

WHO BREAKS THE COCONUT? BRS, CONGRESS CLASH AT TELANGANA PADDY CENTRE

An inauguration of a paddy procurement center in Telangana's Rajanna Sircilla on Wednesday, April 22, turned chaotic as members of the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) allegedly clashed over who would break the coconut at the ceremony. The incident occurred in the first ward in Sircilla Town. While Congress leaders insisted that the Market Committee Chairperson inaugurate the centre, the BRS leaders argued that the local municipal councilor and chairman should be given priority as per protocol. Addressing the media, a Congress leader alleged that the BRS members arrived in an inebriated state and began arguing. The inauguration was scheduled for 3 pm; however, the Chairperson was an hour late. We waited with the farmers, and then, the BRS workers misbehaved with us," she said, adding, "As per rules, sarpanches inaugurate procurement centers, but BRS workers put their foot down that the Chairperson will do the formalities."



TELANGANA CM CALLS FOR FASTER MoU IMPLEMENTATION WITH COMPANIES

Reddy said that companies which have been allotted land must begin operations at the earliest.



The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday, April 22, asked officials to expedite MoU signing with companies. He

said that companies which have been allotted land must begin operations at the earliest. In a review meeting, officials briefed him regarding the status of the commencement of the operations by the companies, current status of

the permissions and pending for clearance due to technical or other issues. The authorities provided the details of the allocation of lands to the investing agencies in various locations including 'Future City', prevailing market

prices of the lands and the managements' readiness to purchase the lands.

Officials were asked to allocate lands to firms in the 'CURE, PURE AND RARE' zones in accordance with the government policy. The Chief Minister stressed that orders for approval of investments should be granted expeditiously and pay special attention to ensuring that the concerned companies commence their operations promptly, said a press release from his office. The officials should also collect the details regarding the facilities required by the companies, their future needs and to proceed in a planned and systematic manner.

HYDERABAD POLICE PUSH 'ZERO MULE ACCOUNT' TARGET FOR BANKS

The proposal involved setting up a twin challenge where the success or failure would hinge upon a bank branch's ability to prevent cyber fraud and opening of mule accounts.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

In a paradigm shift in strategy against organised cybercrime, Hyderabad City Police have asked banks to abandon the practice of targeting customer base expansion and instead focus on having "zero mule accounts," as per recent findings from the anti-fraud Operation Octopus. The idea was pitched to bankers at a high-level bankers' coordination meeting, which was held on April 23. The proposal by Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar involved setting up a twin challenge where the success or failure would hinge upon a bank branch's ability to prevent cyber fraud and opening of mule accounts.

The meeting had participation from 75 representatives from 45 banks across Hyderabad. The police have arrested several officials of various banks involved in facilitating fraud through mule accounts. The police said that banks' negligence towards Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and their preoccupation



with targets made them easy prey for organised fraudsters.

An official from the Reserve Bank of India and the top brass of Hyderabad police were present in the meeting.

The police also highlighted the growing role of transnational syndicates operating from countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam and the UAE, which rely on local intermediaries and, in some cases, insider collusion to siphon off funds from Indian victims.

Three peddlers caught with 25.5 kg of ganja on Vikarabad train

Each of them was paid Rs 10,000 for transporting the ganja.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

In a major crackdown on narcotics smuggling, officials of the Prohibition and Excise Department apprehended three individuals allegedly transporting 25.5 kilograms of ganja aboard the Palnadu Express train at Vikarabad on Tuesday. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth around Rs 12.50 lakh in the illegal market. According to Assistant Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise R Kishan, the ganja was originally sourced from Odisha and first transported to Guntur before being moved towards Vikarabad through the railway route.

The accused have been identified as Karri Ramanamma, Arli Lavamma, and Arli Govind. Preliminary investigation revealed that each of them had been promised Rs 10,000 for carrying the narcotics.

Officials stated that the operation was conducted based on credible intelligence inputs regarding the movement of drugs through passenger trains. The suspects were intercepted during checking operations and the ganja was recovered from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Authorities



said further investigation is underway to identify and arrest the main supplier and other members of the smuggling network involved in the interstate drug racket.

The seizure once again highlights the increasing use of railway routes for narcotics transportation and the need for stricter vigilance across transit points.

SAGARA WELFARE, EDUCATION TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT BHAGIRATHA JAYANTI

Telangana minister Ponnababbar stressed the importance of higher education, urging youth from the Sagara community to pursue advanced studies to achieve economic growth and social mobility.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

The Backward Classes Welfare Department on Thursday, April 23, organised the Sri Sagara Bhagiratha Maharshi Jayanti Celebrations-2026, with ministers and community leaders participating in the event. Ministers Ponnababbar and Vakati Srihari paid floral tributes to Maharshi Bhagiratha and inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Among those present were MP Eatala Rajender, BC Association leader Jajula Srinivas Goud, BC Welfare



Department Secretary Balamayadevi, and BC Corporation Managing Director Mallayya Battu, along with members of the Sagara community. Addressing the gathering, Ponnababbar extended greetings to the community and called for a

shift from demands to measurable progress. He said sustained "Bhagiratha efforts" were essential for achieving long-term success and development.

Push for education, reservations

The minister said the gov-

ernment is working towards implementing 42 per cent reservations for weaker sections, adding that a caste survey has already been conducted and key data on population and economic conditions has been made publicly available.

