



**Gear Up for Extended GHMC Polls in Sept-Oct, Says Ramchander Rao: P8**



**Sooryavanshi's fury takes Rajasthan closer to playoffs: P7**

**Telangana Rising 2047 Targets Inclusive Urban Growth, Says Bhatti: P3**



## Revanth Sets Deadline Push For Dam Projects

Revanth Reddy said the government was also working towards completing the associated projects to provide irrigation facilities to 12.3 lakh acres.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed ministers and officials to expedite the completion of Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irrigation scheme (PRLIS) and all other pending irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district after quickly acquiring land needed for the purpose. Reviewing the progress of irrigation projects at a meeting with ministers and MLAs from the district, the Chief Minister said the state government was committed to completing the PRLIS on priority and supplying drinking water to 1,226 villages in Nagarkurnool, Mahbubnagar, Narayanpet, Vikarabad, Rangareddy and Nalgonda districts in the first phase. He said the government was also working towards completing the associated projects to provide irrigation facilities to 12.3 lakh acres. Revanth Reddy criticised the claims made by BRS



leaders that 90 per cent of the works under the PRLIS had been completed during their ten-year tenure, terming the campaign false and intended to mislead the public. He alleged that the previous BRS government had caused severe damage to the project by shifting the offtake point from Jurala to the Srisailem reservoir. He also accused the previous government of calling tenders for the distributor network without completing land acquisition. The Chief Minister instructed officials to undertake field visits and expedite land acquisition for the PRLIS and other irrigation projects. He assured that the government would release the required

funds for land acquisition and clear pending bills related to the projects. District incharge ministers were directed to hold regular reviews with officials concerned and continuously monitor the progress of irrigation projects in the Palamuru region. Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari, Government Whip Yennam Srinivas Reddy, MLAs Kasireddy Narayana Reddy, Madhusudan Reddy, Megha Reddy, Rakesh Reddy, Vamsi Krishna, Veerpalalli Shankaraya and Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, along with Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, attended the meeting. Later, Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy held a meeting with min-

isters and MLAs of erstwhile Mahbubnagar district where he said the government's objective was to complete the pending projects in Palamuru district on par with the Devadula, SLBC and Seetharama projects and provide abundant irrigation and drinking water facilities. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government was committed to correcting the injustice done to the Palamuru district during the ten-year rule of the BRS government. He announced that another special review meeting would be held within 15 days to reassess measures required for speeding up the works and directed officials to prepare comprehensive reports on the progress of all irrigation projects in the erstwhile district. Referring to the Jurala project, where heavy silt accumulation has reduced the water storage capacity to less than 8 tmc ft, Uttam Kumar Reddy said proposals had been sent under the Dam Rehabilitation.

## Modi Talks Trade With Nordic Pms

Leaders also exchange views on global issues

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

After collective talks with the Prime Ministers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland at the third India-Nordic summit in the Norwegian capital of Oslo on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the elevation of ties to a "green technology and innovation strategic partnership" reflecting a "shared commitment to sustainability, innovation and green growth". Modi said that India and the Nordic nations will continue to work together to strengthen the rules-based global order amidst the era of global tensions and conflict. During the talks, India and the five Nordic nations "discussed opportunities for collaboration in trade and investment, blue economy, circular economy, digital infrastructure, digitalisation and artificial intelligence, climate action and energy security, fighting pollution, water,



research and education, talent mobility, healthcare, space & geospatial sectors and defence," a joint statement issued later read. It also "acknowledged investment opportunities including 100 per cent FDI being offered to Nordic defence firms in Indian defence industrial corridors". At the talks, the Prime Minister declared that there should be "no compromise and no double standards" globally when it comes to fighting terrorism. He had earlier thanked the Nordic nations for their support to India after the Pahalgam terror attack last year. While also calling out the menace of cross-border terrorism, the joint state-

ment "condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, and the terror incident near Red Fort in New Delhi on November 10, 2025." Norway's PM Jonas Gahr Store, Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson, acting Danish PM Mette Frederiksen, Finland's PM Petteri Orpo, and Iceland's PM Kristín Frostadóttir also made brief remarks during which it was declared that Finland will host the fourth edition of the India-Nordic Summit at Helsinki. Ms Frederiksen, meanwhile, hailed India as one of the biggest powers of the world.

### Maharashtra Govt Seeks ECI Clearance For Farm Loan Waiver

The Maharashtra Cooperation Department on Tuesday sought permission from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement the farm loan waiver scheme during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in force for the Legislative Council elections. The department argued that the scheme, announced in the State Budget, would benefit farmers and not members of local bodies, who are the electorate for the Council polls. A senior official said that once the ECI grants approval, the Cooperation Department will place a proposal before the State Cabinet for clearance. The official said the department had written to Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S. Chockalingam seeking approval to implement the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farm Loan Waiver

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

## E-Pharmacies Trigger Nationwide Chemists' Bandh Over AI Prescriptions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Alleging that illegal e-pharmacies are enabling AI-generated fake prescriptions and threatening both public health and small medical shops, chemists' associations have announced a nationwide bandh of medical shops on May 20. The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), Telangana Chemists and Druggists Association (TTCDA)

and Hyderabad District Chemists and Druggists Association (HCDA) said over 12.40 lakh shops and distributors will join the protest. The associations charged that online platforms were misusing relaxations under G.S.R. 817(E), allowing medicines to be sold without proper verification. They warned that fake prescriptions could make antibiotics and habit-forming drugs easily accessible, worsening antimicrobial resistance.

They also accused corporate pharmacy chains of predatory pricing, offering deep discounts despite regulated margins under the Drug Price Control Order, and driving small chemists to losses. The organisations demanded withdrawal of Covid-era notification G.S.R. 220(E) and cancellation of G.S.R. 817(E), calling for a "level playing field" in pricing. "This is not just a business issue but also a matter of public health safety.

## Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked by 90 Paise

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Tuesday increased petrol and diesel prices by about 90 paise per litre. The second hike came less than a week after the petrol and diesel prices were hiked by ₹3 per litre last Friday, citing financial stress on OMCs amid the West Asia crisis. While the Opposition parties hit out at the Centre over the fuel price hike, the BJP defended the move as the "lowest increase amidst the surge across the world". After



Tuesday's hike, petrol price, according to industry sources, rose in Hyderabad by about 99 paise. Petrol in Hyderabad now costs ₹111.77, up from ₹110.89, while diesel stands at ₹99.89 in Telangana. The respective

prices in Delhi are ₹98.64 and ₹91.58. The back-to-back increases come after global crude oil prices surged more than 50 per cent since late February following the US attack on war and disruptions to shipments through the

Straits of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route. If the situation does not improve in the coming days, then sources claim more hikes are imminent, while officials maintain that the approach of gradual hikes in petrol and diesel prices is aimed at avoiding an immediate inflation shock to the economy. While officials maintain that the approach of gradual hikes in petrol and diesel prices is aimed at partially easing pressure on oil companies without triggering a sharp infla-

### SC Allows Euthanasia for Rabid, Incurably Ill Stray Dogs

The Supreme Court for the first time on Tuesday allowed euthanasia for rabid, incurably ill, or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs to curb the threat to human life. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria issued a slew of directions to deal with the rising population of stray dogs in the country. The bench emphatically stated that preventing the euthanasia of stray dogs is the most important direction it is issuing to authorities and officials of civic bodies. It said the civic authorities may resort to euthanasia in areas where the stray dog population has reached alarming proportions and where frequent dog bites or aggressive attacks pose a continuing threat to public safety.

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OPPOSITE TO RBI, SAIFABAD

## Amit Shah Launches Bastar Rehabilitation Centres for Surrendered Naxals

Amit Shah Says Bastar Rehabilitation Centres Will Ensure Social Reintegration, Livelihood and Psychological Transformation of Surrendered Naxals

**RAIPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that Centres have been developed in Bastar in Chhattisgarh to reform and rehabilitate the surrendered Naxals 'socially, economically and psychologically'. Addressing a press conference at Jagdalpur, headquarters of Bastar, Mr. Shah said that these Centres, developed at a cost of Rs 20 crore,

focused on livelihood generation for the surrendered Maoists by skilling them in various trades, and their social reintegration and psychological transformation to ensure that they lead a normal social life with their families. He said that some of the surrendered Naxals had been deprived of education for being drafted into the Maoist cadre forcibly when they were children. They are the victims of



Naxalism, he said. A senior police officer in Bastar said that the Centres have been developed once in each district headquarters in Bastar comprising seven districts of Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur

and Narayanpur. The Union minister said that 70 of 196 security camps established in Bastar to combat Naxalism will be developed into public service Centres, christened as 'Shaheed Gundadhar Seva Dera', where all the government facilities and services will be available under one platform. "This a scientifically designed model to ensure speedy development of Bastar to make up for the loss the region

suffered in terms of development for the last five decades due to Naxalism and to catch up with the rest of India within the next five years", he said. Mr. Shah said that the public service Centres are being developed to ensure provision of basic amenities for the local tribals and 100 percent saturation of various government welfare schemes meant for them which could not reach them due to Maoism.

# BRS Seeks Probe Into MP's Land, Mining Deals

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank on Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into alleged irregular land transfers and black granite mining operations involving Congress MP and government adviser Vem Narendra Reddy and his family members. He accused the MP of misusing the State government's digital land records platform, Bhu Bharati, to illegally acquire assigned lands in Mahbubabad district. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Krishank alleged that several parcels of assigned land meant for SC/ST beneficiaries

in Arpanpally village of Kesamudram mandal were unlawfully transferred and registered in the name of Narendra Reddy's son, Vem Krishna Bhargav Reddy. According to him, these transactions violated legal safeguards that prohibit the sale, transfer or commercial use of assigned lands.

Krishank further alleged that nearly 15 acres of such assigned land were being used for black granite mining activities through Sri Sai Krishna Granites, a company reportedly registered in the name of Narendra Reddy's wife, Vem Vijayalakshmi. He claimed that mining operations were being carried out despite restrictions on



the use of assigned lands for private commercial activities.

Presenting copies of land passbooks, survey numbers, mining department records and election affidavits during the media interaction, Krishank questioned how prohibited lands were converted and registered through the Bhu Bharati system without official intervention. He alleged that revenue and mining

department officials colluded to facilitate ownership changes and grant permissions for mining operations.

The BRS leader also pointed out that these properties allegedly did not appear in election affidavits filed by Narendra Reddy during earlier elections. He claimed the assets surfaced only in recent disclosures after the Congress government came to power in Telangana, raising suspicions about the timing and manner of the registrations.

