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Public Safety to Be Enhanced to Minimise Accidents on ORR: P8



Telangana May Have 182 Assembly Seats After Delimitation: Revanth

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said the number of Assembly constituencies in Telangana could increase to 182 after delimitation and expressed confidence that the Congress would return to power by winning 117 seats. Addressing a Rythu Ashirvada Sabha at Raghunadhapalem in Khammam district, he said the next Assembly elections may not be held in December 2028 but could be conducted in May or June 2029 along with the Lok Sabha polls. He said the proposed delimitation exercise could raise the number of As-



sembly seats from 119 to 182 and Lok Sabha seats from 17 to 26. He expressed confidence that the Congress would win 20 Lok Sabha seats. "I am predicting the outcome 32 months in advance: in the coming Kurukshetra, the Kalvakuntla family will disappear from Telangana's political landscape. I swear by Lord Sitaramachandra Swamy of

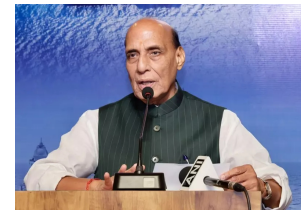
Bhadrachalam that the Congress will return to power in the next elections," he said. The Chief Minister criticised the BJP, alleging that it was attempting to secure majority support for passage of a Delimitation Bill in Parliament. He also accused the BRS of misleading people through surveys, questioning their credibility in the absence of an election context. Referring to the Kaleshwaram project, he alleged that filling Medigadda could endanger downstream areas, including submergence of villages, and questioned the intent of BRS leaders. He also referred to internal differences within the

BRS and challenged its leaders on their political positions. Highlighting state government's welfare measures, the Chief Minister said the government had spent ₹1.7 lakh crore on schemes for farmers over the past 36 months, including crop loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, Rythu Bheema, bonuses on fine rice, free power to agriculture and compensation for crop losses. He said crop loans worth ₹20,630 crore of over 25 lakh farmers had been waived. He said the government had continued welfare schemes of the previous administration and maintained that financial constraints would not affect.

India Guarantor For Peace in Indian Ocean: Rajnath

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that India has emerged as a guarantor of peace, stability and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), with the Indian Navy playing a pivotal role in protecting the country's maritime interests amid a rapidly evolving global security environment. Addressing naval personnel during the traditional Barakhana event in Visakhapatnam, ahead of the commissioning of INS Mahendragiri, the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, Singh praised the Navy's profes-



sionalism and operational readiness. He underlined the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean Region, noting that more than 90 per cent of India's trade by volume is carried through maritime routes. He said the nation's energy security, vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and island territories make maritime security a cornerstone of India's economic development and national security. The Defence Minister ob-

served that rising geopolitical competition and the increasing presence of extra-regional powers in the Indian Ocean have made the maritime domain more complex, requiring constant vigilance and enhanced preparedness. He stressed that the Indian Navy has consistently safeguarded sea lanes, protected national interests, and contributed to regional stability through its operational capabilities and humanitarian efforts. Singh also highlighted the government's focus on strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

WEATHER

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

PoK: Kashmiris To Start Long March From July 15



The civil rights group of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) under the banner of Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) has announced a long march on July 15 to Muzaffarabad, the capital of so-called "Azad Kashmir," amid unrest that has left hundreds dead. The PoJK administration has called for additional forces from Islamabad, making it clear they are not willing to talk or negotiate with the protesting population. As protests continued across PoJK, with demonstrators demanding better life, civil liberties, their own elected government and dialogue, the Pakistani government has substantially increased force deployment in PoJK.

► FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

PM Modi Visits New Zealand As Trade Deal Sparks India Pushback



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lands in New Zealand on Friday touting a free trade deal that has sparked a backlash despite promises it will unlock jobs and economic riches. On the agenda are trade, tourism and sport -- but recent undercurrents of anti-migrant sentiment

risk tarnishing his trip to a nation long proud of its tolerance. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon celebrated the signing in April of the free trade deal with the world's most populous nation, touting an export boom that would deliver jobs and investment in spades. The pact is widely expected to be approved by

New Zealand's parliament. But not everyone is happy at the prospect. Lawmakers in the populist New Zealand First Party, part of Luxon's governing coalition, railed against parts of the agreement covering migration and visas. "I don't care how much criticism we get, I am just never going to agree with a butter chicken tsunami coming

to New Zealand," government minister Shane Jones told a local radio show. An Indian community leader accused Jones of "outright racism". A prominent evangelical preacher went even further when he heard Indian leader Modi would soon be arriving on New Zealand's shores. Self-proclaimed "apostle" Brian Tamaki ac-

cused Modi of vilifying Christians in India -- and suggested New Zealanders should retaliate in kind. "Let's purge New Zealand of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims," Tamaki said on Instagram. "While we're at it, if they're burning churches down, why don't we burn mosques and their temples down? Tit for tat," he

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Govt Admits E20 May Reduce Fuel Economy by 5%

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The government on Friday admitted that petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by upto 5 per cent in some vehicles, but argued the impact is outweighed by benefits, including a higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better

pickup, smoother acceleration, cleaner engine operation, and lower lifecycle carbon emissions. The ethanol controversy has taken a centre stage in India's when the government mandated shift to 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol, sparking a fierce public debate over mileage drops, engine wear, and a lack of consumer choice. However, critics are questioning why fuel with 20 percent

ethanol is not cheaper than pure petrol or fuel with 10 percent ethanol. In a statement in the form of a frequently asked questions (FAQ), the ministry of petroleum and natural gas admitted that E20 blended fuel could result in a 3-5 per cent reduction in the fuel economy of "some vehicles", but sought an explanation why the blended fuel is not currently cheaper than pure

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

SIR: CEO Indicates Possibility Of Extension Of Enumeration Phase

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharshan Reddy on Friday indicated the possibility of extending the dates for submission of enumeration forms and the ongoing phase of enumeration as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Telangana. Responding to queries from the media during a 'Meet the Press' event here, he said if that

Hyderabad CEO Sudharshan Reddy directed DEOs to strengthen monitoring and ensure BLOs cover every voter amid complaints over missing enumeration

if the booth-level officers (BLOs) and electoral registration officers (EROs) requested the Election Commission of India, and based on the feedback from the state, the poll panel may extend the date. "This does not come under our jurisdiction. The Election Commission

of India will take a call. We will let it know about the situation when the ECI asks (about the progress)," he clarified. In wake of complaints that a large number of voters in Hyderabad district had not received enumeration forms, though data released by the poll panel showed the exercise was nearly complete, Sudharshan Reddy said strict directions would be issued to district electoral officers (DEO) to

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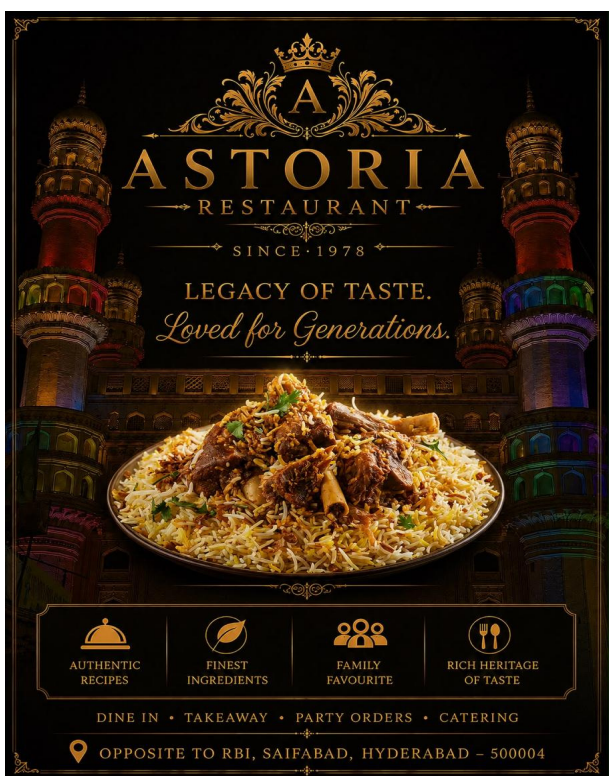
Maharashtra Sets Up SIT To Probe Health Insurance Fraud

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Maharashtra government on Friday announced a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged irregularities under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY), with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserting that fraud in public health insurance schemes would not be tolerated. The SIT, to be headed by Nashik Divisional Commissioner Dr. Praveen Gedam, will

comprise experts from multiple departments and investigate alleged irregularities, particularly in Nashik district, where the highest number of suspicious claims have been detected. Mr. Fadnavis announced the probe after reviewing the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and MJPJAY. According to the Chief Minister, an audit conducted by the State Health Assurance Society

► CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4



ASTORIA RESTAURANT
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Catholic Bishops' Body Urges HM to Withdraw FCRA Amendment Bill

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) on Friday urged Home Minister Amit Shah to withdraw the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 and the recently notified rules, stressing that both be redrafted after wider consultation with stakeholders. The CBCI submitted a memorandum to Shah, raising concerns over the proposed FCRA Bill, 2026, religious freedom,

the rights of Scheduled Caste (SC) Christians and the humanitarian crisis in Manipur. The memorandum, signed by CBCI president Cardinal Anthony Poola and CBCI secretary general Archbishop Anil Couto, was handed to Shah when the delegation met him here. The CBCI expressed concern over the proposed amendments to the FCRA and said some of the proposed provisions could affect charitable institutions that have served poor and vulnerable communities for decades. The Conference urged the government to withdraw the proposed Amendment Bill and the recently notified Rules. It requested that both be redrafted after wider consultation with stakeholders, a CBCI statement said. It said any changes to the law should apply only in the future. They should not affect existing rights,



legally acquired assets or ongoing charitable work. It called for independent judicial oversight in FCRA cases. It also sought safeguards before the government can take over or transfer the assets of an institution. The memorandum said there should be a clear distinction between minor procedural lapses and serious offences. It said charitable assets should continue to be used according to the intentions of donors. The memorandum also raised concerns over various state freedom of reli-

gion Acts. It alleged that there was a continued denial of SC status to Christians and other religious minorities of SC origin under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. Noting that these matters are pending before the Supreme Court, the CBCI appealed for an early hearing and final judgment. It said the delay continues to affect the dignity, equality and constitutional rights of millions of citizens and creates uncertainty among minority communities. The CBCI also high-

lighted the continuing humanitarian crisis in Manipur and said thousands of farming families have lost their livelihoods. Many students have faced disruption to their education, while several families have left the state in search of safety, education and employment, the CBCI said. The Conference appealed to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to take urgent steps to restore lasting peace, communal harmony and normalcy in Manipur.

