a kid. He later handed over the kid to his sister. But the child was later found missing. The child was found in a hospital in Jabalpur around two hours later. Some survivors present on the shore could not explain how the kid was rescued and taken to the hospital. Another survivor, ten-year-old Brunda Verma, described how some of the tourists aboard the vessel were singing hymns and praying to God to save them. A sudden storm hit the area, leading the cruise vessel to sink, leaving at least nine tourists to drown. As many as 29 tourists were rescued, while four others were still missing till the reports came last.

IMD Forecasts Hotter Nights, More Rain In May

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal rainfall across most parts of the country for May, even as several northern and coastal regions brace for higher-than-usual heat. According to IMD Director-General Mru-tyunjay Mohapatra, the evolving weather patterns indicate a mixed outlook, with early monsoon signals but also the risk of heatwaves in specific zones. One of the key highlights of the forecast is the expected early onset of the southwest monsoon over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, likely between May 14 and 16—several days ahead of the normal date of May 20. This development aligns with earlier projections by private forecaster Skymet Weather and



European weather models, which had suggested an early monsoon arrival over Kerala. The tentative date for monsoon onset in Kerala is now estimated around May 25, earlier than the usual June 1 timeline. Reviewing April's weather, IMD noted that most parts of India experienced normal to below-normal maximum temperatures, with the exception of southern peninsular regions, where temperatures remained above average. The month also saw the influence of seven western disturbances,

which contributed to moderating temperatures in several northern regions. Looking ahead, minimum temperatures are expected to remain above normal across large parts of the country. However, some areas in northwest and central India, along with pockets of peninsular and northeastern regions, may see normal to below-normal night temperatures. Despite the broader rainfall optimism, IMD has cautioned that above-normal heatwave days are likely in parts of the Himalayan foothills, east coast states, as well as Gujarat and

Maharashtra during May. On the global climate front, IMD highlighted that neutral conditions in the El Niño–Southern Oscillation are gradually shifting towards El Niño conditions. The department's Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System suggests a possible development of El Niño during the southwest monsoon season, which could influence rainfall distribution. While above-normal rainfall is expected over most regions, parts of east, northeast, and east-central India may receive below-normal precipitation. This evolving climate scenario underscores the complexity of the upcoming monsoon season, with early rains offering relief in some areas while heatwaves and uneven rainfall patterns pose challenges elsewhere.

Modi Praises Maharashtra's Legacy In Message To Fadnavis

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on the occasion of Maharashtra Day, describing the state as a "perennial source of inspiration" for Indian civilisation. In his letter, the Prime Minister highlighted Maharashtra's long-standing role in shaping India's intellectual, social and economic landscape. He referred to its tradition of social reform movements and con-



tinued leadership across sectors such as industry, education and public service. Describing Maharashtra as a key driver of India's "economic transformation", Mr. Modi emphasised its role in infrastructure and innovation. He cited a record al-

location of ₹24,000 crore for railway projects in 2025–26 as evidence of the Centre's support. "We all pay homage to a state and a culture that have distinctly shaped our nation and society. Maharashtra is a perennial source of inspiration for our civilisation. This state is a confluence of valour and virtue, devotion and dynamism, reform and Rashtira Nirman," the Prime Minister wrote. He noted three instances that brought him immense happiness recently — the inclusion of 12 Maratha

forts (11 of which are in Maharashtra) in the UNESCO World Heritage List, the inclusion of the beautiful Marathi language in the list of Classical Languages and the unveiling of a bust of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during Constitution Day last year. The Prime Minister also referred to "sad moments" in 2026, including the death of Ajit Pawar in a plane crash. "Ajit Pawar's work will continue to inspire people," he said.

Security Forces Maintain Strict Vigil In And Around Counting Centres

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

Security forces were keeping a strict vigil in and around counting centres in Kolkata and other districts where EVM machines used in the West Bengal assembly elections have been stored, an official said here on Friday. Sakhawat Memorial School in south Kolkata's Bhabanipur, which saw high drama till the early hours of Friday with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spending nearly four hours at the counting



centre, wore a peaceful look in the morning with security personnel guarding the area. The TMC supremo

warned against any attempt to tamper with the counting process, hours after visiting an EVM strong room, alleging

possible malpractice. She stressed the need for transparency in the counting process. "It is essential to maintain transparency. People's votes must be protected. I rushed here after receiving complaints," she told reporters outside the counting centre. Sounding a stern note ahead of the May 4 counting of the two-phase elections held in the state, she warned that any plan to tamper with the counting process "will not be tolerated".

FROM FRONT PAGE

Commercial LPG.....

ATF for international airlines was hiked by \$76.55 per kilolitre, or 5.33 per cent, to \$1,511.86 per kl, marking the second consecutive monthly increase. In contrast, ATF prices for domestic airlines were retained at Rs 1,04,927.18 per kl. Bulk diesel rates for industrial users were also increased from about Rs 137 per litre to over Rs 149 per litre. The revision marks the third consecutive monthly increase in commercial LPG rates and the second straight monthly hike in ATF for international carriers. However, prices of domestic LPG, petrol, diesel and ATF for domestic airlines were left unchanged. Sources said the government and state-run oil com-

panies adopted a calibrated approach, limiting the impact of rising global crude prices to select industrial segments. International crude oil prices had climbed to \$126 per barrel earlier this week before easing slightly to above \$110 per barrel amid supply disruptions linked to tensions involving Iran and restricted movement through the Strait of Hormuz.

Revanth Assures.....

