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**WEATHER**

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

Sriharikota Set for Historic Vikram-1 Launch

Hyderabad-based private space start-up Skyroot Aerospace is set to script a new chapter in India's space programme on Saturday with the launch of its maiden orbital rocket, Vikram-1, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota. The mission marks a major milestone for India's private space sector, with Vikram-1 becoming one of the country's first privately developed orbital launch vehicles to attempt placing multiple satellites into orbit. The countdown is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. and continue for about five-and-a-half hours, covering a series of technical checks, fuelling operations and launch readiness procedures ahead of the planned lift-off at 11.30 a.m. The mission aims to validate the performance of the Vikram-1 launch vehicle and demonstrate several indigenous.

Telangana Seeks Centre's Help To Fight El Nino

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Cabinet on Friday decided to write to the Centre seeking urgent financial assistance and intervention to tackle the drought-like conditions prevailing due to the impact of El Nino. The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy also decided to submit a report detailing the adverse impact of the rainfall deficit on agriculture, allied sectors, drinking water, irrigation, and



the livelihoods of rural labourers. Briefing the media on the details of the meeting, minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that the state government would urge the Centre to depute a special team to assess the ground situation and

extend financial assistance for implementing El Nino contingency plans. The cabinet noted that Telangana was facing nearly a 40 per cent rainfall deficit, raising serious concerns over agriculture, water availability and power supply. Revanth Reddy directed all departments to prepare contingency action plans to address drinking water supply, irrigation, agriculture and uninterrupted power supply. In view of the India Meteorological Department's warning that

the situation could worsen, he instructed all departments to remain fully prepared with advance measures. The Cabinet directed collectors to ensure that no drinking water scarcity arose anywhere. Officials were asked to respond promptly to public complaints and take measures to prevent hardship to the people. All available water in reservoirs and irrigation projects should be prioritised for drinking water needs.

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Telangana Cabinet Forms SET to Probe Dharani Irregularities

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Cabinet on Friday approved the constitution of a special enquiry team (SET) of senior officials to conduct a comprehensive probe into the alleged irregularities and illegalities in land records and land transactions carried out through the Dharani portal since its launch on October 29, 2020 during BRS regime, as well as those under the Bhu Bharrati portal since its launch

in April 2025. Approving the measure the state Cabinet on Friday said the SET would undertake an in-depth investigation into suspicious land registrations, mutations and changes in land records, including transactions involving agricultural land holdings, assigned land and government land parcels. The probe will cover every "questionable transaction" carried out through the Dharani portal since its inception. The decision

followed a forensic audit conducted previously by the government, which identified more than 10,000 suspicious transactions linked to the Dharani portal. The Cabinet directed the proposed SET to thoroughly examine digital records relating to land transactions, login credentials used to access the system, alterations made to land records, approvals granted by officials, changes in land classification and details of beneficiaries involved

in such transactions. The Cabinet also ordered a detailed investigation into the role of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), which was entrusted with the management of the Dharani portal. The inquiry will examine the selection of the agency, the tendering process, award of the contract, portal design, system architecture and possible deficiencies in data security that may have facilitated.

DMK Softens Stand on Delimitation, Says Will Decide Matter on Merit

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

The DMK on Friday said it will study the Bill on proposed delimitation, as and when it is tabled in Parliament, and take a decision based on "merits" to protect Tamil Nadu's interests. As and when the scope and objectives of the Bill is made known, it shall be analysed and a decision will be taken, party sources told PTI. The DMK's decision would be independent and



based on merit to protect the interests of the state. The party has been given to understand that the proposed Bill on delimitation is likely to be a standalone legislation and not part of an overall bundle of connected legislations, sources said. A 50 per

cent seat increase and retaining the existing proportion of seat distribution among states were among the points being discussed, sources in the party added. Delimitation was among the matters taken up for discussion in the party's meeting of MPs held on July 16. DMK president MK Stalin, who is in London, addressed the meeting via video conferencing. The DMK had staunchly opposed the delimitation ex-

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Trump Warns of Tariffs on Canada Over Wildfire Smoke Choking US

WASHINGTON
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) warned of increasing tariffs on Canada, accusing Ottawa of failing to properly manage its forests and prevent wildfire smoke from affecting air quality in American cities. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the United States was being impacted by what he described as "filthy, polluted, and unhealthy



air" from Canadian wildfires and said the cost of the pollution would be added to tariffs currently imposed on Canada. "We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their forests, and brush therein, and the United States is being unnecessarily in-

vaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable!" Trump said. The US President said he would speak with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to discuss the issue and seek details on steps being taken by Canada. "I will call the Prime Minister during the day to find out what they are going to do about it. The cost is incalculable!" Trump added.

Iran Fires Missiles at US Assets across Gulf in Retaliatory Strikes

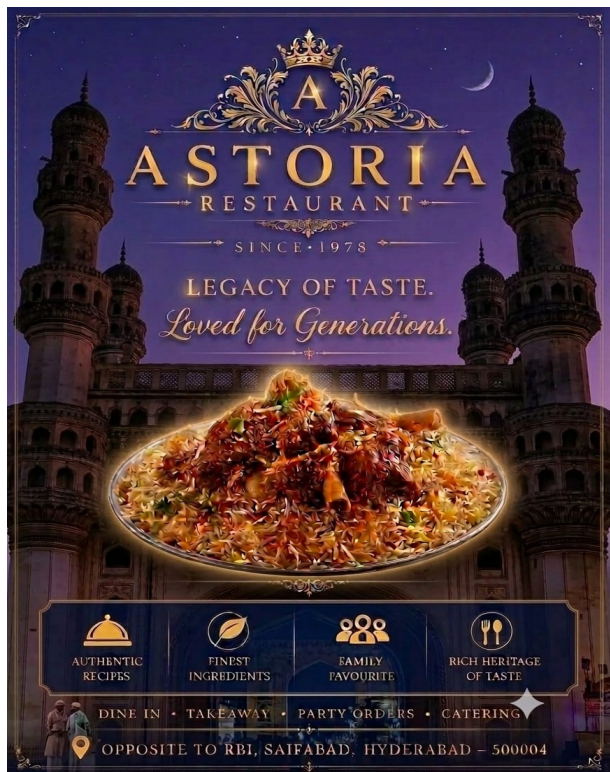
NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Following US strikes targeting civilian infrastructure across Iran, the Islamic Republic on Friday (local time) launched a series of retaliatory military operations targeting US naval and military assets across the Gulf region, including in Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Oman and Syria, with the country's armed forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) separately announcing strikes under Tehran's ongoing military campaigns. According to statements carried by the Iranian state broadcaster Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Iran's Army and the IRGC said the operations were conducted in response to recent US attacks on Iranian territory and military personnel. In a statement, the Iranian Army's Public Relations said its Navy fired coast-to-sea cruise missiles at what it described as an "aggressor" US vessel in the northern Indian Ocean as part of the thirteenth phase of the Army's



"Operation Lightning". The Army claimed the cruise missile strike forced the vessel to move out of range, adding that the operation had caused "fear and panic" among US forces. Iran also claimed to have expanded its retaliatory operations across multiple countries in the Gulf and the wider region, announcing strikes against US military facilities and assets in Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Oman and Syria. In a separate statement, the IRGC's Public Relations said its Aerospace Force carried out the 16th wave of "Operation Nasr 2", targeting the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. The IRGC claimed the attack destroyed a long-range radar system and several US strategic aerial refuelling aircraft while seriously damaging others.

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Wangchuk Fast Enters Day 20: To Lead Parliament March on Monday

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Educator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Friday asserted that he would "stay alive till July 20 at any cost", even as his indefinite hunger strike entered its 20th day amid a warning from doctors that his prolonged fast has reached a critical stage. The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination irregularities entered its 28th day, with Wangchuk urging people to ensure a massive turnout for the



outfit's proposed march to Parliament on July 20. Addressing supporters at the protest site, Wangchuk acknowledged his weakening physical condition but said his resolve remained unshaken. "I am weak from the outside but very strong inside. I am

sure all of you are strong from the inside, and outside too. We need this energy for July 20, when we will take out a peaceful march to Parliament. We will go together and present our plea in the temple of democracy," he said.

"I will stay alive till July 20 at any cost. If you don't come and July 20 is not successful, I will come back as a ghost," he said in a lighter vein, drawing cheers from the gathering. On Thursday, doctors attending to Wangchuk had warned that his condition had entered a critical stage due to the prolonged fast and that the next phase could be alarming, with the possibility of organ damage if the hunger strike continued. Wangchuk, however, had refused to call off the fast, saying that ending it with-

KTR says Congress bid to block Yuva Sangrama Sadassu fails after HC nod

The Telangana High Court has permitted the BRS to hold its Yuva Sangrama Sadassu at Saroornagar Stadium, rejecting the Congress government's bid to block the event. BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Revanth Reddy government of suppressing unemployed youth and vowed to continue raising issues affecting students and job aspirants.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) intensified his criticism of the Congress government after the Telangana High Court permitted the party to hold its Yuva Sangrama Sadassu at the Saroornagar Stadium. Calling the verdict a victory for democratic rights, KTR accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of attempting to suppress the voices of unemployed youth and students. KTR alleged that the Congress government had tried to block the youth convention to



prevent the Opposition from highlighting the concerns of job seekers and students. He said the High Court's decision had exposed the government's efforts to deny democratic space to the Opposition. Stating that the BRS would continue to fight for unemployed youth, KTR urged students,

job aspirants, and young people from across Telangana to participate in the Yuva Sangrama Sadassu in large numbers. He said the event would serve as a platform to question the Congress government over what he described as its failure to fulfil promises made under its Youth Decla-

ration, particularly on employment and recruitment. Meanwhile, BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar welcomed the High Court's order and assured that the convention would be conducted in a peaceful and disciplined manner. He said the party fully respected the judiciary's decision and would comply with all conditions laid down by the authorities. Praveen Kumar criticised the State government's arguments before the High Court, alleging that it had unfairly portrayed the BRS as a threat to law and order. He accused the Congress govern-

ment of curbing democratic rights despite claiming to uphold constitutional values. Drawing comparisons with the Congress' own public meetings held before the Assembly elections, he questioned why similar permissions were now being opposed for an Opposition event. He also announced that the BRS would deploy volunteers across the venue to ensure smooth crowd management, maintain law and order, and minimise traffic disruptions, demonstrating the party's commitment to conducting the programme responsibly.

Nearly 3 lakh degree seats remain vacant in Telangana after DOST counselling

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Even after multiple rounds of admissions, nearly three lakh degree seats are lying vacant in Telangana, reflecting poor demand for conventional undergraduate programmes in the State. A total of 4,37,809 seats were up for grabs in 929 degree colleges. However, only 1,41,143 had takers as of Thursday. As per the information available with the Telangana Council of Higher Education, this time, only 1,19,016 out of 3,71,919 seats in 780 degree colleges were filled after three rounds of Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST) counselling. Similarly, 79 welfare residential degree colleges filled 9,271



out of 23,834 available seats. Seventy colleges, which are not part of the DOST system, admitted 12,856 students, leaving 42,056 seats vacant. Poor enrolment was particularly seen in rural areas, where several degree colleges have failed to attract students. Several colleges have filled less than 15 per cent of their sanctioned intake, while more than 70 colleges did not secure a single admission. The situation is alarming in 580 private degree colleges, where only 59,615 seats have been filled, leaving a staggering 1,88,715 seats vacant, which account for the majority of

vacant degree seats in the State. The 36 autonomous government degree colleges registered 27,434 admissions out of 45,120 seats, while the 116 government degree colleges reported 31,551 vacancies. Given the admission trend, degree admissions in the State might not cross the two lakh mark. Apart from the waning interest among students in pursuing degree programmes, there is a huge mismatch between the number of students clearing Intermediate every year and the degree seats available. This year, around 4,23,129 students passed Intermediate, while there are 4,37,809 seats on offer in the State, which is more than the total number of eligible students.

Farmers hit as groundwater dips, erratic power adds to Vanakalam woes in Telangana

Farmers in Telangana are grappling with severe water scarcity as groundwater levels continue to decline amid deficient rainfall this Kharif season. With borewells drying up and erratic power supply disrupting irrigation, agricultural prospects remain bleak.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Farmers already under severe stress due to inadequate rainfall and water scarcity are facing another setback this Vanakalam (Kharif) season as groundwater levels continue to fall below normal. The situation has worsened with borewells going dry, while erratic power supply has added to farmers' concerns. The average groundwater level in the State during June 2026 stood at 9.46 metres below ground level (mbgl). It ranged from 5.46 mbgl in Khammam to 13.30 mbgl in Medak and Vikarabad. Of the 33 districts, 20 recorded average groundwater levels between 5 and 10



mbgl, while the remaining 13 districts recorded levels between 10 and 15 mbgl. Based on rainfall received up to July 14 and assuming an overall rainfall deficit of 30 percent, the State's average groundwater level is projected to decline to 10.35 mbgl in July 2026 and further to 11.01 mbgl in August 2026. Compared to May 2026, the average

groundwater level is expected to fall by 1.09 metres in July and by 1.74 metres in August. The deepest groundwater levels during August 2026 are expected in Vikarabad (15.60 mbgl), Medak (15.20 mbgl), Sangareddy (15.09 mbgl), Nizamabad (14.60 mbgl), Siddipet (14.28 mbgl), Kamareddy (13.86 mbgl), Jayashankar Bhupalpally (13.80 mbgl), Rajanna Sircilla (13.44

mbgl), Hyderabad (13.23 mbgl), and Mahabubnagar (13.17 mbgl). With deficient rainfall and falling groundwater levels, farmers hoping to cultivate crops using borewells are unlikely to find much relief as many borewells have already dried up. Telangana Turmeric Farmers Association president Narasimha Naidu said nearly 50 percent of borewells had already gone dry. "In such a situation, farmers are left to depend on rainfall unless the State government supplies water through canals," he said. "The situation is very grim. If there is no sufficient rainfall next month, agricultural production will be badly affected," he added.

Jampana Pratap Distributes Indiramma Sarees

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Vice President of the Cantonment Board, Jampana Pratap, distributed Indiramma sarees to eligible and underprivileged women in the locality as part of the Telangana government's welfare initiative aimed at supporting both beneficiaries and handloom weavers. Speaking on the occasion, Jampana Pratap said the Revanth Reddy-led government is committed to strengthening the livelihood of handloom weavers by placing continuous orders for the manufacture



of Indiramma sarees, thereby creating sustained employment opportunities. At the same time, the government is ensuring that deserving women receive the benefit directly. He stated that the distribution process is being carried out with complete transparency through Aadhaar-based authentication and

facial recognition technology, ensuring that the sarees reach only genuine and eligible beneficiaries without any irregularities. "The Revanth Reddy government is committed to uplifting handloom weavers by providing them continuous employment. By using Aadhaar and facial recognition technology, we are ensuring that these Indiramma sarees reach the actual, eligible beneficiaries with absolute transparency," Jampana Pratap said. Local leaders Sharath Varaprasad and Mukesh, along with colony residents and several local women, participated in the programme.

Telangana Launches New Employees Health Scheme for Government Staff and Pensioners

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a major welfare initiative aimed at strengthening healthcare security for government employees and pensioners, the Telangana Government on Friday launched the New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS), offering improved cashless medical services, enhanced transparency, and fully digital healthcare access. The scheme was formally inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister



Bhatti Vikramarka and Medical, Health & Family Welfare Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad. During the programme, the dignitaries unveiled the Employees Health Care Trust (EHCT) Trust Deed, launched the NEHS online portal, and released digital health cards, which

were distributed to representatives of employees' associations. Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha said the Congress Government has always accorded top priority to healthcare, education, and employee welfare. He recalled that landmark health initiatives such as Rajiv AarogyaSri, the Employees Health Scheme, and the Journalists Health Scheme were introduced under Congress governments.

Agniveer Recruitment Rally From Aug. 29



The 1 EME Centre in Secunderabad will conduct unit headquarters quota recruitment rally from August 29 for Agniveer technical, Agniveer tradesman, Class X chef, and outstanding sportsperson categories. The rally is open to sons of war widows, widows, ex-servicemen and serving personnel, as well as own brothers of servicemen and ex-servicemen. Outstanding sportspersons may apply under the open category for swimming and diving, or volleyball. Candidates must be between 17.5 and 22 years old, with dates of birth between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2009. Applicants for Agniveer technical must meet one of the prescribed qualification routes. These include Class XII Science with Physics, Mathematics and English and 50 per cent aggregate, recognised vocational qualifications or Class X with specified marks and technical training through ITI or an approved diploma. Applicants for the chef category need a Class X pass and at least 33 per cent in each of five basic subjects.

CM Revanth Reddy to Visit Ghatkesar Tomorrow; To Lay Foundation Stone for ₹3.95-Crore 'Andesri Smruthi Vanam'

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will visit Ghatkesar on Saturday to participate in the birth anniversary celebrations of State Poet Andesri and lay the foundation stone for the "Andesri Smruthi Vanam", to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹3.95 crore. The programme is scheduled to commence at 10:00 a.m., during which the Chief Minister will officially launch the prestigious memorial project dedicated to the renowned Telangana poet. Addressing a press conference at the proposed Andesri



Smruthi Vanam site on Friday, Medchal-Malkajgiri District Congress Committee (DCC) President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav and former MLA Mallipeddi Sudheer Reddy shared details of the event. They stated that the Telangana Government is establishing the memorial in recognition of Andesri's

outstanding contribution to Telangana's language, literature, culture, and identity. The memorial will serve as a permanent tribute to his literary legacy while showcasing the richness of Telangana's cultural heritage, language, and traditions. It is also envisioned as a centre for preserving the history and achievements of the

State's literary and cultural movements. The leaders said the celebrations are expected to witness the participation of Ministers, public representatives, senior government officials, poets, literary personalities, artists, admirers, and a large number of people from across the State. On the occasion, DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav appealed to Congress leaders, party workers, elected representatives, and the public from the Medchal constituency to attend the programme in large numbers and make it a grand success.

Community Support Strengthens Government Schools: DEO BikshapathiMatoor Village

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Educational Officer (DEO) Sri Bikshapathi attended programme on Friday at ZPHS Matoor Village stated that government schools can achieve remarkable progress when the dedicated efforts of teachers are complemented by active community participation. He was speaking as the chief guest at a programme held at Matoor Government High School, where philanthropist Sri Tummala Keerthivardhan Reddy, a native of Matoor Village, extended financial assis-



tance to students who shifted from private schools to government schools during the current academic year. This academic year, the Badi Bata enrolment campaign proved highly successful. The school, which initially had 27 students, admitted 20 new students,

increasing the total strength to 47 students. To encourage parents who chose government schools for their children, Sri Keerthivardhan Reddy announced financial assistance of ₹3,000 per student, amounting to a total of ₹69,000.

Osmania University
VC Molugaram elected
Fellow of Telangana
Academy of Sciences



Osmania University Vice Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram has been elected as a Fellow of the Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS) for the year 2025 in the Engineering Sciences stream. The Executive Council of the Telangana Academy of Sciences unanimously recommended his election following a meticulous evaluation by the Engineering Sciences Sectional Committee. The TAS fellowship is reserved for the finest minds in science and engineering who have consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation and academic excellence. The university community, faculty, and research scholars congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on receiving the honour.

Telangana Facing Groundwater Crisis in El Nino Year

“When the 2025-26 crop season began, Telangana’s groundwater reserves were 506 tmc ft, of which 237 tmc ft have been used. All that is left for use from now onwards is 269 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet),” a senior government official said.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The invisible resource of groundwater, on which lakhs of farmers rely on for agriculture, is depleting with the government indicating that the only direction the reserves will go is down, from here on. “When the 2025-26 crop season began, Telangana’s groundwater reserves were 506 tmc ft, of which 237 tmc ft have been used. All that is left for use from now onwards is 269 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet),” a senior government official said. The problem is that the available groundwater needs to be conserved as there are no prospects for recharge in what is feared to be a rainfall deficit year, and the important aspect is



that the available 269 tmc ft will not only have to sustain the state through the kharif season, but also during next year’s rabi as well. Then there are the drinking water requirements that this same resource has to meet till the next year’s monsoon season takes hold and rain begins recharging the groundwater table, the official explained.

According to data from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), groundwater extraction for agriculture rose from 235 tmc ft in 2019-20 to 256 tmc ft in 2022, and it was likely that the available groundwater this year may pose a crisis considering the fact that the government has already made it clear, also in the Contingency Plan for Vanakalam 2026, that

the likelihood of any surface irrigation was next to nothing. The Contingency Plan, the government document released on Thursday, said the groundwater levels were set to dip across the state, from the June average of 9.46 metres below ground level (MGBL) to 11.01 in August. The Contingency Plan’s groundwater level projections were based on an expected minimum of a 30 per cent overall rain deficiency till August. With around 28 lakh agricultural borewells expected to be in action this Vanakalam, or Kharif crop season that has already been hit hard by the El Nino impacted monsoon, the projections of falling groundwater levels are only expected to add to the misery of farmers.

Kondapur Faces Severe Water Shortage as Tanker Demand Surges

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Srirangam Venkatesh

Residents of Kondapur Division are facing a severe water crisis due to the continued lack of rainfall, with many borewells drying up and households depending almost entirely on water tankers. Officials said water supply through pipelines has been reduced from one hour to 30 minutes because of lower inflows from the main reservoir. The Tulip overhead tank, which earlier received water for 19 hours, now gets supply for only 14 hours. The demand for

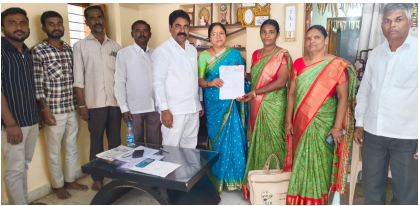


water tankers has increased sharply from 40 tankers a day last July to nearly 200 tankers daily this year, putting additional pressure on the water supply system. Experts have also stressed the need for responsible water usage and better rainwater harvesting measures, warning that unchecked construction and excessive water consumption could worsen the crisis in the future.

BRS Leaders Distribute SIR Enumeration Forms to BLOs at Khammampally Village

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, BRS State Leader and PSR Foundation Chairman Paitara Saikumar and Former Municipally ZPTC Paitara Meenakshi Saikumar distributed SIR Enumeration Forms to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at Khammampally village in Municipally Mandal, Sangareddy district. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders urged every eligible



citizen to actively participate in the SIR process and ensure that their names are correctly included in the electoral rolls. They cautioned that negligence in completing the enumeration process could result in the loss of voting rights.

Telangana state cabinet meeting: Massive escalation planned in irrigation project costs?

The Congress government in Telangana is considering a steep upward revision of irrigation project costs, with proposals amounting to Rs 1.26 lakh crore discussed at the Cabinet meeting. In the first phase alone, schemes including Palamuru-Rangareddy and SLBC may see a hike of Rs 35,000 crore.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government is reportedly preparing to revise the estimated costs of several major irrigation projects, with the cumulative increase expected to touch ₹1.26 lakh crore. The proposals were discussed during the State Cabinet meeting on Friday, according to official sources. The government has cited multiple reasons for the proposed escalation, including rising prices of construction materials, the impact of GST, design modifications, increased land acquisition costs, and other technical factors. In the first phase, the government is expected to revise the estimates of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Scheme, Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme, Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Narayanpet-Kodangal



Lift Irrigation Project, and the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) Project, with the additional financial burden estimated at nearly ₹35,000 crore. Among the projects, the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is likely to witness another major cost escalation. Initially sanctioned in 2015 at ₹35,250 crore, its estimate was later revised to ₹55,086 crore, and the government is now considering a further increase. The Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project has also seen its estimated cost rise to ₹4,725 crore, including ₹1,197.61 crore earmarked for land acquisition.

Likewise, the SLBC Project, whose cost had already been revised from ₹4,500 crore to ₹6,000 crore, is now reportedly under consideration for another hike to around ₹12,000 crore. While the Cabinet officially announced the formation of a Special Enquiry Team (SET) to investigate alleged irregularities in the Dharani portal, it made no formal mention of the proposed irrigation cost revisions. This has triggered political speculation, with opposition circles questioning whether the SET announcement diverted attention from the massive financial proposals.

TG Panchayat Raj Ministerial Employees' Association Holds District Executive Meeting at Turkapally

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The District Executive General Body Meeting of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Ministerial Employees' Association, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, was held on Wednesday at the Mandal Praja Parishad Office Conference Hall, Turkapally, under the chairmanship of District President Sri Padur Srikanth Reddy. The meeting was attended by State President Sri Epala Satyanarayana Reddy as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated



the successful implementation of promotions and general transfers in the Panchayat Raj Ministerial Department, stating that the process was carried out by ensuring fairness and equal opportunity to all eligible employees. The members expressed their heartfelt

gratitude to the State President, State General Secretary, and other office-bearers of the association for their continuous efforts in safeguarding the interests and welfare of ministerial employees across Telangana.

Officers' Association Meets MD; Promotions and Enhanced Health Cover Assured

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting the welfare and career advancement of Federation officers, the Officers' Association of Vijaya Dairy (TGDDCF Ltd.) submitted a representation to the Managing Director highlighting key service-related issues and long-pending demands. The Association urged the management to expedite promotions for all eligible officers. Responding positively, the Managing Director patiently heard the representation and appreciated the concerns raised by the Association. He assured that the long-pending promotion



proposals of all eligible officers would be placed before the forthcoming Board Meeting, and necessary action would be initiated at the earliest. The Association also requested the extension of the Employees Health Scheme (EHS) to Federation employees.

BJP Leader Bhanuka Mallikarjun's Birthday Draws Massive Crowd

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP State Executive Member and senior party leader Bhanuka Mallikarjun celebrated his birthday on Thursday with grand public celebrations at his residence in Bhavana Colony, New Bowenpally, where hundreds of supporters, party leaders, local residents, friends, and family members gathered to extend their wishes. The celebrations witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with BJP workers and well-wishers from across the Secunderabad Cantonment constituency arriving throughout



the day. In a rare show of goodwill, several people from different political backgrounds also attended the event, highlighting Mallikarjun's cordial relations across party lines and his strong public connect. Mallikarjun was felicitated with traditional shawls and floral garlands

before cutting a birthday cake amid loud cheers and applause from supporters. The festive atmosphere reflected the enthusiasm of party cadres and local residents, who joined the celebrations in large numbers. Addressing the gathering, Mallikarjun thanked everyone for their

presence and blessings. "I feel fortunate to celebrate my birthday in the midst of the people I serve. Their affection, encouragement, and continued support inspire me to work harder for the welfare and development of the community," he said. The heavy influx of visitors led to crowded streets around Bhavana Colony, with local traffic moving slowly for some time as supporters continued arriving to greet the BJP leader. The celebrations transformed the residential neighborhood into a vibrant venue filled with party workers and well-wishers.