Telangana CEO explains SIR process, says Form 6 can restore missing voter names

Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy clarified that only voters who submit enumeration forms under SIR-2026 will feature in the draft electoral rolls. Those left out can submit Form 6 from August 1. He also addressed implementation issues and Rohingya verification.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudarshan Reddy has clarified that only those voters who submit their enumeration forms under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 will have their names included in the draft electoral rolls. However, he assured citizens that those whose names are omitted from the draft list will still have an opportunity to get themselves enrolled by submitting Form 6 from August 1.

Addressing a Meet the Press programme organized by the Press Club, Hyderabad, on Friday, Sudarshan Reddy explained that the SIR exercise is being conducted to ensure that the electoral rolls remain accurate, updated, and free from discrepancies. He said every voter whose name appeared in the electoral rolls as of June 10



Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy speaking at a podium during a press conference.

has been covered under the exercise, and printed enumeration forms have been prepared for all such voters. According to the CEO, each voter has been provided with two copies of the enumeration form. One completed form will be collected by the Booth Level Officer (BLO), while the second copy will be returned to the voter as an acknowledgement of submission. He emphasized that voters who fail to submit the enumeration form before the preparation of the draft electoral rolls will not have

their names included in the draft list. Nevertheless, they need not worry about losing their voting rights, as they can apply for inclusion through Form 6 during the claims and objections period beginning August 1.

Sudarshan Reddy acknowledged that BLOs deployed in urban areas, particularly in Hyderabad and Medchal districts, have been facing practical challenges due to mixed-up or incomplete addresses. Many BLOs are posted from different localities and are finding it difficult to trace voters at the given addresses. To overcome these difficulties and expedite the verification process, the Election Department is seeking assistance from municipal employees.

Responding to questions on whether the SIR exercise would be extended because of delays in distributing enumeration forms, the CEO said the decision would

depend on factual reports submitted by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and BLOs regarding the progress of the exercise in their respective jurisdictions.

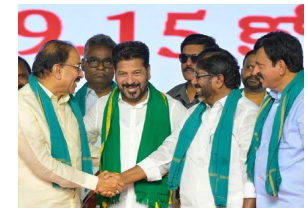
The CEO also said the issue of enumeration forms not being printed in Hindi and Urdu has already been brought to the notice of the Election Commission of India (ECI) for appropriate action.

On a query regarding Rohingya migrants in Hyderabad, Sudarshan Reddy stated that they had been identified at 32 locations across the city. He said EROs have been instructed to exercise heightened caution while scrutinizing such enumeration forms and to issue notices wherever necessary as part of the verification process to ensure that only eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls.

CM Revanth, Ministers contradict on funds for farmers, women's welfare

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Contradictory claims made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet colleagues over the amount spent on farmers' and women's welfare have triggered confusion, highlighting an apparent lack of coordination within the Telangana government. Addressing a Rythu Ashirwada Sabha at Jagannadhapuram in Khammam district on Friday, the Chief Minister released Rythu Bharosa assistance and distributed e-Pattadar passbooks to farmers. He stated that the Congress government had spent Rs 1.70 lakh crore on the agriculture sector since assuming office. According to him, the expenditure covered Rythu Bima, farm loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, Minimum Support Price (MSP) support, and crop loss compensation. However,



Agriculture Minister Tummalapudi Nageswara Rao, who spoke earlier at the same event, put the figure at Rs 1.60 lakh crore, stating that the amount included spending on irrigation as well. The difference of Rs 10,000 crore between the Chief Minister's and the Agriculture Minister's claims raised questions over the accuracy of the official figures. Similar discrepancies emerged regarding financial assistance extended to women through self-help groups. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the government had facilitated Rs 67,000 crore in interest-free bank loans to women, with annual bank linkages of around Rs 20,000 crore. In contrast, Revenue

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy claimed that women had received Rs 63,000 crore in interest-free loans so far. The conflicting figures presented by senior ministers at the same public programme left many attendees uncertain about the actual scale of government assistance. During his address, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy also announced that the government would soon issue notifications for 17,000 to 20,000 government jobs. Meanwhile, Bhatti Vikramarka revealed that the proposed Indiramma Bima scheme would provide Rs 5 lakh insurance coverage to 1.15 crore families across Telangana. The differing claims made by top leaders at a single government event have drawn attention to the need for greater consistency in presenting official welfare data.

BRS urges EC to use AI, Aadhaar-based verification for strict "One Citizen-One Vote" implementation

The Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) has urged the Election Commission of India to deploy artificial intelligence and Aadhaar-based tools to eliminate duplicate voter registrations during the ongoing revision of electoral rolls in Telangana.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The BRS on Friday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to use artificial intelligence and Aadhaar to identify and eliminate duplication or multiple voter registrations across the country, during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana. The party also sought the ECI to ensure that no genuine voter is deleted from the electoral rolls.

A BRS delegation comprising Rajya Sabha MPs Vaddiraju Ravichandra, Divakonda Damodar Rao and B Parthasaradhi Reddy, former MP B Vinod Kumar and BRS general secretary Soma Bharath Kumar, met Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi and submitted a detailed representation in this regard. In its rep-



resentation, the BRS sought strict implementation of the principle of "One Citizen-One Vote" in accordance with Sections 17, 18 and 62 of the Representation of the People Act. The party urged the EC to verify and delete duplicate and multiple voter registrations using scientific and technological tools, including Aadhaar-enabled verification wherever legally permissible, artificial intelligence-assisted matching, de-duplication software, facial recognition, GIS-based verification and field-level scrutiny. The party representatives

also requested the Commission to extend the exercise beyond Telangana to identify duplicate registrations across neighbouring States, while ensuring that no genuine elector is deprived of the right to vote. The BRS informed that its preliminary analysis had identified suspected duplicate voter registrations across all 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana, averaging around 16,243 suspicious entries per constituency, which it said required statutory verification before any deletion. Speaking to mediapersons after the meeting,

former MP B Vinod Kumar said the success of the SIR exercise depended on making Booth Level Officers (BLOs) more effective. He said the party informed the Commission that several BLOs lacked adequate training and, in some places, even the required enumeration forms were unavailable. He added that officials had been replaced in parts of Hyderabad after such shortcomings came to light. Vinod Kumar said the BRS had deployed around 35,000 Booth Level Assistants across Telangana to assist voters during the revision process. He also suggested wider use of technology, including voluntary Aadhaar linking, to improve transparency and detect duplicate registrations, while acknowledging that Aadhaar could not be made mandatory in view of the Supreme Court's ruling.

Mala Community to Launch Hunger Strike Today

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The National Ambedkar Sena has announced an indefinite hunger strike from July 11 at Chintal Basti Community Hall, Khairatabad, protesting the implementation of the Scheduled Castes Reservation Classification Act, 2025, in Telangana. The organisation is demanding that the roster point allotted to the Mala community be revised from 22 to 16, alleging that the present system is "unsci-



entific" and has severely affected employment opportunities for Mala youth. Community leaders said the fast-unto-death would continue until the State government provides a written assurance

on revising the roster points. They argued that the Mala community has made significant historical contributions to agriculture, irrigation, village administration, traditional medicine and cultural

preservation, yet continues to face discrimination. The protest also carries political significance, with organisers claiming the Mala community has been a strong support base for the Congress and accusing the government of betraying its trust through the new reservation classification. They maintained that reservations were intended to address social backwardness and alleged that the present sub-classification undermines that objective.

Birthday Wishes Pour in for GHMC Joint Commissioner Dr. Yadaiah

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

GHMC Malkajgiri Joint Commissioner Dr. Thiparthi Yadaiah received an outpouring of birthday wishes on Thursday as senior government officials, public representatives, social activists, colleagues, friends, and well-wishers extended their greetings on the occasion of his birthday. People from different walks of life conveyed their wishes through personal meetings, phone calls, and social media,



lauding Dr. Yadaiah for his dedicated public service, efficient administration, and people-centric approach in discharging his official responsibilities. Among those who greeted him was Sri Peravali Mohan Murali, Deputy Director, TGDDCF Ltd., Lalapet, Secunderabad. Extending his heartfelt wishes, he prayed for

Dr. Yadaiah's good health, happiness, and continued success in serving society. He expressed hope that Dr. Yadaiah would continue inspiring people through his commitment and compassion. Conveying his message, Mohan Murali said, "May your smile continue to inspire hope in many more people. May your hands continue to serve society with dedication. May your life be filled with happiness, good health, peace, and spiritual fulfillment."

MATOOR VILLAGE MOURNS THE DEMISE OF VAKITI PRATAP REDDY



A pall of gloom descended over Mator village in Motakondur Mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district following the demise of Sri Vakiti Pratap Reddy (80), who passed away on Thursday at around 2:30 PM. His death has left family members, relatives, friends, and villagers deeply saddened. Sri Vakiti Pratap Reddy is survived by his daughter Smt. Vijayalakshmi. As he had no male heir, he had accepted Sri Chiluguri Ram Reddy of Sakampalli village, Madire, as his illarikam son-in-law, and the family has been living together with strong family values and mutual affection. Relatives and villagers remembered Sri Pratap Reddy as a humble, soft-spoken, and kind-hearted person who earned the respect and affection of everyone in the village. They described his demise as an irreparable loss to the community.

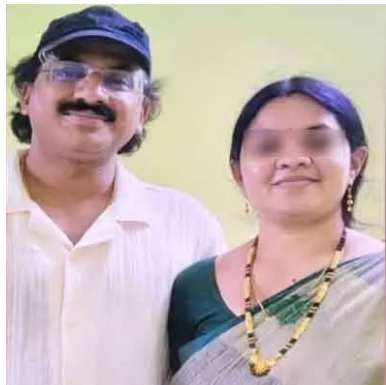
For the past few years, he had been residing in a house in Mator village. Before that, the family had spent many years living together as a joint family near their agricultural well and farmland. Agriculture remained the backbone of the family, and villagers recalled that they practised joint farming for several decades while maintaining close family ties.

Film Director Booked for Allegedly Cheating Family of ₹4.50 Crore with Hero Promise

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has registered a case against film director Ashok Babu and his wife Vijayalakshmi for allegedly cheating a businessman of ₹4.50 crore by promising to launch his son as a film hero.

