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## Brief Insights

### Tabla Legend Zakir Hussain's Funeral Held In San Francisco



Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain's funeral was held in San Francisco, United States on Thursday, days after he died of complications arising from a lung disease. Several musicians attended the funeral. Drummer Anandan Sivamani, along with some other musicians, paid a musical tribute to Zakir Hussain. Zakir Hussain, the legend known for his 'dancing fingers', died at 73 in a San Francisco hospital on Monday. "He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy cherished by countless music lovers around the globe, with an influence that will resonate for generations to come," his family said in a statement. According to his sister, Khurshid Aulia, the music legend died "very peacefully".

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### "It Felt Like Hell": Truck Driver Who Dodged Death In Jaipur Fire

With a desperate lurch to the left, trucker Sumer Singh dodged death on the Jaipur-Ajmer Highway, where a massive ball of fire waited for him. He got away with some burns, but many were not so lucky.

Sumer Singh, 40, was on his way towards Vishwakarma Industrial Area like any other day when suddenly a scene straight from hell appeared before his eyes.

To prevent driving straight into the fire, Sumer Singh, without wasting a moment sent his truck off the road with a lurch to the left, jumped off it as soon as it stopped, and ran for his life. Sumer Singh survived but his truck was completely burnt.

Eleven people died, while more than 35 suffered burns on Friday when an LPG tanker collided with a truck, sparking a huge fire that turned a stretch of the Jaipur-Ajmer highway into an inferno.



**R Ashwin Chooses His Successor, Passes The Baton On Social Media After Retirement: P7**

**Akbaruddin Owaisi Accuses BRS of Prioritizing First Family's Interests P3**

**Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy, Defends KTR's Integrity: P2**



## Bhu Bharati Bill, Replace Dharani Portal

### Opposition Walks Out in Protest, Chief Minister Calls New Legislation Historic

Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

The Telangana Legislative Assembly passed the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights in Land) Bill, 2024, on Friday, replacing the controversial Dharani portal with a new system. The Bill was passed through a voice vote, despite a walkout staged by the main opposition party, BRS, in protest against the Speaker's decision to disallow discussion on the Formula E race issue. While BRS members walked out, other opposition parties, including BJP, AIMIM, and CPI, took part in the debate. They welcomed the new legislation but proposed several amendments, all of which were rejected by the House. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured the Assembly

that the proposed changes would be incorporated into an executive order to be issued within three months, following the formulation of implementation rules for the Bhu Bharati Act. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy described the Bhu Bharati Act, also known as the RoR (Record of Rights) Act, as a historic initiative to safeguard the land rights of the poor and correct the flaws in the previous land registration system. Reddy emphasized that the legislation aims to protect eligible landowners from exploitation and ensure transparency in land dealings. The Chief Minister also highlighted the historical importance of land rights in Telangana, citing the sacrifices of figures such as Ravi Narayana Reddy, Arutla Kamaladevi.



Chief minister revanth reddy attend "At Home" gathering hosted by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bollaram, Secunderabad.

## Revanth Slams BRS for Leaking Land Data

In a scathing attack on the BRS government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has accused the ruling party of transferring sensitive land records and personal data of landowners and farmers to foreign companies, including those involved in criminal activities and financial fraud. During a debate on

The Telangana Record of Rights in Land (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the Assembly on Friday, Reddy slammed former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and former IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for allegedly entrusting the controversial Dharani portal.....

CONTINUE:P2

## saved 500cr in E race scam: CM

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday announced that the Telangana government saved ₹500 crore by rejecting a Formula E race deal. The decision came after a representative from the Formula E Organisation (FEO) met with him in December 2023, shortly after the Congress government took office. According to the CM, the representative claimed an agreement had been made with the previous BRS government and sought cooperation for the new administration. Reddy alleged that the Formula E deal was designed to siphon off ₹600 crore, and if he had agreed to it, ₹500 crore could have been misused. "Even ₹55 crore is not a small amount," he stated.

CONTINUE:P2

## Intense Protests Mark Final Day of Parliament's

New delhi WUT | DEC . 21

The final day of the winter session of Parliament was marked by intense protests as members of the INDIA bloc marched from Vijay Chowk to Parliament on Friday, demanding the resignation and apology of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The protests disrupted the proceedings, leading both houses of Parliament to be adjourned sine die amidst ongoing demonstrations. This protest follows a day of altercations in Parliament, where BJP and Congress MPs clashed at the entrance of the new building. BJP MPs Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput suffered head injuries during the scuffle, with allegations that Con-

gress leader Rahul Gandhi pushed through BJP members at Makar Dwar. In response to the clash, both parties filed complaints, prompting the Lok Sabha Speaker to impose a ban on demonstrations at Parliament gates.

The winter session, which began on November 15, addressed several key issues, including a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, constitutional debates, and frequent confrontations between government and opposition members. The opposition consistently demanded discussions on alleged bribery accusations against the Adani Group, while BJP members countered with claims of a "Soros-Gandhi nexus."

CONTINUE:P4

## Crime Branch to Probe Rahul Gandhi Over Scuffle



The Delhi Police Crime Branch has taken over the investigation into the case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, following an alleged altercation on Parliament premises that resulted in injuries to two BJP MPs. According to officials, the case has been transferred from local police to the Crime Branch for a more comprehensive inquiry. An FIR was filed on Thursday at Parliament Street Police Station, based on a complaint from the BJP. The complaint accuses Gandhi of physical assault and incitement after BJP MPs Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput were reportedly injured during the incident. The FIR includes multiple charges under sections.....

CONTINUE:P4

## PROBE AGENCY FILES MONEY LAUNDERING CASE AGAINST KTR IN FORMULA E RACE ISSUE

Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

The HMDA (Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority) has an account in the Indian Overseas Bank and money has been transferred from that account... KTR had said reacting to the ACB case. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also attacked Rama Rao for these alleged irregularities, saying about ₹ 500 crore was saved with the state government under him deciding against further transfer of funds to the organisers of the racing event.

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday filed a money laundering case against BRS leader K T Rama Rao and some others in a case linked to alleged payment irregularities during the Formula-E race held in Hyderabad in February 2023, official sources said. An Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) has been registered under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act taking cognisance of a Telangana Police Anti-corruption bureau (ACB) FIR filed on Thursday, the sources said. The accused in the ED

case are the same as those mentioned in the ACB FIR, they said. BRS leader and party working President K T Rama Rao, the son of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, has been named as accused no 1 followed by senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar and retired bureaucrat BLN Reddy as accused no 2 and 3 in the ACB complaint. This is the second money laundering case against the family of BRS chief Chandrashekar Rao as his daughter K Kavitha was questioned and later arrested by the ED in the

Delhi excise policy case. Kavitha is now out on bail and the case is before the court. The probe against 48-year-old Rama Rao, popularly known as KTR, pertains to alleged payments of about ₹ 55 crore, some of it in foreign currency without approvals, to conduct a Formula-E race in Hyderabad during the previous regime in February last year. He had denied any wrongdoing, saying "Where is the corruption in this? We have paid ₹ 55 crore. They (Formula-E) acknowledged the payment."

CONTINUE:P2

## HC Grants Temporary Relief to KTR in Ongoing Case

In a significant legal development, the Telangana High Court has granted temporary relief to KTR by directing authorities not to arrest him for one week, allowing time for a thorough investigation. The court emphasized the importance of following due process and ordered an impartial inquiry into the matter, amid concerns about the potential for immediate arrest. This decision provides KTR with a brief reprieve, while ensuring that investigating agencies have the time to conduct a detailed examination before proceeding further. The next hearing in the case is expected to clarify



the allegations and KTR's response. Legal experts have praised the court's directive, noting that it ensures a balanced approach by protecting both the integrity of the investigation and the individual's rights. The decision has attracted significant attention from both political and legal circles in Telangana.

## After RSS call, yogi rakes up temple row

New delhi WUT | DEC . 21

A day after RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat called for inclusivity and unity, urging not to provoke temple-mosque disputes, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath shifted focus to the destruction of Hindu temples in India's past. Speaking at a religious event in Ayodhya on



Friday, Adityanath emphasized the importance of preserving Sanatan Dharma for global peace. The Uttar Pradesh CM referred to iconic temples such as Kashi

Vishwanath, Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura, and Harihar Bhoomi in Sambhal, stressing that "bhautik vikas" (material development) cannot be sustained while neglecting cultural heritage. Adityanath intensified his remarks by condemning the perpetrators of temple destruction, stating, "The descendants of those who

CONTINUE:P4

## US universities Advise Students to Return Before Trump Takes Office

New delhi WUT | DEC . 21

An increasing number of U.S. colleges and universities are advising international students to return to campus before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, fearing that he may reintroduce travel bans similar to those imposed during his first administration. While Trump's plans remain unclear, over a dozen

schools have issued these advisories. Some schools have spring semesters that begin before Trump takes office, so students may need to return to campus anyway. However, for those whose stay in the U.S. depends on an academic visa, the best course of action is to reduce risks and return before January 20. What Did Trump Do in the Past? In January 2017, Trump signed an executive order banning travel from

seven predominantly Muslim countries: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen. This ban affected a wide range of travelers, including students, faculty, businesspeople, tourists, and family visitors, many of whom were detained or barred from boarding flights to the U.S. Trump later modified the list, eventually affecting 15 countries, and more than 40,000 individuals were denied visas due

to the restrictions. President Joe Biden rescinded these orders in 2021. During the 2023-24 academic year, over 1.1 million international students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, with students from India and China representing more than half of this number. About 43,800 students were from countries that had been affected by Trump's travel restrictions. Jacky Li, a third-year environmental

studies major at the University of California, Berkeley, is returning home to China over the winter break. Although he made his travel plans before his university issued the advisory, he expressed growing concerns among international students about potential restrictions. "There's a fear that this kind of restriction will expand to a wider community, considering the current geopolitical.

ESTD. 1960

# Aostoria Restaurant

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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## Saving Kaleshwaram Barrages to Be Delayed Further

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

It is becoming increasingly clear that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is nowhere near to completing its much-awaited report to the state government on possible solutions to the problems at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project. This has become evident with the Union ministry of Jal Shakti writing yet another letter to the Telangana irrigation department saying that the NDSA expert committee constituted specifically to address the problems at Kaleshwaram barrages, was still waiting for reports of several technical test reports at the three barrages.

In a letter to the secretary of the irrigation department, the NDSA's policy and research wing director Ajay Kumar Sinha has said that the expert committee "has expressed concerns



regarding the non-submission of inputs sought from the irrigation and CAD department. The delay in providing these inputs is likely to result in a corresponding delay in the submission of the committee's final report." Sinha's letter to the state government followed a letter from the committee to the NDSA chairman on November 29, saying the "It is requested that NDSA may impress upon the secretary, I&CAD dept., government of Telangana to expeditiously submit all the remaining inputs to the committee without further delay."

## Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy, Defends KTR's Integrity

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

In a significant development, the Telangana High Court has delivered a favorable verdict, ruling against the arrest of KTR in a case allegedly fabricated by Revanth Reddy. The court's decision marks a moral victory for KTR and brings to light the baselessness of the charges. The case, which was dismissed by the court, is described as a fake and politically motivated attack, with KTR receiving congratulations for his first step toward justice. The BRS leaders further accused Revanth Reddy of making false statements in the Legislative Assembly, where he spread misleading information about the Formula E race



held in Hyderabad. BRS leaders have pointed out that while Revanth Reddy made accusations about a corruption scandal related to the Formula E race, the facts tell a different story. Contrary to his claims of a loss of Rs 600 crore, reports from a prestigious

firm, Nielsen, show that the state actually benefited by over Rs 700 crore. They criticized Revanth Reddy for distorting the truth, causing harm to the state's reputation, and using the issue for political gain. KTR's efforts to bring the Formula E race

to Hyderabad, a prestigious international event, are lauded by the BRS leaders as a step to boost the state's economy. The event generated significant revenue, with GST collections expected to surpass Rs 140 crore, benefiting both state and central treasuries. Despite this, Revanth Reddy's attempts to tarnish KTR's reputation have been met with strong rebuttals from the ruling party. The BRS leaders also accused the opposition of undermining the state's progress and making baseless allegations. They pointed out that while KTR is working to expose the corruption within the opposition, including alleged links to his political adversaries, Revanth Reddy's leader-

ship is marked by blame-shifting and failed promises. Further criticisms were directed at the Chief Minister for his inability to bring about any significant changes since taking office, and for the deteriorating reputation of Telangana under his leadership. The BRS leaders argue that Revanth Reddy's reckless actions are causing harm to the state and its people, and reiterated their commitment to exposing the truth and working for the welfare of Telangana. The ongoing battle between the ruling and opposition parties continues, with KTR's supporters promising to keep fighting for the people of Telangana and hold the government accountable for its actions.

## BRS Leaders Slam Govt Over E-Race Issue

Hyderabad,  
WUT | DEC . 21

Former Ministers Jagdish Reddy and Prashanth Reddy have strongly criticized the state government for filing illegal cases to divert attention from pressing public issues and unfulfilled promises. Speaking to the media, Jagdish Reddy accused the government of trying to sideline important matters, such as the promises made to farmers, by focusing on petty legal actions against KTR. He demanded that the government provide evidence if it believes



KTR's previous actions as a minister caused any financial loss. Reddy also questioned the government's reluctance to hold a discussion in the assembly regarding the controversial car racing issue. "KTR has made a fair request to discuss this in the assembly,

where the views of four crore people could be heard," he said, adding that the government's failure to engage in such discussions shows a lack of accountability. In a pointed attack, Reddy highlighted that while no discussions have been held on farmer assur-

ances or the promises made to the agricultural community, the government is focused on filing cases without evidence. "What crime did KTR commit in the Formula A racing issue? Where is the evidence?" he asked. Echoing similar concerns, Prashanth Reddy, another former minister, slammed the filing of an "illegal case" against KTR. He called for an open discussion in the assembly, stressing that the Congress government should not shy away from addressing the issue if it has the courage to do so. Both leaders vowed to con-

tinue fighting in the assembly until the matter is brought to the floor for debate, accusing the government of avoiding public issues in favor of political maneuvering. The former ministers also criticized the BJP and Congress for their lack of difference in approach, with Reddy remarking, "Bade bhai and chote bhai are in the same line." The controversy surrounding car racing and the alleged legal cases has become a flashpoint for political debate in the state, with both opposition and ruling party members pointing fingers at each other.

## District Collector flags shortcomings at Ramavaram MCH centre during inspection

Kothagudem  
WUT | DEC . 21

Several shortcomings in the administration of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Centre at Ramavaram in the district headquarters came to light when the district Collector Jitesh V Patil inspected the hospital. When the Collector visited the hospital on Friday to attend a medical seminar and to inspect an under construction critical care wing building, several persons attending to their family members at the hospital ap-

proached him with complaints over its poor functioning. A man complained that the staff told him to get x-ray imaging of a patient done outside the hospital, while another person told the Collector he was told to get medical tests done somewhere else and another said the staff has not given tablets required by the patient. After listening to the complaints, the Collector questioned the MCH Centre superintendent Dr. Radha Mohan whether the grievances poured out by the patient's kin were

true. Responding to which the superintendent said that the radiologist was available at the centre to do x-ray imaging. Patil took Dr. Mohan task for failing to maintain enough stocks of medicines and for advising patient's attendants to go to Diagnostic Hub on their own to get medical tests done. The Collector questioned the superintendent why he could not monitor the status of stocks, which was one of his duties. He further noted that it was the duty of the staff to collect patients' samples.

## Eggs vanish from mid-day meals as prices soar, schools struggle to feed students

Karimnagar  
WUT | DEC . 21

Eggs have disappeared from the mid-day meals during the last few days. Agencies which are involved in providing mid-day meals are not serving eggs to students in view of the skyrocketing prices of eggs in the market. The government has included serving of eggs to students in government schools to provide nutritious food being served to students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in a week. However, the suppliers have stopped providing eggs for the last three weeks following the hike in egg prices. The Government provides

Rs 5 per each egg, but in the open market the price has touched Rs 7 each. Though there are various reasons for the hike in the price, it has become a huge burden for mid-day meal workers. Except for a few, almost all agencies have stopped servicing eggs right from the beginning of this month. On the other hand, agencies were not paid egg bills during the last one year. Besides egg charges, payment of mess charges have also been pending from September last. Since the pending bills have become a huge burden for them, they are unable to spend huge amounts on purchasing eggs.

## Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Launches Vana Mahotsavam-2024 Plantation Drive

Hyderabad  
R santosh chowdary  
WUT | DEC . 21

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar participated in a large-scale plantation drive in the Link Road area behind Banjara Hills Command Control on Friday, marking the Vana Mahotsavam-2024 celebrations. The event saw the participation of GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijaya Lakshmi, Corporator CN Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Anurag Jayanthi, Forest Department officials, and other dignitaries. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of tree plantation for environmental protection. "The Telangana Public Administration Government has completed one year, and I urge every citizen, student, and em-



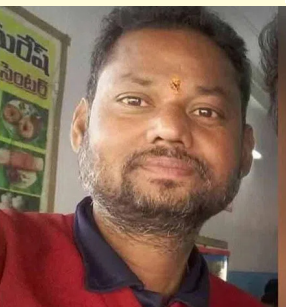
ployee within the GHMC limits to take a pledge to plant a sapling," he said. He also emphasized the need to protect Hyderabad from pollution, drawing attention to the alarming pollution levels in Delhi, where schools have been shut down due to air quality concerns. Prabhakar assured that the Telangana government is taking proactive steps to avoid

such a scenario in Hyderabad. "The government has introduced an Electric Vehicle (EV) policy aimed at reducing pollution. All vehicles, including RTC buses, autos, and other transportation, will be converted into electric vehicles. Additionally, GHMC vehicles that have completed their service life will be replaced with EVs under a new policy.

We are also bringing in a scrap policy for vehicles over 15 years old," he explained. The minister called on citizens to take social responsibility by planting trees and protecting the environment. "It is our collective responsibility to save the environment. Let us all take action to ensure a cleaner, greener Hyderabad," he concluded.

## Unable to clear debts, another weaver ends life in Telangana's Sircilla

Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that there would be a forensic audit of land holdings that were falsely transferred after the previous BRS government brought in the Dharani portal. Speaking in the Assembly, he said the government was committed to taking action against the wrongdoings during the BRS regime. He cited the SIT probe into the ORR tendering process. Srinivas Reddy, speaking in the Assembly during the debate on the Bhu Bharati Bill, said: "I request all the members to submit details of the land that were occupied. A decision on forming a SIT or ordering a sitting judge probe will be taken after a ministerial-level discussion."



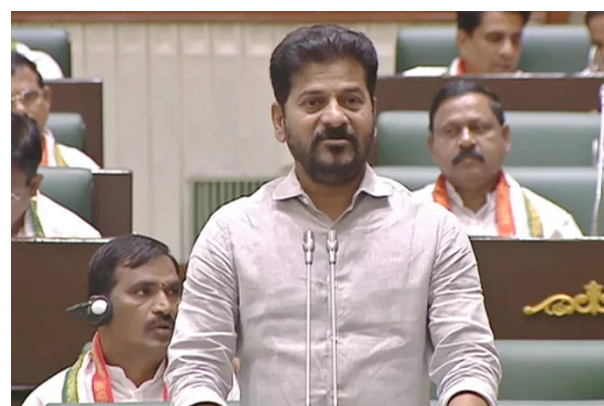
He said that the 1971 ROR Act had served the state well for 49 years. "It was changed to serve the interests of one family. I expected the leader of the opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao in the House to give his suggestions on the Bhu Bharati Bill. He has insulted the House by not attending the session." Earlier the din continued in the house with the BRS members seeking a discussion on the FIR filed against party leader K.T. Rama Rao, BJP floor leader A. Maheshwara Reddy hinted at a probable collusion between the BRS and the Congress citing failure to constitute a probe into the dharani lands issue. He reminded that the Congress leaders had themselves said 2.5 lakh acres had changed hands using Dharani.

## Revanth Reddy Accuses BRS of Handing Land Data to Fraudulent Firms

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

In a scathing attack on the BRS government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has accused the ruling party of transferring sensitive land records and personal data of landowners and farmers to foreign companies, including those involved in criminal activities and financial fraud. During a debate on The Telangana Record of Rights in Land (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the Assembly on Friday, Reddy slammed former Chief Minister K.

Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and former IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for allegedly entrusting the controversial Dharani portal to companies based in tax havens like the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Reddy criticized the Dharani portal, which launched in 2020, calling it a mere replica of Odisha's e-Dharani system rather than an innovative project as claimed by KCR. He pointed out that the Odisha system, launched in 2010 and managed by IL&FS, had faced significant lapses as



highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), yet the BRS government handed over the management of Dharani to IL&FS. Accusing top BRS leaders of

compromising the state's land records, Reddy claimed that the personal data of 1.52 crore acres of land had been transferred to companies embroiled in financial scandals. He

further alleged that the portal served as a front for benefiting fraudulent companies tied to major scams like those of Satyam Computers and Maytas, naming close associates of KTR—Gade Sridhar Raju, Rahul Goswami, and Anand Kumar—as primary beneficiaries. The CM also revealed that TerraCIS Technologies, the company managing the Dharani portal, was under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for violating contractual terms. Reddy alleged that the firm had operated

from offices in Vijayawada, Bengaluru, and foreign tax havens, raising suspicions about clandestine transactions. He traced TerraCIS's ownership, noting that it was linked to IL&FS before being acquired by the Philippine-based Falcon SG, and later, Singapore-based Falcon Investments, with shares spread across companies in tax havens. Reddy condemned the BRS government for disregarding tender policies that prevent firms with criminal backgrounds from operating in government projects. He

also accused the previous administration of bypassing reputable institutions like the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) in favor of these foreign entities. Furthermore, he alleged that the BRS government violated the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, by handing over private citizen data to foreign firms without consent. The Chief Minister also pointed to the BRS government's failure to address Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy's complaints about illegal

Bhoodan land transfers in his native village, Thimmapur, and vowed that the Congress government would take steps to reverse such transactions. Reddy questioned why KCR, who had earlier hailed the Dharani portal as a revolutionary system, did not attend the Assembly session to defend it. The Chief Minister concluded by emphasizing the Congress government's commitment to restoring transparency in Telangana's land administration through its 'Bhu Bharati Act,' aimed at rebuilding

## BJYM Demands Cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's Parliament Membership

Hyderabad  
R santosh chowdhary  
WUT | DEC . 21

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Telangana unit has strongly condemned the recent attack by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on NDA MPs in Parliament. BJYM State President S. Mahender called for Rahul Gandhi's immediate cancellation of Parliament membership, accusing him of disrespecting elected members and the Constitution. Mahender highlighted that the Congress party, despite awarding Babasaheb Ambedkar the Bharat Ratna, has repeatedly insulted him and undermined the Constitution. He



criticized Congress for its lack of respect towards the Constitution, except for Rahul Gandhi's occasional media stunts, where he is seen holding a copy of the Constitution. The BJYM leader further recalled the history of Congress

disrespecting Dalits, mentioning the imposition of the emergency by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, which Mahender argued was an assault on the Constitution. He expressed outrage over the attack on fellow MPs, particularly criticizing the insult directed at a woman member, which, he argued, also reflects a disregard for the Constitution. In a statement, Mahender demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi to the people of India. He also called for an apology from MPs Pratap C Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput, who were injured in the incident. If they fail to do so, Mahender insisted, a criminal case should be filed against Rahul Gandhi. Further fueling tensions,

BJYM leaders protested in front of the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar, where Telangana police made indiscriminate arrests. The arrested leaders were taken to Kanchanbagh police station. Mahender condemned the arrests and challenged the Telangana government, asserting that the state's self-respect will not be compromised. BJYM State Vice Presidents Mahesh, Chittaranjan Reddy, Santosh, along with Hyderabad District Presidents and other leaders, participated in the protest. The controversy surrounding the incident continues to escalate, as BJYM intensifies its demand for accountability.

## 'Chalo Assembly': Taxi drivers in Hyderabad to protest at LB Stadium

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21



Taxi drivers across Telangana are set to join a 'Chalo Assembly' protest organized by the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) and the Telangana State Taxi and Driver Joint Action Committee (TTDJAC) at LB Stadium on Friday, December 20. The protest in Hyderabad which aims to safeguard the rights and welfare of drivers has mentioned several key demands including the immediate implementation of promises made by Congress government. These include

fulfilling commitments made within 15 days of taking office. The unions are also calling for the banning of illegal bike transportation services run through aggregators such as Ola, Uber, and Rapido which they claim undermines the livelihoods of traditional taxi drivers. Another issue noted is the establishment of a uni-

form fare system, with taxi drivers in Hyderabad requesting the government to set and regulate a fair per-kilometre rate. Additionally, the government should launch a new app for taxi drivers, similar to platforms like Ola, Uber, and Rapido. The protest also demands the creation of a welfare board for workers in the transport sector and the renewal of the Rs 5 lakh accident insurance scheme for the year 2024-2025. Drivers are further seeking an increase in hire vehicle charges, proposing an immediate hike from RS 34,000 to Rs 55,000.

## Jampana Pratap Demands Alternative Housing for Displaced Residents in Elevated Corridor Project

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | DEC . 21

In a significant move, Land Acquisition Officers from the Collector's Office of HMDA conducted a survey today for the proposed construction of an elevated corridor by the State Government. The corridor, intended to connect Paradise to Dairy Farm, will pass through New Boinapally Sanjivaiah Nagar Basti's main road. Upon noticing the survey, local residents alerted former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap, who quickly arrived at the site to address the situation. Pratap engaged with the officials, raising concerns about the displacement of community members and calling for alternative housing and land provisions for those af-



ected by the project. Pratap emphasized that the area has a history of serving the economically disadvantaged, recalling that in 1970, houses were constructed for the poor. However, he expressed concern over the loss of 120 homes in the past two years due to land acquisition. He urged officials to prioritize proper rehabilitation for the displaced residents, many of whom are from vulnerable sections of society. The survey was attended by key officials, including Deputy Collector Rajesham and

Land Acquisition Officers DM Ashok Kumar, Yadav Rao, Tirath Kumar, DP Shyam, and Varaprasad. Discussions focused on minimizing the impact on the community while ensuring the smooth execution of the infrastructure project. Residents of Sanjivaiah Nagar are now awaiting clarity on rehabilitation measures and compensation packages, hoping for a resolution that balances development with their right to housing and livelihood.

## BRS MLAs Protest Against Congress' Bhu Bharati Act, Accuse Government of Betraying Farmers

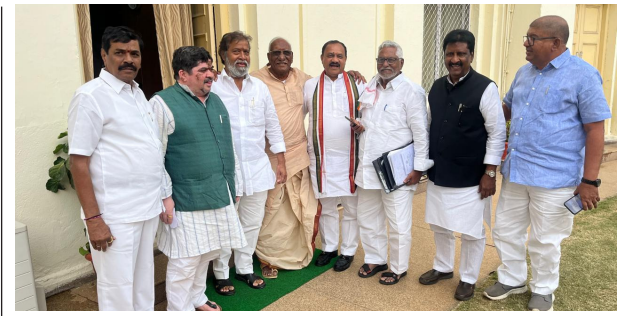
Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

BRS legislators strongly criticized the Congress-led government's move to replace the Dharani land management and registration system with the Bhu Bharati Act, accusing it of betraying farmers and promoting land grabbing and corruption. The BRS leaders staged a walk-out from the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Friday, voicing their opposition to the new law. Speaking to the media after the walkout, BRS MLA Dr. Palla Rajeshwar Reddy condemned the Bhu Bharati Act as a regressive measure that would undermine the progress made under Dharani. He described the replacement as a significant setback for farmers, replacing the transparency of Dharani with confusion and chaos. Reddy emphasized that the Dharani system had benefited 75 lakh farmers, ensuring clear ownership over 1.52 crore acres of land. He dismissed claims that the system was flawed, pointing out that minor gaps should not be used as a basis for dismantling the entire framework. Reddy also accused the Congress government of using the Bhu Bharati Act to



facilitate real estate scams and bring back outdated land practices such as Jamabandi, which he argued would benefit only land grabbers and criminals. In a separate statement, MLA K.P. Vivekananda criticized the mismanagement of Assembly proceedings under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, accusing the government of trampling on legislative rules. He also pointed to the government's failure to implement key promises, including the six guarantees. Vivekananda accused Congress of filing baseless cases against BRS leaders like KT Rama Rao to divert attention from its own failures. He also condemned Congress for avoiding a discussion on the Formula-E event, which had enhanced Telangana's global reputation. MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy emphasized that the protest was not for personal gain but for the people of Tel-

langana. He expressed outrage over the breach of contract case filed against the state government over the Formula-E event, calling it a disgrace to the people of Telangana. Reddy declared that Revanth Reddy's diversion tactics would ultimately fail and the public would hold him accountable. Earlier, the BRS filed a privilege motion against the state government for publishing advertisements in leading newspapers on December 19, 2024, referring to the "Bhu Bharati Bill" as the "Bhu Bharati Act" before it was passed in the Legislative Assembly and Council. The BRS claimed that this amounted to disrespecting the House and violating the rights of MLAs under Article 245 of the Constitution. The motion, filed under Rule 168 (1) of the Assembly Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, urged the Speaker to take necessary action.



State Ministers Damodar Rajanarsimha and Ponnam Prabhakar, along with PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, warmly greeted Madana Gopal, former Kodumur MLA and APPSC Chairman, at the Legislative Council. Council members Jeevan Reddy, MS Prabhakar, Baswaraju Saraiah, and Raghotham Reddy also participated. The ministers reminisced about their time working with late Chief Minister Kotla Vijayabhaskar Reddy.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Slam BJP Over "Conspiracy" Against Rahul Gandhi

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, responsible for the Transport and BC Welfare Department, has strongly condemned the registration of an attempt to murder case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling it a baseless conspiracy aimed at tarnishing his character. In a statement, Prabhakar emphasized the significance of Parliament as the highest institution in a democracy. He accused opposition members, including Rahul Gandhi, of being obstructed by BJP-led forces at the entrance of Parliament, where they attempted to prevent other leaders from entering. Prabhakar explained that while the opposition MPs were being escorted aside, a non-parliamentary member nearby fell and suf-

fered a minor injury. He alleged that the BJP was attempting to manipulate the situation to create an impression that Rahul Gandhi was involved in criminal activity. He criticized the BJP's actions as an act of anarchy and dictatorship, particularly when they sought to block a platform meant for public discourse. He also condemned the timing of the registration of the case, which coincided with a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament. The Minister further called for the immediate withdrawal of the attempt to murder case, urging authorities to take action against Home Minister Amit Shah for his alleged insult to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution.

## BRS leaders demand withdrawal of ACB case against KTR

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

Terming the corruption case registered by Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) against former Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao in connection with alleged irregularities in the Formula-E car race as illegal and political vendetta, Legislative Council Leader of the Opposition S Madhusudana Chary demanded the government to withdraw the case against Rama Rao. Addressing

the press at the legislative council media point here on Friday, Chary along with BRS MLC K Kavitha and others alleged that the Congress government had registered false case against Rama Rao. "This is nothing but political vendetta. KTR has done nothing wrong. There is no corruption in formula e-race. ACB registering case is illegal," he said. Coming down heavily on the Congress government, the LoP alleged that since Rama Rao had been targeting

the government on various issues, the government had registered case against him to threaten him. "KTR played a vital role in bringing Formula e-race to Hyderabad and putting the city on world map. He was instrumental in making Hyderabad a global city in last ten years. He is unnecessarily being targeted by the government for political gains," he alleged. The senior BRS leader said that his party would continue to protest against case booked



Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender joined BJP MPs in a protest at the Gandhi and Ambedkar statues in front of Parliament, condemning Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi's attack on an Adivasi woman and senior BJP MPs within the Parliament premises. The MPs demanded strict action and punishment for those responsible for the incident.

## CM Revanth Reddy Slams Formula E Deal, Claims 500 Crore Saved

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday announced that the Telangana government saved ₹500 crore by rejecting a Formula E race deal. The decision came after a representative from the Formula E Organisation (FEO) met with him in December 2023, shortly after the Congress government took office. According to the CM, the representative claimed an agreement had been made with the previous BRS government and sought cooperation for the new administration. Reddy alleged that the Formula E deal was designed to siphon off ₹600 crore, and if he had agreed to it, ₹500 crore could have been misused. "Even ₹55 crore is not a small amount," he stated. Addressing the controversy in the Assembly, the CM clarified that he had granted the FEO representative an appointment, stating that hundreds of people meet



him daily and that there was nothing secretive about the meeting. He also confirmed that a photograph was taken with the representative during their meeting. Reacting to BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's call for a discussion on the issue, Reddy expressed his willingness to discuss the matter either in the Assembly or at Telangana Bhavan. However, he noted that both the Municipal Administration and Home Departments were under his control and that any discussion might be interpreted as influencing those departments, especially during ongoing court proceedings. He assured that once the legal matters were resolved, he would release a detailed chronology of events. Reddy also criti-

cized KTR's statement regarding the ₹55 crore allocated for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA). The CM refuted KTR's claim that the funds were transferred without issue, arguing that the money was sent to foreign companies rather than Indian bank accounts as intended. He likened the situation to a cybercriminal transferring funds from a victim's account to another, dismissing KTR's defense. Furthermore, Reddy revealed that the ₹55 crore was paid to the Formula E company in pounds, not Indian rupees, adding to the controversy. Mocking KTR's claim that the Formula E race would enhance Hyderabad's brand image, Reddy sarcastically suggested that KTR might next support horse races or even card games and drugs. He also commented on a recent party at KTR's brother-in-law's farmhouse, where a person was allegedly caught using cocaine.

## Future of Telangana PG medical aspirants hangs in balance

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

The future of nearly 8,000 PG medical aspirants from Telangana State, who had appeared for the PG NEET-2024 in August, hangs in balance, as the State government and the Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) are yet to hold at least one round of counselling for admission into PG medical seats in private and government medical colleges.

The PG NEET-2024 examination was held in August and at the national level, already two-rounds of counselling have been completed. And yet, the State government and KNRUHS are yet to issue notification to conduct even the first phase of the PG counselling. Local students, who are born in Telangana State and have qualified in the PG-NEET 2024 but chose to skip the national level PG counselling, in the hope of getting a PG medi-

cal seat here by attending the local counselling, are now facing a prospect of losing the seats to their counterparts from other parts of the country. "The NEET is about to complete its third round of counselling for admissions into PG medical seats by Christmas or New Year. However, not a single round of counselling has been done in Telangana. There is every possibility that students from other parts of India would get allocated to PG seats in Te-

langana. A few medical colleges have also started their PG academic classes from December 20. We are suffering because of the delay in holding the counselling," members of Telangana Local PG Students Association said. Trouble started when the present Congress government released GO Ms 148 and 149 relating to 'local status' of candidates for admissions into PG medical courses. However, a few days ago, following writ petitions filed by affected

students, the High Court struck down the Government Orders. "Despite clear cut instructions, the State government or KNRUHS are not conducting PG NEET counselling. I was born in Nalgonda and as a local Telangana doctor, I must be considered as a local candidate. We are just waiting for KNRUHS to issue notification to conduct counselling," a candidate who qualified PG NEET said.

## Tabla Legend Zakir Hussain's Funeral Held In San Francisco



New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain's funeral was held in San Francisco, United States on Thursday, days after he died of complications arising from a lung disease. Several musicians attended the funeral. Drummer Anandan Sivamani, along with some other musicians, paid a musical tribute to Zakir Hussain. Zakir Hussain, the legend known for his 'dancing fingers', died at 73 in a San Francisco hospital on Monday. "He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy cherished by countless music lovers around the globe, with an influence that will resonate for generations to come,"

his family said in a statement. According to his sister, Khurshid Aulia, the music legend died "very peacefully". Zakir Hussain is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola, and daughters Anisa Qureshi and Isabella Qureshi. The tabla maestro's death marked the end of an era in the world of music. Born on March 9, 1951, to a family of musical excellence, Zakir Hussain was the eldest son of legendary tabla player Ustad Alla Rakha and a child prodigy, by all accounts. He began his professional career at the age of 12 in Indian classical music. By 18, he was already performing on international stages.

## Sloth bear, its two cubs killed in IED explosion in Chhattisgarh

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

A female sloth bear was killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in the forests under Barsur police station limits in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh. Locals spotted the dead bear, her two cubs and IED splinters near their bodies. The pictures showing the cubs lying on their dead mother were circulated on social media triggering emotional responses to the incident. Dantewada ASP, RK Burman told the media that the police came to know about the incident through social media. The IED was said to have been planted by Maoists in the forests and it was triggered when the bear stepped on the IED.

The sloth bear died on the spot while its cubs starved to death as their mother was dead. According to police it was the first such incident wherein a wild animal being killed in an IED explosion in Bastar region, though the incidents in which cattle and pet dogs getting killed in IED blasts have taken place several times. On Friday, two district reserve guard (DRG) personnel sustained injuries when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by CPI (Maoists) exploded in Narayanpur district in the State. The incident took place near Kachapal village under Kokameta police station limits when the DRG and BSF personnel were carrying out search operations.

# Intense Protests Mark Final Day of Parliament's Winter Session

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

The final day of the winter session of Parliament was marked by intense protests as members of the INDIA bloc marched from Vijay Chowk to Parliament on Friday, demanding the resignation and apology of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The protests disrupted the proceedings, leading both houses of Parliament to be adjourned Sine Die amidst ongoing demonstrations. This protest follows a day of altercations in Parliament, where BJP and Congress MPs clashed at the entrance of the new building. BJP MPs Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput suffered head in-



juries during the scuffle, with allegations that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pushed through BJP members at Makar Dwar. In response to the clash, both parties filed complaints, prompting the Lok Sabha Speaker to impose a ban on demonstrations at Parliament gates. Winter Session

Highlights and Tensions- The winter session, which began on November 15, addressed several key issues, including a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, constitutional debates, and frequent confrontations between government and opposi-

tion members. The opposition consistently demanded discussions on alleged bribery accusations against the Adani Group, while BJP members countered with claims of a "Soros-Gandhi nexus." The no-confidence motion against Dhankhar was rejected due to procedural issues,

including insufficient notice and document errors. Another key topic was the 'One Nation, One Election' legislation, which proposes holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly elections. Despite opposition from several parties, who raised concerns about federalism, the bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further review. Amit Shah's Remarks Spark Protests Tensions escalated after Amit Shah's comments in Rajya Sabha about Dr. Ambedkar, which the opposition considered disrespectful. BJP members, however, claimed that Congress had distributed an inaccurate version of Shah's speech. On Wednesday, the situation turned

physical as BJP alleged that Rahul Gandhi pushed two BJP MPs, resulting in their hospitalization. Gandhi rejected these allegations and called for Shah's resignation, accusing the BJP of trying to divert attention from the Adani issue. Opposition Leaders Respond Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge also criticized Shah's remarks about Nehru and Ambedkar, stating that if given the opportunity, he would have countered Shah's statements in Parliament. Kharge further suggested that the BJP was trying to suppress discussions on the alleged financial irregularities involving the Adani Group, pointing out that Congress had protested for 14 days to highlight the alleged corruption by Adani.

## BJP MPS' 'GROWING BANDAGES' SPARK SOCIAL MEDIA SATIRE

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

A tense confrontation unfolded on Thursday, December 19, outside the Makar Dwar entrance to Parliament, as Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress clashed during protests against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's alleged controversial remarks about BR Ambedkar. The incident quickly escalated into a legal and political dispute, with BJP MP Hemang Joshi lodging a police complaint against Congress Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. The complaint, which was filed under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, alleged that Gandhi "forcefully barged into peaceful demonstrators and aggressively pushed BJP MPs, causing Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput to fall and sustain injuries." The charges included serious offenses, such as voluntarily causing grievous hurt and criminal intimidation. Sarangi, a 69-



year-old MP, was taken to the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital for medical treatment. He claimed that Gandhi's actions led to a series of falls near the Parliament stairs, resulting in injuries to both him and Rajput. In response, Rahul Gandhi vehemently denied the allegations, stating that BJP MPs were obstructing his entry by using sticks to block his path. In a counter-initiative, Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Mukul Wasnik filed a counter-complaint, accusing BJP MPs of "misconduct." Social Media

Reaction and Public Response Senior BJP leaders, including Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, visited RML Hospital to check on Sarangi and Rajput. Initial social media images depicted both MPs with small bandages on their foreheads, which soon became the subject of intense scrutiny. As more images emerged, the size of the bandages appeared to expand significantly, sparking debates and questions among netizens. "Like BJP's exaggerated rhetoric, the size of the bandage keeps growing by the hour,"

tweeted one user. "Reject your script of injury, and the injury itself disappears! Pratap Sarangi wasn't even bruised at 11 a.m. but had a deep injury by the time he reached the hospital," observed another user. "Pratap Sarangi's progress: today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow—soon, he'll have bandages all over him," read another sarcastic post. This evolving situation has continued to draw widespread attention, polarizing both political and public opinion.

## Delhi Police Crime Branch to Probe Rahul Gandhi Over Scuffle

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 20

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has taken over the investigation into the case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, following an alleged altercation on Parliament premises that resulted in injuries to two BJP MPs. According to officials, the case has been transferred from local police to the Crime Branch for a more comprehensive inquiry. An FIR was filed on Thursday at Parliament Street Police Station, based on a complaint from the BJP. The complaint accuses Gandhi of physical assault and incitement after BJP MPs Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput were reportedly injured during the incident. The FIR includes multiple charges under sections 115, 117, 125, 131, 351, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, relating to voluntary causing hurt, grievous hurt, endangering life, and the use of criminal force, among other offences. A senior police officer confirmed that the Crime Branch would be recording state-

ments from Sarangi and Rajput, and might also summon Gandhi for questioning. Investigators are reviewing CCTV footage and reaching out to media outlets for potential video evidence. They are also considering recreating the scene of the incident as part of the investigation. In parallel, the police are seeking legal advice regarding a separate complaint filed by Congress leaders, alleging misbehavior by BJP MPs toward Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. The decision on whether to convert this complaint into an FIR is still pending. The incident occurred just a day before the conclusion of the winter session, leading Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to impose a ban on any demonstrations by MPs or political parties at Parliament's gates. While the BJP claims that Gandhi and other Congress MPs were involved in an aggressive act, the Congress denies the charges, asserting that its leaders, including Gandhi and Kharge, were physically manhandled by BJP MPs.

## The film industry is losing its entity and art's nature: PV Rao

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

The art of cinema, which provides entertainment and entertainment, is missing. Untruth and exaggeration movies have gained momentum. Mass masala movies are raking in money for the producers. In the movies coming in recent times, there is no word of entertainment or vishvanath except for commercial feelings. Movies like Maya-bazaar and Lavakusa of those days celebrated silver jubilee and centenary anniversaries. Films being produced at the cost of hundreds of crores are not playing for ten days. With the rise of commercial films for some time now, the harvest of producers is getting ripe. The importance of heroes is increasing, but it is sad that it is all about business and social welfare. Bloodshed, violence, looting and obscene dances have become the story lines of

movies. Cinema is said to be the most important of all art forms. They used to perform plays before movies. In the dramas of those days, entertainment, vijjanan, history, present, humanity, honesty, patriotism, social consciousness, social responsibilities along with artistry were presented to the audience. In the early days of independence, the film industry also continued the same trend. People hope for a better change in the society through movies. It is believed that the effect of the film on the audience will be at that stage. That's why, the governments who expect the welfare of the society from the movies are giving a lot of importance to this sector. Many discounts are available. There are many benefits to the film industry. Over time, business ethics has increased in the film industry. Ignored the interest of society. The number of producers who make films for



business and profit is increasing day by day. That's why mass masala movies are booming. Violence, bloodshed and looting became the story lines. There is a situation where those who steal the country's wealth are shown as heroes. Due to such movies, many atrocities, crimes, injustices and unwanted incidents are happening. The movie Balagam which is close to the real lives of the villagers is a sensation recently. The cost of making the film is also very low. The actors are not very famous. At the stage of power that

touched people's lives, the mass masala films made with an investment of hundreds of crores could not be accepted by the audience. It is not an exaggeration to say that there are no people who have not seen the movie Urura Balagam. It is a well-known fact that the recently released films RRR, Pushpa-2, apart from making money, could not get that level of acceptance from the general audience. I think there is no better example of Telugu audience wanting a movie to be like that. In the days when movies were released on the themes of entertainment, passion, artistry, patriotism, community spirit, humanity, honesty and family ties, the cinema halls were crowded with audiences. The days when the villagers came to the cinema theaters in the nearby towns by hitching a cart cannot be ignored. Films of those days were made with the expectation of social wel-

fare with values. Producers made films with patriotism without profit motive. Actors also value humanity and honesty. Movies were brought to the audience as entertainment as well as a message. Times have changed. The priority of producers has decreased. A situation has arisen where the audience does not know who the producer is except the director and hero of many movies. Producers are making movies according to the hero. They are dealing with the trend that adding mass spices and playing for ten days can fill a lot of pockets. Due to this, bad consequences are happening in the society. In the movies that are coming now, there is no sense of entertainment and excitement except for the commercial elements. Violence, bloodshed, looters are portrayed as heroes, many atrocities and unwanted incidents are taking place due to movies. Recently, a movie

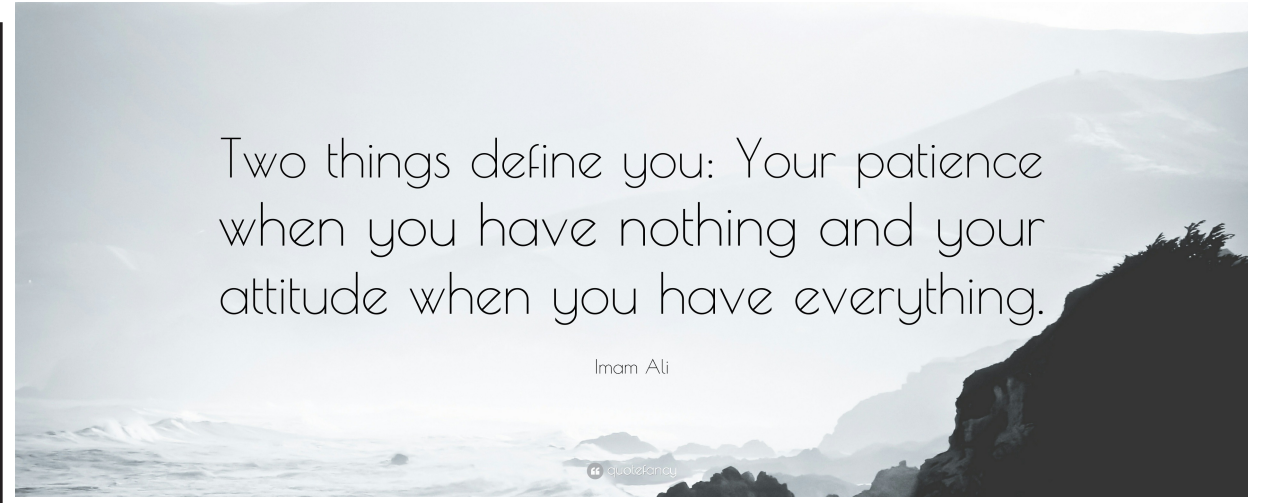
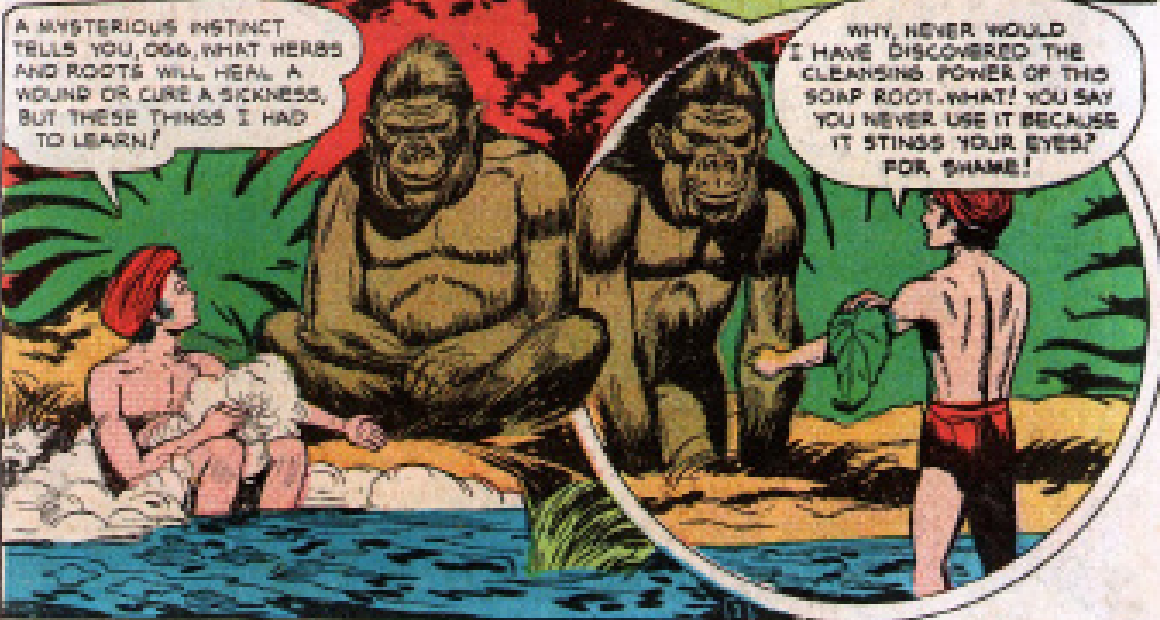
was released. The hero came to the theater to watch the movie sitting among the audience. A woman died in the stampede that took place at this juncture, while her son is battling life in hospital. In connection with this case, the hero was sent to jail by the police as part of legal proceedings. As soon as the hero set foot in the prison, the whole machinery moved on the clouds of fire. The hero who went into the jail after nightfall reached home at dawn. The film industry lined up to visit him. But during the release of the movie, not a single movie celebrity came forward to visit the family of the dead woman. This incident is a perfect example of how the film industry, which earns crores and crores and is recognized as a celebrity in the society, treats the same audience with little regard.

## Yogi Hits Back at RSS Chief, Slams Temple Desecration

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

A day after RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat called for inclusivity and unity, urging not to provoke temple-mosque disputes, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath shifted focus to the destruction of Hindu temples in India's past. Speaking at a religious event in Ayodhya on Friday, Adityanath emphasized the importance of preserving Sanatan Dharma for global peace. The Uttar Pradesh CM referred to iconic temples such as Kashi

Vishwanath, Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Krishna Janambhoomi in Mathura, and Harihar Bhoomi in Sambhal, stressing that "bhautik vikas" (material development) cannot be sustained while neglecting cultural heritage. Adityanath intensified his remarks by condemning the perpetrators of temple destruction, stating, "The descendants of those who desecrated these temples will be destroyed." He further added that Sanatan Dharma is the "only way to establish world peace." Highlighting ongoing persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh,



Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything.

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### EMPOWER THE LOWER 50% TO ENHANCE GDP

Mumbai  
WUT | DEC . 16

India's economic trajectory has been both inspiring and challenging. While the country has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies globally, its informal labour sector, which includes the lower 50% of the labour force, such as nano-entrepreneurs, construction workers, domestic helpers, and street vendors, continues to operate under severe constraints. Despite their substantial contribution, their potential remains untapped due to systemic barriers such as financial exclusion, lack of training, and poor policy support. As India grapples with GDP growth falling to 5.4%, there is an urgent need to focus on this segment of the work-

force. Addressing their challenges and empowering them with better opportunities can be a game changer for economic revival. The insights in this article are drawn significantly from the pioneering research and impactful initiatives of Rajendra Joshi, visionary founder of Saath Charitable Trust.

India's informal sector employs an estimated 87% of the workforce, encompassing millions of workers and micro-entrepreneurs. Nano-entrepreneurs alone account for a significant share, often operating small businesses with minimal investment. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the informal sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) rose from Rs 8.62 lakh crore in 2022 to Rs 9.99 lakh

crore in 2023. This growth underscores the resilience of informal workers despite their limited access to institutional support. Rajendra Joshi, whose work with the Saath Charitable Trust spans over three decades, has been instrumental in highlighting the critical role of the informal sector in India's urban economy. His efforts focus on integrating marginalised communities into mainstream development through innovative solutions like nano-enterprise support, financial inclusion and skill-building programmes. Joshi's book Smart Cities: Breaking the Poverty Barrier provides a comprehensive account of these efforts, offering practical insights into how slums and informal settlements.



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Please mention your name, addresses and email id. You can also share photographs or videos about the issue.  
The Editor



### Telangana HC strikes down GO reserving PG medical seats for locals

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday, December 17, struck down government orders reserving postgraduate medical seats for local students.

A bench of chief justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao declared as 'bad' the state govt's GOs 148 and 149, issued on October 28 as per which only those who studied medical courses in Telangana under local quota would be treated as local candidates in PG medical admissions and not those who have studied in Telangana under non-local quota.

Disposing of a batch of nearly 100 petitions that challenged the government's action in amending the rules in October, the bench said that all those who completed MBBS in Telangana were entitled to compete for 2024-25 PG medical seats as local candidates.

Agreeing with senior counsel G Vidya Sagar who argued that Presidential Order 1974 was very much in force in Telangana's education sector even after the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh and that the state's amended rules cannot change the mandate of the Presidential Order, the bench said that in case of a conflict between them, the Presidential Order would prevail. Telangana had amended the rules of medical admissions and brought in explanation (b) to Rule VIII (ii) of Telangana Medical Colleges (admission into PG medical courses) Rules, 2021, as amended by GO 148 and explanation (b) to Rule 8 (ii) of the Telangana Admission into PG (AYUSH) Courses Rules issued GO 149. The govt said the objective of these GOs was to help local candidates. However, the bench said that since the Presidential Order defines those who studied the qualifying course (MBBS) in Telangana as local candidates, they would be eligible to compete for the PG medical.

### Cyberabad Police Arrest 23-Year-Old for Burglary, Recovers Stolen Gold Worth Rs 7 Lakh

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

A 23-year-old man, Nadgotti Bharath from Warangal, was arrested by Cyberabad Police in connection with a burglary at his relative's house in Jagadgirigutta. Bharath, who was found in possession of stolen gold ornaments weighing 12.7 tulas (valued at over Rs 7 lakh), is accused of breaking into the home of Jangam Paramesh on December 15. Paramesh had locked his house to attend a family event in Jangoan, Warangal, and upon returning three days later, discovered a broken window and a damaged



almirah lock in his bedroom. The gold jewelry inside the almirah was missing. After Paramesh filed a complaint, the police launched an investigation, leading to Bharath's identification as the suspect. According to the police, Bharath used a stone to break the PVC window glass to gain entry into the house. He then forced

open the almirah and stole the jewelry. Bharath, a distant relative of the complainant, had faced a difficult childhood, having lost both parents at an early age. After completing his Class X education, he lived in an orphanage and later with relatives, working at local hair salons. Bharath reportedly developed habits like smoking

and alcohol consumption, influenced by negative peer groups. Financial difficulties and these vices led him to commit burglaries. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) G. Hanumantha Rao confirmed that Bharath had a criminal history, with previous arrests in 2020 by Medipally Police and in 2022 by Charminar Police for theft-related offenses. Despite serving time in jail, Bharath returned to criminal activities after his release. The Cyberabad Police successfully recovered the stolen gold ornaments and have taken Bharath into custody for further investigation.

### Cyberabad EOW Nabs Duo in Rs 3.1 Cr Real Estate Scam Crime

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad police arrested two persons for allegedly cheating people of '3.1 crore in the name of real estate investment and good returns with a buy-back scheme. According to the police, the accused were identified as Magaluri Chandra Reddy and Magaluri Aruna alias



Aruna Kumari, residents of Kondapur. Police had received a complaint from Jonnala Srinivasa Reddy, a resident of Nizampet.

According to the police, the accused persons had induced about nine

investors with the promise of huge profits. Initially, they established an office in Madhapur and offered investors open plots at Sadashivpet mandal in Sangareddy district. They made investors invest in their project by promising an open plot of approximately 1,600 square yards of land or '1.60 crore as a return. They also promised the customers that they would

develop another 102 acres as open plots and share profits with the investors. The accused persons gave MoUs, sale deeds, post-dated cheques and cash receipts to victims as collateral security to gain their trust. After collecting money from the victims, the accused paid partial amounts to some of the victims and later they failed to fulfill their promise.

### Rajendranagar Court Delivers Life Sentence in 2020 Gangrape Case

The Rajendranagar Pcco court on Friday convicted Shaik Zaffar and Shaik Nayeem to life imprisonment for kidnapping, raping and attempting to kill a 17-year-old girl in 2020. The incident occurred in what is now the Attapur police limits, According to the Attapur police, in 2020, the victim, who was from an economically weaker background, became acquainted with Zaffar. When Zaffar's cousin Nayeem learnt of it, he orchestrated a plan to gangrape her, police said.

Zaffar took the victim her to an under-construction site in Rajendranagar, where Nayeem joined him and the two then gangraped her and pushed her from the first floor building. When she survived, they allegedly threw her near a hut near the RGA police station while she was unconscious state. This spot turned out to be near her residence. Her parents spotted her and shifted her to the Osmania Hospital. A police case was registered. Two months later, when the girl's condition stabilised, a district magistrate recorded her statement. Following this, using CCTV cameras, and the phone number of the accused that the victim possessed, the accused were traced out and arrested and convicted.

### Ganja smuggler arrested in Gachibowli with 1.3 kg stash

A ganja smuggler, Abhisek Singh, was arrested by the excise district task force team, in Gachibowli, Telangana on Friday, December 20. The accused was caught red-handed while transporting 1.3 kg of ganja on his bike.

According to the excise department, Abhisek Singh was smuggling ganja from Doolapet to Nanakramguda. The task force team intercepted him during a vehicle check in Nanakramguda.

Abhisek Singh has a history of involvement in ganja smuggling. He was previously caught with ganja in Shamshabad two months ago and a case was booked. After being released from jail, he resorted to his old ways. A case is registered against Abhisek Singh under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Further investigation is underway. The arrest is part of the excise department's ongoing efforts to curb the smuggling of narcotics in the state, said the officials.

## Bhumi Pednekar is in Hyderabad, gives a peep into her beautiful morning

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

Bhumi Pednekar, who is currently in Hyderabad, shared a picture of herself enjoying the beautiful morning in the 'City Of Nawabs'.

Bhumi took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of herself dressed in a black crop top paired with denims. She is seen holding a flower as she poses for a picture with the city in the backdrop. She had earlier shared a string of pictures with some Sufi singers and tagged it as 'Talent'.

Upon her arrival on Thursday, Bhumi reminisced about how she

visited the city, when she was just a casting assistant looking for actors to cast.

"Hyderabad you are Today in the city after many many years. The last time I was here, i was a casting assistant, looking for actors to cast. And today am here receiving an award Never stop dreaming (sic) (sic)," she wrote as the caption.

Talking about the actor's career, Bhumi worked as an assistant casting director at Yash Raj Films for six years, before making her film debut as an overweight bride with the 2015 romantic comedy 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha'.

She was then seen in films such as 'Toilet: Ek

Prem Katha', 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan', 'Bala', 'Pati Patni Aur Woh', 'Saand Ki Aankh', 'Badhaai Do', 'Thank You For Coming', 'Bheed' and 'Afwaah'. She was last seen on screen in 'Bhakhshak', based on the Muzaffarpur shelter case.

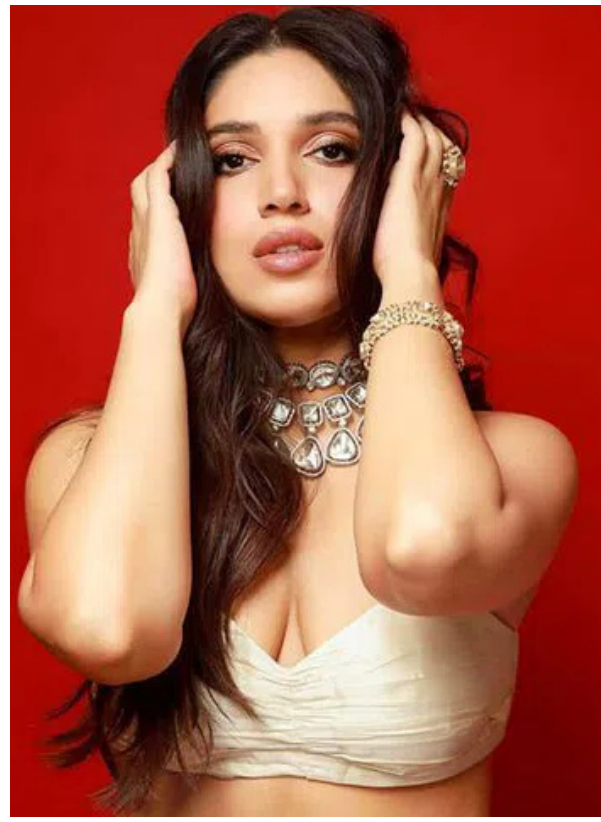
She will next be seen in the series 'The Royals', which in November she said will be "magnanimous" and the polar opposite psychological thriller 'Daldal'.

Speaking about 'The Royals', Bhumi, who co-hosted this year's International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opening ceremony, said: "It's my first long format. I'm very,

very happy that our collaborators are Netflix. It's going to be magnanimous. It's romance, it's comedy. I love that genre myself."

The actor added that while the show falls into the rom-com category, it features "layered" and "nuanced" performances from a cast that includes both established and new actors, including veteran Zeenat Aman and Ishaan Khatter, reports 'variety.com'.

She also discussed her role in the series 'Daldal', describing it as being the absolute opposite of 'The Royals'. "I haven't in my career read a character that's this complex," said the actor.



## Marco: A Thrilling Action-packed Revenge Saga

"Marco," directed by Haneef Adeni, is a gripping, action-packed thriller that keeps you hooked for its entire 2 hours and 43 minutes runtime. Unni Mukundan delivers a career-defining performance as Marco, whose emotional and violent journey unfolds as he seeks to uncover the truth behind his brother Victor's mysterious death. Victor's connection to Marco is at the heart of the story, and his untimely death sets off a thrilling chain of events.

As Marco dives deeper into the mystery, he discovers that the syndicate surrounding him is far more dangerous and deceptive than it appears. The first half is a high-paced rush, featuring top-tier action sequences along with moments of emotional depth. The well-developed characters draw the audience in, culminating in an explosive interval fight scene that's a visual feast. The second half raises the stakes even higher, starting with a brutal and intense fight sequence that showcases Marco's unwavering determination to protect his family, alongside his brother George. The conflict intensifies as Marco clashes with Cyrus for personal reasons, leading to a bloody revenge saga filled with gripping action and edge-of-your-seat moments. The film's central tension—whether Marco will succeed in his quest for revenge while safeguarding his family—drives the intense second half. Unni Mukundan's performance as Marco is a standout, marking a significant transformation from his previous film, Jai Ganesh. Sleek, stylish, and sophisticated, Mukundan carries the film with his powerful presence. The supporting cast, including Siddique, Jagadish, Anson Paul, Yukti Tareja, and Kabir Duhann Singh, provide solid support, ensuring the story's depth.

## vivo X200 Series launches in Hyderabad with Actress Samyuktha Menon

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

vivo, a globally recognized smartphone brand, officially unveiled its flagship X200 series in the Telugu states, with South Indian actress Samyuktha Menon gracing the launch event at Park Hyatt, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

Expressing her excitement, Samyuktha Menon said, "I am delighted to launch the new vivo X200 Series ZEISS in the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh markets."

Aswani Bhaskar, Chief Sales Officer of vivo India, introduced the X200 series as a groundbreaking lineup that redefines mobile photography and performance. He highlighted the innovative Dual Flagship Chip that powers the series, combining the V3+ Imaging Chip with the MediaTek Dimensity 9400 processor. This advanced configuration ensures exceptional performance, improved battery efficiency, and faster charging capabilities.



The X200 series also features the latest vivo-ZEISS Co-engineered Imaging System, designed to enhance photography through advanced hardware and software integration. Key features include improved portrait modes, superior low-light capabilities, and AI-driven functionalities, promising a revolutionary mobile photography experience. Alongside Samyuktha Menon, the

event saw participation from Aswani Bhaskar (CSO, vivo India), Atish (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana GM), Vasanth (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana DGM), and other vivo officials. Jarue (Channel Head), M.P. Eswar (Senior Terminal Head), Giri (IT Head, Bajaj Electronics), and Vishal (Marketing Head) were also present to celebrate the launch.



## Dr. Narendranadh Meda Introduces Cutting-Edge Esaote O-Scan MRI to Hyderabad

Hyderabad has witnessed a revolutionary leap in podiatric healthcare with the introduction of the Esaote O-Scan MRI machine by Dr. Narendranadh Meda, a leading Vascular, Endovascular, and Podiatric Surgeon. This state-of-the-art diagnostic tool promises exceptional accuracy in musculoskeletal and soft tissue imaging, paving the way for precise diagnoses and personalized treatments. Dr. Meda expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The O-Scan MRI machine is a game-changer for podiatric patients. It enables early diagnosis of complex conditions, ensuring better outcomes through effective treatments and informed medical decisions." Esaote Asia Pacific's Country Business Director, Mr. Dheeraj Nasa, emphasized the significance of this collaboration. "This partnership marks a milestone in podiatric care in India. The O-Scan's advanced imaging capabilities allow faster, more accurate diagnoses, enhancing patient outcomes," he remarked. The O-Scan MRI offers high-quality imaging, reduced scan times, and a compact, user-friendly design. Patients benefit from timely and reliable diagnoses, early detection of conditions, and improved accessibility to advanced care. This initiative underscores Dr. Meda's commitment to leveraging innovation to deliver world-class healthcare, setting new benchmarks for podiatric diagnostics in Hyderabad and beyond.

## Maruti Suzuki Automates Driving Test Tracks in Bihar to Boost Road Safety

New delhi  
WUT | DEC . 21

Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has partnered with the Bihar Transport Department to automate driving license test tracks in Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Purnia, and Saran as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The project aims to enhance road safety and ensure transparency in issuing licenses. The agreement was signed in the presence of



Left to Right: Shri Tarun Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Maruti Suzuki; Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal (IAS), Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Bihar; Smt. Sheela Kumari, Hon'ble Transport Minister of Bihar and Shri Navin Kumar (IAS), State Transport Commissioner of Bihar

Bihar Transport Minister Smt. Sheela Kumari, Transport Secretary Shri Sanjay

Kumar Agarwal (IAS), and representatives from both organizations. The Automated

Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) will feature high-definition cameras and IT systems for standardized driver evaluations, adhering to Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR). This eliminates human intervention, ensuring efficient and transparent testing for two-wheelers and light motor vehicles. Smt. Sheela Kumari emphasized the program's success in improving license testing in Aurangabad and Patna, expressing optimism about its expansion to five

districts. Maruti Suzuki's Senior Executive, Mr. Rahul Bharti, highlighted the initiative's role in reducing road accidents caused by unskilled drivers. Maruti Suzuki has collaborated with Bihar since 2018 through projects like the Institute of Driving and Traffic Research (IDTR) in Aurangabad. Having automated 27 test tracks nationwide, the company plans to expand to 44, including 12 in Uttar Pradesh. This initiative strengthens Bihar's road safety efforts.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Hosts Telangana Grameena Mahotsav to Enhance Customer Engagement

Hyderabad  
WUT | DEC . 21

Toyota Kirloskar Motor, reaffirming its commitment to improving customer accessibility and engagement, has launched the 'Telangana Grameena Mahotsav' in partnership with its authorized dealers across the state. The three-day event, running from December 20 to 22, 2024, aims to bring Toyota's wide range of products and services closer to customers in Telangana, offering convenience and accessibility at key locations. The initiative, supported by Harsha Toyota,



Kakatiya Toyota, Mody Toyota, and Fortune Toyota, is being held in prominent locations such as Nalgonda, Suryapet, Kamareddy, and Shadnagar. The Telangana Grameena Mahotsav offers an integrated customer experience, including sales with exclusive spot

booking benefits of up to ₹10,000, on-site car servicing through the Toyota Service Express, and car exchange offers for pre-owned vehicles. Visitors can explore Toyota's popular models, such as the Urban Cruiser Taisor, Glanza, Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Rumion, and In-

nova Crysta, designed to cater to varied customer needs and preferences. In line with its customer-first approach, Toyota introduced the 'T Deliver' initiative, ensuring new car delivery via flatbed trucks. This last-mile logistics solution ensures that vehicles arrive in pristine condition without being driven on the road. Toyota and its dealers invite customers across Telangana to visit the Telangana Grameena Mahotsav and make the most of the exclusive offers and experiences available until December 22, 2024.

## AQUAECO Project Transforms Aquatic Farming and Empowers Over 50,000 Beneficiaries

Chennai  
WUT | DEC . 21

Herbalife India, a prominent health and wellness company, has won the IIT Madras CSR Award 2024 for its pioneering AQUAECO initiative, recognizing its commitment to sustainable community development through technological innovation. The award was presented by Dr. T. R. B. Rajaa, Tamil Nadu's Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, during the IIT Madras CSR Summit themed "Viksit Bharat 2047 - Driving Inclusive Transformative Impact



through Tech-enabled CSR." AQUAECO, in collaboration with the Centre for Aquatic Livelihoods (Jaljeevika), transforms underused water bodies into sustainable aquaculture systems. Using advanced tools like IoT-based water quality monitoring, AI-driven chatbots, and digital fish-

eries planning, the initiative provides real-time support to fish farmers. Aligned with government programs like PM-MKSSY, AQUAECO has positively impacted regions such as Purnia, Tikamgarh, Ratnagiri, and Karwar. It has empowered 10,000 farmers, including

2,500 women, and engaged over 50 women self-help groups and 10 fisheries cooperatives. Uday Prakash, Herbalife India's Vice President of Strategy and Implementation, expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing the company's dedication to driving sustainable change through technology. With initiatives focusing on nutrition, education, and community empowerment, Herbalife India continues to champion health, wellness, and environmental sustainability, leaving a lasting positive impact nationwide.

## CITY CLICKS

### Pakistan Script Massive Record, Become 1st Team In 21st Century To...



Pakistan veterans Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan laid the foundation for a convincing, series-clinching 81-run win over South Africa in the second one-day international at Newlands on Thursday. Pakistan's total of 329 all out was set up by Babar (73) and captain Rizwan (80), who put on 115 off 142 balls for the third wicket. Heinrich Klaasen made 97 for South Africa but the hosts were bowled out for 248. Fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi (four for 47) and Naseem Shah (three for 37) were the main destroyers.

The win gave Pakistan an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Pakistan's win on Thursday saw them become the first team in 21st century to win three ODI bilaterals in South Africa.

It was their fifth successive series win - and the third for the Champions Trophy hosts in the southern hemisphere season, following victories in Australia and Zimbabwe.

"It's a team game, from beginning to end all of the guys are involved and contributing," said Rizwan.

Babar and Rizwan, whose combined 204 one-day caps exceeded the total of the rest of the team, batted soundly and sensibly before Babar was out with the total on 192 in the 33rd over.

Rizwan followed three overs later to a sensational diving catch off his own bowling by 18-year-old one-day debutant Kwena Maphaka.

### R Ashwin Chooses His Successor, Passes The Baton On Social Media After Retirement

Amidst all the tributes pouring in for Ravichandran Ashwin following his retirement from international cricket, he wished fellow off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar in a way which seemed like a passing of the baton moment in Indian cricket. On Wednesday, shortly after Ashwin announced his retirement post the third Test at the Gabba ending in a draw, Sundar penned a heartfelt tribute on his social media accounts. "More than just a team mate, you have been an inspiration, Ash anna. It's been an honour to share the field and dressing room with you." "Coming from the same state of Tamil Nadu, I have grown up watching you from the close corners of Chepauk to playing against and alongside you. Every moment has been a privilege. The learnings, both on and off the field, are something I will carry forever. Wishing you success and happiness in whatever comes next."

In reply, Ashwin wrote from his X account on Friday, "Thupakkiya pudinga Washi!" "The 2 minutes you spoke that night in the get-together was the best." "The first line which Ashwin said to Sundar is a famous dialogue from Tamil superstar Vijay's recent film, Greatest of All Time (G.O.A.T.), which was used in a scene of him with actor Sivakarthikeyan. The term "Thupakkiya pudinga" means "hold this gun".

Among all the options to handle spin-bowling duties for India in the post-Ashwin era, his fellow Chennai resident Sundar appears to be the like-for-like replacement. It's no secret that Sundar is the preferred spin-bowling choice for the current Indian coaching setup.

An example of this is Sundar being chosen ahead of Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja for the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Perth, and picked two wickets in the second innings, while making four and 29 with the bat, as India won by 295 runs.

So far, Sundar has taken 24 wickets and scored 387 runs in his seven Tests so far.



## Democratic Sangha Honors Change Makers at Inaugural Awards

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The Democratic Sangha, in collaboration with the Race2Win Foundation, hosted its inaugural Change Maker Awards at the iconic Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad. The event celebrated individuals and organizations making impactful contributions to democracy, social justice, and human rights across India. The awards aim to honor leaders, activists, and reformers whose efforts have advanced democratic values and societal transformation. This year's ceremony brought together renowned personalities,

industry leaders, and social influencers for a night of inspiration and dialogue. The event featured Renuka Chowdhury,



Member of Parliament, as the Chief Guest, and Sushmita Sen, Miss Universe 1994, as the Guest of Honor. Jennifer Larson, U.S. Consul General, and actress-activist Bhumi Pednekar, who delivered a keynote on youth empowerment and social reform, also graced the occasion. The awards paid tribute to Swami Agnivesh, a trailblazing reformer known for championing child rights, bonded labor, and marginalized com-

munities. Founder of Bandhua Mukti Morcha, Swami Agnivesh freed over 1.72 lakh bonded laborers and earned the 2004 Right Livelihood Award, often called the "Alternative Nobel Prize." The event underscored the importance of youth leadership, women's participation in governance, and collaborative efforts to address poverty and inequality, continuing Swami Agnivesh's enduring legacy.

### Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 breaks viewership records



Star Sports Network, the official broadcasters of Cricket Australia in India, has set new milestones with the phenomenal viewership of the second Test between Australia and India. The thrilling day-night (D/N) encounter at Adelaide reached an astounding 49 million viewers—a 22 percent increase compared to the 2020 D/N Test between the two teams. The watch-time soared to 4.2 billion minutes, a remarkable 26 percent growth over the corresponding match in the 2020 series. The TVR for the Adelaide Test also witnessed significant growth, climbing 32% compared to the 2020 D/N Test.

The first two Tests of the series have collectively reached 86 million viewers on television, representing a 55 percent increase compared to the 2020 Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Watch-time has surged to 12.8 billion minutes, a staggering 75 percent growth over the previous edition. These record-breaking numbers reaffirm the immense popularity of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and highlight the unparalleled excitement surrounding this 'toughest rivalry'.

### Aura Jeweller Opens First Store in Hyderabad



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Aura Jeweller, a popular brand for fashion and silver jewellery, has opened its first store in Hyderabad, located on Road #2, Banjara Hills. This marks the beginning of its expansion in the city, with more stores planned for the future. Known for its detailed craftsmanship and stylish designs, Aura Jeweller offers a wide range of jewellery, including traditional, antique, kundan, fusion, and oxidized silver pieces.

The store caters to all occasions, whether traditional, formal, or casual. The spacious store provides a luxurious shopping experience with a variety of designs and finishes to choose from. Aura Jeweller aims to deliver a unique and satisfying experience to every customer. Laiq Akhter, Managing Director, and Nikita, Director of Aura Fashion Jeweller, expressed their excitement about the opening: "We are excited to open our first store in Banjara Hills. People in Hyderabad love to explore new



jewellery designs, and we're confident they will enjoy the wide variety we have on offer. We take great pride in providing top-notch customer service and a great shopping experience." "With its dedication to quality and design, Aura Jeweller is set to become a popular choice for jewellery lovers in Hyderabad.

### 18th Padipuja Program Conducted at Sri Manikantha Sannidhanam in Hyderabad



Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

The 18th Padipuja program in honor of Karre Veeranna Garu was conducted today at the Sri Manikantha Sannidhanam, Gangaputra Sangam, Sabji Mandi, Hyderabad. The event, held at 10 a.m., witnessed the presence of prominent leaders and devotees from across the state. Gangaputra Sangam

President Anandesi Vijay Kishore, along with the executive committee, and Fisheries Cooperative Society President Katta Lingam, accompanied by his team, participated in the ceremony. The event was graced by Guru Vinay Guruswami Banswada, who led a padayatra to Sabarimala alongside 250 Swamis. Bhajan performances were conducted under the guidance of Narsingi Nars-

ingarao Garu. The Padipuja was organized under the auspices of the discipleship of Katta Swami, led by Chinta Srinivas and Murari Rambabu Guruswami. The program reflected the deep spiritual traditions upheld by the Gangaputra Sangam and was marked by devotional fervor and community participation.

## Ravi Shastri feels India justified in celebrating on avoiding follow-on in Brisbane

Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri believes the Rohit Sharma-led side was justified in celebrating on avoiding the follow-on during the rain-hit third Test against Australia in Brisbane, which led to the five-match series being locked at 1-1. On Day Four of the match at the Gabba, Akash Deep sliced a Pat Cummins delivery over the gully for a boundary, which helped India avoid the follow-on, leading to jubilant celebrations in the dressing room by captain Rohit Sharma, head coach Gautam Gambhir and Virat Kohli.

While many in the Australian camp were surprised by it, Shastri

felt there was nothing bad about it. "You should celebrate. It required a lot of character from the last pair with 35-36 runs needed. That celebration showed they knew the importance of that effort within the dressing room in the context of the series." "It's one thing following-on, it's one thing then again being 2-3 down as opposed to, you going ahead and rattling the Australian top-order. It is fully justified," said Shastri on the ICC Review show.

Talking about the scenes in Brisbane, Shastri recalled the 89-run partnership between Bumrah and Mohammed Shami at the Lord's during the 2021 series against England, a match which India eventually won. He also

highlighted the importance of lower-order bailing India out of tough situations.

"It reminded me of the celebration, in COVID times when Jasprit and Mohammed Shami were involved in a partnership at the Lord's, which turned the game on its head. England were odds-on favourites on the final day to win the Test. And that partnership, I think of about 80 or 90, suddenly turned the game on its head, and by the end of the day, India had won the Test match."

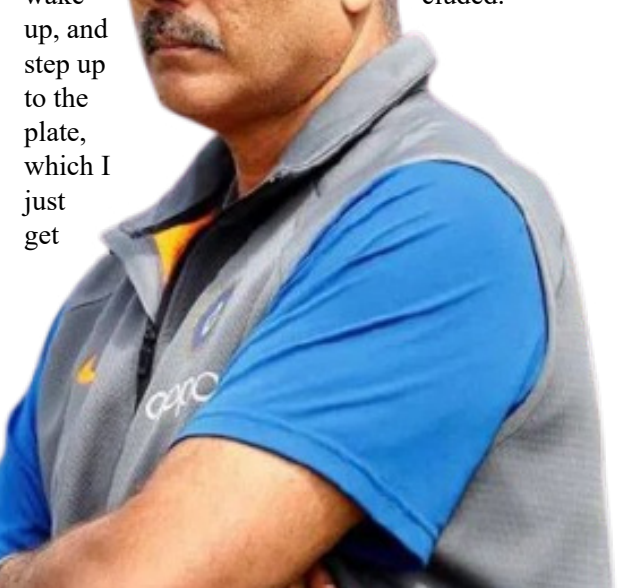
"When the tail-enders are stubborn, they fight it out there. It makes a massive difference. It did it on the last tour. When Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari batted the whole of the last session to save the game, going

into the Gabba and then winning the series." With the five-match series tied at 1-1 ahead of the Boxing Day Test at the MCG, Shastri feels the fight shown by India in avoiding the follow-on at Brisbane will serve as a big boost to the visitors ahead of the crunch games.

"It'll lift the Indian team. And for me, the series is on a level peg now and India might just be calling the shots. Massive. They would give anything for a 1-1 result. The first Test was in Perth, the second Testa day-nighter in Adelaide, and then the third Test was in Brisbane. Any overseas team will, you know, settle for a 1-1 score because come Melbourne, come Sydney, I think

India will be powerful." "They've been kept in this series single-handedly by Jasprit Bumrah. If the big boys

wake up, and step up to the plate, which I just get



the gut feeling they will, then Australia have a problem on their hands. Yeah, they got out of jail but they are not on bail. They are free birds in Melbourne. They can do what they want and come and attack Australia on Boxing Day," he concluded.

## Akbaruddin Owaisi Accuses BRS of Prioritizing First Family's Interests

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AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi on Friday launched a sharp attack on the ruling BRS, accusing the party of focusing solely on protecting the interests of its 'first family' while disrupting the legislative proceedings in the Assembly. Owaisi urged the Speaker to take action against BRS members who caused a ruckus in the House, milling around the podium and encroaching on the well of the House. During the debate on the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights in Land) Bill, 2024, Owaisi called for a comprehensive land survey and pointed out that the Centre would bear the cost of digitizing

land records. He further suggested the government look into the property management systems of countries such as the Netherlands, Singapore, and Estonia to improve Telangana's land administration. "This is a sad day for Telangana. The BRS seems more concerned with the welfare of its family than with the problems of the people," Owaisi said. He criticized the introduction of the Dharani portal, claiming it was designed to benefit a particular family and enrich them. "The right of members to discuss important bills is being disrupted by the ongoing chaos in the House," he added. Referring to the torn papers scattered on the floor of the Assembly, Owaisi labeled it



a symbol of the 'kachra sarkar' (garbage government) run by the BRS for the past decade. He predicted harsh consequences for the BRS in the upcoming elections, citing the party's failure to address landowner grievances. Owaisi also questioned the BRS's previous slogan "Tanashahi Nahi Chalega" (Dictatorship will not be tolerated) against the Congress government,

stating that the BRS should introspect. "They enjoyed the fruits of power and looted the state. The 2020 Act lacked a redressal mechanism for affected landowners. About 18 lakh acres were placed in Part B, denying rights to lakhs of people," he said. The MLA further criticized the Congress for only forming a land committee rather than a land commission, which

had been promised. He demanded that the committee's findings be disclosed and called for redrafting of certain clauses. He also advocated for the removal of unauthorized entries in the Dharani portal and questioned why properties bought through notarized papers in Hyderabad were not allowed for registration. Owaisi concluded by stressing the importance of transparency and accountability in land management and warned the government that the people would not tolerate inefficiency and corruption any longer. He urged the government to ensure that landowners' rights are protected, and the Dharani portal is restructured to serve the people rather than a select few.

## Numaish Preparations



Preparations for the All India Industrial Exhibition (AIE) are in full swing at the Exhibition Ground in Hyderabad. The iconic Numaish is scheduled to commence on January 1, 2025.

## Lift Accident at Popular Gachibowli Restaurant Injures Four People

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A lift accident at a well-known restaurant in APHB Colony, Gachibowli, on Friday left at least four people injured. According to local sources, the incident occurred when the lift's traction cable snapped, causing

the cabin to fall and injuring those inside. One person reportedly suffered a severe leg injury, while three others sustained minor injuries. The incident prompted other diners, who heard a loud crash, to rush to the scene and assist the victims. They promptly contacted emergency services, and the in-

jured were transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. Local police have launched an investigation into the incident. Preliminary reports indicate that the accident may have been caused by violations of safety protocols and insufficient maintenance at the building.

## GHMC Prioritises Promotion of Women-Led Enterprises

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The GHMC is set to empower women as entrepreneurs, with a plan to establish 7,000 women-led enterprises across the city under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme. This initiative includes setting up 6,000 individual enterprises and 1,000 group enterprises with a budget of Rs 410 crore. Commissioner Ilambarathi has directed officials to identify eligible beneficiaries and prioritise loan disbursements under the scheme by January 20. The commissioner also sought enrollment of eligible women into self-help groups and provision of



financial assistance through bank linkages through a comprehensive micro credit plan. The plan, which aims to mobilize Rs 1,500 crore in bank linkages by March 2025, will be finalised later this month. Additionally, a micro credit plan worth Rs 500 crore is to be prepared and submitted by the end of December. The loan grounding process for these funds is expected to be completed by January.

## President Droupadi Murmu Hosts Special "At Home" Event at Rashtrapati Nilayam



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President Droupadi Murmu hosted a special "At Home" event today at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bollaram, Secunderabad, bringing together a distinguished gathering of political and public figures.

Among the attendees were Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, State Ministers, Government Advisor Mohammad Ali Shabbir, MLAs, MLCs, and prominent leaders from various sectors. The event offered a platform for meaningful

interactions, as leaders engaged in discussions on national and regional affairs, with a particular focus on addressing key issues and strengthening ties. Emphasizing cooperation, the gathering underscored the importance of unity in driving the progress of both Telangana and India. This occasion added to President Murmu's ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and collaboration among the nation's leadership. It served as a significant step in building relationships and enhancing cooperation for the overall growth and development of the country.

## ED Seizes Over Rs 6 Cr in Hyderabad Money Laundering Raid

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Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office conducted search operations on Thursday, December 20, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at two premises in Hyderabad related to CSK Realtors Pvt. Ltd., Singh Mansions Pvt. Ltd., Suresh Kr. Agarwal and Rakshit Agarwal. Searches were conducted at the premises of Suresh Kr. Agarwal and Rakshit Agarwal which led to the recovery and seizure of jewellery and bullion valued at Rs 5.42 crore and unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 72.75 lakh. The total amount of seizure amounts to approximately Rs 6.15 crore. Further, incriminating

documents indicating suspicious and unaccounted cash transactions, property documents, etc. were recovered. ED initiated an investigation based on several FIRs registered by Telangana police under IPC, 1860 against SIVIP, and the managing director of Sahiti Infratec Ventures India Private Limited, B Lakshminarayana and others based on complaints of investors/buyers of different projects undertaken by SIVIP and other group entities. The firm, SIVIP, B Lakshminarayana and others collected huge amounts from prospective buyers for the construction of residential premises but failed to deliver flats or to refund their money, cheating them of their hard-earned savings. The ED investigation al-

legedly revealed that SIVIP did not have the necessary statutory permissions. Further, there was no ESCROW account for the project and the funds received from investors were deposited in various bank accounts, and sometimes collected in cash. Investigation revealed that SIVIP allegedly generated Proceeds of Crime (POC) to the tune of Rs 842.15 crore by taking advance from homebuyers on false pretext of sale of inventory in projects launched by Sahiti Group. Out of this, a sum of Rs 216.91 crore was collected from homebuyers in cash, which never made it to the books of accounts and was concealed by the promoters/directors of SIVIP for their personal use.

## Scholarship Protest



Members of the All India Students' Federation (AISF) organized a "Chalo Assembly" protest rally, demanding the immediate release of pending student scholarships. The police intervened and detained several protesters near the Telangana Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad.

## Army Public School Golconda celebrates 10th Annual Day 'PRATHIDHWANI'

Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

Army Public School, Golconda celebrated its 10th Annual Day, "PRATHIDHWANI - Resonating the Voices of Time", with great fervor and enthusiasm. The event, held on the school premises, was a spectacular showcase of talent, creativity, and discipline, reflecting the institution's commitment to holistic education.

The Chief Guests, Col Kshitij Prakash Badiye, Offg Comdt, Artillery Cen-

tre Hyderabad and Offg. Chairman Army Public School Golconda and Rupali Badiye, graced the occasion along with several distinguished guests, parents, and alumni. The celebrations began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the quest for knowledge and wisdom, followed by a melodious performance by the school band The Heart Hackers which resonated with the audience.

This was followed by the Annual Report, presented by Mrs. Anitha Karunaka-

ran, who highlighted the school's significant achievements, innovative initiatives, and milestones during the academic year. Prize Distribution was a significant part of the event, with students being recognized for their excellence in sports, and co-curricular activities. The Academic Trophy was bagged by Patel House, while Nehru House clinched the Sports Trophy, and Gandhi House secured the CCA Trophy. The announcement of the Overall Trophy bagged by Tilak

## Sancta Maria Students Shine at ISP MUN Malaysia 2024

Hyderabad WUT | DEC . 21

Sancta Maria International School, Hyderabad, has won the prestigious Best Delegation Award at the first in-person International Schools Partnership Model United Nations (ISP MUN), hosted at Tenby International School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The global event brought together over 250 students from 70+ ISP schools across continents. Over five days, participants engaged in debates, cultural exchanges, and intellectual discussions, addressing global challenges while developing key skills like leadership,



Sancta Maria Students receiving prestigious Best Delegation Award at International Schools Partnership Model United Nations 2024 (ISP MUN), at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

diplomacy, and critical thinking. Sancta Maria's delegation—comprising Harnidh, Ariptra, and Sujaya—was guided by mentors Dr. Rositta Joseph

and Mr. Neeraj Shankar. The team showcased exceptional performance to secure the coveted Best Delegation Award. Individual accolades included: Sujaya:

Award of Excellence, COPHarnidh: Award of Excellence, UNHRC Ariptra: High Commendation, UNESCO The ISP MUN provided a platform for students to tackle real-world issues, foster cross-cultural connections, and gain exposure beyond the classroom. The event also featured cultural festivities and regional excursions. Principal Ms. Hemalatha Sanjay commended the team, stating, "Our students have set a benchmark on the global stage. This achievement underscores their talent and commitment to excellence." Sancta Maria continues to empower students to become global citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

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