Gangaram Residents Assured Support Over NH-65 Road Widening Issues

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Srirangam Venkatesh

PAC Chairman Arekapudi Gandhi met with former Corporator Jagadishwar Goud, village elders, and residents of Gangaram Village in Hafeezpet Division to discuss issues related to the NH-65 road widening project. Gandhi assured devotees that the Sri Pochamma Thalli Temple, located along the highway, would be protected and developed in



consultation with village elders and local residents without affecting devotees' sentiments. He also assured families likely to lose their houses due to the

road widening that he would stand by them and work to ensure they receive fair compensation. He said the issue would be taken up with the government to secure justice for all affected residents. The PAC Chairman stated that the NH-65 widening and flyover construction are being undertaken to reduce traffic congestion and improve public transportation. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the project while assuring that every effort would be made to safeguard the interests of affected families. Local leaders, village elders, and residents participated in the meeting.

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.

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

:The NDA on Friday held a meeting to finalise its strategy for the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning July 20, amid indications of a confrontational session with the Opposition planning to raise several issues. The meeting, held at Kartavya Bhawan, was attended by senior ministers including defence minister Rajnath Singh and home minister Amit Shah, along with NDA allies such as Lallan Singh (JD(U)), Jayant Chaudhary (RLD) and Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu (TD).

Sources said the government discussed its legislative agenda, including its priority to convert two Ordinances into Acts during the session. The government plans to introduce the Income-tax



(Amendment) Bill, 2026, to replace an Ordinance issued last month that exempts foreign investors from income tax on interest earnings and capital gains from investments in government securities. Sources said the government may also bring an amended women's reservation Bill along with a delimitation Bill. It is working on proposals to increase Lok Sabha seats for all states by about 50 per cent to address concerns of southern states over representation.

The draft is being prepared in view of concerns

that population-based delimitation could reduce the political representation of southern states. An earlier Bill failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, is also expected to be introduced, likely in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to accord the national song Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as the national anthem Jana Gana Mana.

The government is also set to introduce the Reg-

istration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill to make provisions on delayed registration more stringent. The session will also see changes in seating arrangements, with the DMK seeking a separate bloc from the Congress. Recognition of the break-away faction of TMC MPs, the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), is yet to be decided by Speaker Om Birla. Meanwhile, NDA parliamentary party meetings will be renamed "Mangal Milan", with the first meeting under the new name scheduled for July 21 in the Parliament House complex. The Opposition has indicated it will raise issues including the NEET paper leak, ethanol blending, deaths of Indian seafarers in West Asia and allegations related to donations for the Ram temple.

Raut Claims CM Change Likely In Maharashtra

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday claimed that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis could be shifted to the Centre and a senior BJP leader could replace him as the state's chief minister if a Cabinet reshuffle takes place in coming days. "If a reshuffle happens at the Centre, Fadnavis may go there to serve the nation and a senior BJP minister can become the chief minister of Maharashtra," Raut said in Nagpur.

Raut was in Nagpur to oversee preparations for the Shiv Sena UBT's 'Ram Raksha Andolan' to be held on July 18 against the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple. He said Ram devotees and Sena (UBT) workers from across Vidarbha, which includes 11 districts including

Nagpur, would participate in the protest, which will be led by party president Uddhav Thackeray. Raut said invitations have been sent to Devendra Fadnavis and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to attend the 'Ramraksha' agitation in Nagpur. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has launched the statewide campaign to protect the sanctity of Lord Ram and raise public awareness in the backdrop of alleged misappropriation of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Raut hit out at BJP leaders, including Nitesh Rane and Sandeep Joshi, who termed the invitation a 'political joke. "How can it be a political joke? The Chief Minister of a state doesn't belong to just one party; he represents all of Maharashtra," he said. "As the Chief Minister of the state, we have invited him (Fadnavis). More than that, as a devotee of

Lord Ram and because of his involvement in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, we have invited him to participate in our Ramraksha movement," the Sena (UBT) leader said.

Raut stated inviting Bhagwat was a matter of respect and responsibility, particularly as the programme was being held in Nagpur, the headquarters of the RSS. "Despite occasional differences in opinion, the Sarsanghchalak has always remained a figure of utmost respect for us. It is our duty and responsibility to invite him since we are organising a major event focused on Hindutva, and Shiv Sena UBT president Uddhav Thackeray ji is attending. Therefore, inviting Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat ji is both our duty and our dharma," he said.

MEA 'Closely Following' US Bill Seeking 100% Tariff Over Russian Oil

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said New Delhi is "closely following" developments related to a proposed US legislation targeting five countries, including India, for their purchase of Russian oil, seeking 100 per cent tariffs on these countries. Addressing a weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the government is aware of the proposed legislation and is monitoring the situation.

He reiterated that India's crude oil imports are guided by its energy security requirements and broader sourcing strategy, noting that New Delhi has multiple suppliers across the world. "We are closely following these developments, and we are aware of the proposed legislation," Jaiswal said. "As far as buying oil, we buy oil from various countries in the world. It is based on our approach towards energy sourcing," he added.



Referring to maritime traffic in the region, he said there is regular movement of Indian vessels between India and the Persian Gulf. "On the number of Indian vessels which are there in the Persian Gulf, as of today, we have, there is regular traffic between India and the Persian Gulf region; we have seven Indian ships which are there in the Persian Gulf, Indian flagships which are there in the Persian Gulf," the MEA Spokesperson added.

MEA's response comes after a bipartisan group of more than 60 US Senators introduced revised legislation to impose sweeping sanctions on Russia, replacing the earlier proposal for blanket tariffs with targeted measures aimed at the world's largest buyers of

Russian energy. The revised bill, "Senator Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026", introduced after the death of Senator Lindsey Graham, holds major purchasers of Russian oil and gas accountable for supporting Russia's war in Ukraine.

According to an official release, the revised bill "refines tariff authority from a blanket 500 per cent tariff to tariffs on the top five purchasers of Russian crude oil and natural gas of upto 100 per cent," while creating an exception for countries importing less than 15 per cent of Russia's natural gas exports that are taking significant steps to reduce those imports. The overview of the key changes said that the revised legislation also "adds new au-

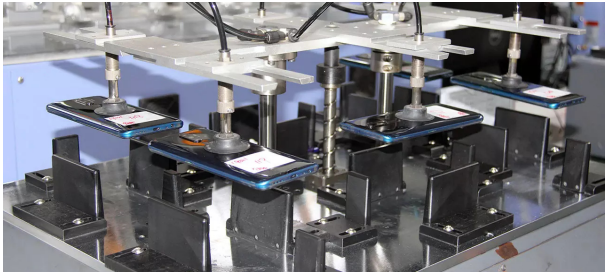
thority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the top five countries facilitating Russian oil sanctions evasion." The legislation, initially introduced by Senator Graham and Senator Blumenthal in April 2025, aimed to cut off Russian President Vladimir Putin's revenue streams used to fund the war in Ukraine by mandating sanctions on Russia's political leadership, financial institutions, and energy sector. Jaiswal also responded to a query on reported US military strikes on Iran's Chabahar port, stating that the "terminal itself did not face any damage."

"If you have been following the issue, there was a waiver which was given by America; that waiver got over some time back. Post that, we have been in discussion with relevant stakeholders as to how to take this particular issue forward. On the question of it being attacked, yes, we have seen some reports in that regard, but we can also tell you that the terminal itself did not face any damage," he stated.

Cabinet Approves Rs 62,500 Cr For Mobile Phone PLI Scheme 2.0

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 62,500 crore for the second edition of the mobile phone production-linked incentives scheme, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. "Cabinet has approved mobile PLI," Vaishnaw said. According to the presentation shared by the minister, the Cabinet has approved Rs 62,500 crore for the



scheme. Smartphones have emerged as India's top exported commodity in CY 2025. The country exported smartphones worth Rs 2.62 lakh crore, with iPhone maker Apple dominating the segment.

Following a push to mobile phone production, India has emerged as the second-largest mobile manufacturer in the world. The mobile phone production in the country more than doubled to Rs. 5.5

lakh crores in FY 2024-25, from Rs. 2.14 lakh crores in FY 2019-20. The mobile phone exports have increased around eight-fold from Rs 0.27 lakh crores in FY 2019-20 to Rs 2 lakh crores in FY 2024-25. From being an importer of mobile phones back in 2014, India has now become a net exporter, with more than 300 mobile manufacturing units being operational in the country.