Demanding immediate government intervention, Krishank called for cancellation of all alleged illegal land transfers and restoration of the proper-

ties to the original SC/ST beneficiaries. He urged the State government to suspend and initiate action against officials responsible for approving the transfers and mining permissions.

Stating that the BRS would continue to pursue the matter through legal channels, Krishank said the party was preparing to approach the Lokayukta and file Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a detailed investigation into the alleged land and mining irregularities. He also said complaints would be submitted to the relevant authorities demanding a comprehensive judicial probe into the entire issue and accountability for all those involved.

# 40-Year-Old Tree Relocated to Ease Traffic at Shyamlal

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As part of ongoing junction improvement and traffic management measures, a 40-year-old Peltophorum tree near Shyamlal under Begumpet Traffic Police Station limits was successfully translocated on May 19, 2026, to improve vehicular movement and commuter safety while preserving the city's green cover.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Sri K. Rahul Reddy, IPS, DCP Traffic-I, and Sri Shakeer Hussain, Additional DCP, in coordination with Inspector G. Janaki Ramulu, RSI Ashok Reddy, and staff of Begumpet Traffic Police Station. Support was extended by the Forest Department, GHMC UBD Department, and local leader Mr. Hosey-Tocher.

Officials observed that the large Peltophorum tree had become an obstruction to smooth traffic flow at the busy junction. After securing necessary permissions from the concerned authorities, a special translocation exercise was planned and executed with scientific methods to ensure the tree's survival.

Before transportation, the tree's branches were carefully trimmed to facilitate safe relocation. The tree was then



shifted and replanted at the Begumpet Graveyard premises.

Traffic police officials said the initiative highlights the department's commitment to balancing urban infrastructure development with environmental conservation. Authorities also confirmed that continuous monitoring and post-translocation care would be undertaken to ensure the healthy growth and survival of the relocated tree. ACP G. Shankar Raju of Traffic Trimulghery Division, Malkajgiri, stated that such initiatives aim to improve road safety and traffic movement without compromising ecological responsibility.

# Collector Directs School Repairs Before Reopening

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Komaram Bheem Asifabad collector K. Haritha on Tuesday directed officials to complete repair works in government schools and ensure availability of drinking water, power supply and functioning toilets before schools reopen on June 12. Reviewing preparedness for reopening of



schools after the summer holidays, the collector instructed officials concerned to ensure distribution of uniforms and textbooks to students on the first day of reopen-

ing. Along with additional collector Yuvaraj Singh Marmat, she also reviewed measures to improve teaching standards and provide quality education through digital classes in government schools. The collector said serious efforts were being made to introduce Artificial Intelligence-based learning methods for students.

# Social Media Aids Child Rights Body

Social media has become a key tool for parents, students and activists to reach the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) in Telangana, enabling officers to respond to issues ranging from child marriages and child labour to poor transport facilities for students and inadequate conditions at Anganwadi centres. Just two days before the Class 10 examinations, commission members received information about a minor girl being prepared for marriage in Nalgonda district. Local officials were alerted immediately, and the child marriage was stopped in time.

Commission member G. Saritha said public response through social media has grown significantly due to active field inspections and quick interventions. "The contact details shared on our social media handles help people approach us directly. The inspection videos we post also build confidence among the public that we will personally visit and address the issues," she said. She explained that commission members have divided districts among themselves for quicker response. Complaints regarding Anganwadi centres, including improper cooking practices in hostels and irregularities in ration distribution.

# Better Services Will Build Trust in Govt Hospitals: Collector

**NALGONDA**  
Wakeup telangana

Yadadri-Bhongir district collector Anuraag Jayanti directed doctors and staff at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to remain available to patients and ensure quality treatment, stating that better services alone would build public trust in government hospitals.

Inspecting the PHC at Tangedapalli in Choutuppal Municipality, he inquired about medical services being provided and the availability of ultrasound scan facilities for pregnant women.

He directed medical officials to make special arrangements for regular medical tests, including blood pressure and blood sugar checks for



pregnant women. He also instructed them to identify high-risk pregnancies and ensure timely supply of medicines. Stating that the number of outpatients visiting the PHC was not satisfactory, the collector said improvement in medical services and availability of doctors would encourage people to visit government hospitals.

He asked doctors and hospital staff to work with dedication. He also inquired about the number of deliveries being conducted every month at government hospitals. Stressing the need to encourage normal deliveries, he urged staff to provide services in a manner that instils confidence in government health-care facilities.

Later, the district collector inspected the IKP paddy procurement centre at Tangedapalli. He underlined the need to carry out paddy procurement without causing inconvenience to farmers and directed officials to speed up procurement operations. District medical and health officer Dr M. Manohar and officials of Choutuppal mandal were also present.

# Hopes Rise Ahead of CM's Asifabad Visit

**ASIFABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

People of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district are pinning high hopes on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed visit to the district on June 2. Residents recalled that the Chief Minister had earlier promised to sanction a Polytechnic college or a Government Degree college for the district. Though a DIET College building has already been constructed, the state government is yet to commence admissions. Several Intermediate students, particularly girls aspiring to pursue D.Ed courses, are eagerly wait-

ing for admissions to begin at the local DIET College. Adivasi leaders also urged the Chief Minister to sanction another Tribal Ashram School for girls at the district headquarters. They pointed out that the existing primary Tribal Ashram School for girls had been converted into a sports school, causing difficulties for tribal girl students in continuing their education locally. Meanwhile, district officials and elected representatives on Tuesday inspected three locations to finalise the venue for the Chief Minister's proposed public meeting in the district. MLC Dande Vittal, district collector K.

Haritha, SP Nitika Pant and DCC president Atram Suguna visited Kagaznagar X Road, Vanjiri and Dada Nagar to inspect possible venues for the programme. The Chief Minister is expected to launch the second phase of the Indramma housing scheme during the visit. Ministers for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao and Labour Giddam Vivek, along with government adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy and Mancherla MLA K. Preamsagar Rao, are scheduled to visit Komaram Bheem Asifabad district headquarters on May 20.

# Kaidamma Kunta, Eerla Lakes to Be Beautified Under CSR Initiative

**RANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana  
Srirangam Venkatesh

PAC Chairman Arekapudi Gandhi inspected the restoration and beautification works of Kaidamma Kunta and Eerla lakes in Hafeezpet Division along with Irrigation and CMC officials.

The works are being taken up through CSR funds of Nexus Select Malls under the supervision of Malligavad Foundation. Gandhi said the



lake restoration works would improve the environment and transform the area into an attractive eco-friendly zone.

He stated that walking tracks, fencing, strengthening of lake bunds, UGD

pipelines to stop sewage flow, and beautification works would be taken up and completed before the monsoon.

He appreciated the CSR initiative taken by Nexus Select Malls and said the project would become a model for sustainable lake conservation. He also urged local residents to support and protect the lakes. Officials, CSR representatives, local leaders, and colony residents participated in the programme.

# Steps Sought to Resolve Drinking Water Problems in Mallapur



Greater Congress senior leader Nemali Anil Kumar met Water Board General Manager Santosh Kumar and submitted a representation seeking immediate measures to resolve drinking water problems in several colonies of Mallapur division.

The meeting was held as per the directions of Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. DGM Venugopal and Mallapur AE Rohith also participated in the discussion. Speaking on the occasion, Nemali Anil Kumar said residents of several colonies in Mallapur division were facing severe drinking water shortages, particularly during the summer season due to irregular supply.

He urged the water board authorities to improve drinking water supply across the division and take special measures in areas facing acute shortages. Responding to the request, officials assured that the issues would be examined and necessary action would be taken at the earliest.

# 100 Bonded Labourers Rescued From Brick Kilns In Armoor

**ADILABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Armoor divisional police on Tuesday raided five brick kilns in the Armoor mandal in Nizamabad district and rescued nearly 100 'bonded labourers', including children and women belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. Efforts are being made to send the bonded labourers and their families back home. The police would file criminal cases against the owners of the brick kilns for ex-



ploiting the labourers, and the raids continued till night.

It is learnt that the owners of the brick kilns kept the labourers and their family members in

restricted conditions, forcing them to work without minimum wages and extra hours and providing basic amenities. On the tip-off from the relatives of the bonded labourers, the po-

lice formed special teams and conducted raids on the five brick kilns at Degam village in Armoor mandal. According to official sources, the police, along with other concerned departments, raided BTR brick kiln and four other brick kilns in different places in the same mandal. Nizamabad district magistrate Bharatha Laxmi participated in the raids on Brick kilns and said she will take action against the owners of brick kilns who were exploiting the labourers.

## Power Licence Amended to Include Sircilla CESS

The Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) on Tuesday allowed the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd (TGNPDCL) to amend its distribution and retail supply licence to include the Cooperative Electric Supply Society Ltd (CESS), Sircilla. The bench comprising chairman Dr Justice Devaraju Nagarjun, member (Technical) Raghu Kancharla and member (Finance) Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao admitted TGNPDCL's petition and granted retrospective effect from April 1, validating the company's provisional take-over order on March 31. TGERC said it had considered 1,211 stakeholder responses, including supporters citing improved technical management and critics seeking continuation of CESS's exemption, forensic audits and protection of cooperative rights. The commission held that CESS's exemption expired on March 31 and that licence amendment was necessary to prevent a supply vacuum.

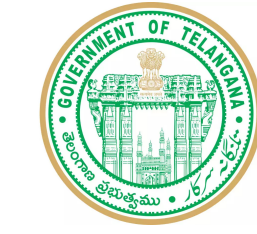
# Telangana Clears Civic Dues, Pays ₹1,686 Crore Under OTS

State Govt Settles ₹5,864.92cr Dues of GHMC, CMC, MMC, HMWSSB, to Pay ₹1,686.39cr Under OTS

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The state government on Tuesday announced a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for state departments to clear long-pending property tax arrears and water cess dues amounting to ₹5,864.92 crore in the newly formed Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations and the HMWS&SB jurisdiction. The government has decided to settle dues amounting to ₹1,686.39 crore towards property tax arrears within one year under the OTS scheme by providing 100 per cent waiver of accumulated interest and penalties.

According to GO Rt. No. 550 issued by the metropolitan area and urban de-



velopment department special chief secretary Jayesh Ranjan on Tuesday, the total property tax dues of government properties across GHMC, CMC and MMC stood at ₹5,864.92 crore, including arrears, interest and current tax liabilities. Of this, GHMC alone accounted for ₹5,612.04 crore, while dues to the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) dues stood at ₹52.75 crore and to the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) at ₹200.13 crore. Under the OTS scheme, the government will pay only the

principal tax arrears, while all accumulated interest and penalties will be waived automatically upon payment.

The government said the move was aimed at improving the financial health of urban local bodies in the core urban region, enhancing revenue realisation and reducing litigation and disputes related to pending tax dues. The scheme is expected to streamline reconciliation through the CURE platform and strengthen the cash flow position of the three municipal corporations.

The order also addressed huge pending water cess dues payable to HMWS&SB by 36 state government departments. The dues, including interest, amounted to

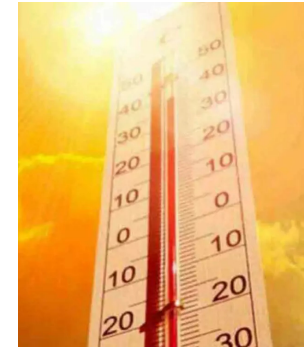
₹2,739.15 crore, while adjustments of ₹2,416.31 crore were due towards subsidies and services provided by the board, including to double-bedroom housing schemes. The government approved adjustment of these dues against loans of ₹12,707.67 crore extended by the government to the HMWS&SB. The government stated that HMWS&SB was undertaking massive investments in water supply augmentation, sewage treatment plants and infrastructure expansion across the Hyderabad metropolitan region to meet rising urban demand, and settlement of pending dues would help improve its financial sustainability.

## 10 Telangana Districts Cross 45°C as Heatwave Tightens Grip

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In line with the caution for extreme heat, the mercury nudged the 46° Celsius-mark Korutla in Jagtial district. The town was the hottest in the state at 45.9°C, as severe heatwave conditions swept across northern and central Telangana. At least nine other districts recorded temperatures above 45°C. In the city, Chandanagar recorded the highest temperature at 42.6°C, followed by Quthbullapur 42.8°C and LB Nagar, Santoshnagar, Rajendranagar and Malkajgiri at around 42.4°C.

According to Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPSS) data, Nalgonda, Nirmal and Siddipet also touched 45.8°C, while Mancheril and Peddapalli recorded 45.7°C. Adilabad registered 45.6°C along with Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Rajanna Sircilla and Kumuram



Bheem districts. The India Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD-H) in its advisory said heatwave conditions could become dangerous, especially for children, elderly persons, outdoor workers and people with chronic illnesses. The department advised people to avoid direct heat exposure during afternoon hours, drink water regularly even when not thirsty, and wear loose, light-coloured cotton clothes.

The IMD also warned against strenuous outdoor activity between noon and 3 pm and advised people not to leave children or

pets inside parked vehicles. It suggested using oral rehydration solutions, buttermilk, lemon water and other fluids to prevent dehydration. Doctors have repeatedly warned that prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion, dehydration and heatstroke. Symptoms such as dizziness, headache, nausea, confusion and high body temperature should not be ignored.

The IMD said people experiencing symptoms of sunstroke should immediately be moved to a cooler place, given fluids and taken to the nearest health centre if symptoms persist.

The department also issued advisories for farmers and livestock owners, asking them to increase irrigation frequency, avoid grazing cattle during peak afternoon hours and ensure animals have shade and adequate drinking water.

## Telangana Rising 2047 Targets Inclusive Urban Growth: Bhatti

Telangana Rising 2047: State Aiming for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Future, Says Bhatti Vikramarka

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government was working towards building a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally responsible future in line with Telangana Rising – 2047 vision. He was speaking at two-day national review meeting on 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0', inaugurated by Union urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting was organised to strengthen urban sanitation, cleanliness and solid waste management systems. Bhatti explained the scientific waste management systems, sustainable urban development initiatives, sanitation programmes and circular economy measures being implemented in Telangana.

Bhatti said the state government was introducing



9,596 electric Swachh Auto Tippers in core urban regions. These electric vehicles will help reduce carbon emissions from municipal operations and promote cleaner transportation systems. He said the vehicles are being designed with separate compartments to facilitate four-way source segregation and QR-code based monitoring for efficient door-to-door waste collection.

In the case of the Jawaharnagar dump yard in Hyderabad, technical assistance and advisory support was being obtained from IIT Bombay.

The objective, he said, is not merely cosmetic intervention, but the creation of a long-term environmental management and continuous monitoring system. He also informed that around 22 lakh metric tonnes of waste spread over nearly 40 acres at the Autonagar dump site are being processed through bio-mining, with nearly 30 percent of the waste already processed. The reclaimed land, he said, would not be reused for dumping, but developed into parks, sports facilities and public infrastructure in the future.

## Hyderabad Office Leasing Sees Record Growth; Madhapur Leads with 91% Share

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Srirangam Venkatesh

Hyderabad's office leasing market recorded its highest-ever first-quarter performance in Q1 2026, with gross leasing volume reaching 3.15 million square feet, registering a 21.6% year-on-year growth, according to a report by Cushman & Wakefield. The report stated that Hyderabad contributed nearly 14% of India's total office leasing activity of around 22 million square feet during the quarter.

Madhapur emerged as the dominant commercial hub, accounting for 91% of the city's total office leasing activity, highlight-



ing the continued demand for office spaces in the IT corridor.

Large office deals of over 1 lakh square feet contributed 81% of total leasing activity, while mid-sized transactions accounted for 17%. Despite no new office space completions during the quarter, Hyderabad recorded strong net absorption of 2.21 million square feet, continuing the momentum from 2025. The citywide office va-

cancy rate dropped to 20.22%, while Madhapur recorded a much lower vacancy rate of 7.5%. Grade A+ office spaces in Madhapur saw vacancy levels fall further to just 4.8%.

Average office rents in Hyderabad increased by 11.6% year-on-year to Rs.92.2 per square foot, with Madhapur commanding the highest average rent at Rs.105.5 due to strong demand and limited availability. The IT-BPM sector remained the largest contributor to office leasing with 36% share, followed by flexible workspaces at 30% and BFSI sector at 23%, driven by expansion plans of global financial institutions.

## SIT Steps in After Fake News Targets Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar; One Held

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A special investigation team (SIT) led by joint commissioner N. Swetha is probing fake news being circulated on social media about Union minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's alleged offer to induce the judiciary to granting bail



Special Investigation Team

to his son Sai Bageerath in the Pocos Act case. A social media user identified as Damodar, who allegedly posted and circulated the fake news

has reportedly been detained. The SIT took up the case based on a complaint filed by the High Court Registrar with the Charminar police on May 17. Sources said that after investigation, the SIT would be registering a case against others for circulating fake news in relation to the case.

## Steps to Be Taken to Resolve Drinking Water Problem in Padmashali Township



**MEDCHAL**  
Wakeup telangana  
Narra Srinivas Reddy

Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy said necessary steps would be taken to resolve the drinking water problem in Padmashali Township under the AS Rao Nagar division limits. Along with representatives of the Padmashali Township Residential Welfare Association, he met HMWSSB Executive Director Pankaja and submitted a representation regarding the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said nearly 2,400 families living in the 132-acre township were facing severe hardship due to contamination of groundwater caused by the nearby dumping yard. He stated that polluted water was leading to health problems among

children and elderly residents. He urged officials to immediately provide safe drinking water facilities and, if necessary, construct a new reservoir and lay fresh pipelines on a war footing to address the crisis.

Parameshwar Reddy said protecting public health was the top priority and assured that he would bring the issue to the notice of Revanth Reddy and seek special funds for a permanent solution. HMWSSB Executive Director Pankaja reportedly responded positively and assured that steps would be taken at the earliest to resolve the issue. Colony representatives thanked Parameshwar Reddy for taking up the matter with the authorities. Congress leaders, colony representatives and members of the welfare association participated in the meeting.

## 30 Years of Togetherness Celebrated in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Dp srinivas rao

Prominent social leader and Greater Hyderabad President of Mala Mahanadu, L. Girija Shankar, along with his wife L.G. Sarala, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in Hyderabad amid a grand gathering of community leaders, well-wishers, family members, and dignitaries. The silver-and-pearl anniversary celebration turned into a major community event as leaders from various social organizations and members of the SC/ST community came together to felicitate the couple for their longstanding contribution to society and family values.



Speakers at the event praised Girija Shankar for his dedicated leadership in community service, social justice advocacy, and grassroots welfare initiatives. As the Greater Hyderabad President of Mala Mahanadu and a respected leader of the Ghasmandi SC/ST community, he has played a significant role in raising issues related to constitutional rights, socio-economic empower-

ment, and social equality.

Alongside his public life, attendees highlighted the unwavering support of his wife, Sarala, describing her as the strength behind his decades-long journey in public service. Guests appreciated the couple for maintaining strong family values while raising their three daughters, all of whom are now well settled.

Senior leaders and representatives of Mala Mahanadu attended the programme in large numbers and honored the couple with traditional shawls, floral tributes, and heartfelt wishes. The event reflected the deep respect Girija Shankar commands among community members for both his social commitment and philanthropic efforts.

## CBIT Hosts National Technology Day Celebrations

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) organized National Technology Day celebrations with active participation from students and faculty members, focusing on emerging technologies, innovation, and technical awareness.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Umakanth Chowdary and featured a technical session by Dr. G. N. R. Prasad, who highlighted the growing importance of technology in national development and modern society. He explained how emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, and Digital Transfor-



mation are reshaping education, healthcare, industries, and everyday life.

Addressing the students, Dr. Prasad encouraged them to strengthen their technical knowledge and prepare themselves for future technological challenges through innovation, research, and skill development.

As part of the celebrations, a Technology Quiz Program was organized to test students' knowledge in science, engineering, artificial intelligence, innovation, and current

technological trends. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation and promoted analytical thinking, teamwork, and technical awareness among students.

Several interactive discussions and awareness sessions were also conducted to educate participants about the latest advancements in science and technology.

The program aimed to inspire students to develop innovative thinking, research aptitude, and technical skills essential for the evolving technological era. The event was coordinated successfully by convenors Dr. G. N. R. Prasad and Mr. P. Rambabu. CBIT management and faculty members appreciated the organizers and participants for making the celebrations informative and successful.

## Court Rejects Umar Khalid's Bail Plea to Care for Ailing Mother

A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of jailed activist Umar Khalid, accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing Khalid's application seeking 15 days of interim bail to attend the 40-day post-death ritual (Chehlum) of his uncle and take care of his mother who has to undergo a surgery. Khalid and others were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), an anti-terror law, and provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the 2020 riots that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured in northeast Delhi. The violence had erupted during widespread protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

## Operation Sindoor Reflected Smart Power In Its Most Complete Expression, Says Indian Army Chief

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Under Operation Sindoor, Indian forces dismantled terror infrastructure, punctured a long-standing strategic assumption, and then stopped "deliberately and purposefully", and it reflected "smart power" in its most complete expression, Army Chief Gen Uppendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday. In his address at a seminar hosted at the Manekshaw Centre here, he also said that twelve months ago, India offered the world a "partial answer" to the so-called smart power question. "On the intervening night of May 6-7 in 2025, Bharat acted. In a precisely defined 22-minute operation window, Operation Sindoor delivered military precision, information control, diplomatic signalling and economic resolve, as one coherent national act. We struck



deep, dismantled terror infrastructure, punctured a long standing strategic assumption, and then stopped, deliberately and purposefully," the Army chief said. "The deliberate thought after 88 hours, was smart power in its most complete expression, knowing exactly which instrument to apply, at what intensity, and precisely when to convert a military moment into a strategic one," he asserted. The seminar, titled, 'Security to Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth', hosted by defence think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), was attended by senior military officials, various retired Army officers and representatives from several countries. Gen Dwivedi said today, the "world around us is sending a more complex signal -- disorder, distrust, and dichotomy in alliances". "We were promised a world where prosperity would make power politics obsolete... instead, we have a world where power politics is being used to reorganise prosperity," he argued. In his address, he asked the audience if smart power is the "defining currency" of sustained national growth, or has the "raw calculus of hard power", once again reclaimed the centre stage of the global order. But to answer it, one must first read the world as it is, not as one wishes it to be, the general officer cautioned. "The 21st century opened with a confident thesis that forces of trade, supply chains, ad-

ditional connectivity, would make nations too interdependent to conflict. Paradoxically same forces that promised binding nations together, have progressively become instruments of coercion," the Army chief said. "Semiconductors and their selective availability have become tools for hedging. The Strait of Hormuz has become a zone of active contestation. Global defence spending has crossed USD 2.7 trillion, exceeding the entire UN budget for Sustainable Development Goals," he added. The boundary between security and prosperity, is "no longer a boundary" at all. Contemporary conflicts now impose sustained demands, not only on armed forces, but also on industrial production, research systems, and governance structures, the general officer underlined. Gen Dwivedi in his address emphasised

## Fadnavis Govt Signs Rs 6.5 Lakh Crore MoUs for 25,400 MW Nuclear Energy

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

In a bid to enhance Maharashtra's energy infrastructure, the Maharashtra Government on Tuesday signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) totaling ₹6.5 lakh crore with four major firms to develop 25,400 MW of nuclear energy along the Konkan coastline. This initiative makes Maharashtra the first state to directly partner with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) in atomic power generation. The government signed the agreements with prominent firms like NTPC Limited, Adani Power Limited, Reliance Industries Limited and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited at a meeting held at Mantralaya. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said



that the investments would support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India an energy-rich nation and achieving zero carbon emissions. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a goal of making India an energy-rich nation and achieving zero carbon emissions. Maharashtra is making every possible effort to fulfil this objective. Investments coming into the state's clean energy sector will certainly strengthen the country's journey towards becoming an energy-rich nation," Fadnavis said. According to the CM, nuclear energy was a key component of clean energy generation and Maharashtra had significant opportunities in the sector. "This investment will not only boost power generation in the state but also create substantial employment opportunities. Maharashtra will continue to remain at the forefront of clean energy generation in the country," the CM added. State officials said Adani Power Limited, along with its subsidiary Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy Limited, signed an MoU to set up a 6,000 MW nuclear power plant at Barsu in Ratnagiri district. The estimated investment for this project is Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, and it is expected to provide around 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

## Turn Global Crises and AI Into Growth Opportunities, Piyush Goyal

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Amid rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and global economic uncertainties, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday urged Indian businesses not to panic, but instead view the crisis as an opportunity to strengthen growth, improve resilience, and adopt global best practices. Addressing an event, Goyal said India should use the current global instability to accelerate reforms, reinforce supply chains, and improve business efficiency. He stressed that crises often create opportunities for nations prepared to adapt quickly and strategically. "In such a situation, we do not need to panic. The West Asia crisis and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence bring opportunities for Indian industry to seize," Goyal said. He urged industries to improve operational efficiency, reduce waste, and adopt proven manufacturing models such as Japanese production systems. The minister



recalled how India successfully navigated challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting that digital engagement and remote working models had proven highly effective during difficult times. He said the lessons learned during the pandemic should now help businesses adapt to evolving global conditions. Goyal asserted that India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has consistently converted crises into opportunities. He said the present global uncertainty should encourage Indian industries to engage more deeply with reforms and innovation. "India and Prime Minister Narendra

Modi have never let a crisis go by. The situation in the world is truly an opportunity — a moment of uncertainty that we should engage more deeply with," he said. The minister also called for stronger collaboration between industry and the government to improve ease of doing business. He expressed concern that the National Single Window System had not received adequate participation and feedback from the private sector. Goyal urged businesses to actively identify pain points and work jointly with the government to simplify approval processes and improve governance systems. Highlighting India's ex-

port performance despite global challenges such as tariffs, the Ukraine conflict, and the West Asia crisis, Goyal said the country achieved an all-time high export figure of 863 billion dollars in the last financial year. He noted that both merchandise and services exports registered growth despite difficult international conditions. He further stated that India's recently concluded free trade agreements were opening new opportunities for trade and investment. However, he stressed that these agreements should be used to boost domestic manufacturing, attract investments, and increase exports rather than merely expanding imports. Referring to suggestions from industry representatives, Goyal said the government is also exploring the possibility of creating a single authority in industrial parks to function as a one-stop centre for all central and state approvals, aimed at further improving business convenience and investment facilitation.

## Maharashtra Govt Seeks ECI Clearance For Farm Loan Waiver

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra Cooperation Department on Tuesday sought permission from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement the farm loan waiver scheme during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in force for the Legislative Council elections. The department argued that the scheme, announced in the State Budget, would benefit farmers and not members of local bodies, who are the electorate for the Council polls.

A senior official said that once the ECI grants approval, the Cooperation Department will place a proposal before the State Cabinet for clearance. The official said the department had written to Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer S. Chockalingam seeking approval to implement the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme. "We have stated in the letter that the scheme was announced by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the Budget Session in March 2026. No new benefits are being ex-

tended under the scheme. Moreover, the voters participating in the Legislative Council elections are not the beneficiaries. Therefore, there is no need to wait for the MCC to end before implementing the scheme," the official said. Another senior official from the State election machinery said the proposal would be referred to the ECI for consideration. During the Budget Session, Mr. Fadnavis, who also holds the Finance portfolio, had announced the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme

under which crop loans of up to ₹2 lakh per eligible farmer would be waived. According to sources, 51.24 lakh farmers have collectively availed loans exceeding Rs 72,000 crore. Of these, 43.63 lakh are unique borrowers. The loans were taken from 53 financial institutions, including District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and nationalised banks. Around 18 lakh farmers have taken loans worth Rs 20,122 crore from DCCBs. "Nearly 20 lakh farmers have outstanding loans of less than Rs two lakh," a source

## ECI Announces Polls to 16 Maharashtra Council Seats

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced bye-election to one seat and biennial elections to 16 seats of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) from Local Authorities' Constituencies. The polling is scheduled for June 18 and the counting of the votes will be held on June 22. These elections are

critical for these local authorities' constituencies, which could not be conducted earlier due to the non-fulfilment of mandatory criteria related to the functioning of local bodies and the availability of electors. "Now, the CEO of Maharashtra has informed that these criteria have been fulfilled in respect of all the said constituencies. Therefore, the commission has decided to con-

duct the biennial election to the Maharashtra legislative council from the above-mentioned 16 Local Authorities' Constituencies," the ECI notification said. The BJP-led Mahayuti is anticipated to perform well given their prior majority in local bodies' elections. In the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the BJP-led Mahayuti has 234 members, whereas the opposition Maha Vikas Ag-

hadi (MVA) has only 49 members. The 16 local authorities constituencies going to the polls include Solapur, Ahmednagar, Thane, Jalgaon, Sangli-cum-Satara, Nanded, Yavatmal, Pune, Bhandara-Gondia, Raigad-Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Nashik, Wardha-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli, Amravati, Osmanabad-Latur-Beed, Parbhani-Hingoli, and Aurangabad-Jalna.

### FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Modi Talks Trade.....

In his media remarks, Modi said India would benefit from Iceland's expertise in geothermal and fisheries and Norway's experience in the blue economy and Arctic research. Likewise, Swedish expertise in defence and advanced manufacturing, Finland's expertise in telecom and digital technology and Danish experience in cybersecurity and health technology will team up with Indian talent for a new future and a unique strategic partnership. The Prime Minister pointed to the benefits of India inking (in 2024) the trade and economic partnership agreement (TEPA) with the four member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) that

include Norway and Iceland, which came into effect in October last year, as well as the India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement (FTA) inked in January this year with the 27-nation EU that includes Denmark, Finland and Sweden. He said that in the past decade, bilateral trade had increased four times while investment from the Nordic nations in India had increased by 200 per cent. The six leaders emphasised that the India-EU FTA and India-EFTA TEPA "could support economic security and resilience through diversifying critical value chains and opening new markets". New Delhi said that at the summit, the Prime Minister "called for greater Nordic investments in areas such as the green transition, blue economy, shipbuilding, green

shipping, renewable energy, water and defence" and also "invited Nordic countries to explore opportunities to set up a presence in Gift City, Gujarat". The Nordic countries "appreciated India's ambitious renewable energy targets and conveyed support for flagship initiatives such as Mission LiFE and the leadership group for industry transition", New Delhi added.

#### Petrol, Diesel Prices...

While officials maintain that the approach of gradual hikes in petrol and diesel prices is aimed at partially easing pressure on oil companies without triggering a sharp inflation shock. "The oil companies need to reduce losses due to the Iran war as much as they can... Even after these hikes, we don't

see any reduction in fuel demand in the country," the sources said. The Opposition parties accused the Centre of delaying price revisions until after key state elections. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the fuel price hike and accused the BJP of lacking foresight and leadership and robbing common people. "Just four days after the price hike, the Modi government has once again increased the prices of petrol and diesel. Having set the stage, preaching about savings while shifting the burden of their failures onto the public — this effort is in full swing," Mr Kharge alleged on X. The BJP defended the 90-paise hike in petrol and diesel prices, saying the increase is among the

lowest anywhere in the world outside heavily subsidised Gulf economies. In a post on X, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said consumers across the world have borne the impact of the crisis through steep increases in fuel prices. **SC Allows Euthan.....** The action, as well as other legal measures, may be taken after an assessment by veterinary experts and in strict accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, the Animal Birth Control Rules 2023 and other applicable statutory protocols, the bench said. The top court passed the order in a suo motu case, initiated on July 28 last year, over a media report on

stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital. On Tuesday, it dismissed pleas seeking a recall of its earlier order on the relocation and sterilisation of stray canines, as it observed that the right to live with dignity encompasses the right to move freely without the threat of harm from dog bite attacks. It directed the states and Union Territories to ensure the implementation of its earlier direction not to return dogs picked up from public places to the same spot after vaccination/sterilisation. It also directed the states and UTs to take steps to enhance the Animal Birth Control framework. "Ensure establishment of at least one fully functional ABC centre in each district duly equipped with requisite.

## CRIME

### Activists Highlight Procedural Lapses And Threat To Wildlife After SC Halts KBR Park Flyover Works

The dispute was more than tree cutting and about what they described as the weakening of the buffer zone around the national park: Reports

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Citizens and environmental activists campaigning against tree-felling at the KBR National Park for flyover and underpass works on Tuesday said the Supreme Court's interim stay had validated years of objections over the reduction of the park's eco-sensitive zone. "This is almost a decade-long battle to save the KBR Park," said petitioner and environmental activist Kaajal Maheshwari, speaking at a press conference at the Press Club. Members of the Save KBR campaign said the dispute was more than tree cutting and about what they described as the

weakening of the buffer zone around the national park. Maheshwari focused on explaining what the eco-sensitive zone, or ESZ, around the KBR Park meant, and described it as a legally protected buffer to shield the national park from traffic, noise and other urban disturbance. She said such buffer zones were recognised internationally under names such as ecology corridors and conservation zones. Referring to Supreme Court observations on eco-sensitive zones, she argued that fragile ecosystems required larger protective buffers and said reducing KBR's ESZ to as little as three meters defeated the purpose of the safeguard.

According to the petitioners, officials and environmental authorities had earlier agreed that the protected buffer around most parts of KBR Park should remain between 25 and 35 metres wide from the park boundary outward into the surrounding roads and the urban area. Activists say this was later reduced in some stretches to as little as three meters, while a few portions still remained wider at around 29.8 meters. The dispute before the courts now concerns whether this reduction was legally valid. Activists argued that while the GHMC has maintained that the flyover works are outside the park itself, but the pe-

tioners' case is that the eco-sensitive zone functions as part of the same ecological system and cannot be treated as empty roadside land. "When all of you make a house, don't you have a setback from your neighbors? KBR Park deserves the same setback," she said. "This setback is supposed to act as a buffer zone, a shock absorber." Petitioners argued that the notification reducing the ESZ was finalised without a mandatory public hearing. "This case was filed because there was a procedural lapse and a mandated public hearing did not happen," Maheshwari said.

### Cybercrime Police Arrest Matrimonial Fraudster for Cheating Women Through Fake Profiles

**RANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana  
Srirangam Venkatesh



Cyber Crime Police, Cyberabad, arrested a habitual matrimonial fraud offender for allegedly cheating women through fake profiles created on matrimonial applications. The accused was identified as Manda Venkata Kameshu, a resident of Undrajawaram in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. According to police, he created fake profiles on platforms such as Telugu Matrimony, Reddy

Matrimony, Brahmin Matrimony, and Kamma Matrimony by portraying himself as a wealthy and well-settled person. Police said the accused targeted women seeking marriage alliances and gained their trust through WhatsApp calls, Instagram chats, and emotional conversations. He later allegedly convinced victims

to share OTPs, bank details, credit card information, and transfer money on false promises. During investigation, police found that the cheated money was allegedly used for online betting and casinos in Goa. Officials stated that the accused is involved in nearly 20 criminal cases related to cheating and matrimonial fraud across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The accused was apprehended by Cyber Crime Police and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation is in progress.

### RIMS Male Nursing Officer Held For Misbehaving With Medico

Adilabad Two-Town police arrested a male nursing officer of RIMS, Adilabad, for allegedly misbehaving with a post-graduate medico in an operation theatre, police said. RIMS director Jai Singh Rathod said the incident took place late on May 3 and came to light after the medico lodged a police complaint on May 14. The medico had earlier complained to the director, who formed a fact-finding committee. The committee conducted an inquiry and submitted a report. The director submitted the report to collector Rajarshi Shah, who asked the women and

### 14-Year-Old Dies 3 Days After Being Hit By Cricket Ball

A 14-year-old boy died in Girinbavi village of Dugondi mandal in Warangal district after being hit on the head by a cricket ball, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred three days ago while the boy was playing cricket with friends. He collapsed after being struck by a hard ball and was shifted to a nearby hospital. He died on Sunday while undergoing treatment. Police said no complaint had been received from the family and enquiries are under way.

### Elderly Man Reported Missing from Balaji Nagar

**MEDCHAL**  
Wakeup telangana  
Narra Srinivas Reddy



A missing case has been registered after Aman Kumar lodged a complaint stating that his father, Maheshwar Das, aged 72, went missing from Balaji Nagar under Kapra mandal limits. According to the complaint, Maheshwar Das, son of late Ramdhari Das and a resident of Lakshmi Nagar Colony near English Convent School, Balaji Nagar, left home at around 4

pm on May 17 stating that he was going to a nearby shop but did not return. Family members informed police that the elderly man had been suffering from mental health-related issues for the past few days and usually stayed at home,

though he occasionally went outside and returned later. The missing person is approximately 5.3 feet tall, wheatish in complexion, speaks Hindi and has a tattoo mark on his left hand. Despite searching nearby areas, relatives' houses and known locations, the family could not trace his whereabouts. Based on the complaint, police registered a case and initiated efforts to locate the missing person.

### Jail Term for Accused in Cheque Bounce Case Court Orders Payment of ₹6 Lakh Compensation

**MEDCHAL**  
Wakeup telangana  
Narra Srinivas Reddy



The Fourth Additional District Judge D. Kiran Kumar sentenced accused Donkani Nagesh Goud to six months imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and directed him to pay ₹6 lakh as compensation. According to case details, Donkani Nagesh Goud, a resident of Aushapur village in Ghatkesar mandal, had borrowed ₹3 lakh from Gunnala Arun

Kumar of Moula Ali in 2014 and issued a cheque towards repayment. However, the cheque was dishonoured by the bank. Despite repeated requests from the complainant for repayment, the accused

allegedly delayed the matter, forcing the victim to approach the court. On March 7, 2022, the 19th Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Pooja Kandukuri convicted the accused in the case. Challenging the verdict, the accused later filed an appeal before the district court. After hearing the matter, Fourth Additional District Judge D. Kiran Kumar dismissed the appeal and upheld the trial court's judgment. The court directed the accused to un-

dergo six months simple imprisonment and pay double the cheque amount, totalling ₹6 lakh, to the complainant. The court also ordered payment of 9 percent annual interest on the original ₹3 lakh amount from 2014 onwards. The judge instructed the accused to surrender before the trial court on or before June 19, failing which the court was directed to issue a non-bailable warrant and send him to jail.

## EDITORIAL

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

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

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

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

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

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

**DREAM OF THE RAREBIT FIEND**  
BY SILAS

Panel 1: A doctor examines a patient. "YES! HIS CHANCES FOR LIFE. I DON'T THINK HE'LL PULL THROUGH I THINK HE'S DONE FOR. IT'S TOO BAD." "WELL! I'VE REMOVED THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX BUT I THINK I'VE REMOVED HIS -"

Panel 2: The patient is in a state of shock. "YES, HIS PULSE IS AT A STANDSTILL. HE IS A GONER DOC." "WE MIGHT AS WELL NOTIFY HIS WIDOW. FROM WHAT I HEAR SHE WON'T BE SORRY. SHE WAS A HIGH LIVER."

Panel 3: The patient is surrounded by people. "OH! WHY DID YOU DIE WITHOUT LEAVING ME EVEN FIVE CENTS? I'M GLAD YOU'VE GONE. YOU LED ME AN AWFUL LIFE IT WAS COMING TO YOU." "IT'S TOO BAD THAT HE SHOULD GO WITHOUT SOME LITTLE PREPARATION. YES!"

Panel 4: The patient is in a dark, surreal environment. "THE BOOZE THAT HE HAS PUT AWAY WOULD FLOAT A SHIP." "HE'S HEAVY ISN'T HE?" "OH! I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET HIM. HE WAS NO GOOD. HE WAS A BRUTE. MARY! I LOVE YOU." "HE LOOKS NATURAL BUT WHO WOULDN'T WHO THE ALCOHOL THATS IN HIM." "I ALWAYS DID THINK MORE OF YOU COME TO THINK OF IT." "HE LIVED TOO HIGH."

Panel 5: The patient is in a dark, surreal environment. "DEATH IN THIS CASE IS A BLESSING NOT ONLY TO HIS WIFE BUT TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY HE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD." "HE OWED ME NOTHING BUT MONEY."

Panel 6: The patient is in a dark, surreal environment. "WELL! AT LAST MY HOPES ARE REALIZED. HE'S WHERE HE BELONGS. HE'LL MAKE GOOD FUEL." "IF I WERE YOU MADAME I SHOULD BUILD A PYRAMID OF STONE ON THIS GRAVE BIGGER THAN CHEOPS OF EGYPT OR HE'LL COME BACK."

Panel 7: The patient is in a dark, surreal environment. "FOR THE LAND O' LIVIN' WHAT AILS YOU NOW? ARE YOU DAFFY?" "OH! OH! MARY! I'LL BE GOOD! I'LL BE GOOD! OH! SHUCKS! IT'S A DREAM. GOOD! I ATE A CHEESE PIE LAST NIGHT. OH! OH! WHAT A DREAM! OH!"

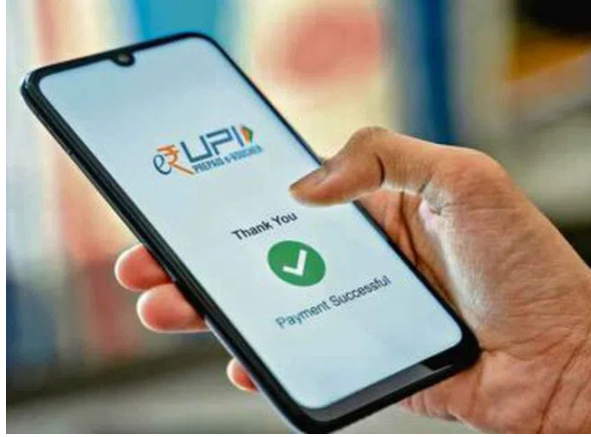
SILAS

## UPI accounts for 85.5% of India's digital payment volume in H2 2025, says RBI

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

India's digital payments ecosystem continued its rapid expansion in the second half of 2025, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) accounting for 85.5 per cent of all transaction volumes, according to the latest half-yearly Payment Systems Report released by the Reserve Bank of India.

The report highlighted UPI's dominance in retail digital payments, while Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) remained the leading platform for high-value transactions. National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) each accounted for 3.6 per cent of trans-



action volume during the period. Although RTGS contributed only 0.1 per cent to the overall transaction volume, it handled the largest share of transaction value at 68.6 per cent, reaffirming its role as the country's primary high-value settlement system.

NEFT followed with 14.9 per cent of total transaction value, while UPI contributed 9.5 per

cent. The RBI report stated that the contrast between UPI and RTGS reflects the structure of India's payment ecosystem, where UPI powers large-scale retail and small-ticket transactions, while RTGS is primarily used for high-value transfers by institutions and businesses. NEFT continued to maintain its relevance as a hybrid payment platform ca-

pable of handling both low-value and high-value transactions with settlements completed within an hour. The report noted that NEFT remains one of the most versatile payment systems in the country due to its broad usability across customer segments. India's digital payments landscape has recorded substantial growth over the last decade. Between 2016 and 2025, transaction volumes increased by 33 times, while transaction values nearly tripled. Over the last five years alone, digital payment volumes expanded more than fourfold, while transaction values almost doubled.

According to the RBI, this growth has been driven by rising smart-

phone penetration, improved internet connectivity, strong public digital infrastructure and increasing trust in secure and seamless cashless transactions.

The report further revealed that total payment transaction volumes rose from 6,437 crore in 2021 to 26,819 crore in 2025. During the same period, transaction values climbed from Rs 1,741 lakh crore to Rs 3,215 lakh crore. The payments sector registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 42.9 per cent in transaction volume and 16.6 per cent in transaction value, underlining the rapid transformation of India into a digitally empowered economy.

## Ratings Agencies Lower GDP Growth On Crude Prices, Lower Rainfall

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Considering the West Asia conflict, higher crude prices and likely impact of El Nino on agriculture, rating agencies have lowered India's GDP forecast for FY27. India Ratings projects growth to be between 6.7 – 5.6 per cent depending on the average crude prices for the fiscal, while ICRA estimates it to be 6.2 – 5.8 per cent. India Ratings and Research projects GDP growth at 6.7% yoy in FY27 against 7.6 per cent in FY26. This is based on the baseline projection that average yearly crude prices will be \$95/bbl. If the average prices move up to \$110/bbl, growth would be slower at 6 per cent and if prices firm up to

\$120/bbl, the growth will further slow to 5.6 per cent. Likewise, inflation can range between 4.4 per cent and 6.8 per cent, depending on crude prices. "Major headwinds include geopolitical developments, particularly the West Asia conflict, high headline inflation, a depreciated currency from weak capital inflows, weaker-than-expected capex especially by the government to reduce fiscal risks, weak global trade growth, strong FY26 growth (base effect), low industrial production as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), and notably, the likely El Niño weather pattern from mid-2026", said Megha Arora, Economist and Director, Public Finance, Ind-Ra.

The agency finds that pump prices of petrol and diesel will increase by Rs 5/litre in the ongoing quarter, Rs 4/litre in Q2 FY27, and Rs 4/litre in Q3 FY27 – a total increase of Rs 13/litre. According to ICRA, crude oil prices will average at \$95/bbl in FY2027 against its prior estimate of \$85/bbl. The baseline forecast for the FY2027 GDP growth is expected to be slower at 6.2 per cent from the 6.5 per cent expected earlier. If crude prices average at \$105/bbl, GDP growth could be 5.8 per cent. Similarly, CPI inflation would move up from 2.1% per cent in FY26 to 4.7 per cent in the baseline scenario and 5 per cent if crude prices move up to \$120/bbl.

## Stock markets climb in early trade after Trump halts strikes on Iran, hints at deal



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Stock market benchmark indices rallied sharply in early trade on Tuesday after US President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt to fresh military strikes on Iran following requests from Gulf leaders, raising hopes of easing tensions in West Asia and boosting investor sentiment globally.

The benchmark 30-share BSE Sensex climbed

366.71 points to 75,706.88 during early trading, while the 50-share Nifty 50 advanced 107.45 points to 23,760. Investor confidence improved after Trump stated that Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had urged the US to delay planned military action against Iran. Trump said serious discussions were underway

with Tehran and hinted at the possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough. "We were getting ready to do a very major attack tomorrow. I've put it off for a little while, hopefully maybe forever," Trump told reporters at the White House after posting the announcement on Truth Social.

The easing geopolitical concerns also pushed global crude oil prices lower. Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, slipped nearly 2 per cent to USD 109.9

per barrel, offering relief to import-dependent economies like India. Buying interest in frontline IT stocks and Adani Group firms further supported the market rally. Among the major gainers on the Sensex were Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Trent and InterGlobe Aviation. On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan Company and Eternal were among the laggards.

Adani Group shares also traded higher after reports that the US Department of Justice had permanently dropped criminal charges against industrialist Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case in New York.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) also supported the positive momentum by purchasing equities worth ₹2,813.69 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. VK

Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said improving valuations and renewed foreign investor interest could support large-cap banking stocks going forward.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei traded lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite and Hong Kong's Hang Seng indices were in positive territory. US markets ended mixed on Monday.

## India crosses 1 billion AI images created on ChatGPT: Sam Altman

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Monday announced that AI-powered picture creation through ChatGPT Images in India has crossed the one billion mark, highlighting the country's rapid adoption of generative AI tools. Sharing the update on social media platform X, Altman said, "ChatGPT Images 2.0 India. Already more than 1 billion images have been created there; awesome to see."

The milestone comes less than a month after the launch of ChatGPT Images 2.0 in India on April 21. According to OpenAI, users across India are actively experimenting with creative prompts and visual styles such as Cinematic Portrait Collage, Mini Me World, Underwater Portrait, Anime, Chibi Sticker Pack, Manga Comic Strip, Enhance, and Fashion Studio Portrait.

The company said these trends show how AI image generation is becoming deeply connected with creator culture, digi-

tal identity, fandoms, fashion, and social media expression. The surge in image creation also reflects the growing popularity of AI tools among Indian users, especially content creators, students, designers, and social media enthusiasts. Instead of using AI only for productivity or professional work, many people are increasingly turning to AI-generated visuals for entertainment, storytelling, branding, and online engagement.

In a statement, OpenAI noted that the first month of ChatGPT Images 2.0 indicates that millions of Indians are embracing "a new visual language for the internet."

The company believes the feature is transforming the way users create and share digital content. The earlier version of ChatGPT Images was first introduced in December 2025, while the upgraded 2.0 version added improved styles, editing tools, and higher-quality outputs, helping fuel its rapid adoption in one of the world's fastest-growing digital markets.

## No cosmetic permitted to be used as injection: CDSCO

The CDSCO has warned that cosmetic products are strictly prohibited from being used as injections, stating such practices violate the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The regulator clarified that cosmetics are only meant for topical application, not for therapeutic treatments.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) said that cosmetic products are not permitted to be used through injections and warned that such practices violate provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Cosmetics Rules, 2020, according to a notice released on Tuesday.

In a public notice, the CDSCO said products supplied in injectable form do not fall under the definition of cosmetics and cannot be used by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics.

"No cosmetic is permitted to be used for injection by consumers, professionals or aesthetic clinics. Cosmetics are only intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on the human body," the notice stated. The regulator clarified that cosmetics are legally defined as products intended for cleansing,



beautifying, promoting attractiveness or altering the appearance of the human body or any part thereof. "Cosmetic means any article intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled or sprayed on, or introduced into, or otherwise applied to, the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, and includes any article intended for use as a component of cosmetic," the regulatory stated in the notice. It further stated that cosmetics are not permitted

to be used for treatment purposes by professionals or individuals.

The CDSCO also warned against misleading claims and use of prohibited ingredients in cosmetic products, stating that such violations attract action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and related rules.

"As per the provisions of labelling, no cosmetic may purport or claim to convey any idea which is false or misleading to the intending user," the notice said. The regulator added that no person is allowed to alter, obliterate or de-

face any inscription or mark made by the manufacturer on the container, label or wrapper of a cosmetic product.

The CDSCO noted that the list of Generally Not Recognized as Safe (GNRAS) and restricted ingredients is published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The health regulator urged the public to report any such violations or suspicious activities to the regulatory authority or the respective state licensing authorities.

## Global oil shock: OMCs raise fuel prices for second time in less than a week

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

State-run oil marketing companies on Tuesday raised petrol and diesel prices for the second time in less than a week amid soaring global crude oil prices. Following the latest revision, petrol became costlier by 86 paise per litre and diesel by 83 paise per litre.

In the national capital, petrol prices rose to Rs 98.64 per litre, while diesel prices increased to Rs 91.58 per litre.

The increase comes days after oil firms raised petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre on May 15, the first hike in more than four years amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and a sharp rise in global crude prices triggered by the US-Iran conflict.

Moreover, fuel prices are now at their highest levels since May 2022. The latest hike in fuel prices also follows successive increases in compressed natural gas (CNG) rates.

India's leading city gas distributor, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) on Sunday increased com-

pressed natural gas (CNG) prices by Re 1 per kg across its network, the second hike within 48 hours.

Global crude oil prices have surged more than 50 per cent since tensions involving Iran escalated earlier this year, disrupting supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's key oil shipping routes.

Last week, oil marketing companies (OMCs) had raised petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre each. Following that revision, petrol prices in Delhi rose by Rs 3.14 per litre to Rs 97.77, while diesel became costlier by Rs 3.11 per litre.

In addition, amid the West Asia conflict, oil companies had also raised CNG prices by Rs 2 per kg earlier this month.

According to industry estimates, the three major public sector oil retailers — Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited — are projected to report combined losses of nearly Rs 1.2 lakh crore in the first quarter of FY27

## Janhvi Kapoor's boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya calls her 'lady don in reel life and real life'

**B**ollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor is feeling the love and support from rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya after the trailer launch of her upcoming film Peddi. The trailer, which was unveiled on Monday, has already generated excitement among fans, and Shikhar's heartfelt reaction on social media quickly grabbed attention online.

Sharing the trailer on his Instagram story, Shikhar praised Janhvi and referred to her as a "Lady Don" both on-screen and off-screen. He wrote, "@janhvikapoor Lady Don in reel life and real life," while adding heart and love emojis to express his admiration for the actress. His affectionate message soon became a talking point among fans, many of whom appreciated the chemistry and support the duo continue to show each other publicly. Shikhar also praised Telugu superstar Ram Charan, who plays the



lead role in the film. Sharing his excitement for the project, he wrote, "@alwaysramcharan too good brother mass can't wait!" The energetic response added to the growing buzz surrounding the film's trailer release. Janhvi later reshared Shikhar's story on her own social media account and reacted emo-

tionally with heart and teary-eyed emojis, subtly acknowledging his sweet gesture. Though the couple has never officially confirmed their relationship, moments like these continue to fuel speculation and delight their fans. Over the years, Janhvi and Shikhar have frequently been spotted to-

gether during vacations, temple visits, family functions and special celebrations. Their appearances together have often made headlines, with fans closely following their bond and public interactions. According to reports, the two had dated several years ago before briefly parting ways and

eventually reconnecting. One of their most talked-about appearances came during Janhvi's sister Anshula Kapoor's Gor Dhana ceremony in October. In photographs shared from the event, the couple was seen posing affectionately together. Shikhar stood behind Janhvi with his hand placed on her shoulder, while she held onto his little finger, a gesture fans found adorable. Earlier this year, Shikhar Pahariya's family also attended the premiere of Janhvi Kapoor's Oscar-nominated film Homebound. The event saw the presence of his mother and grandparents, including former Union Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. Janhvi was also seen respectfully touching the feet of Shikhar's grandparents, a moment that received widespread appreciation on social media and further strengthened rumours about the couple's close relationship.

## Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon groove in Cocktail 2's new track Mashooqa



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The makers of Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, and Rashmika Mandanna starrer "Cocktail 2" have released the latest track from the forthcoming romantic entertainer titled "Mashooqa". Featuring Shahid and Kriti, the song is full of fun beats, flirtation, and carefree chemistry. It perfectly captures the thrill of young love and spontaneous connection. With tunes by Universal Music, "Mashooqa" has been scored by Pritam. While the lyrics have been penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya, the track has been crooned by Raghav Chaitanya, Mahmood, and Ruaa Kayy. The Italian

parts of the drama have been written, co-composed, and performed by Mahmood. Sharing the romantic song with the music lovers, makers Maddock Films penned, "The girl you can only have in your dreams! #Mashooqa Song out now! #Cocktail2 in cinemas on 19th June (sic)." Talking about the track, Shahid said, "Mashooqa has a vibe that pulls you in instantly. Kriti and I genuinely had such a blast shooting this one because it doesn't take itself too seriously. It's stylish, playful and just a lot of fun. It's the kind of song that makes you want to let go a little, turn the volume up and enjoy the moment. Pure summer

energy." Kriti added, "This song is such a vibe. It's groovy, flirty and reminds me of Sicily — both musically and visually. Shahid and I were just being our goofy selves and having a blast. I feel audiences are really going to enjoy this one because it has a very fresh sound and energy." Prior to this, the makers had unveiled the "Jab Talak" from the highly-awaited flick. "Cocktail 2" is set to release in the cinema halls on June 19. Directed by Homi Adajania, the movie is believed to be a spiritual sequel to the 2012 hit "Cocktail", which featured Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, and Diana Penty as the lead.

## HCA guidelines for Open Selection Trials, 2026-27 season

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) informed that all aspiring players that the Open Selection Trials for the 2026-27 season will be conducted over a period of 14 days. The registration process witnessed an overwhelming response with approximately 6000 registrations received. Upon verification, around 1500 duplicate registrations / repeated Aadhaar entries were identified and removed from the final list. To ensure smooth and systematic conduct of the trials, approximately 300 players per day will be called for participation. All registered players are strictly advised to wait for the official email communication from HCA regarding their slot, reporting time, and trial date, and not report to the ground unless they

have received an official email confirmation and cooperate with the scheduling process and patiently wait for their respective turn. The scheduling has been designed to ensure fair opportunity, proper crowd management, and smooth conduct of the trials. Trial Schedule: Morning Session: Players 1 to 50 – 1st Slot: 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM; Players 51 to 100 – 2nd Slot: 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM; Players 101 to 150; 3rd Slot: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM; Players 151 to 200 – 4th Slot: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Evening session: Players 201 to 250 – 5th Slot: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM; Players 251 to 300 – 6th Slot: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. All players must report to the venue at least 30 minutes prior to their allotted slot timing. Late reporting may lead to inconvenience during the

trial process. Further details and instructions will be communicated through the registered email IDs of the shortlisted applicants. Harish wins Brilliant Open online chess J Harish of Chennai won the Brilliant Trophy Open online chess tournament scoring 11.5 points from 12 rounds on Tuesday. Ansh Malhotra got second place with 9.5 points and J.Malleswara Rao got third place with nine points from 12 rounds. Final placings: 1. J. Sriharish, 2. Ansh Malhotra, 3. J. Malleswara Rao, 4. Krishna Kishore Rallabandi, 5. Siddharth Pernati, 6. Srujan Keerthan, 7. P.S.S Nandagopal, 8. JR Abhishek, 9. M. Abdallah Nistar, 10. P.Harshith. Best woman player: Lopamudra Aadya Annambhotla, Best woman player: P.K. Sankaran.

## Sooryavanshi's fury takes Rajasthan closer to playoffs

**JAIPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continued his evening ritual of leaving spectators spellbound with a breathtaking 38-ball 93 as Rajasthan Royals moved closer to a playoff berth with a one-sided seven-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match here on Tuesday. The 15-year-old, who is all set to board the flight to Dublin with the Indian senior team next month, was once again unstoppable, clobbering 10 sixes in an extraordinary display of bat speed and razor-sharp hand-eye coordination. By the time, he missed out on his third IPL century by a mere seven runs, he had ensured Royals will make a meal of what could have been a tricky 221 run chase after Mitchell Marsh's 57-ball-96 had taken LSG to 220 for 5. And certainly, the icing on the cake was Ian Bishop's line on air, one that could well be remembered for posterity: "He is ready." Royals are now on 14



points and would need a win against Mumbai Indians in their last game to make it to playoff. If Marsh was muscularity pro-max, Sooryavanshi was all about amazing skill-set where a leg-spinner's slider delivered at an angle could be dispatched into extra cover stands with disdain. While Marsh hit poor balls for sixes, Sooryavanshi sent the good ones sailing into the stands. And when it came to poor deliveries, he tortured them. He is well on his way (53) to break Chris Gayle's (59) record of

maximum sixes in a season. He is now 26 runs short of completing 600 runs in the season. Dhruv Jurel completed the chase with an unbeaten 38-ball 53 but the night unquestionably belonged to the teenage sensation. Mayank Yadav, the man who burst into the 2024 IPL as India's fastest ever bowler, was dispatched for 29 runs in a single over. The short balls were pulled, the fuller ones were driven and anything with width was flayed. The drooping shoulder of Prince Yadav, who got his maiden India call-up on the day, said it all.

LSG skipper Rishabh Pant, already reeling under pressure to revive his white-ball international career, looked increasingly helpless as the carnage unfolded around him. Earlier, Marsh trumped Royals attack with a 57-ball-96 but Jofra Archer's five-run final over did boost the home team's confidence. After Jos Inglis' 29-ball-60 provided the initial impetus, Marsh, nicknamed as 'Bison' in the cricketing universe, displayed ox-like muscularity smashing 11 fours and five sixes, once again emerging as his team's batting hero for the umpteenth time during the current season. This was his third score of 90 or more in one season. In a season full of disappointments for LSG, Marsh's performance (563 runs in 13 games) has been the only saving grace for Sanjeev Goenka's men. Royals, who need to win the last two games to qualify for the play-offs, were below par with the ball with questions being raised about stand-in skipper Yashasvi Jaiswal's decision to bowl first on a

good batting deck. The platform was, however, set by Inglis during the Powerplay overs as he hit seven fours and three sixes in an opening stand of 109 in just over eight overs. In the past few games, Royals bowling attack hasn't been able to make inroads in the Powerplay overs, something that has affected its performance. While Inglis attacked Jofra Archer to put spanner in Royals' strategy, Marsh did keep up the pace with his powerful hits — especially the pull-shots that sailed into the stands. Once Inglis was dismissed, Marsh took charge as one of his best shots was a six over extra cover — a perfect union of power and timing. Nicholas Pooran (16 off 11) didn't score many and Rishabh Pant (35 off 23 balls) despite a 64-run third wicket stand never looked convincing. He wasted a lot of deliveries and it seemed that recent developments in his international career (removed from Test vice captaincy and dropped from ODIs) is bothering him.

## Alternative Arrangements Made During Medical Shops Bandh

Alternative arrangements have been made to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential medicines to the public in Nalgonda district in view of the nationwide bandh call given by the All India Chemists and Medical Shops Association. District drugs inspector K. Sampath Kumar said instructions had been issued to managements of medical shops across all towns in the district to keep at least two private medical shops open in major towns and one in smaller towns to avoid inconvenience to the public. He said at least two private pharmacy outlet would remain open in every town. Sampath Kumar added that pharmacies attached to all government and private hospitals in the district would function as usual to provide emergency services. He appealed to the public not to panic, stating that adequate measures had been taken to ensure medicines remained available through selected shops. In case of emergencies or difficulty in procuring medicines, the public may contact the Drugs Inspector, Nalgonda, on phone number 8333925882.

# Telangana govt's new age limit for jobs leaves aspirants upset

The Telangana government's decision to fix the upper age limit for government recruitments at 44 years for one year has triggered mixed reactions among unemployed youth, with aspirants aged 45 and 46 expressing disappointment over exclusion from the revised policy

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The State government's latest directive enhancing the upper age limits for government job recruitments has drawn a polarised reaction from the unemployed youth in Telangana. While the decision has provided vital relief to one section of aspirants, it has left remaining candidates feeling utterly betrayed.

Through the newly issued GO Ms No. 86, the State government set the maximum age limit to appear for general category government recruitments at 44 years for a period of one year.

While the move increases the eligibility for thousands of job seekers, it also slashes the upper age limit by two years com-



pared to the previous extension and also reduces the relaxation period in half.

After assuming power, the Congress government had issued GO Ms No. 30 in February 2024, enhancing the general category upper-age limit from 44 years to 46 years for a two-year window.

With the relaxation period getting lapsed in February of this year, the age ceiling technically reverted to the baseline of 34 years—triggering intense scrutiny over recent recruitment notifications.

While GO Ms No. 86 rescues candidates up to 44 years of age from that

baseline drop, it actively locks out those aged 45 and 46, who had pinned their hopes on a full restoration of the previous policy. The new relaxation is valid for only one year, unlike the two-year cushion period in the past. It also remains non-applicable to uniformed services like the Police, Excise, Fire, and Forest departments.

"Barring minor addendums, the government did not issue major new recruitment notifications during the previous relaxation window. We fail to understand the rationale behind reducing the upper age limit by two years now. We also fail to understand why the extension was restricted to just one year instead of two," said A Janardhan, a leader of the Telangana Unem-

ployed Youth Joint Action Committee (JAC).

The history of age relaxation in the State has been a prolonged bone of contention. In 2022, the previous BRS government had raised the maximum age limit by 10 years for direct recruitment across a two-year period. That decision lifted the general category ceiling from 34 to 44 years, while pushing limits for SC, ST, and BC candidates to 49 years, and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to 54 years.

Although the subsequent policy built on this by stretching the limit to 46 years via GO 30, student groups pointed out that the State failed to timely notify a major chunk of vacancies, particularly in Group II, III, and IV services, before that order expired.

# Hyderabad's Old City markets suffer 50% drop in shoppers amid heatwave

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The heat wave conditions in the city are robbing the traders of their business, particularly in the Old City, where there is a significant drop in shoppers. Traders complain that due to the hot summer, people are staying away from the markets, resulting in low business.

"Usually, during summer holidays, there is a steady flow of local tourists from Telangana and AP to the Old City. Due to the extreme heat conditions, tourists are staying away from the markets during the day," said Mohd Dilawar, who runs a garments shop at New Laad Bazaar.

On average, around one lakh people visit the markets in the Old City on regular days. However, since the first week of May, the numbers have come down by nearly 50



per cent. The shopkeepers point out that the foreign or domestic tourists from North India are visiting the Old City but limiting their tour to historic places such as Charminar, Mecca Masjid.

"A drawback for tourists to stay away from the markets is that there are no facilities for them. There is no shelter to sit. Not even an AC bus stop where at least they can sit and relax," said Rakesh Jain, a trader at Gulzar Houz.

A few shops have air conditioners on the stretch between Charminar and Madina Building.

"So people are preferring big malls for shopping. If visiting the Old City is unavoidable, then people plan a visit in the evening. Again, during evenings, there are traffic issues, and people feel they are being punished for visiting the Old City," said Nadeem Ahmed, another businessman.

Due to the low business, the shopkeepers are facing financial problems and fear it would be difficult for them to pay rents, power bills and salaries of staff if the situation continues. "The power bills for the month of April were already hefty, and we literally struggled to pay them. Now I don't know how I will manage to pay the power bills and rent for May. The only option left is to take out a loan and repay it later," said Tareq Khan, a cloth merchant at Patel Market.

# Fake badges, PhonePe transfers: How gang conned rice trader posing as SOT cops

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Meerpet Police have arrested six persons for allegedly impersonating Special Operations Team (SOT) officers and extorting money from a rice trader after intercepting his lorry on the Outer Ring Road in the early hours of Monday, May 18.

The complainant, Mohammed Afroz, 24, a rice businessman from Balapur, told police that his lorry, which was carrying rice towards Udgir in Maharashtra, was stopped near Patancheru ORR Exit no 3 at around 3:30 am. Four men travelling in a Volkswagen Polo allegedly flagged down the vehicle, identified themselves as SOT officers and threatened the driver, claiming the rice consignment was illegal. They then demanded Rs 6 lakh from Afroz to let the vehicle go, police said.

After negotiations, the amount was reportedly settled at Rs 1.60 lakh. Afroz initially transferred Rs 80,000 via PhonePe to a number linked to one of the accused, identified as Beeram Shiva Reddy. The

gang subsequently pressed for the remaining amount. Growing suspicious, Afroz verified their credentials and found the men had no connection to the SOT. He traced them to TKR College in Meerpet, where one of the accused identified himself as "Anil" before fleeing the spot, the complainant told police.

Acting on the complaint, Meerpet police arrested six of the seven accused and produced them before a magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody. A seventh accused, identified only as Anand, remains at large. Those arrested are Aekka Sandeep Kumar, 26, a resident of Uppuguda, Devara Shetti Girish, 35, of Saroomagar, Beeram Shiva Reddy, 24, of Wanaparthy district; Rakesh Singh, 30, of Uppuguda, Gantala Sai Ram Reddy, 24, of Nagole, and Kararla Pavan Sai, 24, of Meerpet. Police seized Rs 80,000 in cash, seven mobile phones and the Polo car used in the crime. Sandeep Kumar, listed as the first accused, is allegedly linked to multiple prior cases.

# GHMC holds sports day under 99-day action plan on 75th day

## GHMC Organises Sports Events Under 99-Day Praja Palana Action Plan Across Hyderabad Zones



## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday, May 19, organised sports competitions across its zones as part of the ongoing Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika 99-Day Action Plan, which reached its 75th day and entered its 11th week.

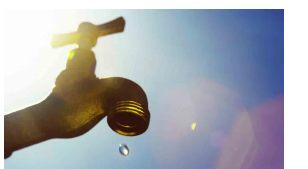
The events, held at the GHMC sports complex and various facilities spread across different zones, saw participation

from municipal employees, workers and residents, with youth turnout described as enthusiastic. Badminton, cricket, volleyball and indoor games were among the competitions conducted during the day, with officials saying the aim was to promote physical fitness, teamwork and discipline among participants. Senior officials appreciated the Sports Department and field staff for coordinating the activities and ensuring public participation, according to a GHMC statement.

The corporation said the initiative was intended to encourage residents to make use of available municipal sports infrastructure and adopt a more active daily routine.

The Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika plan, which the civic body launched as a structured governance and community outreach programme, has been conducting daily themed activities since its rollout, covering sectors ranging from sanitation and infrastructure to health and now sports.

# NHAI road widening works damage water pipeline in Hyderabad, disrupt water supply



Water supply was affected in certain areas of Hyderabad after a main water line supplying drinking water to the city from Patancheru to Hyder Nagar in Manjeera Phase-2 was damaged during road-widening works carried out by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

On Tuesday, HMWSSB released a list of affected areas to the media due to a damaged water line. The areas include Ramachandrapuram (R C Puram), Ashok Nagar, Jyothi Nagar, Lingampally, Chandanagar, Gangaram, Madinaguda, Miyapur, Beeranguda, Ameenpur, Bhagnanagar Colony, Off-take points, bulk connections under transmission line, Erragadda, S. R. Nagar, Ameerpet, KPHB Colony, Kukatpally, Bhagnanagar Colony, and Pragathi Nagar. In a press release, HMWSSB officials said, "To address the leakage, Water Board officials initiated emergency repair work. The HMWSSB managing director K Ashok Reddy inspected the work and reviewed the progress of the ongoing pipeline works with the officials concerned. He directed the officials concerned to complete the work as quickly as possible and restore the water supply. The work was ongoing, and once the repair work was completed, the water supply would be restored in phases," it said.

# Gear Up for Extended GHMC Polls in Sept-Oct: Ramchander Rao

## In the 2020 GHMC polls, the BJP won 48 seats

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

State BJP president N. Ramchander Rao has called upon party workers to gear up for the upcoming corporation elections in the areas formed after the delimitation of the erstwhile GHMC, describing the polls as highly crucial for the future of politics in Telangana. Addressing a meeting of BJP division presidents and senior leaders from the GHMC limits at the party's city office in Barkatpura, Rao stressed the need for discipline, unity, and strong booth-level coordination among cadre members to ensure electoral success.

The meeting was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Rekha Sharma, who previously served as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women. Senior BJP leaders and local functionaries from different divisions across Hyderabad also participated in the discussions focused on election preparedness and



organisational strengthening. Referring to the changes introduced through the GHMC delimitation process, Rao said the number of wards had already increased to 300 and could further rise to 350, according to reports. With indications that elections may be held in September or October, he said the party must remain fully prepared well in advance and ensure every booth committee becomes active at the grassroots level. Rao recalled the BJP's performance in the 2020 GHMC elections, where the party independently secured 48 seats despite facing the combined political strength of the BRS and AIMIM. He stated that the results reflected growing

public support and increasing confidence in the BJP among Hyderabad voters.

He further pointed out that the BJP currently maintains a strong Parliamentary presence within the GHMC limits, which should be translated into a stronger performance in the corporation polls. Highlighting the political importance of the civic elections, Rao asserted that a decisive BJP victory in the corporation polls would create the foundation for forming a BJP government in Telangana in the future.

On ticket distribution, he made it clear that party nominations would be given only to hardworking karyakartas with strong grassroots connections and public acceptance. He warned that groupism and internal conflicts would not be tolerated. Candidate selection, he added, would be based on surveys, winnability, public feedback, and consultations between state and central leadership.

# GHMC holds sports day under 99-day action plan on 75th day

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday, May 19, organised sports competitions across its zones as part of the ongoing Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika 99-Day Action Plan, which reached its 75th day and entered its 11th week. The events, held at the GHMC sports complex and various facilities spread across different zones, saw participation from municipal employees, workers and residents, with youth turnout described as enthusiastic.

Badminton, cricket, volleyball and indoor games were among the competitions conducted during the day, with officials saying the aim was to promote physical fitness, teamwork and discipline among participants. Senior officials appreciated the Sports Department and field staff for coordinating the activities and ensuring public participation, according to a GHMC statement.

The corporation said the initiative was intended to encourage residents to make use of available municipal sports infrastructure and adopt a more active daily routine.

# Man held with ganja in Hyderabad's Dhoolpet, another absconding

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Excise and Prohibition Department's Hyderabad Enforcement Team on Monday, May 18, arrested a man for allegedly smuggling ganja and seized 1.630 kg of the contraband from his possession in Dhoolpet. The accused, identified as Arvind Singh, was intercepted near Hanuman Mandir in Dhoolpet while



allegedly transporting the ganja on a motorcycle. Acting on a tip-off, the enforcement team apprehended him and seized the contraband.

Another suspect, identified as Manish, a resident of Dhoolpet, is absconding. Efforts are underway to trace and arrest him, the police said.

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