The Chief Minister said that the number of buses had been increased and staff recruited to increase the RTC revenue. Further, the government had decided to construct an international-standard bus terminal on 150 acres in Shamshabad and 100 acres was allocated at Gajularamaram for the construc-

tion of a bus terminal. In view of increasing financial burden imposed by diesel buses, the CM said that the RTC was procuring 1,000 electric buses (EVs) to establish seamless connectivity with the Metro Rail network, and minibuses to strengthen the fleet. The RTC was spending ₹2,000 crore on diesel, he noted.

Revanth Reddy said that the RTC's dues were not accumulated in the Congress government tenure; nevertheless, it was making earnest efforts to clear the debts. The matter of pending compassionate appointments had been taken up, he said adding that the government would take decisions on financial matters including the Pay Revision Commission soon. The unions should hold discussions

among themselves and present viable options to the government for a permanent solution, he suggested.

India Asserts Claim...

It is rare for the home minister to do such messaging. However, given the Chinese claim over the origin of Buddhism, including that the Buddha was of Chinese origin, followed by Beijing's expansionism with claims over parts of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, apart from asserting the right to decide who the next Dalai Lama would be, Tibet has found renewed focus in India's foreign policy dynamics in recent times. Shah's visit to Ladakh, and the unveiling of the relics, is an apparent strategic move to counter China's

propaganda of portraying Tibet as its territory historically, as Shah in his speech mentioned the deep connect between Indian and Tibetan Buddhist culture and institutions. Incidentally, Leh is the summer home of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's supreme spiritual leader, and Friday's event took place at Jive-Tsal, the same venue where he stays and preaches. Shah described the return of sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh after 75 years as a "historic reunion", saying it feels as if "Lord Buddha has himself come here".

Six Of Family Killed....

The family had recently moved into a new house in Sanathnagar and had planned the temple visit as an outing. They left on Friday

morning and were returning when the mishap occurred. Preliminary investigation suggests driver fatigue or mechanical failure. "There were no tyre skid marks at the scene. The vehicle appears to have maintained speed after entering from Exit No. 9. The driver may have been exhausted," said DCP Yogesh Gowtham. The lorry driver stated he had parked briefly to secure a loosened rope on a paddy load. While the cleaner climbed atop to fix it, the car approached in a zig-zag manner from about 200 metres and rammed into the vehicle within seconds. Inspector Narendar identified the deceased as Bolli Shiva Kumar (37), who was driving, his wife Bolli Lasya, and their daughter Rishitha. Also killed were Shiva Kumar.

CRIME

Traffic Police Conduct Awareness Drive at Taj Vivanta

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In an effort to promote road safety and responsible driving habits, the Traffic Police conducted a comprehensive awareness programme at Taj Vivanta Hotel in Begumpet for its management and staff. The initiative focused on educating participants about the importance of adhering to traffic rules and minimizing road accidents through disciplined behavior.

The programme was attended by ACP Traffic Trimulgherry Division, G. Shankar Raju, and RSI Ashok Reddy from Traffic Police Station Begumpet. Addressing the gathering, the officers emphasized that road safety is a shared responsibility and that strict compliance with traffic regulations is es-



sential to prevent mishaps and save lives. During the session, participants were sensitized on several key issues that contribute significantly to road accidents. The officers highlighted the serious risks associated with drunken driving and reiterated that driving under the influence not only endangers the driver but also puts the lives of others at risk.

They stressed the compulsory use of helmets for two-wheeler riders and seat belts for car occupants, noting that these

simple precautions can drastically reduce fatalities in accidents. The dangers of wrong-side driving were also explained in detail, with officers pointing out how such violations often lead to head-on collisions. Additionally, the misuse of mobile phones while driving was identified as a growing concern, as it diverts attention and increases the likelihood of accidents. The officers urged participants to remain fully focused while driving and avoid any distractions. Interactive in na-

ture, the programme witnessed active participation from the hotel's management and staff, who raised queries and shared their concerns regarding road safety.

The officers responded with practical guidance and real-life examples to reinforce the importance of safe driving practices. The management and staff expressed their appreciation for the initiative and assured the Traffic Police of their full cooperation in adhering to traffic norms. They also pledged to spread awareness among their peers and communities, thereby contributing to a culture of road safety. Concluding the session, the Traffic Police appealed to all citizens to act responsibly and follow traffic rules diligently.

Rules Must Be Followed In Urban Land Ceiling Action: High Court

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court ruled that proceedings initiated under the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 (ULC Act) without statutory authority were unsustainable in law.

The panel comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar dismissed a writ appeal filed by the state, affirming the order of the single which set

aside the ULC proceedings against the writ petitioners.

The case arose from a challenge to suo motu proceedings initiated by the special officer (land ceiling) in 2006 in respect of land situated in Bachupally of Rangareddy district. It was the case of the writ petitioners that they purchased the land through registered sale deeds executed in 1990 and 1993, and that the proceedings were conducted behind their back without issuance of no-

tice. A single judge bench allowed the writ petition, holding that the authorities

failed to comply with the mandatory requirements under Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, particularly with respect to issuance and service of notice prior to taking possession. It also found that the proceedings were initiated against persons who were either not the owners or were no longer alive, rendering the exercise legally untenable.

Fake Number Plate Scam Busted, Two Held in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad police have busted a fake number plate racket, arresting two individuals for tampering with a vehicle registration to evade traffic challans.

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

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

A 35-year-old man donned a bevy of identities — projecting himself as a lawyer or a doctor, or a film producer — to lure as many as 500 women across the country and fleeced them of Rs 2 crore.

Delhi southwest DCP Amit Goel said the accused, Anand Kumar, a resident of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, operated with "a high level of sophistication", using fake profiles on social media, dating and matrimonial platforms to identify and target victims.

High Court stays DBT Fee Collection Ban

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

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

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

and the resulting financial hardship.

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

Traffic Challan Coercion: High Court Issues Contempt Notices to Home Secretary, DGP

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Friday issued notices to the home secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) in a contempt case alleging violation of its earlier orders regarding the police forcefully collecting traffic challans. Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar passed the orders in a petition filed by V. Raghavendra Chary, who claimed that

traffic police seized his vehicle despite court directions prohibiting coercive action for pending e-challans.

The court also served notices to the additional commissioner of police (traffic), Hyderabad, the transport commissioner, and personnel of the Chikkadpally traffic police station and posted the matter to June 19. Appearing for the petitioner, counsel Vijay Gopal argued that in January, the

High Court had directed authorities not to take coercive measures, such as seizing vehicles of motorists with pending challans. Instead, officials were directed to initiate legal proceedings by filing chargesheets in the appropriate courts.

The petitioner alleged that on April 9 at RTC crossroads, traffic police personnel stopped him, accused him of not wearing the helmet strap, and seized his scooter over

pending challans. He claimed that the officers refused to accept his digital Registration Certificate (RC) from the RTA M-Wallet app, confiscated the original RC, and publicly humiliated him despite his willingness to clear the dues.

The petitioner contended that the incident amounted to a blatant violation of the High Court's orders as well as the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

EDITORIAL

GOVT, LEGISLATURES MUST ACT AGAINST HATE SPEECH

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The strong observations contained in the Supreme Court's judgment on hate speech and the ways to tackle it must work as an eye-opener for the Indian state and its citizens. The observations have come not one day late, and every arm of the state, whether legislative, executive or judiciary, and above all, the citizenry, must respect their spirit and act on them, lest the republic suffer irreparable damage to its body politic.

While declining to introduce new mechanisms to deal with cases of hate speech, the court left it to the wisdom of the legislature to frame new laws to take on the menace but reminded the government that the existing legal framework empowers and arms it with sufficient powers to crack down on it as of now. The erstwhile IPC and the replacement laws have provisions in them to check the unbridled use

of the freedom of speech to cut at the roots of the constitutional value of fraternity, the court has pointed out. The apex court has practically put the ball in the court of the executive.

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

consciousness of the nation".

As inheritors of such a past, it is the larger responsibility of the citizenry who also enjoys the fruits of fundamental and constitutional rights to faithfully observe their duties as well, the court said. The preservation of a constitutional order is not the responsibility of the state alone, and individuals and public figures must also bear it, it insisted. "Individuals and public figures must remember that words have consequences in a diverse society like ours."

There is no gainsaying the fact that the law can do only so much in protecting the social order as it is equally the responsibility of every stakeholder. "While the law provides mechanisms to address conduct that threatens public order or communal harmony, the more enduring safeguard against the menace of hate speech lies in the collective constitutional conscience of society,"

it said. "Ultimately, the Constitution does not survive merely through institutions or legal frameworks, but through the sustained fidelity of its citizens to the values it embodies," the court said. It was not very long ago that the apex court directed the state police chiefs to take suo motu cognizance of those who make hate speeches anywhere in India and warned those failing to do so that they would be held accountable. Unfortunately, that order is observed more in its breach than its adherence.

Political and community leaders continue to make hate speeches of the worst kind and go scot free with police looking the other way. Those who make such speeches and those who refuse to act on them are undermining the ethos on which the republic is built; a threat to them is a threat to the very foundation of India. It is time we got the message.



RISM Launched in Bengaluru with Global STEM Focus

Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM) launched in Bengaluru, offering globally aligned STEM, AI, aerospace and management education programs

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a major step toward future-ready education, the Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) has announced the launch of the Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), a globally aligned STEM and management-focused deemed-to-be university. Developed in partnership with the University at Albany, State University of New York, RISM is set to begin its first academic session in August 2026, aiming to bridge the gap between academia and industry through cutting-edge, application-driven learning. Positioned as a next-generation institution, RISM will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral

programmes across engineering, business, and science disciplines. Initial courses include B.Tech programmes in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Aerospace Engineering, and Electrical Sciences, alongside BBA and MBA programmes.

The academic framework emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, industry collaboration, and real-world exposure through internships, live projects, and capstone assignments. A key highlight of RISM's approach is its "relevance-first" model, where industry integration is embedded into every course. Students will benefit from mentorship by industry leaders serving as Professors of Practice and engage with Mentor Professors, ensur-



ing continuous alignment with evolving market needs.

The university also focuses on translational research, enabling practical application of academic knowledge to real-world challenges. Speaking on the launch, Gurucharan Gollerkeri, Executive Director and Chief Strategy Officer of the Foundation, highlighted the need for adaptive education models in a rapidly changing global environment. He noted that RISM

aims to cultivate critical thinking, core knowledge, and learning agility, preparing students not only for current careers but also for unpredictable future demands.

The institution will house specialized schools, including the School of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, the School of Aerospace Engineering, and the School of Business. These schools will deliver advanced training in areas such as machine learning, automation, flight systems, spacecraft design, and strategic business management. Industry-sponsored Centres of Excellence and global exposure opportunities, including year-abroad programmes, will further enhance student learning. University at Albany

President Havidán Rodríguez emphasized that the partnership would strengthen global education through shared expertise in teaching and research, particularly in emerging fields like nanotechnology and engineering. RISM's main residential campus is under development in Bengaluru's IT Investment Region near Devanahalli, close to major industrial hubs. Academic operations will begin at a transit campus in Yelahanka, with the permanent campus expected by 2027. Designed as a fully residential institution, RISM will also focus on holistic development through sports, cultural activities, and leadership initiatives, creating well-rounded, future-ready graduates.

Jet fuel hiked for foreign airlines, no change for domestic flights

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for foreign carriers were raised by around 5 per cent on Friday — marking the second consecutive monthly increase, even as domestic airlines were shielded from any revision.