Indira Gandhi's 1984 Meet With Wangchuk's Father Gains Fresh Relevance

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

When late Ladakhi leader Sonam Wangyal launched an indefinite hunger strike in 1984, demanding ST status for Ladakh's communities, then prime minister Indira Gandhi travelled to Leh, assured him that the demand would be addressed and persuaded him to end the fast, according to historical accounts. Memories of the decades-old episode resurfaced in the public discourse on Friday as Wangyal's son, climate activist and educator Sonam Wangchuk, continued his indefinite hunger strike for the 20th day, with political leaders and social media users juxtaposing the current dispensation's response with that of Gandhi's. The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at Jantar Man-



tar -- over alleged examination irregularities and demand for Union education minister's resignation -- entered 28th day, with Wangchuk urging people to ensure a massive turnout for the outfit's proposed march to Parliament on July 20. Meanwhile, photographs of the former prime minister meeting Wangyal during the hunger strike were widely shared on social media throughout the day. According to historical accounts of the episode, Gandhi told Wangyal that the demand would be considered and persuaded him to end the fast. Ladakh's

communities were granted ST status in 1989.

The historical parallel also found resonance within the Congress. Party sources said former Congress president Sonia Gandhi told a senior leader that they should meet Wangchuk at the protest site and referred to the 1984 episode, citing Indira Gandhi's decision to travel to Leh and engage directly with Wangyal as an example of how governments should respond to peaceful democratic protests. The Congress so far had largely kept away from the ongoing protest even as several opposition leaders extended support to the movement. However, on Thursday, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal called upon Wangchuk to end his fast, while party leader Pawan Khera visited the protest site on Friday.

FROM FRONT PAGE

Two Devotees Die.....

The country's development did not come to a standstill. Trains continued to run without interruption," he said. Modi also spoke about his recent visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand and stated that India signed several agreements during these visits, which received widespread attention.

"However, one important subject did not receive as much discussion. It concerns the youth of our country, especially the youth of Haryana, and that is sports," said Modi. The prime minister said he held extensive discussions with the governments of Australia and New Zealand on the matter. "In the coming years, we will work closely with both countries in areas such as

the sports industry, athlete training, and several other related fields. This collaboration will greatly benefit the youth of Haryana," he said. He said today sports in India are being promoted as a major avenue for fitness and employment. "Our government has introduced a new National Sports Policy, 'Khelo Bharat Niti'. From the Khelo India campaign to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, athletes today are receiving unprecedented support. They are being provided with substantial financial assistance.

DMK Softens Stand....

Delimitation was among the matters taken up for discussion in the party's meeting of MPs held on July 16. DMK president MK Stalin, who is in London, addressed

the meeting via video conferencing. The DMK had staunchly opposed the delimitation exercise in its previous form, and a Constitution Amendment Bill in this connection was defeated in the Parliament in April this year. After the DMK lost power in Tamil Nadu, its long-time ally, the Congress party, walked over to the TVK camp, deserting the DMK. The grand old party has also joined the TVK government. Against this background, sources indicated that the Dravidian party will decide the matter on its own and shall not consult the Congress party.

Wangchuk Fast.....

Wangchuk, however, had refused to call off the fast, saying that ending it without any response from

the government would send a wrong message. He maintained that the focus should now be on making the July 20 Parliament march a success. The issue has also reached the Delhi High Court, which directed authorities to monitor Wangchuk's health daily and provide medical assistance if his condition deteriorates. Meanwhile, the CPI(ML) Liberation-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) said the condition of its members Neha, Manish and Aameen, who are also on an indefinite hunger strike at a separate stage of the protest site, had reached "severe stages". In a statement, AISA said Aameen was at risk of hypovolemic shock due to dehydration, Neha's random blood sugar level had fallen to a dangerous 49 mg/dL

and Manish had lost more than 10 per cent of his body weight. "However, students are determined to remain in solidarity with Sonam Wangchuk until the government faces its crimes," the organisation said.

Telangana Seeks.....

Revanth Reddy directed all departments to prepare contingency action plans to address drinking water supply, irrigation, agriculture and uninterrupted power supply. In view of the India Meteorological Department's warning that the situation could worsen, he instructed all departments to remain fully prepared with advance measures. The Cabinet directed collectors to ensure that no drinking water scarcity arose anywhere. Officials were

asked to respond promptly to public complaints and take measures to prevent hardship to the people. All available water in reservoirs and irrigation projects should be prioritised for drinking water needs. The government also decided to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Officials were instructed to make adequate arrangements for power generation and purchase electricity, if required. Appealing to farmers to adapt to the prevailing conditions, the Cabinet advised them to avoid cultivating water-intensive crops and instead opt for crops that require less water. It also decided to conduct statewide awareness programmes and public meetings to educate people about the impact of El Nino, the prevailing drought conditions, available water.

CRIME

Alwal Traffic Police Clear Encroachments in Two-Kilometre Rope Operation Drive

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Acting on the directions of Malkajgiri Commissionerate Commissioner of Police Sumati and DCP Traffic-I Rahul Reddy, the Alwal Traffic Police, in coordination with Municipal authorities, carried out a special encroachment removal drive under the Rope Operation initiative on July 17. The operation covered a two-kilometre stretch from Kanajiguda to Alwal. The drive was supervised by ACP Traffic, Trimulgherry Division, G. Shankar Raju, along with Town Planning Officer K. Srinivas Reddy, Alwal Traffic Inspector G. Pavan Kumar Reddy,



Sub-Inspectors Kishore and Rajasekhar, municipal officials, law and order personnel, and traffic police staff. During the operation, authorities removed long-standing encroachments from footpaths and carriageways to restore smooth traffic flow and improve pedestrian safety. Unauthorized structures and roadside obstructions that had been caus-

ing congestion and inconvenience to commuters were cleared as part of the joint enforcement effort. Officials warned that strict legal action would be taken against individuals or establishments that illegally occupy footpaths or road margins. Such encroachments obstruct the movement of vehicles, compromise pedestrian safety, and create avoidable traffic

bottlenecks, they said. The enforcement team also appealed to shopkeepers, street vendors, local residents, and the general public to cooperate with the Police and Municipal Corporation by ensuring that roads and footpaths remain free of encroachments. Maintaining clear public spaces is essential for safer roads, better traffic management, and hassle-free movement of pedestrians and motorists. The Alwal Traffic Police stated that similar enforcement drives will continue across the Commissionerate to curb illegal encroachments, improve road discipline, and provide a safer commuting environment for the public.

Hyderabad Techie Dies by Suicide in Raidurgam; Cyber Fraud Angle Under Probe

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Srirangam Venkatesh

A 40-year-old software engineer from Bengaluru died by suicide after allegedly jumping from the fourth floor of his office building in Raidurgam, Hyderabad, on Wednesday night. The deceased, identified as T.V. Avinash, had recently moved to Hyderabad with his wife and two children. He was living in Ku-

katpally and working at an IT company in Knowledge City. According to police, Avinash informed his family around 7 pm that he was leaving the office. When he failed to return home, his family contacted his workplace and later found him behind the office building in a pool of blood. Raidurgam Police examined CCTV footage, which reportedly showed Avinash jumping from

the fourth-floor play area of the building. During the investigation, police found that Avinash had recently lost around Rs. 2 lakh in an alleged cyber fraud. Officials are investigating whether the financial loss or any other personal reasons led to the incident. The body was shifted for post-mortem, and the case is under investigati

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.

19-Year-Old Youth Dies by Suicide in Kapra

A 19-year-old youth allegedly died by suicide at his residence in BJR Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Kapra, on Sunday night. According to the police, the deceased, Lingala Ganesh, was alone at home after his parents had gone to their native village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, while his siblings were staying at a relative's house. When Ganesh did not respond to phone calls during the night, the family assumed he was asleep. On Monday morning, the victim's father, Lingala Ramulu, was informed by his elder son that Ganesh had allegedly hanged himself.

Five Arrested as Police Seize 22 Tonnes of PDS Rice, 2 Tonnes of Wheat in Gachibowli Raid

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana
Srirangam Venkatesh

Five persons were arrested after Gachibowli Police, along with the Civil Supplies Department and the State Vigilance Team, seized 22 tonnes of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice and 2 tonnes of wheat during a raid at Gowli-doddi village, Serilingampally mandal, Rangareddy district. Acting on a tip-off, officials raided a go-



down behind a government school and an open plot near Jayabheri Apartments, where they found 520 bags of PDS rice and 40 bags of wheat stored illegally. Police said the seized rice contained Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK), confirming it was meant for distribution to eligible beneficiaries

under the Telangana Government's Public Distribution System. The accused allegedly purchased PDS rice and wheat from beneficiaries at low prices and sold them illegally for higher profits. Officials also seized five vehicles, including a 12-tyre lorry and four goods carriers, used to transport the commodities. Police have registered a case, arrested all five accused, and launched further investigation into the illegal PDS rice racket.

HC Dismisses HMWS&SB Review in Compassionate Appointment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has dismissed a review petition filed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), holding that review jurisdiction cannot be used to reargue a case or introduce new grounds not raised earlier. Justice Surepalli Nanda, while deciding the review petition along with a connected contempt case, held that the Board had



failed to comply with the spirit of the court's earlier directions in a compassionate appointment claim filed by P. Kavitha, daughter of a deceased employee. Appearing for the

Board, Advocate General A. Sudarshan Reddy contended that the writ petition ought to have been dismissed on grounds of delay, as the petitioner challenged the rejection

order dated September 4, 2018 only in 2023. The Board also argued that the petitioner had suppressed the fact that her brother was employed as a police constable and was an earning member in the same household, and therefore she could not claim financial dependency. Rejecting the submissions, the court observed that these objections were not raised during the original proceedings and could not be introduced at the review stage.

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 Hardik 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.



AI skills feature in 15.4 per cent of tech job descriptions: Naukri report

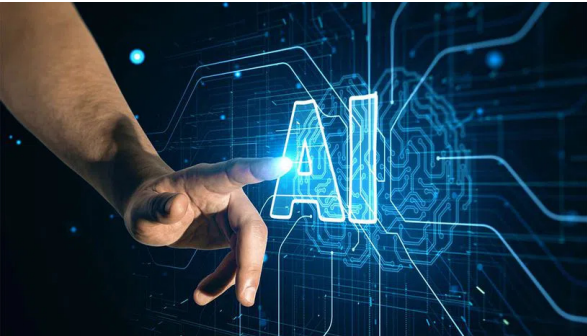
AI-related skills now appear in 15.4 per cent of technology job descriptions, while mentions in non-technology roles have grown nearly six-fold since 2020, according to Naukri's World AI Day Report 2026, highlighting rising employer demand and salary premiums for AI expertise

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

AI fluency is rapidly emerging as a baseline workplace capability, with AI-related skills now featuring in 15.4 per cent of technology job descriptions, while AI skill mentions in non-technology roles have increased nearly six-fold, says a report.

According to Naukri's latest World AI Day Report 2026, AI-related skills now appear in 15.4 per cent of technology job descriptions, up from 0.9 per cent in 2020, reflecting a nearly 17-fold increase in employer demand over the past six years.

The report drew insights from nearly 27,000 pro-



professionals across 80+ industries and 15+ cities and analysed over 3 lakh job descriptions. Interestingly, AI adoption is spreading beyond traditional technology functions. Mentions of AI-related skills in non-technology job descriptions have increased from 0.26 per cent in 2020 to 1.59 per cent in 2026, reflecting nearly six-fold growth.

As AI talent becomes in-

creasingly valuable, professionals with AI skills continue to enjoy a measurable salary advantage. "AI is no longer a future trend, it is already reshaping how India works. It's showing up in job descriptions, hiring patterns, workplace tools and career decisions. The real question now is readiness," Sumet Singh, Group CMO, Info Edge (India) Ltd, said.

According to the report, professionals with AI skills earn higher median salaries across both IT and non-IT roles than peers without AI skills. AI-enabled roles have also recorded stronger salary growth over the past four years, reinforcing the growing business value of AI expertise.

AI hiring has grown fastest among professionals with 13 to 16+ years of experience, followed by those with 16+ years, as per the report. Recruiter demand has also increased significantly for higher salary brackets, including Rs 40-49 lakh and Rs 50 lakh and above, indicating that organisations are investing in experienced professionals capable of lead-

ing enterprise AI transformation.

AI usage is particularly high among professionals working in AI-intensive functions. Product Management, Data Science and Analytics, and Engineering, Software and QA report the highest proportion of professionals who rely heavily on AI in their work. The report noted that India's AI journey has entered a new phase. While organisations are accelerating AI adoption and demand for specialised skills continues to grow, sustained investment in workforce development will determine how effectively businesses and professionals realise AI's full potential.

ABD Maestro Launches Three Super-Premium Whiskies in TG

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

ABD Maestro Pvt. Ltd., the super-premium and luxury spirits arm of Allied Blenders & Distillers (ABD), has entered the Telangana market with the launch of three award-winning whisky brands—AODH Irish Whiskey, WOODBURNS Contemporary Rare Indian Whisky, and YELLO Designer Whisky. The company is co-founded by Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh. The launch marks ABD Maestro's strategic expansion into Telangana, with Hyderabad serving as the first market for the premium portfolio. The three whiskies cater to consumers seeking high-quality, globally inspired spirits. AODH is a triple-distilled Irish whiskey known for its smooth and refined taste. WOODBURNS has earned international recognition as the first Indian whisky to win the Revelation Blended Whisky Award and Grand Gold at the 2025 Spirit Selection by Concours Mondial de Bruxelles. YELLO is a contemporary blend of Scotch and Indian malts, created for modern whisky enthusiasts. Speaking at the launch event in Hyderabad, ABD Maestro Managing Director Bikram Basu said Telangana has emerged as a key market where consumers increasingly value crafts-



manship and premium experiences. He noted that Hyderabad's vibrant pub and restaurant culture, along with its young and cosmopolitan consumer base, makes it an ideal destination for the company's luxury spirits. The company also expects growing demand from other Telangana cities, including Warangal, Karimnagar and Nizamabad. The whiskies are now available at leading retail outlets across Hyderabad. AODH is priced at Rs. 3,470, WOODBURNS at Rs. 2,500 and YELLO at Rs. 2,630 for a 750 ml bottle. The brands will also be served at select premium bars and restaurants across the city.

Reliance promoter group raises stake to 50.48 per cent

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The promoter group of Reliance Industries Ltd increased its shareholding by nearly 0.5 percentage points during the June quarter through market purchases, reinforcing its long-term commitment to the country's most valuable company. Regulatory shareholding data showed that the promoter and promoter

group raised their stake to 50.48 per cent at the end of the June quarter from about 50 per cent three months earlier. The purchases were made within the limits permitted under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) creeping acquisition regulations, which allow promoters to gradually increase ownership without triggering a mandatory open offer, subject to pre-

scribed thresholds. Market analysts believe the market purchases by the promoter group would have cost around Rs 8,500 crore to Rs 9,000 crore.

Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani, his wife and three children – Isha, Akash and Anant – each hold 1.61 crore shares, or a 0.12 per cent stake, in Reliance, according to the latest shareholding filing by



the company. His mother, K D Ambani, holds 3.14 crore shares, or 0.24 per cent, in Reliance. The remaining shares are held through pro-

moter group entities, with Srichakra Commercials LLP holding the largest stake at 10.93 per cent. Devvarshi Commercials LLP, Karuna Commercial

LLP and Tattvam Enterprises LLP each hold an 8.06 per cent stake. The move comes at a time when Reliance continues to invest heavily in its retail, digital, new energy and consumer businesses while pursuing long-term growth opportunities. A higher promoter stake is generally viewed as a sign of the management's confidence in the com-

pany's prospects. It can also strengthen promoter control while marginally reducing the public float. Analysts said such transactions often reflect the view that the stock offers attractive long-term value rather than signalling any imminent corporate action. The increase is unlikely to have any immediate operational impact but could be in-

terpreted positively by investors as an expression of the promoter group's confidence in Reliance's earnings trajectory and future capital allocation plans. The move, analysts said, signals promoter confidence in Reliance's long-term growth outlook. It is seen as a positive signal for minority investors, as promoter buying is often viewed as an indication of confidence.

14 Aakash Hyderabad Students Secure Top Ranks in NEET UG 2026



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) announced that 14 students from its Hyderabad Classroom Program have secured impressive ranks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET UG) 2026, reaffirming the institute's strong track record in medical entrance coaching. Leading the Hyderabad achievers is Mayuk Jaisimha, who secured All India Rank (AIR) 42. Other top performers include Devesh Shreegopal Agrawal (AIR 123), Dheeman Krish (AIR 231), Nivrutt Taduri (AIR 729), and Aanya Bansal (AIR 960), among others. At the national level, AESL delivered an outstanding performance with four students in the Top 10, 18 in the Top 50, and 41 in the Top 100 of NEET UG 2026, highlighting its continued excellence in competitive exam preparation.

The successful students credited their achievement to the unwavering support of their parents and the guidance of Aakash faculty. They said regular mock tests, detailed performance analysis, doubt-clearing sessions, and disciplined classroom learning played a crucial role in strengthening their concepts and boosting confidence. Congratulating the students, Dheeraj Kumar Misra, Chief Academics and Business Head, AESL, said their dedication, discipline, and consistent efforts made them stand out. He wished them success in their journey toward becoming medical professionals. AESL's integrated learning model combines expert faculty, structured study material, AI-powered performance analytics, regular assessments, and personalized mentoring to help students excel in highly competitive examinations like NEET.

NRI's can bring USD 70-80 billion through FCNR initiative: Expert

Non-Resident Indians can potentially bring USD 70-80 billion into India through the ongoing FCNR initiative, according to experts. The scheme, supported by higher bank interest rates, aims to strengthen India's foreign exchange reserves and attract greater overseas investment before September 30, 2026

SINGAPORE
Wakeup telangana

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have the potential to bring USD 70-80 billion in foreign currency inflows into India through the ongoing FCNR initiative, under which banks are offering higher interest rates for a limited period, a Singapore-based chartered accountant said on Friday. The estimate was also discussed during a global webinar organised by the Singapore Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in association with the ICAI's International Affairs Committee and its 25 overseas chapters on Wednesday. The Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) scheme allows NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to safely deposit and grow their overseas earnings in major foreign currencies with Indian banks. These deposits operate like traditional fixed



deposits, except the money remains in foreign currency instead of being converted into Indian rupees. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks to offer higher interest rates on FCNR deposits for a limited period as part of its strategy to bolster forex reserves and support the rupee amid the West Asia crisis. "As much as USD 10 billion has been raised so far under the FCNR initiative, which is open till September 30, 2026," ICAI Singapore Chapter Chairman Sanjay Gattani told PTI. Echoing the views shared by experts at the

webinar, Gattani said NRIs have the potential to bring USD 70-80 billion in foreign currency inflows into India through the FCNR initiative. "Such inflows would substantially enhance India's external financial position while providing NRIs with an opportunity to contribute directly to the nation's development," he said. The webinar, held on July 15, drew nearly 1,800 participants, including chartered accountants, NRIs, accredited investors, business leaders, family offices and finance professionals from across the

world. Gattani said that, considering the investment capacity of participants and the leverage available through FCNR deposits, the webinar alone had the potential to facilitate investment commitments of more than USD 2 billion. "This is a testament to the trust that the global Indian community continues to place in India's economic future and the power of well-curated knowledge initiatives in mobilising meaningful capital," he said. The webinar aimed to familiarise overseas Indians with the recently announced FCNR opportunity and its potential benefits for both investors and the Indian economy. Senior representatives of HDFC Bank, HSBC and State Bank of India explained the FCNR framework, investment process, regulatory requirements, taxation aspects and the advantages available to NRIs.

Sensex jumps 965 points, Nifty tops 24,300 led by banking and IT stocks

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply higher on Friday, supported by strong buying in private banking, information technology and auto stocks. The Sensex rallied 964.58 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 78,151.45. The Nifty also ended firmly in the green, rising 261.55 points, or 1.09 per cent, to settle at 24,334.30. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,400 level remains the immediate resistance and coincides with the 200-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA), making it a crucial hurdle for the index. "A sustained breakout above this zone could reinforce bullish momentum and pave the way for an advance towards the 24,500-24,600 region," as per the expert. "On the downside, the 24,200 zone is now expected to act as the immediate support, having successfully transitioned from a key resistance level and reinforcing the broader recovery structure, followed by the 24,000 psychological

mark, which remains a crucial support zone for preserving the broader recovery structure," the analyst added. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty Private Bank emerged as the top performer, gaining 2.12 per cent. The Nifty IT index advanced 1.75 per cent, while the Nifty Realty and Nifty Auto indices climbed 1.34 per cent and 1.24 per cent, respectively. In contrast, healthcare-related stocks remained under pressure, with the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices ending the session as the biggest sectoral laggards. Despite the strong rally in the benchmark indices, the broader market underperformed. The Nifty Midcap 100 index declined 0.41 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index fell 0.21 per cent by the close of trade. "Investor sentiment remained resilient despite persistent concerns over elevated AI valuations, ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and heightened volatility in global markets," as per an expert.

Thalapathy Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' Set for Grand Worldwide Release on July 23, 2026

The makers of 'Jana Nayagan', starring Tamil superstar and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thalapathy Vijay, have officially announced that the much-awaited film will hit theatres worldwide on July 23, 2026. The announcement has generated immense excitement among fans, as the film is widely regarded as Vijay's final appearance as a leading actor before fully dedicating himself to public service.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, Jana Nayagan is being positioned as one of the biggest cinematic events of the year. The film is expected to celebrate Vijay's remarkable journey in Indian cinema while serving as a fitting farewell to his illustrious acting career that has spanned over three decades.

The release date announcement has further heightened anticipation, with millions of fans across India and overseas preparing to witness what is expected to be an emotional and grand theatrical experience. Known for delivering blockbuster entertainers and commanding an enormous fan following, Vijay's final film is already being hailed as a landmark moment in Indian cinema.



Producer Venkat K. Narayana described the project as a historic occasion, saying that Jana Nayagan represents a once-in-a-generation cinematic event. He expressed pride in being associated

with Vijay's final film and thanked audiences for the unwavering love and support they have shown the actor throughout his career. "There are very few moments in cinema that truly feel historic, and Jana Nayagan is one such moment. As Thalapathy Vijay prepares for his final outing on the big screen, we are hon-

oured to be part of this incredible journey and to present this special film to audiences around the world," Narayana said.

He also reflected on Vijay's extraordinary transformation from one of India's most celebrated film stars to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, describing it as a testament to the deep bond the actor shares with the people. According to the producer, the film is designed to honour that unique journey while delivering an unforgettable theatrical spectacle.

Jana Nayagan has been mounted on a grand scale with a highly accomplished creative team, promising top-notch storytelling, action, music and visual grandeur. While details about the film's plot remain under wraps, expectations continue to soar as fans eagerly await more updates.

With its official release now locked for July 23, 2026, Jana Nayagan is poised to become one of the biggest releases of the year, marking the end of an extraordinary cinematic era and celebrating Thalapathy Vijay's enduring legacy as one of Indian cinema's most influential and beloved stars.

Vijay Deverakonda Makes Fan Emotional at TG20 Cricket League Grand Finale



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda has once again proved why he enjoys an immense fan following, not just for his films but also for his humble personality. A heartwarming video of the actor interacting with an emotional fan has taken social media by storm, earning widespread appreciation from netizens.

The viral clip captures a touching moment where a young, die-hard fan breaks down in tears after finally meeting Vijay Deverakonda. Instead of rushing through the interaction, the actor patiently listens to the fan, speaks to him with warmth, and comforts him throughout the emotional exchange. His calm and compassionate demeanor has won hearts across the internet, with many cal-

ling it one of the most genuine celebrity-fan moments in recent times.

The video quickly spread across social media platforms, where fans praised Vijay for treating his admirer with kindness and respect. Many users commented that moments like these showcase the actor's grounded nature despite his massive stardom. Others remarked that some emotions cannot be described in words, highlighting the deep connection the actor shares with his fans.

Vijay Deverakonda is one of the biggest stars in Telugu cinema today and commands a loyal fan base across India and overseas. His approachable personality and frequent interactions with fans have contributed significantly to his popularity beyond the silver screen.

The emotional fan encounter happened shortly after Vijay attended the grand finale of the inaugural Sreenidhi University TG20 Cricket League on July 12. Serving as the brand ambassador for the tournament, the actor inaugurated the final match by ringing the ceremonial opening bell at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad.

The championship clash saw Hyderabad E-Champions emerge victorious over Anvita Khammam Aces to lift the maiden TG20 League title. Vijay's presence added glamour to the event, drawing huge cheers from cricket lovers and his fans alike.

On the professional front, Vijay Deverakonda is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Ranabaali, directed by Rahul Sankrityan.

Sunderland sign Belgian defender Thomas Meunier on two-year contract

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Belgium great Thomas Meunier has joined Premier League club Sunderland ahead of the upcoming 2026/27 season. The 34-year-old defender has signed a two-year deal, having been a free agent following his departure from Lille.

Meunier, with more than 550 senior club appearances and 83 international caps to his name, recently represented his country, Belgium, in the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026. Born in Sainte-Ode, Meunier came through the lower leagues in his homeland before going on to firmly establish himself at Club Brugge, where he won the first honours of his professional career, winning the Belgian Pro League and Belgian Cup. A move to Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in 2016 saw his stock rise further, enjoying a trophy-laden four-year spell in the French capital, which included three domestic



league and cup successes with the Parisians.

He was transferred to Borussia Dortmund in 2020, where he continued to enhance his ever-growing reputation, before spells at Trabzonspor and, latterly, Lille.

Meunier, who will link up with the Sunderland squad in early August, is excited about the prospect of representing Sunderland in both domestic and European competition this season.

"I am hugely excited and honoured to join Sunderland. I'm very happy to be here and to begin this new chapter in my career. The Premier League is one of the most competitive and exciting leagues in the world, and it's a challenge

I've wanted to experience," he said in an official release by the club. "When I spoke with the club, I was impressed by the ambition, the project, and the desire to keep moving forward. Competing in Europe was also a big factor in my decision because, as a player, you always want to test yourself against the best teams and compete for trophies. I hope I can bring my experience to the squad, both on and off the pitch. I've been fortunate to play in some fantastic teams throughout my career, and now I'm looking forward to giving everything for this club, helping my team-mates and building a strong connection with the supporters," he added.

Harry Kane is England's greatest striker of all time, says Geoff Hurst

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

England's 1966 FIFA World Cup final hero Sir Geoff Hurst has declared Harry Kane the greatest striker in the history of the England men's national team, praising the captain's remarkable goal-scoring record, leadership and influence ahead of England's high-stakes FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-final against Argentina.

Hurst, who remains the only England men's player to score a hat-trick in a FIFA World Cup final after his iconic performance against West Germany in 1966, said Kane has surpassed every forward to represent the Three Lions. Speaking at Wembley Stadium before England's last-four clash, Hurst said Kane's achievements have placed him above all previous England strikers. "It's going to be hard to beat the goals he's scored, so I'd say he's England's best," Hurst said. He highlighted Kane's



extraordinary consistency, noting that the Bayern Munich striker has maintained an exceptional scoring rate while delivering in the biggest matches.

"His record now is just amazing for his appearances and the goals he's scoring and doing it in important games as we've seen in this tournament," Hurst said.

Beyond his goals, Hurst praised Kane's leadership qualities, describing him as an inspirational captain who leads by example

both on and off the pitch. "His leadership is obvious, and that's important. He's talking to the players after a game, when they're in the huddle and so on. Of course, he's also a great example with his attitude, behaviour and the way he plays," he added.

Kane has once again been central to England's FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign, scoring crucial goals during the knockout stages and becoming the country's all-time leading World Cup goalscorer.

During the tournament, he also surpassed 1966 World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore to become England's most-capped captain, adding another milestone to his distinguished international career.

England secured their place in the semi-finals after defeating Norway in extra time, with Kane playing a decisive role through his finishing, creative link-up play and leadership as manager Thomas Tuchel's side pursues the nation's first

FIFA World Cup title since 1966.

Drawing comparisons with legendary captain Bobby Moore, Hurst said Kane possesses the same natural leadership qualities that made Moore one of England's greatest captains.

"There are certain people in walks of life, whether it's business or football, that emerge from within a group of people who automatically see them as the boss, the captain," Hurst said.

"In my time it was quite evidently Bobby Moore. I think Harry Kane is absolutely in that same mould, not just on the field but off the field with all the stuff they do together," he added.

With England standing just one victory away from another World Cup final, Hurst believes Kane's goals, experience and leadership could prove decisive in ending the nation's six-decade wait for football's biggest prize.

Telangana Govt Launches New EHS for Employees, Pensioners

EHS covers 8 lakh employees, pensioners and families at 1,000 empanelled hospitals

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The state government on Friday launched the Employees Health Scheme (EHS), providing cashless medical treatment to nearly eight lakh government employees, pensioners and their 29.8 lakh dependent family members through a network of 886 empanelled private hospitals and 114 government hospitals. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha formally distributed health cards to employees and



pensioners to mark the event. Describing the initiative as a major employee welfare measure, Bhatti said the scheme was designed to provide reliable, comprehensive and fear-free healthcare while protecting employees from financial distress caused by medical expenses. He said the government had recognised the hardships faced by employees who often slipped into debt while meeting treatment costs and therefore introduced a completely cashless healthcare system.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries can avail free in-patient treatment covering 1,816 medical and surgical procedures at Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) package rates. To ensure transparency and efficient implementation, the government has established a dedicated trust with equal representation from government officials and employee unions. Bhatti criticised the previous BRS government for allegedly ignoring employee demands for over a decade and leaving nearly Rs 10,000 crore in pending medical reimburse-

ments. He said the present Congress government was clearing the backlog in a phased manner and releasing Rs 2,000 crore every month towards pending dues, while personally reviewing progress every fortnight. Highlighting the government's focus on healthcare, he said Rajiv Aarogyasri coverage had already been enhanced from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, benefiting 1.06 crore eligible families. He urged employees to serve with renewed commitment and help effectively implement the government's welfare programmes across the state.



the state load dispatch centre of the Transmission Corporation of Telangana Ltd, the two discoms had seen unrestricted peak power demand reaching 16,650 MW on July 16 against 11,834 MW a month ago on June 16. As against 11,395 MW

on July 5, demand rose to 13,458 MW on July 7; 13,713 MW on July 9; 14,934 MW on July 11 and 16,270 MW on July 14. With field-level consumption staying strong and rainfall still deficient, the discoms have been facing sustained load pressure in several districts. Officials said the discoms had been taking measures to ensure uninterrupted supply and were monitoring feeders and transformers regularly.

CMC Commissioner Inspects Jeedimetla, Dundigal Facilities to Study Scientific Waste Management Practices

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a move aimed at strengthening scientific waste management across the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), Commissioner G. Srijana, along with senior officials, visited the waste processing facilities at Jeedimetla and Dundigal on Friday to study advanced waste treatment technologies and operational practices. At the Jeedimetla facility, the commissioner reviewed the complete process of handling construction and demolition (C&D) waste, from collection and segregation



to recycling and final processing. Officials examined how debris generated from construction activities is scientifically processed and converted into reusable materials, helping reduce landfill burden while promoting sustainable resource utilization. The

team also assessed the plant's operational efficiency and the potential applications of recycled construction materials. Later, the delegation visited the integrated waste management facilities at Dundigal, where they inspected the waste-to-energy plant, hazardous

waste treatment unit and e-waste recycling facility. Commissioner Srijana reviewed various aspects of waste processing, including pollution control mechanisms, energy generation from municipal waste, resource recovery techniques and environmentally safe disposal methods for hazardous materials. During the visit, CMC officials held detailed discussions with technical experts and plant authorities on the existing waste processing capacity, operational standards, infrastructure requirements and future expansion plans. They explored the possibility of adopting

suitable technologies and best practices to meet the growing waste management demands of the Cyberabad region. The team also examined the implementation of smart waste management solutions, including digital monitoring systems, automated processing technologies and advanced resource recovery models currently in operation at the facilities. Officials evaluated how these innovations could be integrated into CMC's waste management framework to improve operational efficiency, environmental sustainability and public sanitation.

Waqf Board Told to Review Legal Cell Functioning

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The minorities welfare department has directed the Telangana Waqf Board to review the allegations about the handling of litigation matters and functioning of its legal cell and submit the report. The concerns had been raised by Waqf Board member Syed Bandagi Badesha Quadri in a representa-

tion. The department also asked the board to ensure proper filing of counters in respective courts. Quadri had said that the Waqf Board was facing setbacks in various court cases regarding land disputes due to lack of evidence. Furthermore, he urged that special attention be given in obtaining occupancy right certificates (ORCs) in the name of the Waqf Board.

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Telangana Ranks 10th in Investment Index

Telangana has been ranked 10th in NITI Aayog's Investment Friendliness Index 2026, emerging as a frontrunner with strong business climate and institutional performance.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana has emerged as a frontrunner at 10th place among states and Union Territories in NITI Aayog's Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026, placing in the upper-middle band with an overall score of 47.3 among large states. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu took the top three positions nationally. The index categorised Telangana as a frontrunner, indicating strong overall performance but scope for improvement before joining the top performers. The state scored well on institutional environment and business climate indicators, driven by investor perception, governance measures and business facilitation. However, infrastructure — particularly logistics and connectivity — and resource/deep-skilling



indicators were flagged as areas needing sharper focus. The IFI framework assesses how effectively states attract and sustain investments, evaluating them across eight pillars — infrastructure, business climate, resources, government policy, regulatory ease, financial health, institutional environment and environmental resilience — using 84 indicators. Gujarat led with 56.6 points, followed by Maharashtra (53.7) and Tamil Nadu (53.3). Goa and Odisha completed the top five. Gujarat's leadership was attributed to strong infrastructure, financial health, regulatory ease and policy measures. Maharashtra's

ranking was supported by its business climate and large share of private equity inflows, while Tamil Nadu stood out for port efficiency, export performance and near-100 per cent MoU conversion. Releasing the report, NITI Aayog vice-chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri said India's investment rate stands at around 25 per cent and stressed the need for stronger investment-led growth under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The report underlined that productive investment is crucial for manufacturing, job creation, innovation and long-term economic expansion. For Telangana, the message is clear: The state is already competitive, but sharper gains in infrastructure, skills and implementation can help it climb closer to the top tier in future editions.

Vamsha Tilak Seeks SVBP Hospital Upgrade

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BJP leader and Cantonment Assembly constituency MLA contestant Sri Vamsha Tilak met Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda during his visit to AIIMS Bibinagar and the BJP State Party Office at Nampally, where he submitted a representation seeking major healthcare infrastructure upgrades in the Cantonment constituency. Vamsha Tilak urged the Union Minister to develop Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cantonment General



Hospital, Bolarum, into a full-fledged multi-specialty hospital with a dedicated Mother and Child Care Department, 24/7 availability of doctors, advanced diagnostic laboratories, and modern medical equipment. He

noted that the hospital, named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, has been serving residents for years and was reconstructed as a 30-bed facility inaugurated by late Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, Cantonment CEO Sujatha Gupta, and BJP State Executive member B.B. Dhananjaya Chari. He also sought strengthening of the AYUSH services currently available at the hospital to provide comprehensive healthcare to local residents.

Telangana Minister Mohammed Azharuddin to Visit Arutla Public School, Play Cricket with Students

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Minorities welfare and public enterprises minister Mohammed Azharuddin will visit the Telangana Public School (TPS) at Arutla on Saturday, spend three hours with students, play cricket with them and inspect academic, residential and sports facilities. The former India captain is scheduled to reach the school at 11 am where he will speak to students



about discipline, fitness, teamwork, leadership and the skills required to perform well in sports. Azharuddin will also join students for cricket and interact with them about their studies, career plans,

goals and interest in sport. During the visit, he will inspect classrooms, dining halls, playgrounds, hostels, sanitation, drinking water arrangements, mid-day meals and sports equipment.