According to police, Naidu Hanumantha Rao, a businessman from Kukatpally, was introduced to the director through an acquaintance. Ashok Babu allegedly promised to cast Hanumantha Rao's son as the lead actor in a film and assured him of future opportunities in



the film industry. Believing the promise, the complainant transferred ₹3.05 crore in phases between September 2024 and December 2025 and later paid an additional ₹45 lakh through a cheque. Although the film's shooting began, it was allegedly left incomplete.

When Hanumantha Rao demanded either completion of the film or return of the money, the director allegedly promised to repay ₹4.50 crore and issued four cheques worth ₹50 lakh each. However, the payment was not made, and the complainant alleged that he was threatened when he sought the money back. Based on the complaint, the case was transferred from Kukatpally Police to the Cyberabad EOW, which registered a case against Ashok Babu, Vijayalakshmi and others. Police questioned the director and his wife as part of the ongoing investigation.

Aleru PACS New Directors Take Oath

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The newly constituted governing body of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) Ltd., Aleru, officially assumed charge after taking oath at the PACS office on Friday. The body is headed by Chairman Janagam Upender Reddy and newly nominated Directors, including Sandepalli Muthaiah of Mator village, Motakondur Mandal. Muthaiah's appointment was welcomed by vil-



lagers, Congress leaders, public representatives, farmers, relatives, and supporters. Former Vice MPP Illendula Malleth, Sarpanch Janne Siddulu, Deputy Sarpanch Bairapaka Ramulu, ward members, and the Thalka family extended their congratulations. A farmer and social

worker, Muthaiah earlier served as President of the Mator Paatha Kaalva Committee, contributing to irrigation management and village development. Thanking Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilaiah and party leaders for their confidence, Muthaiah pledged to work with sincerity, transparency, and dedication for the welfare of farmers and strengthening the cooperative sector across the Aleru constituency.

Vaddiraju Ravichandra appointed as BRS Parliamentary Party leader



BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao appointed Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra as the party's Parliamentary Party leader and floor leader in the Rajya Sabha, replacing KR Suresh Reddy, whose term has ended. Ravichandra, who had been serving as the deputy floor leader, has now been entrusted with leading the BRS in the Upper House. The appointment was announced by the party on Thursday. A second-term Rajya Sabha member, Ravichandra was re-nominated by the BRS leadership in recognition of his contributions to the party and his representation of BC and Bahujan communities. His current term in the Rajya Sabha will expire in April 2030. He is also serving on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Coal and Mines.

AP lifts Godavari water as Revanth pushes Telangana reservoirs to critically low levels: Harish Rao

BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Friday accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of endangering Telangana's water security by refusing to operate the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme despite adequate Godavari inflows.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Friday accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of pushing Telangana's reservoirs into critically low storage levels. Contrasting Telangana's approach with Andhra Pradesh, he said the neighbouring State had already utilised more than 60 TMCft of Godavari River water through the Pattiseema, Tadipudi, Purushothapatnam and Pushkar lift irrigation schemes, while Telangana failed to harness available flows despite having the required infrastructure. Demanding immediate operation of the Kannepalli pump house, he urged the government to lift Godavari River water and fill reservoirs, including Yellampalli, Annapur, Ranganayaka Sagar and Mallanna Sagar, instead of allowing



the water to flow downstream. In a strongly-worded statement, Harish Rao stated that the Chief Minister's political vendetta against the Kaleshwaram project came at the cost of farmers and the State's future drinking and irrigation water needs. He held the Congress government responsible for Telangana facing a water crisis in the coming months. He said the Chief Minister jeopardised Telangana's water security by refusing to operate the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme despite adequate Godavari River inflows. He attributed the Chief Minister's reluctance to operationalise the Kaleshwaram project to

political vendetta against the project built by the previous BRS government. The former Irrigation Minister alleged that the government was attempting to conceal its failure to operate the lifting system by repeatedly targeting the Medigadda barrage. He maintained that neither the Medigadda, Annaram nor Sundilla barrages had suffered any damage even during floods of 28 lakh cusecs, and questioned why the government was creating apprehensions when the present flow was around one lakh cusecs. Harish Rao pointed out that a team of retired irrigation engineers had already advised the government to lift water from Kannepalli to Yellampalli through the Annaram and Sundilla barrages, but their recommendations were ignored. He accused the Congress government of

allowing Telangana's share of Godavari River waters to flow into Andhra Pradesh despite repeated warnings about a possible drought due to El Nino. According to him, pumps at the Kannepalli station, capable of lifting three TMCft of water a day, were being deliberately kept idle even as substantial flows continued in the river. He alleged that the government's inaction had pushed the Yellampalli reservoir to critically low storage levels. Against its gross storage capacity of 20.18 TMCft, the reservoir currently held only 5.48 TMCft, he said, warning that the storage was nearing dead storage levels despite the reservoir catering to irrigation, industrial, thermal power and drinking water requirements, including Mission Bhagiratha and Hyderabad's drinking water supply.

Etala Rajender slams Revanth Reddy over Kaleshwaram remarks

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP MP Etala Rajender strongly criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his remarks on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, alleging that the Congress government lacked a proper understanding of the project's scale and significance. He termed Revanth Reddy's remarks irresponsible and said they undermined the interests of Telangana farmers. Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Rajender said Kaleshwaram should not be viewed solely through the Medigadda barrage, but as an integrated irrigation system comprising multiple barrages, reservoirs, canals, an extensive pipe-



line network, underground tunnels and high-capacity pumping stations. He took exception to allegations that the entire expenditure of around Rs. 1 lakh crore on the project had been looted. He said such statements ignored the infrastructure created on the ground and undermined the interests of Telangana farmers. The BJP MP said political criticism should not come at the cost of the State's long-term irrigation interests. He warned that he would strongly oppose any attempt to jeopardise Te-

langana's interests for political reasons. Referring to the Medigadda barrage, he said if technical issues prevented water storage there, the government should avoid impounding water at the structure. However, he stressed that river water should still be lifted through the available pumping infrastructure instead of allowing it to flow downstream unused. Clarifying that his remarks were not aimed at defending any political party, Rajender said his criticism was directed at the government, which was responsible for ensuring that the irrigation project served its intended purpose and benefited farmers.

Sealed GHMC Godown Illegally Reopened in Balanagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A serious case of alleged violation of municipal laws has come to light in Balanagar, where a commercial godown sealed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for unauthorised construction was reportedly reopened without permission, triggering concern among local residents and civic authorities. The property, identified as Sahara Steels at Madhav Nagar, Ferozguna, was recently sealed by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Circle-3 Bowenpally, under Section 461-A of the GHMC Act. A caution notice had been affixed to the premises, clearly prohibiting any entry or construction activity until further orders. However, according to local residents, the government seal was allegedly tampered with, and construction work resumed inside the premises. Workers were reportedly seen carrying out internal works behind closed gates despite the official sealing order. Sources allege that the property owner was misled by local brokers



who reportedly assured him that they would manage the issue with civic authorities and prevent further action. Acting on these assurances, the owner allegedly resumed construction, leading to a fresh violation of municipal regulations. Residents have expressed serious concern over the incident, alleging that such middlemen encourage illegal activities and create unnecessary disputes in the locality. They have urged GHMC officials to take stringent action against all those responsible for violating the law. Senior GHMC officials are said to have taken se-

rious note of the matter. Officials are reportedly preparing to initiate strict legal proceedings against those involved for allegedly breaking a government seal, violating municipal orders, and continuing unauthorised construction. Criminal action and police complaints may also follow as part of the enforcement process. The incident has once again highlighted the need for strict enforcement of municipal regulations and stronger action against those attempting to bypass official orders through illegal means.

Mahareddy Bhupal Reddy Attends Sai Sanjeevani Hospital's 15th Anniversary

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Narayankhed MLA Mahareddy Bhupal Reddy attended the 15th anniversary celebrations of Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in Narayankhed on Friday, where he extended birthday greetings to Dr. Jagan Mohan and praised his commitment to providing quality healthcare to the people of the region. Speaking on the occasion, Bhupal Reddy appreciated the hospital's dedicated medical services over the past 15 years and wished the institution continued success in serv-



ing society. The programme featured warm felicitations for Dr. Jagan Mohan and recognition of the hospital's contribution to the healthcare sector in Narayankhed and nearby areas. Several BRS leaders and public representatives attended the event, including Mandal Party President Sanjeev Rao

Patil, former Municipal Chairman Najeeb, Municipal Councillor Abhishek Shetkar, Town Party President Nagesh Set, former MPTC Mujamil, former Sarpanches Pandari, Salman and Prasad, besides party leaders Gopal, Eswar, Chintu Naresh, Srinu, Dastagiri, party workers, and well-wishers.

Aleru PACS Chairman Janagam Upender Reddy Assumes Charge



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Newly nominated Chairman of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) Ltd., Aleru, Janagam Upender Reddy formally assumed charge on Friday at the PACS office in Aleru in the presence of the newly nominated Directors, public representatives, Congress leaders, farmers, cooperative members, and well-wishers. The assumption of charge ceremony witnessed a large gathering, with attendees extending their congratulations and wishing the newly constituted PACS governing body a successful tenure dedicated to farmers' welfare and cooperative development. On the occasion, Janne Siddulu, Sarpanch of Matoor village and Vice President of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Sarpanches Forum, felicitated Upender Reddy with a traditional shawl and bouquet, conveying his best wishes for a productive and farmer-centric leadership.

A long-time Congress leader, Upender Reddy has served the party in several key positions over the years. Recognized for his simplicity, accessibility, and close rapport with the public, he enjoys wide support across the Aleru constituency. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Mahila Congress President Neelam Padma Venkataswamy also congratulated the Chairman and Directors, expressing confidence that the new team would strengthen the cooperative movement and effectively serve the farming community. After assuming charge, Upender Reddy thanked Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilaiah, party leaders, public representatives, and supporters for their trust and encouragement. He pledged to work with transparency, commitment, and dedication to improve cooperative services, safeguard farmers' interests, and enhance the reputation of Aleru PACS through efficient and people-oriented governance.

Encroachment Removal Drive Conducted in DLF Area

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sherilingampally Zone Zonal Commissioner Narayan Amit, IAS, conducted an encroachment removal drive in the DLF area to reclaim public land and ensure smooth movement for pedestrians and motorists. During the drive, illegal structures and obstructions on roads and footpaths were removed, improving public

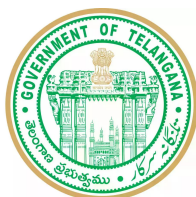


convenience and accessibility. The Zonal Commissioner said the initiative reflects the Civic body's commitment to maintaining clean, safe and encroachment-free public spaces while ensur-

ing strict enforcement of civic regulations. He appealed to citizens to cooperate in protecting public spaces and keeping them free from encroachments.

QR-Coded Cashless Health Cards Active From July 15

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



The Employees Health Care Trust (EHCT) has announced that cashless medical treatment under the revamped Employees Health Scheme (EHS) will commence from July 15, following a key board meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday. Under the revamped system, beneficiaries will receive QR-coded digital health cards, which can be conveniently downloaded and stored on their mobile phones. These digital cards will enable eligible

government employees and pensioners to avail cashless treatment at 943 empanelled hospitals across the State for 2,594 approved medical procedures. A major decision taken during the meeting was the adoption of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates for medical treatments, a move expected to streamline reimbursements and

ensure uniform pricing across hospitals. Officials said the Government Order (GO) incorporating the revised Employees Health Scheme guidelines would be issued within the next four days. To improve accessibility and transparency, the EHCT will also develop a dedicated mobile application containing complete details of the health scheme, including empanelled hospitals, eligible procedures, treatment guidelines and beneficiary services. In another significant initiative, the State government has decided to

expand its healthcare infrastructure by establishing 24 new wellness centres at district headquarters. These centres will complement the 12 existing wellness centres, ensuring comprehensive statewide coverage. The wellness centres will offer outpatient consultations, diagnostic services and regular medicines, reducing the need for beneficiaries to visit hospitals for routine healthcare needs. Further discussions on implementing the revised guidelines will take place during a meeting scheduled for Monday between EHCT.

Cyberabad Police Win 37 Medals at Telangana Police Games

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad Police's Cluster-A team won 37 medals at the 5th Telangana Police Games & Sports Meet-2026 held at Saroornagar Indoor Stadium on July 8 and 9. The team secured 9 gold, 8 silver and 20 bronze medals in events including Yoga, Wushu, Taekwondo, Boxing, Karate, Gymnastics, Powerlifting and Bodybuilding. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr.



M. Ramesh, IPS, felicitated the winners with medals and cash incentives at the Commissionerate headquarters. The Commissioner congratulated the athletes for excelling while per-

forming their official duties and assured continued support through training and sports facilities. He encouraged all police personnel to participate in sports to maintain

physical fitness and mental well-being. The programme was attended by Joint CP (Traffic) Sun Preet Singh, senior DCPs and other police officials.

Indian Sailors Risk Their Lives at Sea, as Iran War Grinds On

Born to landless Indian farmers, Sunil Pooniya thought a job at sea would be his ticket out of poverty, instead his first voyage saw him diving into the ocean to escape a deadly attack driven by the Iran war. For hundreds of thousands of Indians, merchant shipping jobs are a lucrative proposition despite the inherent risks. The attack on Pooniya's ship killed two fellow Indians -- the country's sailors are among the highest merchant maritime casualties from the Middle East war.

Dalip Singh and Ashish Kumar Singh were the first Indians killed in the conflict, after their oil tanker was hit on March 1 by projectiles off Oman's Khasab port. "There was a huge noise and the whole ship shook," Pooniya recalled. "I thought something had gone wrong with the engine, but a missile had hit us," Pooniya added, who had been on the Palau-flagged MV Sky-light. "The whole ship was up in flames."

Sonam Wangchuk Loses Over 7 kg on 11th Day of Hunger Strike

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Educator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's condition deteriorated further on Wednesday as doctors examining him reported a loss of over 7 kilograms in his weight on the 11th day of his indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar. The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at the protest site demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and government accountability over alleged examination irregularities entered its 19th day.

According to a health bulletin issued on Wednesday morning, Wangchuk's weight has dropped to 59.40 kilograms, taking his total weight loss since the start of the hunger strike to more than 7 kilo-



grams. His blood pressure was recorded at 103/68 mm Hg in the sitting position and 111/73 mm Hg while lying down. His heart rate was 74 beats per minute, blood glucose level 75 mg/dL and oxygen saturation was 98 per cent. The bulletin said his hydration was fair and that he remained mentally alert.

The CJP has been demanding Pradhan's resignation, alleging that repeated examination ir-

regularities and paper leaks have devastated the lives of students and their families. On Tuesday, the outfit welcomed the Delhi High Court's order restoring its original X handle, which had been withheld in May. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke termed the order a "big win" for the movement, free speech and digital rights.

A delegation of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) also visited the protest site on Tuesday to

express solidarity with the agitation and reiterated support for the protesters' demands, including Pradhan's resignation, scrapping of the National Testing Agency (NTA), compensation to families of students who died by suicide and action against those responsible for the alleged examination irregularities. Meanwhile, members of the CPI(ML) Liberation-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) -- Neha, Manish, Hrishikesh, Deepak Kumar Verma and Aameen -- continued their indefinite hunger strike on a separate stage at the protest site. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, for admission to medical colleges, held on May 3, was cancelled over allegations of a paper leak. A re-test was held on June 21.

First Time as CM, First Time Since Stampede: All Eyes on Vijay's Karur Visit

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The maiden visit of C Joseph Vijay as Chief Minister to Karur on Friday has caused excitement among the people as he is expected to distribute 32 appointment orders issued on compassionate grounds to relatives of the victims of the stampede on September 27, 2025, during a TVK rally, besides laying the foundation for a factory that would employ 13,500 people. During his much awaited visit, Vijay would distribute the appointment orders for jobs in various government departments at a government function at the Collector's office premises and lay the foundation for the Rs 1500 crore worth non-leather footwear manufacturing unit of Evervan Kothari Footwear Private Limited, which would come up at Krishnarajapuram in Karur district.



However, the opposition parties termed the move as politically motivated. DMK organization secretary R S Bharathi urged the State government and the CBI, investigating the stampede case to ensure that the Chief Minister's visit to Karur and distribution of appointment orders did not unduly influence the families of the victims of the September 27, 2025 tragedy and the witnesses to the stampede. Responding to Bharathi's representation to the supervisory committee, appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor the case, on July 7 to issue the necessary orders to the Chief Secretary of the State and the CBI to ensure that those injured in the tragedy were also not influenced by the

visit, chairperson of the committee Justice (Retired) Ajay Rastogi informed that the complaint had been forwarded to the CBI for fair investigation and appropriate action. Objecting to the distribution of appointment orders, CPM State secretary P Shanmugham said that issuing the orders even before as the CBI had completed the probe would be detrimental to the outcome of the investigation and raised the question if it was fair for the government to compensate those who were killed while attending a TVK election rally. While it was a different thing for the TVK government to procure jobs for people from the affected families in the private sector, for appointing such persons in government departments, proper guidelines needed to be framed and followed, he said, urging the government to withhold the distribution.

Australia Agrees to Export Uranium to India for Peaceful Civilian Use

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian leader Narendra Modi said he clinched a uranium supply agreement while visiting Australia on Thursday, securing a fuel source that will play a crucial role in his nation's nuclear energy ambitions. Faced with an almost-insatiable appetite for electricity in the world's most populous nation, Modi has outlined plans to substantially scale-up nuclear power generation in coming years. Australia lays claim to around 28 percent of the world's uranium resource, but legal hurdles and political sensitivities have hindered exports to India.

"We have signed an important agreement today on nuclear energy," Modi said after talks with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese. "This will pave the way for uranium supplies from Australia to India and give our clean energy objectives fresh momentum." A joint statement said the arrangement allowed long-term uranium exports for "exclusively



peaceful purposes". The exports would fall under safeguards established by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The arrangement facilitates Australian uranium exports to India, to help increase the share of non-fossil fuel power capacity," Albanese told reporters. India and Australia entered a nuclear cooperation agreement in 2015 that paved the way for uranium export.

But legal hurdles remained and trade today is largely non-existent. Albanese sported a wide grin as the two leaders briefly paused to take a selfie photo earlier in the day.

The Australian prime minister has previously

referred to Modi as "The Boss", joking that he could pull bigger crowds than US rock icon Bruce Springsteen. Albanese praised Modi's leadership on Thursday for helping foster stronger ties between the two nations. "Prime Minister Modi, your leadership and your personal engagement with Australia has been absolutely central to this change," Albanese said. Australia's Indian diaspora has grown substantially in recent years, giving Modi a sizeable fanbase in the country. For the first time on record, the biggest group of Australian residents born overseas came from India, statistics for last year showed in June.

"In 2014, the Indian diaspora community in Australia was relatively small," said Teesta Prakash from the Australia India Institute. "But in 2026, it is now the largest diaspora community within Australia. It has outstripped the British, which is a huge demographic change," she told AFP. Modi is set to receive a rock-star welcome when he fronts a community rally at a stadium in Melbourne later on Thursday, with organisers anticipating more than 20,000 people could flock to the event. But Modi's visit is also expected to stir up opposition, including criticism that he has fostered a dangerous brand of Hindu nationalism at home. Australia's Alliance Against Islamophobia said it would protest outside the stadium event, drawing attention to what it said was the persecution of minority groups in India. A separate protest against Indian migration to Australia is also planned. Modi is scheduled to fly to New Zealand after Australia.

Survey Finds Mamdani More Popular Than Trump, Netanyahu Among Jewish Adults

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research finds that most Jewish adults don't feel well represented by political leaders at a troubling moment for many in their community. Most Jewish Americans, 63 per cent, say prejudice against Jewish people is an "ex-



tremely" or "very" serious problem in the US. At the same time, few believe that either party is doing a good job supporting Jewish people in the United States.

The new survey of 1,022 Jewish adults - including people who identify as Jewish by religion and religiously unaffiliated people who identify as Jewish through culture, ethnicity or family background -- offers a rare detailed accounting of a key demographic that sits at the very centre of some of the nation's most divisive political debates. It indicates that many Jewish

adults feel isolated at a moment when antisemitism is a growing concern across the political spectrum and support for Israel has become a flash point in both parties. The survey found that many Jewish adults, 36 per cent, say supporting Israel is "extremely" or "very" important to their Jewish identity, while another 26 per cent say it's "somewhat" important.

Six Killed in Road Accident in Uttara Kannada District

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Six persons died and three others were injured after a Cruiser vehicle carrying tourists from Dharwad collided head-on with a lorry on National Highway-52 near Aratibail in Yellapur taluk of Uttara Kannada district in the early hours of Thursday. Police said the Cruiser, carrying nine persons, including the driver, was on its way from Dharwad to Dharmas-



thala and Chikkamagaluru. The occupants were friends who had planned the trip together.

A preliminary report stated that around 1.30 am on Thursday, when the vehicle was passing through Aratibail near Balagara Cross on NH-

52, the driver of the Cruiser, Sanjeev (33), allegedly drove the vehicle at high speed in a rash and negligent manner. The Cruiser veered to the extreme right side of the road and collided head-on with a lorry coming from the opposite direction. The accident resulted in the deaths of six people, including the driver. The deceased have been identified as Akshay (26), Abhishek Eshwar (28), Abhishek (27), Basappa Devappa

Kanakanavar (38), Manjunath (33), and driver Sanjeev (33). The three injured have been identified as Shivaraj (22), Sachin (26), and Channabasaru (28). All are from Dharwad district. Based on a complaint filed by Shivaraj, Yellapur police have registered a case under Sections 281, 125(B), and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, against the deceased driver.

FROM FRONT PAGE

SIR: CEO Indicates....

Explaining why the SIR process was lagging in urban pockets like Hyderabad, Sudharshan Reddy acknowledged that BLOs were facing problems on ground while identifying voters. He said that unlike in rural areas, there were issues like mix-up of addresses and choc-a-bloc houses in the cities and towns and BLOs were mostly unfamiliar with the area where they were deployed. "Even during the mapping phase, they struggled to locate the houses. For most BLOs, the area in which they are working is new. Once again clear directions will be given to the officials and to the Hyderabad DEO to increase monitoring," the CEO said.

Over the issue of citizens holding

voter IDs in different states, Sudharshan Reddy clarified that by the time the SIR process was complete, no voter would have two votes, even in different states. "From time to time the ECI runs a software to detect DSEs (demographically similar entries). Even during the ongoing process, the ECI runs this software. Once a voter is identified as having two votes, even in different states, he or she would have to face inquiry by the ERO," he said.

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graphically similar entries). Even during the ongoing process, the ECI runs this software. Once a voter is identified as having two votes, even in different states, he or she would have to face inquiry by the ERO," he said.

Govt Admits E20.....

In a detailed FAQ document issued to counter criticism of the E20 programme, the ministry also said E20 was a cleaner, higher-quality and more efficient fuel than E10 or pure petrol and had been rolled out only after years of scientific testing, consultations with automobile manufacturers and the expansion of domestic ethanol production.

The ministry, however, rejected concerns that the programme had been implemented too quickly, say-

ing India's ethanol blending initiative dates back to pilot projects launched in 2001, with 5 per cent blending introduced in parts of the country by 2006. "While ethanol blending remained around 1.5 per cent until 2014, the government accelerated production after introducing the national policy on biofuels in 2018 and expanding feedstock's beyond sugarcane," the ministry said.

The ministry also claimed that India achieved 10 per cent ethanol blending in 2022, ahead of schedule, and reached 20 per cent blending during the 2025-26 ethanol supply year after investments in dedicated ethanol plants, storage and logistics. "The E20 underwent extensive testing covering engine durability, fuel systems, material

compatibility, corrosion resistance, drivability and emissions before its nationwide rollout," the ministry said.

Israel Warns Iran....

According to the Chief Minister, an audit conducted by the State Health Assurance Society covering the period from 2024 to 2026 identified around 16,000 suspicious claims and surgeries, of which nearly 9,500 were linked to Nashik district. The government has already cancelled the empanelment of five hospitals in Nashik over the alleged irregularities.

"An SIT will be constituted under the chairmanship of Nashik Divisional Commissioner Praveen Gedam to conduct a comprehensive probe into the entire case.

Strict action will be taken against those found guilty after the SIT submits its report," Mr. Fadnavis said.

PoK: Kashmiris.....

Ahead of the July 15 march call by JAAC, the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Police of PoJK urged the Interior Ministry of Pakistan to increase deployment of forces in the region in view of "the volatile security crisis engineered by the proscribed Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JK-JAAC). In their letter they blamed the JAAC for miseries of the locals through its "ongoing threats of long march, protest and agitational activities," and by setting on fire trucks carrying food supplies.

CRIME

Uncleared Tree Branches Along Vijaya Dairy Road Become Mosquito Breeding Hazard

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Residents and commuters have expressed concern over heaps of cut tree branches and other debris lying unattended along the road near Vijaya Dairy, Lalapet, Secunderabad, under the premises of Telangana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation (TGDDCF) Ltd. Although the roadside trees were pruned recently, the cut branches have not been removed for several days.

With the ongoing monsoon season, rainwater is likely to accumulate beneath the piles, creating ideal breeding conditions for mosqui-



toes and increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya. Local residents have urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the concerned departments to immediately clear the accumulated branches, dry leaves, and other

waste from the roadside. They stressed that prompt sanitation measures are essential to maintain cleanliness and protect public health. Citizens also appealed to the authorities to conduct regular inspections, ensure timely lifting of pruning waste after tree-cutting opera-

tions, and intensify anti-mosquito measures during the rainy season to prevent disease outbreaks. Public demand: "Cutting the branches is only half the job. The debris must be removed immediately to safeguard public health and keep the city clean."

Traffic ACP G. Shanker Raju Honored with 'Zero Corruption' Certificate

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) G. Shanker Raju has been honored with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Society for Crusade Against Corruption in recognition of his integrity, transparent public service, and commitment to maintaining a "0% corruption" record. The civic organization, registered under Government Registration No. 388/2023, presented the award in appreciation of ACP



Shanker Raju's dedicated service to the people of Hyderabad and his efforts to ensure ethical policing in the traffic department. The certificate was presented by the Society's Founder and General Secretary, M. Purushotham, who praised the officer's honesty, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. The organization stated that his

exemplary conduct serves as an inspiration to fellow government officials and reinforces public confidence in law enforcement. Based in Gowliguda, Koti, the Society for Crusade Against Corruption works to promote transparency and accountability in public administration across Telangana. Representatives of the organization emphasized that recognizing honest officers encourages integrity and strengthens trust between citizens and government institutions.

Auto Driver Jailed for 20 Years in Minor Assault Case

The Rangareddy district Fast-Track Special Court on Monday sentenced Shadnagar Arun, an autorickshaw driver from Hanuman Nagar Colony, Rajendranagar, to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment for abducting and sexually assaulting a minor. The court also imposed a fine of ₹8,000 and directed payment of ₹3 lakh compensation to the victim. Police said that on February 12, 2019, Arun lured the victim with a false promise of marriage, took her to a temple, and performed a sham marriage. He then subjected her to repeated sexual assault despite knowing she was underage.

EDITORIAL

IS LATEST JOINT SECY REJIG PAVING ROAD TO 2029?

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Centre's latest appointment of 48 babus at the joint secretary level across ministries looks routine on the surface. It isn't. When postings cut across agriculture, commerce, defence, civil aviation and home, it's less about filling vacancies and more about recalibrating the government's operating system. Joint secretaries sit at that crucial junction where policy leaves the drawing board and meets the real world. Change the people there, and you often change how things actually get done.

The headline move is the appointment of Haridk Satishchandra Shah as private secretary to Narendra Modi at the joint secretary rank. That's not just a posting — it's a signal. It tells you who's in the room when decisions are shaped, who filters information and who gets to nudge priorities. Clearly, this isn't an iso-

lated reshuffle; it's part of a longer game. The Narendra Modi government has been steadily tightening coordination across ministries, favouring officers who deliver, move files efficiently, and stay aligned with the larger political direction. With another round of changes expected later this year, this looks like scaffolding being put in place for the road to 2029.

There's a logic to it. Governments don't run on announcements; they run on execution. And execution, in India, is only as good as the babu handling the file. Put the right people in the right slots, and things move. Get it wrong, and even flagship schemes start gathering dust. But let's not pretend this is purely technocratic. Babu reshuffles have always doubled as political messaging. There's also the issue of churn. Move people around too often, and institutional memory takes a hit. Projects that need steady hands

don't always benefit from musical chairs. Still, the intent is hard to miss. This is about tightening the system, placing trusted officers where they matter most, and getting the machinery ready for the next phase. Whether it delivers sharper governance or just smoother optics will depend on one simple thing: Are these officers empowered to act, or just expected to comply?

Bihar is about to do what Indian states do best when power changes hands: reshuffle the bureaucracy and call it a reset. The difference this time? There's a clearer sense of what that reset is meant to achieve. Bihar is about to do what Indian states do best when power changes hands: reshuffle the bureaucracy and call it a reset. The difference this time? There's a clearer sense of what that reset is meant to achieve. Former chief minister Nitish Kumar has left a

deep imprint, but if the early signals around Samrat Choudhary hold, this isn't just about moving babus around. The idea is to build a compact core team, bring in technocrats who understand industry, and push Bihar toward manufacturing-led growth, which it has long promised but rarely delivered. The logic is sound. States like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu didn't attract investment by accident. They got the basics right — land, power, roads — and ensured the bureaucracy didn't become a bottleneck. Bihar, for all its ambition, has struggled precisely here. The sectoral focus on food processing, textiles and automobiles is sensible. These are scalable, job-heavy industries. But sectors don't grow because policy says so. They grow when businesses can actually set up shop without getting lost in paperwork.

Woman Killed, Another Injured in Gachibowli Tanker

A 23-year-old woman was killed and another sustained serious injuries after a water tanker allegedly hit their scooter near the Gachibowli flyover on Friday. The deceased, Mallam Bhavani (23), a salesgirl, died on the spot due to the impact of the collision. The injured, S. Subhashini (30), suffered grievous injuries and was shifted to Himagni Hospital for treatment. According to police, the two women were travelling on a scooter when the tanker ramed into their vehicle near the flyover. Passers-by and emergency responders rushed the injured woman to the hospital. The Gachibowli Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the accident.

41 Trees Saved as 7 More Shifted at Bowenpally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a major step towards improving road safety while protecting the environment, the Traffic Trimulgherry Division successfully translocated seven mature trees at Bowenpally, taking the total number of scientifically relocated trees to 41. The trees, located in front of the Army Gate at Bowenpally, were obstructing the smooth movement of vehicles on the stretch from Bowenpally X Roads towards Safe Express via the Post Office. To ease congestion without cutting down the trees, the Traffic Police carried out a scientific translocation operation in coordination with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) and the Army authorities. The operation



was undertaken under the orders of Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police B. Sumathi, IPS, and the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic-I, K. Rahul Reddy, IPS. After securing all necessary permissions, the seven trees were carefully shifted within the Army premises, ensuring their preservation while clearing the traffic bottleneck.

Cyberabad SHE Teams Catch 33 Offenders, Rescue 146 Children in Weekly Drive

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad SHE Teams conducted 114 decoy operations between July 3 and July 9, catching 33 persons red-handed for indecent acts in public places. A total of 34 petty cases were registered, while others were counselled. The teams also received 13 complaints from women through various channels. As part of Operation Muskaan, the Cyberabad



Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) registered 30 cases under the Juvenile Justice Act and Child Labour laws and rescued 146 children, including 144 boys and 2 girls. Family

Counselling Centres and CDEW Centres also helped reunite 21 couples involved in family disputes. The AHTU and SHE Teams organised awareness programmes

across Cyberabad, reaching 4,516 participants on issues such as human trafficking, child trafficking, eve teasing, social media harassment, child marriages, child rights, child labour, stalking, cyberbullying, cyber frauds, and emergency helplines including 181, 1098, 100 and 1930. The details were released by DCP K. Srujana, Women & Child Safety Wing, Cyberabad.



India's forex reserves jump \$7.26 bn on gold, FCNR-B inflows

India's foreign exchange reserves jumped by \$7.26 billion to \$674.19 billion in the week ended July 3, reversing the previous week's decline. Gold reserves rose sharply, SDR holdings increased, and banks are seeing stronger inflows under the revised FCNR-B deposit scheme.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves increased sharply by \$7.26 billion to \$674.193 billion during the week ended July 3, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The latest increase comes after a decline in the previous reporting week, reflecting renewed strength in the country's external financial position.

The RBI data showed that the country's forex reserves had fallen by \$5.65 billion to \$666.93 billion in the week ended June 26. Despite recent fluctuations, India's reserves continue to remain among the highest



in the world, although they are still below the all-time high of \$728.494 billion recorded in the week ended February 27. A major contributor to the latest rise was the increase in the value of India's gold reserves, which climbed by \$2.669 billion to \$105.205 billion during the reporting week. The country's

holdings of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also registered an increase of \$65 million, reaching \$18.623 billion. Meanwhile, banks are witnessing a steady rise in overseas fund inflows following the rollout of the RBI's revised Foreign Currency Non-Resident

Bank (FCNR-B) deposit scheme. According to banking industry estimates, lenders have mobilised around \$3-4 billion through FCNR-B deposits so far.

Bankers expect collections to accelerate further in the coming weeks as awareness of the revised scheme grows among Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The Gulf region, home to a large Indian expatriate population, is expected to contribute significantly to fresh deposits. Industry estimates suggest the revamped FCNR-B scheme has the potential to attract \$40-50 billion in new deposits over time. Higher interest rates offered under the scheme, cou-

pled with the RBI's decision to bear banks' hedging costs, are expected to encourage greater participation from overseas depositors.

To maximise inflows, banks have intensified outreach programmes across major overseas markets by engaging directly with NRI customers and promoting the benefits of the revised deposit scheme.

The continued growth in forex reserves and the expected rise in FCNR-B deposits are likely to strengthen India's external sector, improve foreign currency liquidity, and enhance the country's ability to withstand global financial uncertainties.

Rupee rises 14 paise to 95.33 against US dollar as crude, dollar weaken

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The rupee rose 14 paise to settle at 95.33 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday as the greenback weakened and crude oil prices eased despite intensifying tensions in West Asia. FII outflows and uncertainties over fresh tensions in West Asia weighed on the local unit while positive sentiment in the domestic equity markets provided support, according to forex traders.

The US launched fresh airstrikes against Iran on early Thursday, and Tehran responded by targeting US-allied West Asian countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war.

Back-and-forth attacks, including a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the ceasefire. But



Thursday's attacks appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least three times in Bahrain, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters, and missiles targeting Kuwait and Qatar.

the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.27 against the greenback and traded in the range of 95.22 to 95.42 before eventually settling at 95.33 (provisional), up 14 paise from its previous close.

The Indian currency appreciated by just 1 paise to close at 95.47 against the US dollar on Thursday. "The rupee fell to 95.42 this afternoon after gaining to 95.22 in the

morning on a lower dollar index. However, buying by oil companies and importers kept the dollar up... Improved risk appetite and expectations of continued foreign portfolio inflows provided support to the rupee," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.86, down 0.04 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.62 per cent at USD 75.83 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 827.57 points, or 1.08 per cent, to settle at 77,569.39 while the Nifty surged 244.10 points, or 1.02 per cent, to close at 24,206.90.

World Bank approves financing for India's solar rooftop programme

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India's ambitious rooftop solar programme received a major boost after the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a financing package worth USD 890 million to accelerate the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The initiative aims to provide clean energy to 10 million rural and urban households while

creating nearly 1.7 million jobs across the renewable energy manufacturing, installation and services sectors.

The programme supports India's long-term climate goals of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and increasing the share of non-fossil fuel-based energy to 60% of the country's electricity mix by 2035. Although utility-scale solar power has ex-

panded rapidly in recent years, the adoption of residential rooftop solar has remained relatively low.

To address this gap, the Government of India launched the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, offering incentives to households for installing rooftop solar systems. The scheme is expected to reduce electricity bills, improve energy access and strengthen domestic



manufacturing of solar equipment.

The World Bank's financing package includes an USD 820 million loan from the International Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), a

USD 60 million concessional loan from the Clean Technology Fund and a USD 10 million grant from the IBRD's

Livable Planet Fund. In addition to this funding, the World Bank will help mobilise around USD 4.2 billion in private financing through commercial loans, making rooftop solar systems more accessible for households across India.

Paul Procce, Acting Country Director for the World Bank in India, said the institution has supported India's rooftop solar

sector for over a decade, helping installed capacity grow from 500 MW to more than 27 GW through investments exceeding USD 2 billion. He said the new financing would further expand residential solar adoption while generating large-scale employment opportunities.

Moez Cherif, Task Team Leader for the programme, said the initiative would remove financial barriers

through collateral-free financing and strengthen the capabilities of power distribution companies, banks and vendors. He added that the integrated approach would enable millions of households to install rooftop solar systems and significantly reduce their monthly electricity expenses while contributing to India's clean energy transition.

Godawan Wins Global Single Malt Title

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Indian premium whisky brand Godawan has achieved a major global milestone by winning the prestigious 'Spirit of the Year - India' and 'Indian Single Malt Whisky of the Year' titles at the Bartender Spirits Awards 2026 held in Chicago, USA. Godawan 02 Fruit & Spice secured both top honours along with a Double Gold Medal, while Godawan 01 Rich & Rounded earned a Gold Medal, taking the Rajasthan-crafted brand's tally to more than 125 international awards since its launch.

The Spirit of the Year - India award is presented to the highest-ranked Indian spirit across all categories and is considered one of the competition's most prestigious recognitions.

Organised by the Beverage Trade Network, the Bartender Spirits Awards are judged through blind tastings by experienced bartenders, bar managers and hospitality professionals who evaluate spirits based on aroma, flavour, balance, quality, packaging and value. Ex-

pressing delight over the achievement, Vikram Damodaran, Chief Innovation Officer, Diageo India, said the recognition reflects the brand's commitment to crafting a world-class Indian single malt capable of standing alongside the finest global whiskies.

He noted that being honoured by industry professionals who work with premium spirits worldwide is a strong endorsement of Godawan's quality and distinctive identity. Produced in Rajasthan, Godawan derives its unique character from the region's extreme climate, where intense heat accelerates whisky maturation and creates a rich, concentrated flavour profile. The whisky is further finished in specially treated casks infused with Indian botanicals such as Rasna and Jatamansi, giving it a distinctive Indian identity. Since its launch in 2022, Godawan has earned global recognition across leading international competitions for its whisky, packaging and innovation, reinforcing India's growing reputation in the premium single malt segment.

India notifies tariff quota process for UK vehicle imports under FTA

India has notified the procedure for importers to claim tariff quota benefits on UK vehicle imports under the India-UK trade agreement, effective July 15. The framework outlines eligibility, quotas and concessional customs duties for conventional and premium vehicle imports

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

India has notified the procedure for importers to seek government approval to avail quota-based duty concessions on imports of passenger cars and goods vehicles under the free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK, which will come into force on July 15.

Under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), India will reduce import duties on automotive imports from about 110 per cent to 10 per cent, subject to quotas on both sides.

India will allow the import of 3.78 lakh units of conventional-engine passenger cars, including those in the mass-market segment, from the UK at concessional customs duty during the first 15 years of the implementation of the trade pact between the two countries. "Procedure for allocation of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) under India-UK



(CETA) is notified," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a public notice dated July 9. It said that, at the time of clearance of the import consignment, the importer in India has to produce a Certificate of Origin issued by the concerned authorities in the UK. "Only Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), dealers/channel partners duly authorised by the OEMs of vehicles originating in the UK shall be eligible to apply for the TRQ," it added.

The DGFT also said that, to be eligible, each applicant will have to submit a

pre-purchase agreement issued by an OEM of the vehicles in the UK, setting out the quantity of vehicles agreed to be supplied to the applicant during the TRQ year.

"The year in respect of these imports will be the period from January 1 to December 31, that is, the calendar year in India. DGFT shall monitor the cumulative quantities for TRQ certificates issued. No TRQ certificates shall be issued once the stated TRQ quantity limit is reached," it said.

These certificates, it said, will be valid for a maximum period of 12 months or till the end of the calen-

dar year, whichever is earlier.

"Importers under the TRQ shall endeavour to pass on the benefit of the concessional customs duty available under the TRQ to the final buyer or consumer," it added.

For imports from the UK to India, the quota for conventional-engine passenger cars will peak at 37,000 units in the fifth year across specified categories of vehicles, with customs duty reduced to the final rate of 10 per cent. The duties will not be reduced further.

In the first year, the quota for passenger cars with an engine capacity of more than 3,000 cc (petrol) and more than 2,500 cc (diesel) is 10,000 units, with customs duty reduced to 30 per cent from 110 per cent. For cars with an engine capacity of 1,500 cc to 3,000 cc (petrol) and up to 2,500 cc (diesel), the quota is 5,000 units, with customs duty reduced to 50 per cent from 66 per cent.

BMW Overtakes Archrival Mercedes in Jan-June Sales

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BMW Group India on Wednesday said it overtook its compatriot archrival Mercedes-Benz in January-June luxury vehicle registrations in India for the first time in over a decade. BMW's aggressive sales push was driven in the entry-level luxury and electric vehicle markets, notably with the BMW iX1 and BMW 5 Series. "We not only overtook Mercedes-Benz in Q1 by selling 200 plus units more than them but we also outnumbered them by retailing over 300 units in Q2," Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO at BMW Group India told Financial Chronicle, citing government Vahan registration data.

As per Vahan dashboard, BMW retailed a total of 10,043 units in January-June period while Mercedes-Benz registered 9,472 units. "We are now well positioned to hit the pole position in the luxury car market at the end of CY2026," Brar said, adding that BMW would

continue to ride ahead with double-digit growth. In the second quarter (April-June), BMW retailed 4,507 cars clocking 17 per cent year-on-year growth.

Brar said in the electric luxury segment too, BMW achieved number one brand selling 2,359 EVs units, growing by 78 per cent and contributing a whopping 26 per cent in total sales. "Our decisive hold on electric cars too with 69 per cent market share in luxury EVs has solidified BMW India as the number one choice in the luxury EV segment," he noted, adding that every fourth BMW car sold today is an EV.

In the popular SUV segment, which it calls Sports Activity Vehicles, BMW and MINI sales climbed 35 per cent y-o-y to 5,926 units. BMW SUVs clocked a growing share in sales at 65 per cent, the company said. Brar said BMW will introduce 14 more new models till December 2026 to attract younger customers into its fold.

Diljit Dosanjh's Satluj removed from OTT sparks political row

Diljit Dosanjh's *Satluj*, which chronicles the life of an activist in Punjab during the turbulent 1990s and has been taken off OTT, was at the centre of a furious debate on Monday, with political parties and the SGPC pushing for the film's release and the actor-singer asking people to watch it wherever and however they can.

The film, which was stuck with the censors for more than three years, was released uncut on ZEE5 on Friday and removed on Sunday evening. While Dosanjh said this was bound to happen and the film had already been downloaded by many, ZEE5 appealed to people not to support piracy.

The matter quickly gained political traction, with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Congress and the state's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) condemning the film's removal from the OTT platform and saying Punjab must confront its past. People should know what happened during those days in Punjab, said Kulwant Singh Manan, chief secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

"The film should not have been removed from the platform. The government should ensure that people



see this film. What is wrong if reality is shown and the public comes to know what happened during those days in Punjab?" Manan told PTI over the phone.

The Honey Trehan-directed film, originally titled Punjab '95, features Dosanjh as human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who was abducted in 1995 and was never seen again. The director and actor refused to release it with the 127 cuts suggested by the Central Board of Film Certification.

On Friday, the movie quietly arrived on ZEE5 without any cuts but with a different title and zero promotion, which Dosanjh said was because they did not want to spoil whatever

little chance the film had.

Criticising the film's removal, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "This is not mere censorship, it is an assault on our collective memory, truth and freedom of expression... Punjab deserves to confront its past with honesty, not suppression."

Senior Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira echoed him.

"I strongly condemn the removal of *Satluj*, enacted by Diljit Dosanjh, about police brutality in abducting and eliminating Prof Jaswant Singh Khalra, a human rights activist, in 1995." AAP leader and MP Malvinder Singh Kang said censorship becomes its most dangerous weapon when a nation be-

gins to fear its own history.

AAP's Baltej Pannu said, "The younger generation wants to know what happened in Punjab during 1978, 1984, the 1990s and other crucial periods. If they are denied books and documentaries, films become an important way of preserving historical truth." When asked to comment on the film's removal from OTT, Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon said, "I am finding out the reason. We are taking up the matter."

In an expansive session on Instagram Live from the US, where he is on tour, Dosanjh expressed his anguish.

"I had a feeling on Friday that something like this would happen. This was already on my mind. It is not something to be shocked about (the ban). I thought it would be banned on Monday when the offices opened..."

"But I did not have any idea that it would happen on Sunday evening itself. We did not even promote the film, we released it just like that. If we had promoted it, it would not have lasted even two days. But I am satisfied that people have seen the film, it has reached them," Dosanjh said in Punjabi.

Preity Zinta Deepfakes: Bombay HC Orders Removal, Warns of Rights



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered the removal of all deepfakes, morphed images, fake videos and other unauthorised on-line content featuring actor Priety Zinta, holding that misuse of such content affects a person's fundamental rights. As it gave relief to Zinta, a single bench of Justice Madhav Jamdar also reminded on-line platforms of their due diligence obligations under the Information Technology Rules.

The court also raised the issue of the role of intermediaries in tackling such content, as even their platform was being misused. "If the intermediaries start taking action, such type of offenders will stop. Otherwise, you are part of affecting fundamen-

tal rights of the citizens of this country," HC said. The bench ordered the immediate take-down of all such unauthorised and fake images and videos of Zinta uploaded on various platforms.

In her suit, Zinta had referred to videos, images and chatbot-style interactions depicting her through deepfakes and morphed visuals. The actor's counsel Venkatesh Dhond pointed to around 275 websites that contained AI-generated, morphed or superimposed images and videos using the actor's likeness. He submitted that such material violated her personality, publicity and moral rights. The court said that Zinta, who has been associated with the film industry for over 25 years, had built a valuable public identity through her career. The unauthorised use

of her image, likeness and mannerisms in AI-generated content could damage her reputation and violate her rights, it said. "The plaintiff's personality rights, publicity rights and moral rights are violated by creation of such morphed and superimposed content," the court said. It added that these rights flow from the constitutional guarantee of free speech under Article 19 and the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, which includes the right to live with dignity. The court held that a prima facie case had been made out and granted interim relief. A deepfake is synthetic media -- like an image, audio or video recording -- created using artificial intelligence (AI) to convincingly replace or alter a person's likeness or voice.

Brook, Salt Power England To Series-Clinching Win Over India

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Shreyas Iyer's valiant unbeaten 80 went in vain as Harry Brook and Phil Salt made a mockery of the 159-run target with blazing unbeaten half-centuries, powering England to a series-clinching nine-wicket win over India in the fourth T20 International here on Thursday. Opting to bat, Iyer appeared to be batting on a different surface, in his 49-ball 80 not out, his second as skipper, to guide India to 158 for 7. He struck five sixes and four fours, holding the innings together as wickets tumbled around him on a typical pacy English wicket.

In stark contrast to the India innings, England were never troubled by the modest target and dominated the Indian bowlers from the outset as the home side romped home in 13.5 overs to take a 3-0 unassailable lead in the five-match series. Brook led from the front, blazing 79 not out off 35 balls, laced with eight fours and four sixes, while Phil Salt played perfect fiddle in a 42-ball 59 not out (9x4, 1x6) as the Indian bowlers struggled to get the wickets.

The defeat will be particularly alarming for the



reigning T20 world champions, who have now lost back-to-back series within four months of their title triumph in Ahmedabad on March 8. For skipper Iyer, who succeeded Suryakumar Yadav after India's title triumph, it was a fifth defeat in six matches as he continues to search for his maiden victory as captain. India had earlier suffered a humiliating 0-2 defeat to Ireland, while they now trail 0-3 to England after the series opener was washed out.

The final T20I will be played at Southampton on Saturday. Missing Harshit Rana and Varun Chakravarthy because of injuries, India had Prasad Krishna with the new ball and England had a slow start before Jos Buttler was removed in the second over by Arshdeep Singh. From there on, it was a one-way traffic for England as Salt,

fresh from his match-winning 70 at Nottingham, took on a wayward Prince Yadav who bowled a no-ball and a wide and was hit for two fours by the English opener.

It seemed baffling that the Indian think-tank didn't persist with Arshdeep after he gave the breakthrough as Salt and Brook took Yadav and Prasad to cleaners to race to 62/1 in the power play. Brook then unleashed his full range of shots against the spin pair of Washington Sundar and Axar Patel, who conceded 37 runs across the eighth and ninth overs, effectively sealing the contest in England's favour. After missing on Washington's first delivery, Brook clobbered the second down the ground for four and followed it with a swiped six into the leg-side and then hit back-to-back fours.

Lord's Test: Smriti's 83, Harmanpreet's 58 help India reach 285 against England on Day 1

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

An absorbing and highly competitive opening day of cricketing action unfolded in the first-ever historic Women's Test at Lord's on Friday, leaving the match beautifully poised at stumps with England reaching 21/1 and trailing by 264 runs after bowling out India for 285, especially when they were cruising at 190/3. Sophie Ecclestone and Mady Villiers ran through the middle order after Smriti Mandhana top-scored with 83 in what was also her 300th international appearance. In the process of picking a three-for, Sophie also became England's highest wicket-taker across formats, going past Katherine Seiver-Brunt, and climbed to third overall behind Deepti Sharma and Jhulan Goswami.

England's reply began shakily with Tammy Beaumont, who's playing her farewell international game, falling for two in the fourth over. But Maia Bouchier (17 not out) and Heather Knight (one not out) steadied the innings



till stumps were called on the opening day. Sneha Rana found turn in her solitary over late in the evening, a sign that India's spinners could have plenty to work with on day two.

In what is also the first-ever women's Test to be played at the iconic venue, England picked up three crucial wickets in an action-packed first session. Opting to bowl first, England found immediate

movement off the ball via Lauren Bell. India suffered an early blow in the second over when opener Shafali Verma was completely squared up by a sharp, short-of-length delivery from Lauren Filer and nicked behind to wicketkeeper Amy Jones for a duck.

Yastika Bhatia (12) joined Smriti and started confidently with a flurry of boundaries, while also surviving a close leg-be-

fore-wicket review on umpire's call off Bell. However, Bell redeemed herself soon after, cleaning up Yastika with a brilliant inswinger that nipped away to hit the off-stump. Jemimah Rodrigues then partnered with Mandhana to steady the innings, capitalising heavily on a wayward English bowling display that lacked discipline. Smriti looked in sublime touch, punishing the loose balls and wel-

coming premier spinner Ecclestone into the attack with a massive slog-sweep over midwicket for six to close out the first hour.

Smriti then brought up a sparkling run-a-ball half-century off just 50 deliveries in the 16th over and got the distinction of getting the first-ever Women's Test fifty at Lord's. The dangerous 64-run third-wicket partnership was eventually broken against the run of play when Jemimah (35) chopped onto her stumps while going for an expansive drive against Issy Wong.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (14 not out) then joined Smriti to safely navigate the remaining overs, ensuring India walked into the lunch break as the happier side. While the first session majorly belonged to India, England's bowlers roared back into the contest in the post-lunch session by showing discipline in their bowling and picking up the crucial wickets of set batters Smriti and Harmanpreet, who compiled 58.

Public Safety to Be Enhanced to Minimise Accidents on ORR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has announced that the administration is exploring the introduction of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based electronic enforcement system on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to improve road safety and reduce the growing number of fatal accidents. Speaking at a coordination meeting on ORR safety, Sajjanar expressed serious concern over the driving behaviour of commuters using the high-speed corridor. He revealed that traffic enforcement data showed nearly 99 per cent of vehicles flagged for violations were repeat offenders, highlighting the



urgent need for stricter monitoring and deterrent measures.

The proposed AI-powered enforcement system will enable authorities to automatically detect a wide range of traffic violations, including over-speeding, dangerous driving, lane indiscipline and other offences. The technology is also expected to help identify habitual violators, allowing police to initiate stronger

legal action against repeat offenders.

Sajjanar also highlighted the danger posed by stationary and broken-down vehicles on the ORR, noting that such incidents have frequently resulted in serious and fatal crashes. He directed patrolling teams and infrastructure agencies to ensure the immediate removal of stranded vehicles to prevent accidents.

The Police Commissioner issued a strict warning against parking or stopping vehicles on the ORR's main carriageway. He advised motorists whose vehicles develop mechanical problems to immediately contact the toll-free emergency helpline 14449 so that assistance can be provided without delay.

The coordination meeting was attended by HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad, HMDA Urban Forestry Director Rohit Gopidi, representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), GHMC, HGCL, IRB Infra, and senior traffic police officials from Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri. Officials reviewed the implementation of deci-

sions taken during the previous ORR safety meeting held in May. During the review, authorities confirmed that 80 accident-prone black spots had been identified along the ORR, with enhanced enforcement already in place at several critical locations.

Sarfaraz Ahmad assured that the HMDA would continue strengthening road infrastructure by installing additional warning signs, improving safety features and systematically eliminating black spots in coordination with all stakeholder departments. The integrated approach aims to make the ORR safer for commuters while significantly reducing accidents and improving overall traffic discipline.

Food Safety Raid Exposes Hygiene Violations at Gachibowli Restaurant

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Srirangam Venkatesh

Food Safety officials conducted a surprise inspection at Alsaba Restaurant in Gachibowli, uncovering several serious hygiene and food safety violations. During the inspection, officials found Rumali rotis being prepared near an unhygienic workers' washroom with-



out proper covering, raising concerns over food safety. The kitchen was reportedly infested with flies, while raw chicken and meat were found stored improperly in freezers without following basic food safety

norms. Officials also observed stagnant and foul-smelling water in the utensil washing area, indicating poor sanitation and maintenance. The Food Safety Department issued notices to the restaurant management, directing them to rectify the violations immediately and warning that strict action would be taken if the deficiencies are not addressed.

IMD forecasts a monsoon break till July 22 in Telangana, as rainfall deficit

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana is bracing for a sustained dry spell over the next ten days, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, indicated below-normal rainfall across the state till July 22 in its forecast.

The dry monsoon break comes at a critical time, with Telangana already recording a 33 per cent rainfall deficit in the first ten days of July. For July 16-22, the IMD, New Delhi, explicitly categorized rainfall in Telangana as likely to be below normal.

"Rainfall is likely to be below normal over Rajasthan and north peninsular India, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, North Interior Karnataka," the IMD, New Delhi, said in its extended long-range forecast.

In its extended range forecast released on Friday, IMD said that the current weather systems



that brought relief to the state have moved away, and no major low-pressure areas are currently active over the Bay of Bengal to drive sustained monsoon rains.

The IMD, New Delhi, indicated that while there will be a halt to heavy, widespread monsoon activity, it does not necessarily mean an absence of all rain, as there will be isolated brief light to moderate rain or thunder-showers at isolated locations across the state.

Apart from that, maximum temperatures across Telangana are expected to increase by 1 to 3 degrees Celsius, and strong surface winds (40-50 kmph) are expected to persist statewide until at least mid-July. The latest rain-

fall data (as on Friday) from the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) has highlighted the growing concern over the rainfall deficit.

While the state saw a rainfall deficit of 12 per cent in June, the situation worsened in July. Till Friday, July 10, Telangana recorded 43.4 mm of rainfall against the normal of 64.9 mm, which is a 33 per cent deficit for the month so far.

Overall, for the South-west Monsoon season (June 1 to July 10), Telangana has received 158.7 mm of actual rainfall compared to the normal 195.2 mm, resulting in an overall deficit of 19 per cent.

GHMC chief flags poor digitisation of electoral rolls in Hyderabad constituencies

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner and Hyderabad District Election Officer RV Karnan has expressed serious concern over the slow pace of digitisation under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in three Assembly constituencies—Sanath Nagar, Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment. According to an official press release issued on Friday, the Commissioner



chaired a review meeting with all Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to assess the progress of the SIR exercise. The review focused on the digitisation of enumeration forms, timely completion

of field verification and compliance with the schedule prescribed by the Election Commission.

During the meeting, Karnan observed that the progress of SIR data digitisation in the Sanath

Nagar, Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly constituencies was far below the expected standards. Expressing dissatisfaction over the poor performance, he directed the concerned officials to immediately accelerate the digitisation process to ensure timely completion of the electoral revision.

Taking a serious view of the delays, the Commissioner issued show-cause notices to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) responsible for the three constituencies. He also issued a stern

warning to all officials whose performance was below expectations, instructing them to improve their work without further delay.

Karnan stressed that the Special Intensive Revision is a crucial exercise aimed at ensuring the accuracy and transparency of the electoral rolls. He directed all EROs to closely monitor the progress of digitisation, complete the processing of enumeration forms within the stipulated timeline and strictly adhere to the Election Commission's guidelines.

Mule Accounts, Ghost SIMs Fuel Cybercrime: Sajjanar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Mule accounts and ghost SIMs are the lifeline of cybercrime networks and must be eliminated through coordinated efforts, city police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said here on Friday. He asked banks, telecom operators, regulators and law enforcement agencies to pitch in with measures to

end the menace. He remarked that the country should aspire to see a day when a bank can proudly display a board stating, "This Bank Has No Mule Accounts." Emphasising the importance of swift reporting, he urged citizens to remember 1930, the National Cyber Crime Helpline Number, describing it as the "golden hour" lifeline for victims.

Health Minister Seeks End-to-End Tracking of Medical Equipment

At a review meeting held on Friday at the TGMSIDC office in Koti, the minister assessed medical equipment procurement, tender processes, operational status and maintenance, and requirements for new hospitals.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials of the Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) to strengthen procurement systems to ensure the timely, transparent and quality supply of medical equipment to government hospitals across the State. Chairing a review meeting at the TGMSIDC office in Koti on Friday, the minister assessed the status of medical equipment procurement, tender processes, operational efficiency, maintenance mechanisms and the requirements of newly established hospitals. He stressed that all medical equipment supplied to government healthcare institutions must meet prescribed quality standards and be delivered within stipulated timelines. Rajanarsimha instructed officials to prepare proposals for a comprehensive



procurement policy that places transparency and accountability at its core. He said procurement should strictly adhere to standardised procedures to eliminate delays and improve efficiency in the public healthcare system.

Highlighting the need for technology-driven governance, the minister directed the complete digitisation of the procurement process. He proposed an end-to-end digital platform capable of tracking every stage—from raising the initial tender and floating tenders to procurement, installation and commissioning of equipment. According to him, such a system would significantly enhance transparency, accountability and operational efficiency.

The minister also emphasised the importance of ensuring uninterrupted functionality of medical equipment in government hospitals. He instructed officials to establish a robust monitoring mechanism and develop a centralised dashboard to track equipment performance across healthcare facilities. The dashboard should be reviewed by senior management once every fortnight, with immediate corrective measures initiated wherever deficiencies are identified. Expressing concern over maintenance standards, Rajanarsimha ordered a comprehensive review of existing Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) agreements.

56 truckloads later, Aghapura nala is finally clear: HYDRRA

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Mattresses, pillows, chairs, bedsheets and tonnes of silt that had blocked the Aghapura nala in Darussalam, Old City, were finally cleared with HYDRRA removing 56 truckloads of waste in its week-long desilting drive.

Aghapura Nala, which merges into the Musi River through Mehdiapatnam, Mallepally and Vijayanagar Colony, was in a dire state with mounds of plastic, silt and garbage blocking the flow of rain-

water. On Thursday, July 9, the Hyderabad Disaster Response Asset Protection Agency (HYDRRA)'s Monsoon Emergency Teams (MET) and Disaster Response Force (DRF) cleared the garbage, giving a new lease of life to the flowing water. During the week-long operation, workers were provided with gloves and other safety equipment. However, some personnel were seen working without protective gear, drawing criticism on social media.

Goshamahal traffic cops seize bike with fake plate at Afzalgunj

The Goshamahal Traffic Police spotted a bike fitted with a fake registration plate driven by a youth during a special enforcement drive at Afzalgunj T-junction on Friday.

The rider, identified as Shaik Rasool Ali (26), told police he had purchased the motorcycle through a Facebook marketplace listing from an unknown person for Rs 20,000 six months ago. Unable to produce ownership documents, he and the seized vehicle were handed over to Afzalgunj Police Station for further investigation into the vehicle's origin and possible criminal links.

KTR lauds Hyderabad entrepreneur Aarav Garg's AI startup success

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao congratulated Hyderabad entrepreneur Aarav Garg on his journey from a teenage innovator to the co-founder of a globally recognised AI startup, describing it as an inspiring example of young Indians building world-class technology products.

Recalling his first meeting with Aarav in 2022, Rama Rao said the then 16-year-old had showcased a technology product and shared his vision



of empowering youth through innovation. Four years later, Aarav co-founded Omi, an AI wearable startup developing devices designed to function as a user's second brain.

The startup has secured around \$3 million in funding from investors, including Tim Draper and

Dropbox Ventures, and has sold over 25,000 AI wearable devices globally. Its products have also been featured in leading international publications, including The Wall Street Journal and Forbes. Sharing photographs of their latest interaction in a post on X on Friday, the former IT Minister congratulated Aarav and the Omi team. He said it was encouraging to see Hyderabad-based entrepreneurs building globally competitive products and wished them continued success in advancing AI innovation.

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