State-run oil marketing companies, including Indian Oil Corporation, revised the rates in line with elevated global energy prices. The hike applies only to international operations and foreign carriers, while ATF prices for domestic airlines remain unchanged.

In Delhi, which serves as the benchmark for ATF pricing in India, fuel for international airlines increased by \$76.55 per kilolitre, or 5.33 per cent, taking the price to \$1,511.86 per kl.

This follows a previous revision on April 1, when



ATF prices for domestic carriers were sharply raised by 25 per cent to Rs 1,04,927.18 per kl.

ATF prices in India have been deregulated for over two decades and are linked to international benchmarks under an agreed pricing mechanism between airlines and oil companies. However, industry sources indicated that authorities are currently adopting a calibrated approach to pricing amid volatility in global energy markets.

According to sources, rising geopolitical tensions, particularly linked to the Iran conflict, have pushed up global fuel prices. Instead of passing on the entire increase im-

mediately, oil firms and the government are staggering the impact. As a result, international carriers are being charged market-linked rates, while domestic airlines continue to benefit from moderated pricing to cushion cost pressures.

Fuel remains one of the largest cost components for airlines, and any increase in ATF prices has a direct bearing on operating expenses. The latest revision is expected to raise costs for international operators flying to and from India.

Oil marketing companies revise ATF prices at the start of every month based on global trends. With the latest hike, international carriers have now seen fuel costs rise for the second straight month, while domestic airlines continue to operate under relatively stable pricing conditions.

Growth Over Deficit: Govt Shields Rs 12.22 Lakh Cr Capex Amid War Stress

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India will prioritise its ₹12.22 lakh crore capital expenditure (capex) for the current fiscal year despite mounting fiscal pressures triggered by the ongoing West Asia conflict, a senior government official has affirmed, signalling the Centre's intent to sustain economic growth amid global uncertainties. Expenditure Secretary V.

Vuallnam said the government remains committed to maintaining capex at budgeted levels, even as multiple stress factors weigh on public finances.

He acknowledged that the coming quarters could present significant challenges, including reduced tax buoyancy following recent cuts in excise duties on petrol and diesel, implemented to shield consumers from rising fuel prices. The

government's focus for FY27 capex will remain on key infrastructure sectors such as highways, railways, ports, shipping, and urban development—areas seen as critical drivers of long-term growth.

Despite fiscal strain, the Centre views sustained investment in these sectors as essential to maintaining economic momentum. India's fiscal situation has come



under pressure due to a combination of global and domestic factors. The country, being a net importer of crude oil, is particularly vulnerable to price shocks. Since the outbreak of

the West Asia conflict on February 28, crude oil prices have surged sharply—from around \$73 per barrel to a four-year high of \$126 per barrel—intensifying the burden on government finances. To mitigate the impact of rising global oil prices on domestic consumers, the Centre reduced excise duties on petrol and diesel in late March.

While the move helped contain retail fuel prices, it is estimated to

cost the exchequer around ₹7,000 crore over a 15-day period, further tightening fiscal space and raising concerns of potential fiscal slippage.

Reflecting these pressures, the fiscal deficit target for FY27, initially pegged at 4.3 per cent of GDP in the Budget, is now expected to rise to 4.5 percent following a downward revision in nominal GDP estimates under a new statistical

series. Despite these headwinds, the government has reiterated its commitment to fiscal prudence. Vuallnam noted that India's disciplined fiscal management in recent years has placed it in a relatively strong position to navigate current global volatility.

He emphasised that the government is responding proactively and with agility to evolving challenges. Looking ahead, uncertainty re-

mains a key concern. The trajectory of crude oil prices, geopolitical developments, and their impact on tax revenues will be crucial factors shaping India's fiscal outlook. Nevertheless, the Centre appears determined to protect growth-supporting expenditure, even as it balances competing fiscal demands in an increasingly unpredictable global environment.

Regency Leadership Awards Honour Hospitality Excellence



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Regency Leadership Awards 2025–26 celebrated excellence in hospitality education and industry leadership at Tarun Baradari, Hyderabad.

The event recognised top professionals, alumni, and students for outstanding contributions across the sector. Chief Guest A. Vani Prasad, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Tourism, Culture & Heritage, Government of Telangana, felicitated the awardees. Guest of Honour Dr. Gad-dam Nares Reddy, Professor of Commerce, Osmania University, and academician Prof. S. Jithender Kumar Naik attended as distinguished guests.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Chef Sudha Kumar for over two decades of contribution to

hospitality education and industry development. Grand Regent honours were conferred on senior industry leaders including Shrikant Wakharkar, Vishal Srivastava, Ekant Sabharwal, Chef Naveen Nagaraj, and Chef Ramesh Yadav. Elite Regent Awards recognised HR and finance leaders, while Star Regent Awards celebrated distinguished alumni achievements across hospitality and entrepreneurship sectors.

Among students, Manish and Athiya Khan were crowned Mr. and Ms. Regency 2025–26. The Cucillos Kitchen Club emerged as the best performing club, followed by the Editorial Club. The event also featured cultural performances and the release of the annual magazine "ECHO 2026." Principal P. Ramesh Kumar Reddy highlighted the institution's academic excellence.

In Govern Urges RBI To Direct Tata Sons Listing

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Proxy advisory firm In-Govern Research Services on Friday urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reject Tata Sons' March 2024 application to surrender its Certificate of Registration as a Systemically Important Core Investment Company, and to direct the group to list as an Upper Layer NBFC by March 2027. "For a holding company controlling Rs 1.75 lakh crore in assets (including systemic listed companies like TCS, Tata Motors, and Tata Power), SEBI's listing obligations and disclosure requirements is essential to govern Related Party Transactions (RPTs) and ensure that group-level capital allocation is transparent to the broader market," it said.