He also stressed the importance of higher education, urging youth from the Sagara community to pursue advanced studies to achieve economic growth and social mobility. He added that elected representatives from the community, including sarpanchs and municipal chairpersons, would be backed in resolving local concerns.

SC ADJOURNS HEARING OF CASH-FOR-VOTE AGAINST CM REVANTH CASE TO MAY 20

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 22, adjourned the hearing of cases regarding the cash-for-votes scandal to May 20. A division bench of Justices Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi postponed the issue following a request submitted by Aryama Sundaram, senior counsel appearing for Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy.

While Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is attempting to quash the ongoing case, Reddy had filed an application to implead himself and join the legal proceedings. MLA Reddy argued that the Chief Minister and the



state administration were working in a coordinated effort. He added that the de facto complainant, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), was not included in the proceedings. Reddy, seeking to be made a party in

the petition, told the court that he only wanted to show the "true facts" of the case. The cash-for-vote controversy, MLA Reddy alleged, was a deliberate attempt by Revanth Reddy to upend the BRS government, where he served

as a prominent member of the cabinet. The BRS MLA added that since the Supreme Court is currently reviewing how the Prevention of Corruption Act applies to those who give bribes, this case should be deferred until there is more clarity. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing Revanth Reddy, opposed the plea and argued that Jagadish Reddy does not have a sufficient connection to the case. The bench subsequently adjourned the case to May 20 after hearing both sides. Hearing on MLCs in Governor's quota listed for July 22 on Wednesday, the apex court also deferred the matter of MLC appointment in the Telangana Legislative Assembly under the Governor's Quota to July 22.

GHMC LAUNCHES BEGGARS IDENTIFICATION & REHABILITATION DRIVE UNDER 99 DAYS ACTION PLAN IN HYDERABAD



The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

As part of the 99 Days Action Plan - Praja Palana, Pragati Pranalika, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) has launched a major identification and rehabilitation drive for beggars and homeless individuals in Hyderabad, aiming to provide shelter, food, and support across the

city. GHMC Beggars Rehabilitation Drive in Hyderabad Under the GHMC 99 Days Action Plan, officials are conducting a city-wide exercise to identify beggars and homeless persons and shift them to safe shelters. The initiative focuses on: Identification of homeless individuals across Hyderabad Rehabilitation through GHMC night shelters Providing essential support and care This move is part of the government's broader effort to ensure inclusive urban welfare in Hyderabad. Facilities at GHMC Night Shelters in Hyderabad

HYDRAA Chief Inspects Ibrahim Bagh Lake, Orders STPs with Restoration Works

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 23

In a key development in lake restoration in Hyderabad, HYDRAA Commissioner Sri AV Ranganath visited Ibrahim Bagh Lake in Rajendranagar mandal and directed officials to ensure Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are completed along with lake restoration works, warning that delays could lead to fresh sewage contamination. The inspection is part of the second phase of 14 lake restoration projects, with works currently ongoing. HYDRAA Commissioner Inspects Ibrahim Bagh Lake Restoration



as part of the second phase of restoration of 14 lakes. Reviewed the ongoing restoration works

Inspected the progress of desilting and cleaning He instructed officials to ensure that silt is completely removed, stating that only then:

Foul smell will be reduced Groundwater lev STPs Must Be Ready Along with

Lake Restoration The Commissioner stressed that: STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) must be ready by the time lake restoration is completed. Otherwise, there is a risk of sewage water re-entering and polluting the lake again. He held discussions with Jal Mandali officials overseeing STP works and directed them

GHMC Launches QR-Based E-Waste Disposal Drive in Hyderabad

GHMC launches QR-based e-waste disposal system in Hyderabad with 30 drop boxes, doorstep pickup, rewards, and awareness drives for safe recycling.

In a major step towards sustainable waste management in Hyderabad, GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan launched a QR-based E-Waste Disposal Ecosystem to ensure safe and responsible handling of electronic waste. The system includes 30 drop boxes across stores, doorstep pickup services, awareness drives, and reward incentives, and is now operational with further expansion underway. GHMC QR-Based E-Waste Disposal Ecosystem Launched in Hyderabad The Commissioner GHMC RV Karnan officially launched a comprehensive, QR-enabled E-Waste Disposal Ecosystem aimed at safe, responsible, and sustainable handling of electronic waste across Hyderabad. Electronic



waste has been identified as a serious threat to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly. The Government of India classifies e-waste as a special category of waste, allowing only authorized agencies

to handle its collection and processing. Efforts Since January 2026 The GHMC Commissioner stated that: Since January 2026, GHMC has undertaken extensive e-waste collection efforts

Conducted awareness programs across the city Now transitioned from short-term efforts to a long-term, self-sustaining ecosystem This system aims to make responsible e-waste disposal accessible to all citizens.

30 E-Waste Drop Boxes Installed Across Hyderabad Under the GHMC e-waste ecosystem, a Drop-Box Facility has been introduced: 30 e-waste drop boxes installed Located across retail outlets of major electronics stores: BigC BNew Happy LOT Sangeetha Select Touch Citizens can locate drop points using QR access As of 21 April 2026, all stores have operational and standardized drop boxes Doorstep Pickup Service for E-Waste GHMC has also introduced a Doorstep Pickup Service: Citizens can soon request pickup via a QR-enabled system Partnered with Hyderabad-based authorized e-waste recyclers: