



**CM Revanth Warns Police Against Negligence in Maintaining Law and Order: P8**



**KKR Beat MI By 4 Wickets, Keep Playoff Hopes Alive: P7**

**Bhatti Seeks Centre's Nod For Singareni Gasification Projects: P2**



**WEATHER**

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

**RBI Proposes To Lock Loan Financed Phones In case Of Default**

India's central bank on Wednesday proposed allowing lenders to remotely disable functions of a mobile phone or tablet bought on credit in cases of default by a borrower, albeit with certain terms and conditions. In its Draft Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Responsible Business Conduct) Amendment Directions, 2026 released on Wednesday that may come into effect from October 1, 2026, the RBI said that restrictions on functions of the devices can be imposed by lenders only when a loan becomes overdue for 90 days, following a staged notice process. Borrowers must first receive a notice after 60 days past due, with 21 days to repay, followed by a second notice allowing at least another week.

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## India, Italy Firm Up Defence Roadmap

Modi-Meloni Elevate India-Italy Ties, Target €20 Billion Trade By 2029 Through Strategic Partnership

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held "comprehensive" talks in Rome on Wednesday with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, after which both countries announced the elevation of ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership". Pointing out that the two nations "had never been closer" than now, Meloni also announced that India and Italy had decided to increase bilateral trade to 20 billion euros by 2029 from the current 14 billion euros. The two countries decided to strengthen cooperation in sectors including trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space, energy, supply chains, artificial intelligence (AI), critical technologies, education, culture and people-to-people ties. The two sides also "wel-



comed the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent, an Industrial Roadmap for collaboration in co-design, co-development and co-production of defence projects including helicopters, naval platforms, marine armament and electronic warfare". Both leaders further "agreed to launch a Dialogue on Maritime Security, with the aim of increasing maritime security cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information, and also agreed to examine the feasibility of establishing an annual high-level military structured dialogue", a

joint statement issued by the two sides said. Later, Modi was conferred with the prestigious Agricola Medal for 2026 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation at its headquarters in Rome. The award was conferred in recognition of his leadership in addressing food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development in India and globally. Earlier in the day, the camaraderie between the two leaders drew attention after a video clip went viral on social media showing Modi gifting "Melody" toffees to Meloni, who de-

scribed them as "very good toffee". The gesture played on the term "Melodi", previously used by the Italian Prime Minister to describe her rapport with Modi. Meloni had also hosted a dinner for Modi after his arrival in Rome late on Tuesday night. Modi also called on Italian President Sergio Mattarella. Following the talks, the two Prime Ministers announced the creation of INNOVIT India, an innovation hub aimed at strengthening cooperation between the innovation ecosystems of both countries. The hub will support startup acceleration programmes, market access, business matching, joint research, university collaboration and talent mobility in sectors including fintech, healthcare, semiconductors, logistics and supply chains, agritech, energy, quantum computing and AI.

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## Revanth Pitches For GCCs Beyond Hyd

The review meeting, held at the MCRHRD Institute's Bodhi Pavilion, was attended by Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and top government bureaucrats.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In view of growing interest from multinational conglomerates in establishing global capability centres (GCCs) in Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday directed officials to formulate a policy aimed at encouraging companies to set up operations beyond the Hyderabad Core Urban Regional Economy (CURE) area. He instructed officials to promote areas alongside the Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Warangal highways, beyond the ORR in the northern and eastern parts of Hyderabad metropolis, to establish GCCs, as well as data centres, as part of the government's efforts to decentralise investments and generate balanced regional development. Revanth Reddy proposed the introduction of an escort officer system to provide end-to-end support to prospective investors, from their arrival in Hy-



derabad until the grounding of operations. He suggested examining the appointment of Group-1 level officers for the purpose. He also directed officials to study the industrial policies of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to adopt best practices in industrial promotion and governance. The Chief Minister, along with industries and IT minister D. Sridhar Babu, held a high-level review meeting on issues related to the IT and industries departments. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister's special secretary B. Ajith Reddy, Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) vice-chairman and managing director K. Shashanka, IT and communications joint secretary Anudeep Durishetty,

industries commissioner Nikhil Chakravarthi and senior officials attended the meeting. During the review, the Chief Minister recommended that specific clusters be identified beyond the CURE area to encourage the decentralisation of GCCs to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure that Bharat Future City (BFC) was developed on net-zero principles while maintaining the highest global standards in engineering and infrastructure. He said there should be no compromise on quality and instructed officials to study internationally renowned cities while preparing the master plan for the ambitious project. He emphasised that trunk infrastructure should be developed as a priority in the proposed zones before any land allotments are taken up. The Chief Minister also instructed officials to accelerate works relating to the proposed AI City in Bharat Future

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## State Highest At 46.5 °C, Hyderabad Crosses 42°C Again

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With the mercury marching towards the 47°C mark, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday appealed to people to take precautionary measures in view of the severe heatwave conditions forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Nirmal district recorded the state's highest temperature at 46.5°C, while several districts continued to

remain above the dangerous 45°C mark for a second straight day. Two districts, Jangaon and Kurumam Bheem were listed under "severe heatwave". In Hyderabad, temperatures stayed above 42°C in several circles. Chandanagar and Hayathnagar recorded 42.4°C, while Uppal, Chandrayangutta and Khairatabad touched 42.1°C. Areas such as Jubilee Hills, Karwan, Amberpet and Serilingampally also remained above 42°C.

Expressing concern over the intense heatwave conditions particularly affecting north Telangana districts, the Chief Minister directed officials to take measures to safeguard people from the impact of extreme temperatures. He instructed authorities to ensure the availability of adequate ORS packets, uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water and continuous power supply to residents in affected areas.

## Maharashtra Seeks US Partnership In Nuclear Energy Projects

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Maharashtra is ready to lead the transformation in the nuclear energy sector, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday, while inviting American companies to invest in nuclear manufacturing, technology partnerships and power projects in the state. Speaking at a meeting organised under the "US Nuclear Executive Mission to India" by the Nuclear Energy Institute

and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Mr. Fadnavis said the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, data centres, semiconductors, green hydrogen, electric mobility and advanced manufacturing would significantly increase demand for uninterrupted and reliable electricity in the coming years. The Chief Minister met an executive delegation from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the US-India Strategic Part-

nership Forum (USISPF), led by NEI President and CEO Maria Grace Korsnick. The delegation included representatives from Centrus Energy, Clean Core Thorium Energy, Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Edlow International and Holtec Asia, among others. Mr. Fadnavis said major changes were taking place globally in the energy transition process. "For many years, it was believed that renewable energy sources such as

solar and wind power alone would solve future energy challenges. However, with increasing industrialisation and the growth of the digital economy, the need for stable and continuous power generation is now being strongly felt," he said. While Maharashtra was making significant investments in solar and wind energy, nuclear power would be essential for ensuring carbon-free and industrial-scale baseload.

## Kurchi Tata Dies After Collapsing at Park

Mohammad Pasha, widely known on social media as 'kurchi tata' for his viral catchphrase 'kurchi madata petti' in a song featuring Mahesh Babu, died after reportedly collapsing during a walk at Krishna Kant Park. Madhuranagar police said the death is suspected to be due to stroke, which if confirmed could be the first sunstroke death in the state. According to police, Pasha rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment but doctors declared him dead. Police said preliminary findings pointed to suspected sunstroke. Pasha had become a household name for his distinctive speaking style and the now-iconic dialogue 'kurchi madata petti', which gained massive popularity a couple of years ago.

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## Centre Approves Foreign Loans for Young India Schools

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a major boost to education infrastructure in Telangana, the Centre has approved the state government's proposal to secure external multilateral funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for two major education projects. The department of economic affairs (DEA) under the Union finance



ministry has cleared external funding of Rs.4,049.11 crore for the Young India Integrated Residential Schools (YIIRS) project through ADB assistance and Rs.4,903.44 crore for the

Telangana Education Infrastructure Upgradation Mission with AIIB support. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in

New Delhi on Wednesday and thanked the Centre for granting approvals. Bhatti also discussed key issues related to the state's development, investments in the education sector, capital expenditure and infrastructure expansion. Bhatti urged the Centre to exempt the ADB and AIIB loans from the state's limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, stating that these were not routine expenditures but long-term

capital investments aimed at human resource development and educational empowerment of SC, ST, BC and minority communities. He said that the state government was committed to providing world-class education to students through the YIIRS initiative. Bhatti informed Sitharaman that the state government was undertaking major initiatives such as establishing new medical colleges district-wise, ex-

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## Telangana Cabinet to meet on May 23, housing and infrastructure projects on agenda

The Telangana Cabinet will meet on May 23 at the State Secretariat to discuss key issues including Indiramma III Phase-II, road projects, irrigation works, welfare schemes, land registration value revision, job recruitments and proposed austerity measures across government departments.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Cabinet will meet on May 23 at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad, with housing, road infrastructure, irrigation, welfare schemes and austerity measures among the key items on the agenda.

The meeting, originally scheduled for May 21, was postponed in view of the Saraswati Antya Pushkarams. Though there was speculation that the Cabinet would be convened at Yadagirigutta during the Chief Minister's visit for foundation stone ceremonies on May 23, the government issued fresh orders confirming that the meeting would be held

at the State Secretariat. The meeting assumes significance as the Congress government is gearing up for Telangana Formation Day celebrations on June 2 and seeks to accelerate the implementation of welfare and infrastructure initiatives. The Cabinet is set to discuss the implementation of the ongoing 99-day "Praja Palana-Pragathi Nivedika" action plan, which will conclude on June 12.

One of the major issues expected to dominate the discussions is the rollout of Phase-II of the Indiramma III housing scheme, scheduled to begin across the State from June 2. The Cab-



net is likely to deliberate extensively on beneficiary selection, eligibility norms and possible modifications to the existing guidelines. The Cabinet is also expected to take up the recently completed tender process for Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) road projects. Approval for funds and execution clearances for the road infrastructure works is likely to be granted during the meeting. Another

key decision likely to be taken will be on the revision of land registration values to improve revenue mobilisation. Pending irrigation projects, including the completion of pending works under the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, are likely to be discussed during the meeting. Proposals for holding discussions with Maharashtra on the Tummidihatti project are also on the agenda. Further, the meeting is expected to discuss new job recruitments, health cards for government employees and pensioners, and also the allocation of housing plots for journalists. The proposed private school fee regulation

and monitoring commission bill, expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail, and modalities and guidelines for Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme are also likely to figure in the agenda. Sources said the Cabinet may also deliberate on austerity measures across government departments and the Chief Minister's Office following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for expenditure rationalisation. Proposals under consideration reportedly include a reduction in convoy sizes, online review meetings, limited foreign travel, reduced air-conditioner usage in offices and hybrid work models in select departments.

## Southwest Airlines Opens Global Innovation Centre in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu on Wednesday inaugurated Southwest Airlines' first global innovation centre in India at Saatva Knowledge City nearHITEC City. The facility, set up by Southwest Airlines India Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based airline, is its only centre outside the United States. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said Hyderabad had laid the foundation for India's modern aviation ecosystem over 25 years ago with one of the country's first private airport initiatives under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Since then, the city has evolved into a leading hub for aviation, aerospace and space technology. "The launch of Southwest Airlines' Global innova-



tion centre further strengthens Hyderabad's emergence as a major global hub for aviation, travel, hospitality and enterprise technology. With global capability centres and innovation hubs established by companies such as American Airlines, Marriott International and now Southwest Airlines, Hyderabad is steadily building a strong innovation ecosystem in these sectors," he said. Lauren Woods, executive vice-president and chief

information officer of Southwest Airlines, said the Hyderabad centre would help advance the company's vision by building critical business and technology capabilities. "Hyderabad offers one of the deepest talent pools in analytics, engineering and innovation, making it an ideal location for the next phase of our journey. The new office will expand our global talent network, supporting our business operations and long-term growth," she said.

## Street Vending Zones Fail To Take Off in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Civic bodies have failed to create and operationalise exclusive street vending zones in Hyderabad, resulting in the encroachment of footpaths. In places where designated vending zones were created, they remain unused. The area near Shilparamam has vacant stalls, while facilities such as the Begum Bazaar Fish Market and a fish market in LB Nagar are non-operational. Vendors have instead set up stalls outside these premises, occupying roads and footpaths, with vehicles parked in front adding to congestion.

Despite the completion of construction in some cases, markets have not been made operational due to factors including court cases. According to vendors, poor site selection for vending zones has



prevented them from shifting to designated locations. In the erstwhile GHMC limits, 127 vending zones were identified, but most were not located on busy stretches, and the initiative did not progress. Objections were raised by corporators, and some vendors approached the Praja Vani programme opposing the identified sites. On busy stretches such as Amcerpet, Koti, Hitec City near the Metro station, and Durgam Cheruvu, vendor stalls continue to occupy footpaths and roads. Though GHMC and traffic police have conducted clearance drives, encroachments have returned within hours. Efforts to relocate

vendors near the Charminar have also been unsuccessful. A proposed 100-metre buffer zone around the monument is now occupied by stalls, and the yellow demarcation marking has faded. "While the footpaths are occupied by vendors, the road adjacent to it is used for parked vehicles and the pedestrians are forced to walk on the portion of the road where vehicles move fast," said Ratnesh Babu, a van driver. Vendors, however, said enforcement drives affect their daily livelihood. According to GHMC officials, over 1,000 encroachments were recently cleared from footpaths. They added that vendors with pushcarts returned after the drives, while those operating from permanent encroachments such as tin sheds and shops did not return, indicating a limited and temporary.

## 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.

## Society for Crusade Against Corruption Honors Tank Bund Lifesavers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Dp srinivas rao

In recognition of their extraordinary service in saving lives at Hussain Sagar Lake, the Society for Crusade Against Corruption honored renowned rescue duo Tankbund Shiva and Shantha Shiva with Appreciation Certificates and a financial assistance of Rs. 21,000 on Wednesday.

The honor was presented under the leadership of Purshottam, who praised the couple for their unmatched courage and dedication toward protecting human life. The duo has become widely known across Hyderabad for rescuing individuals attempting suicide at Tank Bund. According to the organiza-



tion, Tankbund Shiva has rescued 142 people from drowning and suicide attempts, while Smt. Shantha Shiva has independently saved 28 lives, taking their combined rescue count to 170. Despite lacking professional rescue equipment and operating under dangerous conditions, including toxic waters and underwater debris, the

couple has continued their mission with unwavering commitment for several years. Speaking during the felicitation ceremony, Purshottam said the society believes true public service extends beyond fighting corruption and includes protecting humanity and offering hope to those in distress. "What Tankbund Shiva and Smt. Shantha Shiva are doing is a remarkable example of humanity and courage. While many remain spectators during emergencies, this couple risks their lives to save others," he stated. The organization also noted that the financial support was intended to assist the family, which has faced economic hardships despite rendering invaluable public service alongside local police authorities.

## Zonal Commissioner Narayan Amit Reviews Civic Issues in Muthangi Ward

**RANGAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana  
Srirangam Venkatesh

Zonal Commissioner Narayan Amit visited Muthangi Ward in Patancheru Circle and inspected sanitation works and borewell-related issues in Kandhanur, Ghanpur, and Velmala villages. During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed garbage collection, drainage cleaning, and drinking water supply works with officials. Local residents submitted complaints regarding non-functional borewells and water scarcity issues. Narayan Amit instructed officials to ensure proper sanitation management with-



out negligence and directed them to take immediate action on borewell repairs, new borewell arrangements, and drainage problems. He stressed that public issues should be resolved within the stipulated time without causing inconvenience to citizens. Circle-level officials, local public representatives, and staff members participated in the inspection.

## Bhatti Seeks Centre's Nod For Singareni Gasification Projects

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka urged the Centre to support the proposals of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) to take up coal gasification in tune with the Central government's policy. During his meeting with Union coal and mines minister G. Kishan Reddy in Delhi, Bhatti discussed the plans of SCCL, coal gasification opportunities, allocation of new coal blocks, and the mining lease issue relating to Tadicherla Coal Block-II. Bhatti said that coal should not be confined only to conventional power generation, but should also be utilised in a value-added manner in line with future industrial requirements. He said that, in view of the priority being given by the Centre to coal gasification, SCCL was ready to move forward in this direction. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that, on the lines of gasification initiatives being taken up by Coal India, Singareni is also examining possibilities to utilise its coal resources more efficiently through modern technology.

## CBIT MBA Program Secures NBA Accreditation for Three Years

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, has achieved a major academic milestone with the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) granting accreditation to its MBA programme for a period of three years. The accreditation recognizes the institute's commitment to maintaining high standards in management education through quality teaching, industry-oriented curriculum, research, infrastructure, student performance, and placement opportunities.

CBIT Principal C. V. Narasimhulu said the recognition reflects the institute's continuous pursuit of aca-



ademic excellence and its commitment to equipping students with leadership skills, ethical values, and industry readiness. He appreciated the School of Management Studies faculty and staff for their dedicated efforts in securing the accreditation.

Head of the School of Management Studies S. Saraswathi described the accreditation as a result of the collective efforts of faculty members, students, alumni, supporting staff, NBA Coordinator Dr. Sowmya, and the management. She said the department would continue focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, research, and industry collaboration to prepare students for global business challenges. The management, faculty, students, alumni, and staff celebrated the achievement, calling it a prestigious recognition that strengthens CBIT's reputation for delivering quality management education aligned with global standards.

## Birthday Celebrations Turn Into Service for Elderly in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Dp srinivas rao

In a touching act of social responsibility, P. Rajesh, Sanathnagar Malamahanadu Incharge, along with his wife Gayathri, celebrated the birthdays of their son Baladitya and Gayathri by organizing a lunch program for 150 elderly residents at Niramal Hriday Convent in New Bhoiguda on May 22, 2026. The convent, run by the



Missionaries of Charity, shelters sick, abandoned, and destitute senior citizens. Instead of opting for a lavish family celebration, the couple chose to spend the occasion serving nutritious food and interacting with the

inmates, bringing joy and comfort to the elderly residents. The initiative received support from members of Malamahanadu, including State IT Wing and Social Media Head Arun Kumar, who attended the program along with his three daughters. Rajesh's mother and several children also participated in serving food to the residents, reflecting values of compassion and respect for elders.

## 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.

## Congress Government Neglect Pushes Khairatabad Into Crisis: Shравan Dasoju

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Alleging complete administrative failure in resolving civic problems in Khairatabad constituency, BRS MLC Dasoju Shравan warned that the party would lay siege to the GHMC headquarters if immediate action is not taken to address public grievances in Banjara Hills and surrounding slum areas.

During an extensive visit to Sriram Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar bastis in the Banjara Hills division on Wednesday, Shравan Dasoju accused the Congress government of neglecting basic infrastructure and prioritizing "real estate interests" over people's welfare. He alleged that the state's Municipal Administration Minister was "immersed in a real estate scam in the name of Future City" while ignoring



the hardships faced by residents in slum localities.

The visit was conducted under the leadership of Banjara Hills Division leader J. Raju Mudiraj and in the presence of local leaders including Akhtar, Ramesh, Baswa Goud, Ramulu and Sasikala. Shравan Dasoju personally inspected roads, drains, water supply lines and nala works, besides interacting with local residents to understand their concerns.

He alleged that drainage and nala development works across the constituency had come to a halt after the Congress government failed to clear contractors' pending bills. Near Mohammedia Masjid, roads and drainage systems have reportedly remained damaged for several months, forcing commuters to travel under unsafe conditions.

The MLC further stated that Ambedkar Nagar residents have been facing severe drinking water

shortages for the past two months. He claimed that during the previous BRS government, households received uninterrupted drinking water supply, whereas now water is supplied only briefly once every few days. Residents also complained that contaminated drainage water was mixing with drinking water, creating serious public health risks.

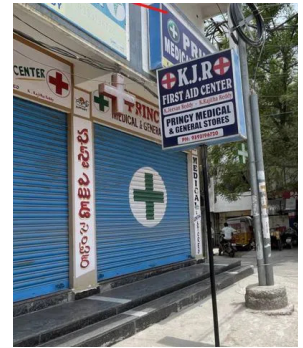
Criticising local MLA Danam Nagender, Shравan Dasoju alleged that the legislator was more concerned about political uncertainty surrounding his position than addressing public problems. Demanding immediate intervention from GHMC Commissioner Ilambarthi L. Karnan and Water Board officials, the BRS leader warned that if civic issues remain unresolved, the party would intensify protests and besiege the GHMC office.

## Telangana chemists join nationwide strike against online pharmacies

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Medical shops across Telangana observed a one-day shutdown on Wednesday in response to a nationwide strike call given by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists against the growing presence of online pharmacies. The strike witnessed participation from traders affiliated with the Telangana Chemists and Druggists Association and the Hyderabad Chemists and Druggists Association, leading to the closure of several retail medical shops across the state.

However, major pharmacy chains such as Apollo Pharmacy and MedPlus continued operations without interruption, including their online delivery services. Pharmacies attached to



hospitals, along with Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana outlets, also remained functional to ensure uninterrupted access to essential medicines for patients.

Leaders of the protesting associations alleged that the relaxation of regulations for online medicine sales introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic has continued even after normalcy returned. They expressed concern that online pharmacies are operating without adequate

physical verification of prescriptions and medicines, raising serious patient safety issues.

The associations further accused large corporate pharmacy companies of disrupting the traditional medical retail sector by offering heavy discounts backed by strong financial resources, making it difficult for small and independent chemists to survive in the competitive market.

To prevent any inconvenience to the public, especially regarding the availability of life-saving drugs and emergency medicines, the Telangana Drug Control Administration held discussions with the AIOCD and coordinated measures to ensure that critical medical supplies remained accessible during the strike.

## Caste Harmony Restored in Adraspalle Village Through SC/ST Commission Intervention

Both Groups Take Unity Pledge in Presence of Officials and Village Elders.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Thalka Anaiah

A reconciliation meeting was successfully conducted in Adraspalle village under the limits of Dundigal-Malkajgiri region's Mooduchinthalappally Municipality following tensions arising from an incident during Sri Rama Navami celebrations at the Hanuman Temple, where allegations of humiliation and discrimination against Dalits led to the registration of an SC/ST Atrocity case. Although officials had earlier conducted inquiries on two separate occasions involving both groups, differences and caste-related tensions reportedly continued between the parties.

In order to restore peace and social harmony in the village, Telangana State SC/ST Commission Member Sri Jilla Shekhar personally visited the village on Wednesday and held discussions with members of both communities. Addressing the



gathering, he emphasized that villages can progress only when people live together with mutual respect, unity, and equality beyond caste and religious differences. He appealed to all sections of society to maintain communal harmony and avoid conflicts that could disturb the peaceful atmosphere of rural life.

After extensive consultations with both sides, a mutual understanding and reconciliation were achieved.

Members of both communities later took a public pledge promising to uphold unity, brotherhood, and peaceful co-existence in the village. The programme was attended by M.C. Pally Tahsildar Ghulam

Idris, Revenue Inspector and revenue staff, Shamirpet ACP Chakrapani, CI Srinath and police personnel, DVMC members Bitla Venkateshwarlu, Dhanaraj Naik, Talka Ramulu, Ashok Niknar, Mooduchinthalappally Municipal Chairman J. Ravi, Councillor Prabhakar along with municipal representatives, village elders Ram Mohan and Jahangir, besides prominent villagers, women, and representatives from both communities in large numbers. Officials expressed hope that the reconciliation would help strengthen social unity and ensure peaceful relations among all sections in the village in the future.

## Former PR Superintending Engineer Gali Shankaraiah Passes Away

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Thalka Anaiah

Gali Shankaraiah, retired Superintending Engineer of the Panchayat Raj Department, passed away on Wednesday morning following health complications, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated public service and rural development.

A native of Nalgonda district, Gali Shankaraiah completed his B.E. in Civil Engineering from Osmania University. Throughout his distinguished career in the Panchayat Raj Department,



he earned a reputation as a sincere, active, and dynamic engineer committed to the welfare of rural communities.

He served in several important positions, particularly in the V Zone, and worked extensively in remote and backward regions, including Adilabad

district, where he contributed significantly to rural infrastructure development and public welfare works.

During his tenure as Executive Engineer in the Vikarabad Panchayat Raj Division of Rangay Reddy district and Mahabubnagar district, he maintained close professional relations with several public representatives, including the present Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Colleagues recalled his administrative efficiency, approachable nature, and dedication towards public service.

## 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.

## Telangana raises upper age limit for uniformed services recruitment

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The State government has enhanced the maximum upper age limit for posts of uniformed services by five years for a period of one year. This is applicable to recruitment to posts in the Police, Fire, Prisons, Special Protection Force,

Excise, Transport and Forest departments.

With this enhancement, the upper age limit for posts such as Police SI has been increased from 25 years to 30 years for general category candidates. Another five-year relaxation is applicable for candidates belonging to reserved categories.

However, unlike in the

past, the government reduced the upper age relaxation duration from two years to one year.

The government raised the maximum age limit considering representations from the unemployed youth to enable them to become eligible to compete in the recruitment process.

## Telangana scorches as summer temperatures hit 46.5 degrees Celsius, shows TSDPS data

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana on Wednesday could well have endured its worst day of this summer as mercury levels surged past 46 degrees Celsius in some places, according to data from Telangana Development Planning Society (TSDPS) and independent weather trackers.

The worst affected were the northern and eastern districts and this data indicated that Dilawarpur in Nirmal district registered 46.5 degree Celsius followed by Dharmasa-



lar (Hanamkonda), Choppadandi (Karimnagar), and Odela (Peddapalli) recording 46.4 degrees Celsius.

Independent weather observers, including Hyderabad Rains and Telangana Weatherman, indicated a heatwave over central and peninsu-

lar India pushing local temperatures up. Education Resources Local weather enthusiasts pointed out that while data from India Meteorological Data (IMD) can sometimes vary slightly due to different station equipment, reality is that the northern and eastern districts in Telangana bore maximum brunt of the heatwave. The IMD, Hyderabad indicated heatwave conditions with northern and eastern districts likely to witness above 44 degrees Celsius temperatures and the other districts recording between 41 and 44 degree Celsius.

## Aasara Pension Live KYC Drive Held in Bansilalpet

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Dp srinivas rao

A special live KYC verification drive for beneficiaries of the Aasara Pension Scheme was conducted successfully on Tuesday at New Boyaguda Sunnambatti in the Bansilalpet division, with officials and social activists working together to ensure smooth verification for pension holders.

The programme was organised as part of the Telangana government's initiative to streamline welfare distribution and ensure uninterrupted pension benefits for eligible beneficiaries, including senior citizens, widows, single women, and persons with disabilities. The verification process was car-



ried out by Secunderabad Mandal Revenue staff using a live face-scanning application operated by Government Post Office (GPO) official Vijaya Rao. Officials stated that the verification camps are being conducted daily from 10 am to 5 pm under the directions of Mandal Revenue authorities.

Speaking during the drive, Vijaya Rao said special priority was being given to bedridden and differently-abled beneficiaries. He explained

that teams would visit homes to complete verification for those unable to travel, provided family members share the required details with officials.

Authorities clarified that beneficiaries need to bring only their original identification card for the process. Officials also appealed for public cooperation in case of temporary server issues or technical delays during verification.

Social activists R. Rahul, Srikanth, and Sai actively assisted elderly beneficiaries by managing queues, checking documents, and coordinating with officials throughout the camp. Local leaders urged all pending beneficiaries to complete the live KYC process at the earliest to avoid delays in pension continuation.

**Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel Launched at GRSE**

Defence PSU, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), launched a next-generation offshore patrol vessel, Sanghmitra, for the Indian Navy on Wednesday. Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan and his wife, Sarita, attended the ceremony. The warship, under construction at the GRSE, will be around 113 metres long and 14.6 metres wide with a displacement of 3,000 Tons. It will achieve speeds of up to 23 knots with an endurance of 8,500 nautical miles at a speed of 14 knots and has a draught requirement of only 4 metres. The vessel, according to GRSE, will participate in 'Out of Area' contingency operations, non-combatant evacuation, convoy operations, anti-piracy missions and counter-infiltration operations apart from taking on poachers and traffickers.

**Trump: Negotiations with Iran in Final Stages**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that negotiations with Iran were in the final stages, while warning of further attacks unless Iran agrees to a deal. Six weeks since Trump paused Operation Epic Fury for a ceasefire, talks to end the war have shown little progress so far. Trump has said this week he came close to ordering more attacks, but held off to allow more time for negotiations. "We're in the final stages of Iran. We'll see what happens. Either have a deal or we're going to do some things that are a little bit nasty, but hopefully that won't happen," he told reporters on Wednesday. "We're going to give



this one shot. I'm in no hurry," Trump said. "Ideally I'd like to see few people killed, as opposed to a lot. We can do it either way." Tehran, for its part, accused Trump of plotting to restart the war, and threatened to retaliate for any strikes with attacks beyond the Middle East. "If aggression against Iran is repeated, the promised regional war will extend beyond the region this time," the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's top negotiator at peace talks, said in an

audio message released on social media that "obvious and hidden moves by the enemy" showed the Americans were preparing new attacks. In the latest diplomatic push, the interior minister of Pakistan was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iran submitted a new offer to the United States this week. Tehran's descriptions of the proposal suggest it largely repeats terms previously rejected by Trump, including demands for control of the Strait of Hormuz, compensation for war damage, lifting of sanctions, release of frozen assets and the withdrawal of US troops from the area. Trump has said he called off attacks this week at the last minute in response to requests from several of Iran's Gulf neighbours.

On Tuesday he said he had been an hour away from ordering strikes. Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan welcomed what he said was a decision by Trump to allow more time for diplomacy. Iran has largely shut the Strait of Hormuz to all ships apart from its own since the US-Israeli campaign began in February, causing the biggest disruption to global energy supplies in history. The United States responded last month with its own blockade of Iran's ports. Iran says its aim is to reopen the strait to friendly countries that abide by its terms to use it. That could potentially include fees for access, which Washington says would be unacceptable.

**Suvendu Calls Caa-Less Migrants In WB 'Infiltrators'**

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Handing over nearly 75 acres of land ceremonially at an event to the Border Security Force (BSF) for fencing a 27 km-stretch of the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, chief minister Suvendu Adhikari declared on Wednesday that whoever migrants not covered by the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would be treated as "infiltrators" in the state. The CM also announced the start of their arrest by the state police and their handover to the BSF for deportation to Bangladesh. He said at the state secretariat: Nabanna, "On May 14 last year, the union government sent the state government an order to deport the illegal immigrants under a law. However, the previous government opposed the CAA against the refugees' interests."

He added, "It also did not take advantage of the law to deport illegal immigrants. We have made this law effective from today. Seven communities of various faiths, who came here before December 31 in 2024, are covered by the CAA. Police can't harass or detain them. But those who are not covered by the CAA, are completely illegal immigrants i.e. infiltrators." Mr Adhikari then pointed out, "They will be directly detained, arrested and handed over to the BSF, which in turn, will arrange their deportation after contacting the BGB. This implies 'detect, delete, deport'." He further informed that the law would cover all the police stations at the border of the state. The land transfer of nearly 75 acres has two parts. While 43 acres are 'purchased' land in five districts, 31.9 acres are 'government vested' land

in nine other areas. Mr Adhikari explained, "The land will be handed over to the BSF within two weeks. It will cover a 27-km stretch on the Indo-Bangla border in our state. We have a 2200 km-long border out of which 1600 kms have been fenced. Still 600 kms are yet to be fenced." He vowed to hand over land to the BSF for building its infrastructure in the remaining parts. BSF director general Praveen Kumar who attended the event thanked the state government for the land transfer. He asserted that the step would help the force to strengthen its apparatus for protection. Earlier in the day, Mr Adhikari paid his maiden visit to North Bengal in a quick tour and assured of fulfilling all the promises BJP had made to the region in its Assembly Election manifesto.

**Lahore Reclaims Pre Colonial Identity, Hindu, Sikh and Colonial Names Restored**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Nearly 80 years after Partition, Pakistan's cultural capital Lahore is witnessing a major symbolic transformation as authorities restore several pre-Partition Hindu, Sikh, Jain and colonial-era names to streets, chowks and localities under a large-scale heritage revival initiative. The renaming exercise is part of the Lahore Heritage Area Revival (LHAR) project, a 50 billion Pakistani rupee programme envisioned by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and launched in 2025 by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The project seeks to revive Lahore's historical identity by undoing decades of ideological renaming that followed Partition and subsequent Islamisation policies. As part of the initiative, official signboards across Lahore are being updated to reflect the city's pre-Partition heritage. Authorities say the move is aimed at preserving Lahore's multicultural legacy and architectural



history rather than allowing it to disappear under political and religious rewriting. Among the most prominent changes, Islampura has been restored to its old name Krishan Nagar, while Rehman Gali has once again become Ram Gali. Babri Masjid Chowk has reverted to Jain Masjid Chowk and Sunnat Nagar has been renamed Sant Nagar. Similarly, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan Chowk has returned to its earlier identity as Lakshmi Chowk, while Mustafabad is again being referred to as Dharam-pura. Colonial-era landmarks are also being revived. Bagh-e-Jinnah and Fatima Jinnah Road are being restored to their older British-era names Lawrence Gardens and Queens

Road respectively. The Punjab government maintains that preserving historical identities is a common practice across Europe and should similarly be embraced in Pakistan to protect heritage and promote tourism. Officials believe the restoration drive could significantly boost heritage tourism and improve Lahore's international image. The effort is also being viewed as a strategic attempt to present Pakistan as a more tolerant, inclusive and multicultural society at a time when the country is seeking stronger global economic engagement. According to observers, the initiative may also help reassure international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and prevent re-

newed scrutiny from the Financial Action Task Force by projecting social stability and moderation. The revival project additionally includes restoration work linked to the historic Minto Park, now known as Greater Iqbal Park. Authorities are planning to revive three historic cricket grounds and a traditional wrestling arena that was demolished during an urban redevelopment programme in 2015 under current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The wrestling arena was once associated with legendary wrestler Gama Pehalwan, while the cricket grounds trained players including Inzamam-ul-Haq and hosted Indian cricket legend Lala Amarnath. Despite Pakistan's long history of Islamisation and continuing concerns over the treatment of minorities, including forced conversions and property disputes, the restoration campaign has so far witnessed little organised opposition, making the development particularly significant in the country's socio-political landscape.

**Thailand Cuts Visa-Free Stays, Citing Crime by Foreigners**

**BANGKOK**  
Wakeup telangana

Thailand is drastically cutting the length of visa-free stays for tourists from more than 90 countries in an effort to curb crime involving foreign nationals, officials said on Tuesday. Tourism is vital to the Southeast Asian nation's economy, but foreign arrivals are yet to return to their pre-Covid highs. A recent series of high-profile arrests of foreigners has included cases linked to drug offences, sex trafficking and foreigners operating businesses such as

hotels and schools without proper permits. Under Thailand's current tourism scheme, travellers from more than 90 countries -- including Europe's 29-nation Schengen area, the United States, Israel and several South American countries -- are eligible to visit for up to 60 days without a visa. Thailand's cabinet approved reducing visa-free stays for travellers from those countries on Tuesday, Tourism Minister Surasak Phanchaoenworakul told reporters in Bangkok. The new visa-free duration would be decided on

a country-by-country basis, with most foreign nationals granted stays of up to 30 days, while some could receive only 15 days, Surasak said. Foreign Minister Sihanak Phuangketkeow said last week that the plan to reduce visa-free stays was part of a crackdown on transnational crime. Thailand was not targeting any specific country, he said, but rather individuals abusing the visa system by committing crimes in the country. Tourists provided "benefits, such as boosting the economy, but the current

scheme has allowed some people to exploit it", government spokesperson Rachada Dhanadirek told reporters on Tuesday. The visa-free period was previously capped at 30 days but was extended to 60 days in July 2024 as part of government efforts to boost tourism and the economy. Tourism accounts for more than 10 percent of Thailand's GDP, although visitor numbers remain below pre-pandemic levels. Foreign arrivals dropped by about 3.4 percent in the first quarter of this year compared.

**Falta Assembly Poll Today Under Tight Security**

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

The Assembly Election will be held at Falta in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal on Thursday. Each booth will have a full section of central forces personnel. This will make around 35 companies which have been assigned this time. Also, 30 quick response teams have been posted on stand

by. According to the Election Commission (EC) officials, final preparations were in full swing at the dispersal centre on Wednesday with the polling personnel all set and deployment activities progressing seamlessly. Continuous monitoring arrangements have been in place to ensure that every aspect of the polling process remains smooth and all geared towards free,

fair, and peaceful polling, EC sources said. Polling was countermanded by the EC at the seat after large-scale malpractices were found at several booths during the second and final phase of the voting on May 29. One of them was tapes which were pasted on the EVM buttons of BJP candidate Debangshu Panda. Interestingly Jahangir Khan of Trinamul Con-

gress, who is his rival and earned controversy on more than one occasion for threatening voters, announced on Tuesday that he took himself off the poll-battle. He has already got a cover from the Calcutta High Court till May 24 against any coercive steps including arrest into the cases filed against him by the police recently.

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

**Modi Talks Trade.....**

The two sides also welcomed the signing of an MoU on maritime transport and ports, along with another MoU on cooperation in critical minerals. Modi said India and Italy could "design and develop" products together and "deliver for the world", adding that cooperation could extend from "fashion to fintech, leather to logistics, and mobility to manufacturing". Both leaders reviewed the progress made under the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029 and decided to establish a Foreign Minister-level mechanism to regularly review its implementation. On connectivity, the two countries "re-affirmed their commitment to cooperate on the India-Middle

East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), recognising its transformational potential in reshaping and promoting global trade, connectivity and prosperity", and encouraged the first IMEC Ministerial meeting to take concrete steps to advance the initiative in 2026. In her remarks, Meloni highlighted the importance of IMEC in boosting trade and business opportunities. On people-to-people exchanges, the two leaders agreed to enhance mobility for students, researchers and skilled workers, particularly in STEM sectors, and expand cooperation in skills development in line with labour market requirements. This included a Joint Declaration of Intent on facilitating the mobility of nurses from India to Italy. The joint statement also noted on-

going discussions on a Social Security Agreement (SSA).

**Revanth Pitches.....**

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to accelerate works relating to the proposed AI City in Bharat Future City after studying best practices in artificial intelligence infrastructure across the world. He asked officials to expedite all works in BFC so that foundation stone laying ceremonies for various facilities in the industrial corridor could be held at the earliest, including industrial units proposed in the Future City Industrial Park during June. Revanth Reddy said companies receiving land allotments in Bharat Future City should be encouraged to sign memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for skilling

and certification programmes to meet their future workforce requirements. He also directed officials to attract internationally reputed companies and institutions to the Future City project. Future plans Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday proposed far-reaching plans for the development of Bharat Future City and attract investors. 500 acres in Future City for public representatives, civil service officers and journalists. Lobby with Centre for setting up one of the five regional medical hubs announced in the Union Budget for the proposed Health City in Bharat Future City. To take up the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure allocation of the health cluster to Telangana. 'Invest Telangana', dedicated

agency to strengthen investment promotion activities. Best practices from other states to be adopted to create a governance structure capable of providing end-to-end support to investors and companies. Senior officials from departments such as energy and finance to be designated as special invitees for faster clearances and operational support.

**Centre Approves.....**

Bhatti informed Sitharaman that the state government was undertaking major initiatives such as establishing new medical colleges district-wise, expanding rural healthcare services and strengthening educational infrastructure, which would contribute to sustainable and socially inclusive devel-

opment. He submitted another memorandum to the Union finance minister regarding the state government's massive investments in the education sector. He thanked the Centre for extending 50-year interest-free loans to states under the scheme and noted that Telangana had already received Rs.4,208 crore during the 2025-26 financial year. He explained that the state required more financial support to continue its ongoing development works and welfare programmes. He said that although Telangana was one of the fastest-growing newly formed states in the country, the financial burden arising from debts raised through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) between 2014 and 2023 by the previous BRS regime.

CRIME

# Bandi Bageerath Withdraws Anticipatory Bail Petition

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The anticipatory bail petition filed by Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bandi Sai Bageerath, was withdrawn from the Telangana High Court after his arrest in a POCSO Act case registered at Petbasheerabad police station. Counsel for Bageerath, advocate N. Naveen Kumar, submitted a memo before the High Court registry seeking permission to withdraw the petition, stating that no further orders were required in the matter. Following the submission, the case was listed for withdrawal on Thursday. The anticipatory bail plea had earlier come up for hearing before the



High Court last week, with proceedings reportedly continuing till late in the night. During the hearing, public prosecutor Palle Nageswara Rao presented before the court the statement recorded from the victim in connection with the case. The prosecution argued

against granting protection from arrest, placing relevant material and evidence before the court for consideration. After examining the submissions and documents furnished by the prosecution, the High Court declined to grant interim protection to Bageerath. The absence of any interim relief or stay

on arrest enabled the police to proceed with legal action in the case. Subsequently, the Petbasheerabad police arrested Bandi Sai Bageerath in connection with the alleged offences registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The development has drawn significant political and public attention due to the involvement of the son of a prominent BJP leader and Union minister. The case is presently under investigation, and further legal proceedings are expected in the coming days as the police continue to examine evidence and record statements connected to the matter.

# HC refused to stay the public auction for lease of temple land

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has refused to stay the proposed public auction for lease of agricultural land belonging to the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple situated at Donabanda of Hajipur mandal of Mancheril district, observing that there was no prima facie reason to stall the process initiated by the endowments department. Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was dealing

with a writ petition filed by Polasa Srisailam, who claimed hereditary trusteeship and archakaship over the temple established by his family more than a century ago. The petitioner challenged the notification to auction cultivation rights over 15 acres of temple land spread across Survey No.s 221, 222 and 232 in Donabanda. Counsel appearing for the petitioner argued that the temple land had remained under the family's control

for generations and that the petitioner inherited both trusteeship and archaka rights. It was contended that, in the absence of a formally appointed executive officer for the temple, the mandal in-charge and executive officer had no authority to conduct the auction. He submitted a proceeding issued by the endowment department in 2010 had recognized Srisailam's rights in relation to the temple administration and land.

# 3 Children Drown In Temple Tank At Kondapur In Jagtial

Three children drowned after accidentally falling into a temple tank at Shiva Ganga temple in Kondapur on Wednesday evening. The deceased were identified as Manvith Sai, Manasvini and Sharvind Shiva. The children were relatives, with Manasvini and Manvith Sai being siblings. According to police, the children had gone to the temple with their families and were playing near the tank while their parents were at a distance. They accidentally fell into the water and drowned. On being alerted, police reached the spot and shifted the children to the government hospital in Jagtial, where doctors declared them dead.

# 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.

# Telangana HC Flags Valet Parking Woes

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court's order on Tuesday for strict action against illegal roadside parking and footpath encroachments has spotlighted a recurring grievance: Motorists being fined after valets leave cars on no-parking stretches outside restaurants and function halls. Across Jubilee Hills, Sainikpuri, Madhapur, Himayatnagar, Kukatpally and Bowenpally, vehicles are routinely lined up

along lanes and busy stretches where establishments lack adequate parking. "I attended a wedding in Musheerabad and got a challan two days later. The valet parked the car on the roadside because there was no space inside. But the fine came to me," said Harshith Reddy, an IT employee from Kondapur. Motorists complain that many restaurants insist on valet services, leaving them no option to self-park. "You cannot even park by yourself near

restaurants now. They immediately ask for the keys because there's no proper parking area. Later, if the vehicle is towed or fined, nobody takes responsibility," said Ruchita M of Bowenpally. Traffic police officials say challans are linked to vehicle registration, not to who parked it. "We can only issue a challan to the vehicle parked in violation. We cannot go searching whether it was parked by the owner or by a valet operator," said traffic constable Yedukondalu.

# Missing Woman Traced, Reunited With Family in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Chaderghat Police successfully traced a missing woman during routine night patrolling in Hyderabad on Tuesday and safely reunited her with her family. According to police, the patrolling team of Chaderghat Police Station noticed a woman near Savera Hotel at Chaderghat Chaman during the early hours of May 20. The team, comprising police personnel J. Vijay Kumar, C. Venkatesh, and Manju Bharghavi, approached the woman and conducted preliminary verification. Police later identified the woman as Sumalatha (33), who was



found to be deaf and mute. During inquiry, officials discovered that she had been missing from the limits of Hayathnagar Police

Station since March 2026. A missing case regarding her disappearance had already been registered at Hayathnagar Police Station. After confirming her identity and details, the Chaderghat police immediately informed the Hayathnagar police officials and coordinated further procedures. The woman was later safely handed over to her mother. Police officials said the timely response and alertness of the patrolling staff helped in tracing the missing woman and ensuring her safe return to her family. The effort was appreciated by senior officials for its prompt coordination and humanitarian response.

EDITORIAL

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

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Storytelling is critical in electoral politics. But the gap between political data and official data has rarely been wider. The BJP offered voters a storyline about industrial revival, jobs, cash support for the vulnerable, and an end to economic despair, alongside huge dollops of Hindutva, its calling card. The narrative was emotionally potent: other governments fail the people; the "double-engine" BJP model delivers. It worked.

The BJP enters mid-2026 with unprecedented political dominance: direct control of 16 states and influence over nearly three-fourths of India's population through its NDA alliance partners. With the polls over, bread-and-butter concerns must be centre stage. The challenge for the BJP: operationalising its promises across the country. Out-migration was a potent election issue. In West Bengal, BJP

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

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

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



# Gold, silver prices fall over 1 pc amid US rate concerns and global tensions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp decline on Wednesday as concerns over rising US interest rates and persistent global inflationary pressures weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Both precious metals fell more than one per cent during intraday trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), reflecting weakness in global commodity markets. Gold futures for the June 5 contract on the MCX slipped as much as 0.7 per cent, or Rs 1,121, to touch an intraday low of Rs 1,57,959. Later in the session, the yellow metal traded at Rs 1,58,369, down 0.45



per cent or Rs 711. Despite the decline, gold had initially opened higher and touched an intraday high of Rs 1,60,378, gaining Rs 1,298 before profit booking emerged. Silver futures for the July 3 contract also came under strong selling pressure. The metal declined 1.21 per cent,

or Rs 3,269, to hit an intraday low of Rs 2,66,850. It later recovered slightly to trade at Rs 2,68,970, down Rs 1,149 or 0.43 per cent. Silver had opened at Rs 2,67,230 earlier in the day and touched an intraday high of Rs 2,69,605. Weakness in domestic bullion prices mirrored

trends in international markets. COMEX gold futures were down 0.49 per cent at \$4,462 per ounce, while COMEX silver futures slipped 0.17 per cent to \$73.868 per ounce.

Commodity market analysts attributed the decline to growing fears that inflationary pressures in the United States may force the Federal Reserve to maintain higher interest rates for a longer period. Rising crude oil prices, triggered by escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, have further heightened inflation concerns globally.

Market sentiment was also impacted after US President Donald Trump warned that the

United States could resume strikes on Iran within "two or three days" if Tehran failed to agree to Washington's peace terms. The ongoing tensions have disrupted shipping movements through the Strait of Hormuz, leading to higher oil prices and increasing uncertainty in financial markets.

Experts said expectations of delayed US rate cuts and possible future rate hikes have reduced the appeal of non-yielding assets like gold and silver. Domestic equity markets also opened lower on Wednesday, with both Sensex and Nifty trading in negative territory during early trade.

# Markets fall in early trade as oil prices rise, global cues weaken amid Iran tensions

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Benchmark equity indices tumbled in early trade on Wednesday due to elevated oil prices, weak global market trends and renewed fears of restart of military operations if Iran failed to reach a peace deal.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 517.11 points to 74,667.51 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 152.45 points to 23,475.80.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Bharat Electronics, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Eternal and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries and Tech Mahindra were the winners. Brent crude, the global

oil benchmark, traded at USD 110.8 per barrel level.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower.

US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

"Broader Asian markets opened under pressure after renewed concerns emerged around potential escalation in the Middle East. Investor sentiment weakened following US President Donald Trump's statement that he was an hour away from authorizing military action against Iran before eventually postponing the decision. "The development has once again revived fears surrounding geopolitical instability, global energy supply disruptions, and volatility in crude oil markets," Hari Prasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he was an hour away from making a decision to restart attacks on Iran, but put it off after receiving a call from interlocutors, including Qatar and the UAE, on Tehran being "reasonable" in the peace talks. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,457.49 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. US Vice President JD Vance has said Iran having an atomic weapon would trigger a "nuclear arms race" worldwide and asserted that the US was "locked and loaded" to restart military operations if Tehran failed to reach a peace deal.

# RBI Proposes To Lock Loan Financed Phones In case Of Default

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed strict new rules allowing banks and lenders to remotely disable certain functions of mobile phones or tablets purchased on credit if borrowers fail to repay loans for over 90 days. However, the central bank has also laid down safeguards to prevent misuse and protect essential services and customer

rights.

Under the Draft RBI (Commercial Banks – Responsible Business Conduct) Amendment Directions, 2026, released on Wednesday, lenders will be permitted to use technology-based restrictions only for devices financed through loans and only after following a mandatory notice procedure. The proposed norms are expected to come into force from October 1, 2026, after public feedback is

reviewed.

According to the RBI, borrowers must first receive a notice once the loan becomes overdue for 60 days. They will then be given 21 days to clear dues. If payment is still not made, a second notice must be issued, providing at least another seven days before restrictions can be imposed on the financed device.

The RBI clarified that lenders can activate such restrictions only if borrowers have given prior



consent through loan agreements. The central bank said banks cannot disable all services on a phone or tablet. Essential functions such as internet access, incoming calls, emergency SOS services

and government alerts must continue to work even if restrictions are imposed.

The draft also mandates that device restrictions must be removed within one hour after repayment of dues. If lenders fail to restore services within the stipulated time, borrowers will be entitled to compensation of Rs 250 for every hour of delay.

Importantly, the RBI has barred banks and recovery agents from accessing personal data stored

on locked devices during loan recovery proceedings. The proposed rules specifically prohibit lenders from retrieving information from borrowers' mobile phones as part of recovery efforts.

The central bank has also tightened regulations governing loan recovery agents and bank employees. Recovery visits to borrowers or guarantors will be allowed only between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Recovery personnel will be

prohibited from using abusive, threatening or humiliating language against borrowers, guarantors or their family members.

The draft norms are the RBI's second attempt to strengthen responsible recovery practices after incorporating industry feedback received on an earlier draft issued in February. The move aims to curb coercive recovery tactics, ensure fair treatment of borrowers, improve due diligence

standards and establish a uniform code of conduct for loan recovery. The RBI has invited public comments on the proposed guidelines until May 31. The draft assumes significance as consumer electronics financing continues to rise rapidly in India, with studies showing that over one-third of mobile phones and similar devices are now purchased through small-ticket loans.

# 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.

# Failed Wage Negotiations Raise Fears of Strike at Samsung Electronics

Government officials have threatened to invoke rarely used emergency powers to force a settlement at Samsung, where the union, which represents more than 70,000 workers, says the company has failed to offer adequate compensation despite its soaring profits fueled by the global boom in artificial intelligence

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Management and union leaders at Samsung Electronics failed to reach a last-minute deal over wages Wednesday, raising prospects for a strike at the South Korean electronics giant that could rattle global semiconductor supplies and the country's trade-dependent economy. Government officials have threatened to invoke rarely used emergency powers to force a settlement at Samsung, where the union, which represents more than 70,000 workers, says the company has failed to offer adequate compensation despite its soaring profits fueled by the global boom in artificial intelligence.

After the latest round of talks ended without a breakthrough on Wednesday, union leader Choi Seung-ho told reporters that unionized workers will begin an 18-day strike from Thursday. Both the union and the management held each



other responsible for a failure to reach a deal. Choi accused management of refusing to accept a government-mediated proposal whose details he refused to disclose. The management accused the union of calling for excessive compensation packages for workers at loss-making units.

The two sides said they will continue efforts to reach a deal. The two sides were set to meet again Wednesday afternoon at the arrangement of Labor Minister Kim Younghoon, according to Kim's ministry. Samsung and its cross-town rival, SK Hynix, together produce about two-thirds of the world's memory chips, which are seeing surging demand driven by

AI. Samsung said last month its operating profit for the January-March quarter jumped eightfold to a record 57.2 trillion won (\$38 billion).

Union leaders have demanded a compensation structure in which Samsung would commit to spend 15% of its annual operating profit on employee bonuses and scrap bonus caps, which are currently set at 50% of annual salaries. The company says the demands are excessive, citing the highly cyclical nature of the semiconductor business. Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, the government's No. 2 official after President Lee Jae Myung, said in a televised statement Sunday that the strike could cause up to

100 trillion won (\$66 billion) in economic damage by disrupting Samsung's highly complex semiconductor manufacturing processes.

The planned strike also has a potential global impact. Given that supply in the global memory semiconductor market is struggling to keep up with demand, the Samsung strike was expected to further drive up prices and push back AI infrastructure investments in other countries, said Lee Jun, an expert at the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade. The strike was expected to hurt operations of Samsung's production of smartphones and other consumer electronics as well, observers say. A local court on Monday partially granted the company's request for an injunction against the planned strike, ruling that the union must maintain certain staffing levels to prevent damage to facilities and materials and ensure safe operations.

# Eurobank Opens India Office



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Greece's Eurobank will be setting up a representative office in India to tap trade and business opportunities between India and Europe. Eurobank's initiative builds on the landmark EU-India free trade agreement reached earlier this year which is expected to boost business and trade between the two regions. It aims to strengthen trade and investment between the two regions while positioning Greece and Cyprus as strategic entry points for Indian companies seeking to expand their products and services across the European Union. Eurobank, which has Fairfax as its largest shareholder, has begun offering cross border

remittances for Indians in Greece via United Payment Interface (UPI). For now the office will offer advisory service and financing options for trade and investments from its European branches. The bank is also looking at high net worth individuals and family offices to set up presence in Cyprus. However it has no immediate plans to offer loan and deposit services in India.

The official inauguration ceremony for the Eurobank India office will be held on Thursday at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai with the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides in attendance. Eurobank has assets of around 110 billion Euros and has operations in Cyprus, Bulgaria and Luxembourg.

# Nayanthara-Vignesh Shivan's Vatican vacation has a 'Melodi' twist

Actress Nayanthara is currently enjoying a memorable family vacation in Vatican City along with her filmmaker husband Vignesh Shivan and their twin sons, Uyir and Ulagam. The actress delighted fans by sharing a series of romantic and adorable family pictures on her official Instagram account. The photos, clicked across the picturesque streets of Vatican City, showcased the couple spending quality time together amid the scenic European backdrop.

In one of the images, Nayanthara and Vignesh were seen walking hand-in-hand through the beautiful lanes of the historic city, while another snap captured Vignesh affectionately embracing his wife. The couple also shared tender moments with their twin boys. Several photographs featured the proud parents lovingly carrying their children and show-



ing them with affection. Captioning the post, Nayanthara wrote, "Us from our favourite city...The VATICAN CITY...Surrounded by pure love & divine blessings." Interestingly, the Vatican City visit comes at a time when

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome. Their meeting drew widespread attention online after PM Modi gifted Meloni a

packet of Melody toffee, a moment that quickly went viral on social media. Vatican City, though located within Rome, is an independent sovereign state and serves as the headquarters of the Catholic Church.

The destination is widely admired for its spiritual significance, stunning architecture, and peaceful atmosphere, making it a favorite among travelers from around the

world. Nayanthara looked elegant in a stylish black dress during the outing, while Vignesh opted for a casual look with cargo pants, a shirt, and a white T-shirt underneath. For the uninitiated, Nayanthara and Vignesh reportedly fell in love while working on the 2015 Tamil film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan. After dating for several years, the couple tied the knot in a grand traditional wedding ceremony held in Mahabalipuram on

June 9, 2022.

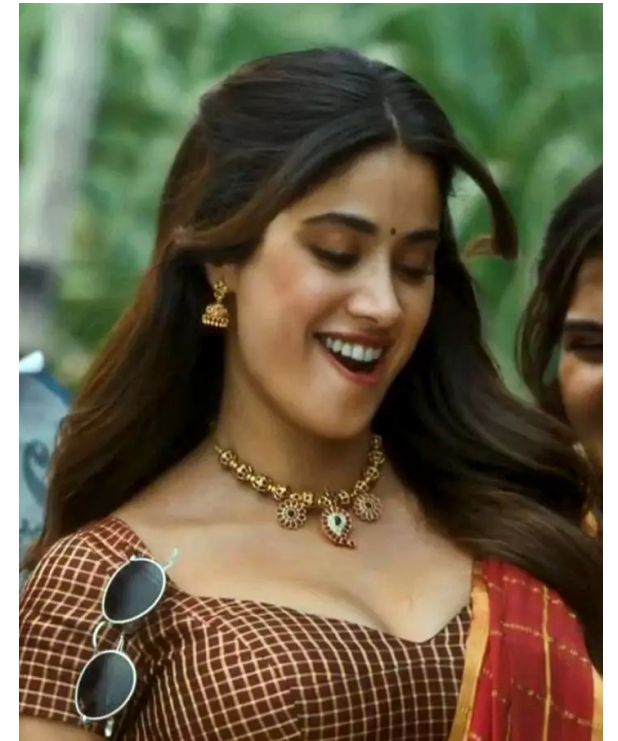
The star-studded wedding was attended by several prominent celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan, Rajinikanth, A. R. Rahman, Suriya, Vijay Sethupathi and Atlee. Later, on September 22, 2022, the couple embraced parenthood as they welcomed their twin sons, Uyir RudroNeel N Shivan and Ulag Daiwik N Shivan, through surrogacy.

# Janhvi's Look in 'Peddi' Criticised

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The recently released trailer of Peddi has sparked mixed reactions, with a section of viewers criticizing Janhvi Kapoor's look in the film. Many felt her role appeared needlessly sexualised and disconnected from the emotional core of the story. Social media users commented that the "hyper sexualization of the actress feels completely out of place." Many viewers questioned Janhvi's presentation in the trailer. The portions focusing heavily on the sexual aspect triggered trolling, with many netizens calling them "cringe." Some users commented Janhvi's scenes felt reminiscent of old-style commercial song visuals often associated with veteran filmmaker K. Raghavendra Rao — camera focus on the midriff, navel, hips and bosom!

There is a view



among some audiences that a highly glamorized presentation of Janhvi could weaken the emotional authenticity of an underdog sports drama dealing with class barriers and ambition. A director, on condition of anonymity, says, "Janhvi's village belle role in Peddi looks similar to her role in Devvara, where she walks with swagger and delivers a few punchlines. Since they sign a Bollywood actress, directors like to present her glamorously, but this backfired in

both movies. We have never seen a rural girl behaving boldly like this. Telugu directors are going overboard and failing her."

Peddi trailer did no justice to Janhvi. Her shots are being perceived as "unbecoming," meant to provide the oomph factor in the most obvious way possible. After seeing the impact, reliable sources tell us Janhvi has asked the director to prune those flagrant shots. Apparently the Peddi director is happy to do so.

## India drop to sixth in WTC standings after Bangladesh sweep Pakistan



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's World Test Championship hopes suffered another setback on Wednesday as Bangladesh's stunning 2-0 series whitewash of Pakistan pushed the Shubman Gill-led side down to sixth place in the ICC WTC 2025-27 standings. While India were not directly involved in the result, they still felt its impact. Bangladesh, rid-

ing on an impressive performance in Sylhet, moved ahead of India in the points table with a points percentage (PCT) of 58.33, leaving India at 48.15.

For a side that has consistently been among Asia's strongest Test teams in recent years, sixth place is unfamiliar territory.

India's campaign in the current WTC cycle has been inconsistent so far. With four wins, four

losses and one draw from nine matches, the team has struggled to put together the kind of sustained run that defined its previous WTC campaigns. Every setback has had a significant impact on its percentage, and Wednesday's reshuffle only added to the pressure.

The road ahead, however, still offers opportunities for recovery. India have several matches remaining in the cycle, giving the side enough time to improve its standing and strengthen its push for a place in the WTC final.

At the top, Australia continue to lead the standings with a PCT of 87.50. New Zealand occupy second place, while South Africa and Sri Lanka are also positioned ahead of India. For Shubman Gill's men, the equation remains straightforward: consistent performances will be key if they are to revive their hopes of reaching the WTC final at Lord's in 2027.

## KKR Beat MI By 4 Wickets, Keep Playoff Hopes Alive

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

Kolkata Knight Riders lived to fight another day with a crucial four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians after Sunil Narine-led bowlers once again delivered on a testing Eden Gardens surface to keep their IPL play-off hopes alive here on Wednesday. Needing nothing less than a win to remain in contention, KKR rode on a clinical bowling effort to restrict the already eliminated five-time champions to a modest 147/8 after Ajinkya Rahane won a good toss.

In reply, veteran Manish Pandey (45 off 33 balls; 6x4) finally got an opportunity to bat at No. 3 with talented keeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi injured and anchored a tense chase in a 33-ball 45. He along with Rovman Powell (40; 30b, 4x4, 2x6) shared a crucial 64-run partnership to set it up as the hosts overhauled the 148-run target in 18.5 overs. The victory lifted



KKR from eighth to sixth in the standings with 13 points and kept their slim playoff hopes alive with six wins from 13 matches. However, their fate is no longer in their own hands as KKR will now closely follow Rajasthan Royals' clash against Mumbai Indians on Sunday afternoon before they face Delhi Capitals in the evening clash. A Royals win would seal their qualification and eliminate

KKR, rendering Kolkata's final league game against DC inconsequential. For MI, it was their ninth defeat in 13 matches as the five-time champions remained second from bottom with one game left. On a surface where strokeplay remained difficult, KKR began shakily and lost both openers inside the powerplay. Finn Allen, coming off a blistering 35-ball 93 in the previous match against

Gujarat Titans, started aggressively with two boundaries before Deepak Chahar cleaned him up for 8. Ajinkya Rahane survived an lbw review via umpire's call but never looked comfortable during his 17-ball 21 before edging Corbin Bosch in the final over of the powerplay.

Bosch struck again in the eighth over when Cameron Green (4) miscued a poor delivery down the leg side straight to fine leg as KKR slipped to 54/3. Mumbai sensed an opening but let the game drift through sloppy fielding. Jasprit Bumrah, enduring another forgettable outing, leaked 14 runs in his second over as KKR steadily rebuilt through Pandey and Powell. There was further frustration for MI in the 10th over when Powell top-edged a pull off Hardik Pandya. Deepak Chahar at fine leg appeared set for the catch but left it for Robin Minz running across from deep square leg, only for the ball to land safely be-

tween them. Pandey however could not complete the chase and was cleaned up by Bumrah, while in the next over Powell fell to AM Ghazanfar. But with hardly any scoreboard pressure -- KKR needed 19 from last four overs -- Rinku Singh (nine not out) and Anukul Roy (four not out) sealed their seventh win in last eight matches. Earlier, KKR's bowlers had exploited the sticky conditions superbly as Cameron Green (2/23; three overs), left-arm pacer Saurabh Dubey (2/34) and Sunil Narine's exceptional figures of 1/13 choked MI.

Green was exceptional on the field and with the ball, striking twice in the space of three deliveries to remove Ryan Rickelton (6) and Naman Dhir (0). He then pulled off a stunning running catch from mid-wicket to dismiss Rohit Sharma (15) off Dubey just when the Indian stalwart was looking to break free. MI went on to lose three wickets for six runs in the space of eight balls.



## Retail inflation rises

### No kidnapping, a fallout among friends: Hyderabad Police trace 'abducted' woman

A woman feared kidnapped from a hospital in Rajendranagar on Tuesday night, May 19, was traced to her residence in Chaderghat and found safe, police said on Wednesday, May 20, clarifying that what had appeared to be an abduction was in fact a dispute among friends. The alarm was raised after the woman was seen being taken away from the hospital in a Mahindra Thar by a group of people. Police reached the hospital and launched an inquiry, eventually obtaining her phone number from a nearby supermarket where she had shopped before visiting the facility. Using the number, they tracked her to her home in Chaderghat, where she was questioned and her statement recorded by a woman Sub-Inspector.

# CM Revanth Warns Police Against Negligence in Maintaining Law and Order

A. Revanth Reddy stressed the need to strengthen the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) division and prepare a comprehensive policing plan for 10 years.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday issued a stern warning against negligence in maintaining law and order and directed the police to modernise itself to tackle emerging challenges. The Chief Minister said the government would not tolerate laxity in policing and stressed the need for accountability, coordination and technological upgradation across all wings of the department. Addressing a meeting attended by DGP C.V. Anand, state security adviser B. Shivadhar Reddy, additional DGPs, police commissioners and IGs, Revanth Reddy directed the replacement of outdated weapons, strengthening of patrolling,



increasing night patrolling and reinforcing village policing. He instructed officials to conduct regular reviews of rowdy sheets and history sheets and maintain continuous surveillance on rowdy sheets. The Chief Minister stressed the need to strengthen the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) division and prepare a comprehensive policing plan for 10 years. He directed the department to study cybercrime control measures in detail and

prepare a comprehensive report. He said there was an urgent need to increase forensic centres and data centres and suggested that police personnel for cybercrime wings should be identified and selected during the training stage. Revanth Reddy also instructed officials to introduce a cybercrime course for police personnel at the Skills University. He said technology usage should be increased in the vigilance department. Using data analysis, vigilance officials should concen-

trate on organised crime, he said, adding that the government should study the possibility of granting more powers to the vigilance wing. Revanth Reddy emphasised that coordination among all departments and senior officers should improve significantly. He questioned why authorities were failing to act against the indiscriminate erection of flex banners in the city and said it must be regulated strictly. He directed the tri-commissionerate chief and GHMC officials to act firmly against illegal flex banners. The Chief Minister said the government would not accept officers bypassing responsibility. He directed that no officer should leave headquarters without mandatory intimation to senior officials.

# BJP, Congress leaders play down POCSO case against Bandi Bageerath

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In the past two days, leaders from both the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have played down the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) case against Bandi Bageerath. While speaking to a reporter on Wednesday, May 20, the BJP MLA from Amrur, Paidi Rakesh Reddy, said that "friendships between boys and girls are very common these days," adding that since the victim and Bandi Bageerath have been very close for a long time, he hopes that the two families will sit together and find a solution amicably. "It's just a matter of three months anyways..." he said, alluding to the fact that the victim will be over 18 years in three months. A day earlier, the



Congress MP for Nagarkurnool, Mallu Ravi, who is also the brother of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, had hit out at the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) for demanding Bandi Sanjay's resignation (the father of Bageerath). "The Home Minister (referring to Bandi Sanjay) has already surrendered his son; it is not reasonable to ask for his resignation... anyhow, the police are investigating the matter," he said. Referring to Kavitha's arrest in the liquor scam

case in 2024, Mallu Ravi said, "When Kavitha got arrested, did KTR and Harish Rao resign? Then why are they asking for a resignation now?" A POCSO case was registered against Bandi Bageerath at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station on May 8, following allegations made by the family of a 17-year-old girl. According to the complainant, Bageerath made the victim consume alcohol and sexually assaulted her at a farmhouse on the outskirts of Hyderabad on two separate occasions. Meanwhile, Bageerath filed a counter-complaint with the police in Karimnagar alleging extortion and intimidation by the girl and her parents. He said the girl became acquainted with him and invited him to family functions and group gatherings.

# SUV Chase Sparks Kidnap Drama in Attapur

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An angry woman and her brothers had the police on their toes all of Tuesday night, after creating a scene that was mistaken for a gangland abduction. It all started close to midnight, about 11.50 pm on Tuesday, when four men in a SUV chased a woman. CCTV footage showed the woman rushing into a hospital near PVNR Pillar 146 and seeking refuge behind the reception counter. The gang forced their way in, overpowered the guards and staff members and pulled her out even as she screamed, forced her into the vehicle and drove away. The SUV headed towards Mehdiptam. Hospital staff alerted the police, who traced the vehicle and chased it from Attapur to Aramghar intersection. "On being informed, a Rakshak patrol vehicle on the night shift chased the vehicle which had no number plates. After examining footage from multiple CCTV cameras, found that another two bikers suspected to be their associates were following the

gang," a police officer said. The drama ended when special teams of Rajendranagar police and the task force tracked the woman's mobile phone signals and found her safe at her Malakpet home. Rajendranagar DCP S. Sreenivas said, "We investigated it thoroughly. The young woman disclosed she was not kidnapped but had a fight with her friend, booked a cab and went to the hospital. Her brothers had come in the SUV, but she travelled alone in the cab." Police detained the four youths, confirming that they had intimidated the hospital security and staff. "Every detail was captured on CCTV cameras. We recorded the woman's statement to confirm she is safe. We will also take statements of her family and friends and act as per law," the officer added. The incident, initially seen as a violent abduction, turned out to be a misunderstanding after the woman clarified her version. Yet the SUV chase, hospital intrusion and police pursuit left Attapur shaken, highlighting how quickly panic can spread when crime,

# Asaduddin Owaisi Urges FM Over SBI Strike Concerns

Owaisi urges Finance Minister to step in as SBI staff head for two-day strike

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday, May 20, urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to intervene and resolve the long-pending demands of State Bank of India (SBI) employees, days before a proposed two-day nationwide strike by the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation on May 25

and 26. Sharing a representation he received from the SBI Staff Union Hyderabad Circle, Owaisi said it was "disheartening" to see employees of the country's largest bank being forced to go on strike. "This requires your immediate attention," he said, tagging the Finance Minister on X. The letter, addressed to Members of Parliament, lists five unresolved grievances that the union says have compelled em-

ployees to resort to agitational action despite 67 years of cordial industrial relations with the management. Chief among them is the stoppage of messenger recruitment for 29 years, which the union says has shut the doors of dignified employment on the poor, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and other underprivileged communities who have traditionally depended on

such positions for social mobility. The union also flagged the absence of fresh armed guard recruitment since 2022, saying the declining strength of guards due to retirements, and their replacement with outsourced contractual personnel, had exposed bank premises, customers and assets to heightened security risks at a time when ATM thefts and robbery attempts were on the rise. On pension, the letter

said over 55,000 award staff and 55,000 officers were suffering erosion of retirement savings due to poor returns from pension fund managers, and that SBI continued to deny employees the right to change their Pension Fund Manager under the National Pension System — a right explicitly directed by the Ministry of Finance in September 2025 and implemented by all other public sector banks.

# Two Bowenpally cops held by ACB for demanding bribe to ease bail conditions



The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday, May 20, caught a sub-inspector and a police constable of Bowenpally Police Station red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 to relax bail conditions imposed on a complainant and extend police cooperation till the finalisation of a case. The accused, Sub-Inspector M Kiran Nandita and Constable B Vijay Kumar, were nabbed by ACB at around 4 pm. The bribe was demanded in connection with a case registered under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The constable had already accepted Rs 10,000 on an earlier occasion and had returned to demand more. The Rs 30,000 was recovered from the dicky of Kiran Nandita's Honda Activa, which was parked in the Bowenpally Police Station premises at her instance. Both accused are being produced before the Principal and Special Judge for Special Police Establishment (SPE) and ACB Cases at Nampally for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The identity of the complainant has been withheld for security reasons, the ACB said.

# Nampally's Multi-Level Parking Lies Deserted Due to Lack of Awareness

The parking complex, located close to the Hyderabad Industrial Exhibition (Numaish), did not benefit visitors during the 2026 edition.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The multi-level parking facility at Nampally, inaugurated in January, has received a poor response, with nearby establishments attributing it to lack of awareness among the public. A visit by Deccan Chronicle found that despite the presence of government offices, commercial establishments and proximity to the Hyderabad Railway Station, the facility remains underutilised. Parking continues to be a challenge in the area, and the facility was not operational for several days after inauguration. The parking complex, located close to the Hyderabad Industrial Exhibition (Numaish), did not benefit visitors during the 2026 edition. Dr Gangadhar Rao said, "The multi-level parking facility would have greatly helped Numaish visitors. Though it was inaugurated in January, it failed to serve visitors this season as it was



not functional." "The multi-level parking facility was originally built to address parking needs in the area. At present, the cinema theatre and commercial complex in the facility are not fully functional. Once they begin operating at full capacity and attract large crowds, a major portion of the parking space may be occupied by moviegoers, defeating the main purpose of the parking complex," he said. Attempts to contact officials in charge of the facility did not elicit a response. The Nampally junction, which connects the old and new parts of the city, continues to face traffic congestion, with vehicles often parked in no-parking zones. The multi-level parking facil-

ity is expected to ease congestion if utilised effectively. Developed under a public-private partnership between Larsen & Toubro and Hyderabad Metro Rail, the 15-floor complex has 10 floors dedicated to parking, with capacity for 200 cars and 200 two-wheelers. The facility has been constructed using German technology. Sudharshan Rao said, "Visitors to government offices in the area, including the MRO office beside the multi-level parking facility, would benefit if the authorities created awareness through billboards." The response to the facility remains low, with stakeholders citing lack of awareness and delayed operational readiness as key factors.

# Hyderabad man arrested for fitting fake number plate to dodge traffic fines

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Traffic Police on Wednesday, May 20, arrested a 40-year-old man for fitting a fake registration number plate on his motorcycle to evade traffic challoans, which had in the process been wrongly generated against an innocent vehicle owner. The accused, Gaikwad Navanath of Gokulnagar, Malpally, was apprehended after traffic police detected the fake plate during routine enforcement checks and alerted Banjara Hills Police. Investigation revealed that Navanath had affixed a number plate belonging to a

Honda Shine motorcycle owned by one Vikky Paswan of Rajendranagar to his Hero Passion Plus bike. As a result, traffic violation challans meant for Navanath were being generated against Paswan. A case has been registered at Banjara Hills Police Station under Section 318(4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 192(1) read with Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act. A notice under Section 35(3) of the BNSS has been issued to the accused, and investigation is underway to establish the original registration details of the motorcycle.

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# Walk Throws Light on Hyd's History, Culture

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The heritage department organised a walk from Kazhaha building museum to Golconda Fort here on Wednesday. The walk was organised as part of the government's 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika, aiming at creating awareness among citizens, students and tourists about Hyderabad's rich history, heritage and culture. Tourism department director Ranjet Nayak, along with heritage department director



Prof. K Arjun Rao, inaugurated the walk at Kazhaha building. Museums deputy director, P. Nagaraju informed the participants about collections and the importance of the museum. Further, profes-

sional tourist guides explained the historical significance of Golconda Fort, its architecture, cultural importance and its role in the history of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.