The letter stated that the private status of Tata Sons imposes an 'artificial holding company discount' on its listed subsidiaries. By remaining unlisted, Tata Sons denies the 20 lakh + shareholders of entities like Tata Chemicals or Tata Motors the fair market valuation of their indirect holdings, effectively suppressing billions in shareholder wealth. It cited the recent April 29 clarification from the RBI, where the central bank clarified that funds raised indirectly through group entities cannot be excluded.

Biggest Aptronix store debuts with star campaign

Apronix Launches Biggest Apple Store in India at Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall, Unveils "Big & Beyond" Campaign with Naga Chaitanya, Sobhita Dhulipala

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Apronix has launched its largest-ever retail outlet in India at Sarath City Capital Mall, alongside unveiling its most ambitious brand campaign, "Big & Beyond Apronix," featuring actors Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala. Spanning 8,000 square feet, the new flagship store is now the biggest Apronix outlet in the country and among the largest Apple Premium Reseller spaces in India. Designed to global standards, the store offers immersive product experiences across the Apple ecosystem, expert-led personalised assistance, and seamless after-sales service, aiming to redefine premium tech retail in the country.

The campaign launch and store opening mark a strategic push by Apronix to strengthen its leadership in India's Apple retail segment. By pairing a large-format experiential



store with a high-visibility celebrity campaign, the brand is targeting a new generation of aspirational Apple users seeking both accessibility and premium engagement. At the core of the campaign is the "Limitless Apronix Exchange" programme, which continues to drive customer adoption by offering transparent, high-value exchange benefits and simplified upgrade pathways to the latest Apple devices.

The initiative has played a key role in expanding access to premium technology while reinforcing Apronix's customer-first approach. Founder Su-

tinder Singh said the new store represents more than just retail expansion, calling it a "belief system" centred on delivering uncompromised Apple experiences to Indian consumers. He noted that the association with Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala reflects the brand's values of elegance, ambition, and confidence. CEO Meghna Singh described "Big & Beyond" as more than a campaign, stating it defines how the company operates.

She emphasised that with its largest store now open in Hyderabad, Apronix is positioning itself as a

benchmark setter in the Apple retail ecosystem rather than just a growing chain.

The campaign blends celebrity influence with experiential retail innovation, reinforcing Apronix's strategy to deepen emotional connections with customers while scaling its footprint across India. With this launch, Apronix signals a new phase of expansion, combining large-format retail, customer-centric programmes, and aspirational branding to shape the future of Apple retail experiences in the country.

RBI Shifts More Gold To Domestic Vaults

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

More than two thirds of India's gold reserves are now held domestically. The RBI held 880.52 metric tonnes of gold as of end March 2026 of which 680.05 metric tonnes (77 per cent) were stored domestically according to RBI's half yearly reserves management report. The remaining 197.67 metric tonnes is kept in safe custody with the Bank of England and Bank of International Settlements while 2.80 MT are held in the form of gold deposits.

In comparison, as of March 2024 less than half of gold reserves were held domestically. In total, the RBI brought 168.06 MT of gold to India in 2025–26, up from 107.21 MT in 2023–24 and 103.68 MT in 2024–25. The share of gold in the RBI's foreign exchange reserves jumped from 11.7 per cent as at the end of 2024–25 to 16.7 per cent due to global gold prices rising sharply on account of heightened trade and geopolitical uncertainty. As of March 27, 2026, India's total foreign exchange reserves were \$688 billion and the value of gold reserves was \$113.5 billion. Total reserves further increased to \$703 billion during the week ended April 17.

Ek Din Review: Pulsating And Optimistic But Lacks Emotion

Directed by Sunil Pandey, Ek Din — an official Hindi remake of the Thai film One Day — offers a visually appealing but emotionally underwhelming romantic drama. Backed by Aamir Khan Productions and starring Junaid Khan and Sai Pallavi, the film delivers a light, watchable experience but falls short of leaving a lasting impact.

At its core, Ek Din revolves around Dinesh, a shy IT employee played by Junaid Khan, who harbors unspoken feelings for his colleague Meera, portrayed by Sai Pallavi. Meera, however, is romantically involved with her boss, only to later discover during a trip to Japan that he is already married with a child on the way. The story takes a dramatic turn when Meera suffers Temporary Global Amnesia, losing her memory for 24



hours. Seizing this fleeting opportunity, Dinesh lives out his dream of being with her, fully aware that reality will reset the next day.

The film's strengths lie primarily in its technical and surface-level appeal. The picturesque Japanese locales add vibrancy and visual charm, enhancing the storytelling. Musically, tracks like "Ek Din" and "Khwab Dekhoon," composed by Ram Sampath, blend well with the film's emotional

tone, even if they don't achieve chart-buster status. The pacing is another plus, as the film maintains a crisp runtime without feeling stretched.

Performance-wise, Junaid Khan shows noticeable improvement compared to his previous outing, effectively embodying the awkwardness and vulnerability of his character. His restrained performance works in favor of Dinesh's personality. Sai Pallavi, though expressive,

struggles with Hindi diction, and her Tamil-accented delivery occasionally disrupts the emotional depth of romantic scenes.

However, the film's biggest drawback is its lack of originality. Much of the narrative feels like a scene-by-scene replication of the original Thai film, including its humor and key moments. While the climax has been altered to cater to Indian sensibilities, this change ultimately dilutes the emo-

tional impact. Unlike classics such as City Lights, Casablanca, or Moon-dram Pirai, the film fails to deliver a powerful emotional punch.

Additionally, certain narrative choices raise questions. Dinesh's decision to quit his job for a fleeting romantic fantasy lacks logical grounding, and some supporting characters behave unrealistically, reducing the film's credibility. The safe storytelling approach adopted by Sunil Pandey, especially for a debut, reflects a missed opportunity to present a fresh vision. Ultimately, Ek Din is a visually pleasing, mildly engaging romance that works in parts but lacks emotional depth and originality. While it may appeal to audiences seeking light entertainment, it doesn't quite capture the soul that made its original memorable.

Konnakol tour: Zayn Malik cancels all U.S. tour dates

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Singer-songwriter Zayn Malik has canceled all U.S. dates for the 2026 tour behind his 'Konnakol' album. The album was released on April 17, 2026.

However, dates in the U.K. and Mexico later this month, which take place before the U.S. tour was scheduled to begin, are still for sale on his website.

On Friday, the singer took to the Stories section of his Instagram, and shared a long note. He wrote, "To my fans, Thank you so much for all the support and love you've shown me on the album release and more importantly your love, prayers, and well wishes for my health. I've felt it, and it's meant the world. I've been at home recovering and I'm doing well and will be better and stronger than before. I've had to take another look at my schedule for the months ahead and have to reduce the number of shows on the KONNAKOL Tour".

"I want to make sure I still get out and see as many of you as I pos-



sibly can. I'm really looking forward to playing these shows for you, and I hope to see the rest of you around the world very soon", he added.

This comes after his recent hospitalization in April 2026, around the release of his album. He shared a photo from a hospital bed on social media and told fans he was "unexpectedly recovering" after a diffi-

cult week. While he did not reveal the exact illness, he thanked doctors, nurses, and a cardiologist involved in his care.

The health scare forced him to cancel several promotional appearances. The singer is reportedly recuperating and scaling back commitments to prioritise his health.

Jannik Sinner reaches Madrid Open final with 22-match winning streak



JAIPUR
Wakeup telangana

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner extended his winning streak to 22 matches by beating Arthur Fils 6-2, 6-4 to reach the final of the Madrid Open on Friday. The Italian's 350th career victory makes him the first man born in the 2000s to reach that milestone.

"I am very happy about the general performance today. I am trying to play the best possible tennis. Today was a very good day in the office," Sinner said

in an on-court interview after not facing a break point in the semifinal. Sinner, trying to become the first man to win five consecutive Masters 1000 tournaments, will face third-ranked Alexander Zverev or Belgium's Alexander Blockx in Sunday's final.

Sinner also joined an elite list with Friday's win. He is the fourth and youngest man to reach the final at all nine Masters 1000 events, after Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. The world No. 1 broke

Fils' serve twice in the first set and came under pressure at 30-30 in the sixth game of the second set before holding serve with back-to-back aces to get to 3-3.

Sinner got the key break with a backhand winner down the line for a 5-4 lead before serving out the match against the Frenchman. Sinner's winning run has included titles in Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo. In the women's event, Mirra Andreeva will face Marta Kostyuk in Saturday's final.

Delhi Capitals register 7-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals despite Parag's 90

JAIPUR
Wakeup telangana

A wonderful exhibition of batting by KL Rahul (75) and Pathum Nissanka (62) overshadowed Riyan Parag's redemptive 90, powering Delhi Capitals to a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Friday.

Parag brushed aside a lot of criticism with a 50-ball knock to lead the Royals to a competitive 225 for six. However, Delhi Capitals replied with excellent knocks by Rahul and Nissanka to reach 226 for three.

Parag stayed off the field for a good part of the second innings with a hamstring niggle. Yashasvi Jaiswal performed the captain's duty for the Royals. The Capitals made a strong start to the chase as Rahul and Nissanka added 102 runs for the opening wicket in just 9.3 overs. Rahul was a bit slow to



begin with, but once he found his rhythm, the 34-year-old was impressive to watch.

He played shots all around the ground, including a cover drive off Nandre Burger, a pull off Jofra Archer and two back-to-back sixes in the 'V' off Ravi Bishnoi.

Nissanka displayed his strength in the pull shot, which gave him all his three sixes on the night, one off Archer and two off Burger.

Rahul brought up his fifty in 27 balls, four balls more than Nis-

sanka, but the latter fell to Jadeja after failing to connect a reverse sweep.

The Bengaluru batter added a further 61 runs with Nitish Rana (33) as the Capitals maintained their momentum. Both Rana and Rahul, who lofted Archer straight to Donovan Ferreira at long on, fell in the space of six balls and the Capitals needed 49 runs from that point off 26 balls.

But Ashutosh Sharma and Tristan Stubbs completed the job well, as DC pulled off their

biggest chase in the IPL. DC moved up to sixth with eight points while the Royals stayed at fourth with 12 points.

Earlier, Parag answered many questions with a quality 90 as Rajasthan Royals posted a competitive 225 for six. The Royals skipper was struggling for runs so far this season and if his on-field troubles were not enough, Parag was fined 25 per cent by BCCI after being caught on camera vaping inside the dugout.

So, he had a lot to prove, and the right-hander did it in style, scoring his first fifty in IPL 2026.

In fact, Parag was under pressure after the early departure of openers Vaibhav Soorayavanshi, who was yorked by Kyle Jamieson, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who offered a return catch to Mitchell Starc (3/40), who made his first appearance in this IPL. After all, 12 for two is

not the position an out-of-form batter wants to be in, and the nerves were visible in his loose shots against Starc.

But confidence returned once he took apart Jamieson in the sixth over with a sequence of 6, 4, 6.

Once self-belief returned, it reflected in Parag's batting too. Those elements were on display in a powerful six over covers off left-arm pacer T Natarajan.

Parag brought up his fifty in 32 balls and added 102 runs for the third wicket with Dhruv Jurel (42).

The dismissal of Jurel did not stop Parag as he, along with middle-order batters like Ravindra Jadeja (20), continued to score.

There was a brief quiet phase after Jurel's dismissal but Parag broke it with three boundaries off Jamieson.

Parag and Jadeja added 53 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter fell to Starc.

Man arrested for selling expired tobacco

Goshamahal police apprehended a 53-year-old habitual offender for allegedly running an illegal satta betting racket via WhatsApp during a night patrol at Jummarat Bazaar. The accused, K. Kailash Singh, who operates a TV sales and repair shop in Dhoopet, was noticed behaving suspiciously near the Rani Avanthi Bai statue.

On seeing the police, Singh reportedly attempted to flee but was swiftly chased down and detained. During the search, officers seized cash, a Samsung smartphone, and several betting slips believed to be linked to ongoing gambling activities. Preliminary investigation revealed that Singh was acting as a middleman, collecting bets locally and forwarding them through WhatsApp to his associates, who are currently absconding. Police officials stated that Singh is a repeat offender with multiple cases registered against him at Goshamahal, Mangalhat, and Shahinayath-gunj police stations, indicating a history of involvement in illegal betting operations. A case has been registered against him under relevant sections of the Telangana Gaming Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Authorities are continuing their investigation to identify and apprehend other members of the betting network.

Resolve Power Supply Deficiencies: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to address existing power supply deficiencies and stressed the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to ensure efficient and reliable power distribution across Telangana. Speaking at a meeting to review the power sector along with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Revanth Reddy issued a series of directives aimed at strengthening electricity supply and preparing the state for future demand. The Chief Minister stressed the need to dispel misconceptions among employees and staff regarding their integration into the Telan-



gana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited (Rythu Discom), urging officials to ensure clarity and confidence within the workforce. He also directed authorities to prevent overloading of transformers to avoid disruptions and maintain uninterrupted supply. In view of rapid development, including upcoming industrial corridors, high-speed rail projects and the Regional Ring Road

(RRR), Revanth Reddy called for the immediate initiation of new substation projects to meet the rising electricity demand. He instructed officials to prioritise approvals under the state's green energy policy and expedite clearances for large data centres. Focusing on renewable energy, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of creating awareness among

women self-help groups on solar power usage. He proposed setting up solar power plants adjacent to substations and directed that, under a pilot project, solar plants be established at two substations in each erstwhile district where land is available. As part of this initiative, the government plans to develop 18 solar power plants—two each in nine erstwhile districts, excluding Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister ordered the appointment of nodal officers to oversee the execution of these projects. Additionally, he called for increased public awareness on the use of solar stoves as part of the broader push towards sustainable and clean energy solutions in the state.

Uttam calls for detailed plan for Pranahita-Chevella project revival

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to prepare detailed technical plans for revival of the Pranahita-Chevella project and proposed talks with Maharashtra.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As the Congress government intensified efforts to revive the Pranahita-Chevella Lift Irrigation Project, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to prepare detailed plans and technical proposals for discussions with the Maharashtra government over construction of the Tummidihatti barrage. At a high-level review meeting held with the officials here on Friday, he directed the irrigation department to plan it by minimising submergence in Maharashtra territory and Chaprala wildlife sanctuary. "Telangana will be ready to provide com-



pensation for any affected areas," Uttam Kumar said. The Maharashtra government had previously agreed to a 148-metre height and a balanced approach to construction with lower-cost, gravity-assisted flow where possible. The Minister emphasised that all future decisions and communications should be backed by comprehensive study, technical merit, and economic viability. He directed officials to prepare complete documentation, alter-

native alignments, cost-benefit analyses, and geo-technical details, before venturing to inter-State talks. The government was fast-tracking urgent repairs to Kaleshwaram barrages at Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla before the monsoon, under technical guidance from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). The Minister issued specific instructions on testing protocols, including Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) every 1.5 metres, permeability tests every 3 metres, and deeper drilling even upon hitting rock. A coordination committee has been directed to visit sites immediately and set clear timelines.

Buddha Purnima Observed in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 2,570th Buddha Purnima was observed in the city on Friday, marking the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha, with week-long Bodhi Saptaha celebrations starting at Mahabodhi Vihara in East Marredpally. Programmes included discourses on the teachings of Buddhism, centred on the principles that suffering exists, has a cause in craving and attachment, can be eliminated, and that there is a path to end it. The occasion, which falls on the full moon day of Vaishakha, saw events organised at several locations. Organisers at Mahabodhi

Buddha Vihara, Secunderabad, said the observance marked the "Thrice-Blessed" events of the Buddha's life and included activities focused on Dana, Sila and Bhavana. Subeer Barua, one of the organisers, said, "We warmly invite everyone to join our day-long programme of spiritual devotion, coming together to foster peace within ourselves and in the world around us." Chief monk Buddhapala Bhikku said devotees marked the occasion by visiting monasteries, meditating, chanting and offering donations. He said rituals included "bathing the Buddha" and lighting lamps, along with prayers for peace.

Telangana Readies Draft MoU for Free MMTS Scheme

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The state government has readied a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the implementation of a free MMTS services scheme in Hyderabad by reimbursing South Central Railway which operates the service. The draft MoU, prepared by Jayesh Ranjan, special chief secretary, metropolitan area and urban development (MA&UD) department, has been submitted to the Chief Minister's Office



(CMO), as well as the law and finance departments for vetting, according to official sources. Sources said the draft proposed to launch the free MMTS scheme for an initial period of one year, starting June 2, Telangana Formation Day. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is expected to convene a meeting with sen-

ior officials of the MA&UD, law, and finance departments next week to review and finalise the proposals. The approved draft will be forwarded to the South Central Railway (SCR) and the Railway Board for final clearance. On April 19, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao met SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava and held preliminary discussions on the state government's proposal of free MMTS services. The state government has offered to compensate SCR for any

revenue losses arising from the implementation of the scheme. At present, the MMTS operates around 88 services daily, carrying between 40,000 and 45,000 passengers and generating an annual revenue of approximately ₹10 crore. The government has proposed to reimburse this amount to SCR if free services are introduced. The Chief Secretary also indicated that the Telangana government was willing to sign an MoU detailing all aspects of the scheme, including its financial com-

mitments. Responding to the proposal, the SCR General Manager had requested the state government to submit a detailed draft MoU outlining the scheme's concept and financial obligations, which would then be referred to the Railway Board for final approval. Following this, the state government entrusted Jayesh Ranjan with the task. He completed the exercise within 10 days and submitted it for vetting by the relevant departments to address legal and financial considerations.

Man arrested for fake number plate

The city traffic police, in coordination with SR Nagar police, apprehended a 26-year-old man for using a fake registration number plate on his two-wheeler to evade traffic penalties and mislead enforcement authorities. The accused, identified as Nagaraj, a private employee residing in Ameerpet and originally from Raichur district in Karnataka, was found using a forged number plate on his motorcycle. Police alleged that Nagaraj used the fake plate to avoid detection and escape fines for repeated traffic violations. As a result, multiple traffic challans were incorrectly issued against the legitimate owner of the number, C.M. Vivek, a resident of Ballari district in Karnataka. Following verification, a criminal case was registered against Nagaraj at SR Nagar police station under BNS and the Motor Vehicles Act. Police also served a notice under the BNSS. Officials said the case was detected through coordinated enforcement efforts and technological surveillance by the traffic police. Joint commissioner of police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis cautioned the public that using fake, identical or tampered number plates is a serious and punishable offence. He added that city police were equipped with advanced systems including automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to identify such violations.

Shabbir Ali opposes additional Rs 10,000 burden on Hajj pilgrims

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Advisor to Telangana Government Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Friday strongly condemned the steep hike in commercial LPG cylinder prices and the additional financial burden imposed on Hajj pilgrims, terming both decisions as "anti-people and insensitive" actions of the BJP-led Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shabbir Ali expressed serious concern over the nearly Rs. 1,000 increase in the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders, calling it a "cruel burden" on small businesses, hotels, roadside eateries and millions of common citizens who depend on affordable food. He said the hike, which has pushed cylinder prices in Hyderabad to over Rs. 3,300, will have a cascading effect on food prices, ultimately impacting the poor and middle-class families the most. He criticised the timing of the decision, stating that the BJP government once again exposed its



"election-centric governance", where relief is offered only during polls while hardships are imposed immediately after. "The Centre has shown that its concern for the common man ends with elections. Once the votes are secured, people are left to bear the consequences of harsh economic decisions," he said. Referring to global developments, Shabbir Ali said that the government cannot hide behind international factors such as the West Asia crisis and rising fuel prices. "The Iran conflict has been ongoing for months. The Centre had ample time to prepare a structured plan to shield citizens from price shocks. Instead, it has chosen the easiest route of passing the burden directly onto the people," he remarked. He further pointed out

that India's heavy dependence on LPG imports makes it even more essential for the government to adopt proactive pricing and subsidy mechanisms. However, he alleged that the Modi government has failed to manage both supply and pricing efficiently, leading to artificial scarcity and exploitation in the market. Shabbir Ali also highlighted reports of supply disruptions and black-market sales of commercial LPG at inflated rates, calling it a serious governance failure. "When authorised supply chains weaken, it is the common consumer who suffers the most, paying higher prices for lower quality and uncertain availability," he said. Condemning the additional Rs. 10,000 charge imposed on Hajj pilgrims, Shabbir Ali said the decision was unjust and exploitative. He noted that Hajj is a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual journey for many Muslims, especially those from modest backgrounds who spend years saving for it.

CP Sajjanar Flags Fraudulent Admission Agents

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad city commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has issued a strong public advisory warning students and parents against falling prey to fraudulent agents promising medical seats through illegal channels. The commissioner said fraudsters are luring candidates by claiming they can secure MBBS and other medical seats in reputed colleges under management or NRI quotas in countries such as the Philippines, Kazakhstan,

China, Georgia, Armenia and Caribbean nations. These agents demand large sums of money, often misleading families with fabricated documents, fake allotment letters and false assurances of guaranteed admissions. Officials stressed that such claims are fake and emphasised that all medical admissions are conducted strictly through centralised counselling systems regulated by competent authorities, including the National Medical Commission (NMC).

HYDRAA Commissioner: Victims of Demolition Drives to Receive 2BHK Housing Units

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The state government would provide two-bedroom housing units to the poor whose houses were demolished as part of restoration of water bodies, HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath said on Friday. He was speaking at a meeting with residents who lost their homes in the vicinity of Sunnam Cheruvu in Madhapur and

Ramanthapur Cheruvu in Uppal. He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had taken the decision to sanction the 2BHK units to poor families who lost their residences and had specifically instructed him to communicate this decision to the victims. Ranganath stated that the government intended complete the process soon. HYDRAA is gathering information

regarding the number of huts located within the tank boundaries and the number of people residing in them. The HYDRAA commissioner stated that this list is being prepared based on Google Maps and satellite imagery to ensure there is no scope for any irregularities. The data of individuals who were residing in the areas prior to July 19, 2024.

9966806010 whole sale & retail 9966228274

AL BUSHRA

PERFUME CENTER

ONLY CENTRE FOR FAMOUS AND PURE SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD

PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI

📍 MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD