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Brief Insights

RGIA records steady growth



Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has recorded a steady growth in number of passengers with 27 lakh flyers using the facility in December 2024. This is a 17.8 per cent increase, compared to December 2023 when there were 23 lakh passengers, according to a statement. In November 2024, the airport handled 25.3 lakh passengers. The December 2024 passengers data reflected a near-seven per cent growth over the previous month. The consistent growth shows Hyderabad's rising connectivity, both domestically and internationally, as well as an uptick in festive and holiday travellers.

Gold Rallies Rs 500 to Rs 81,300 per 10 gm



Gold prices rallied Rs 500 to hit over a two-month high of Rs 81,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid fresh buying from jewellers and retailers and rupee depreciation, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had closed at Rs 80,800 per 10 grams on Wednesday. The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 500 to Rs 80,900 per 10 grams. It settled at Rs 80,400 per 10 grams in the previous trading session. Silver also surged Rs 2,300 to Rs 94,000 per kg from the previous close of Rs 91,700 per kg on Wednesday. Meanwhile, gold contracts for February delivery rose Rs 297, or 0.38 per cent, to Rs 79,007 per 10 grams in the futures trade on the MCX on Thursday.

Cabinet's Decision On 8th Pay Commission Will Boost Consumption: PM Modi

New delhi WUT | Jan . 17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the government's decision to constitute the eighth pay commission will boost consumption and improve the quality of life. He said on X, "We are all proud of the efforts of all Government employees, who work to build a Viksit Bharat. The Cabinet's



decision on the 8th Pay Commission will improve quality of life and give a boost to consumption." PM Modi on Thursday approved setting up the 8th Pay Com-

mission to revise salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and allowances of about 65 lakh pensioners. In a major decision, the government on Thursday decided to set up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of central government employees and allowances of pensioners. The decision to set up the 8th Pay Commission was taken

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The term of the 7th Pay Commission will end in 2026.

"Prime Minister has approved 8th Central Pay Commission for central government employees," the minister said. The chairman and two members of the Commission...

KTR Appears Before ED in Formula E Race Case

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 17

Former minister and BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday in connection with the Formula E Race case. KTR was originally scheduled to appear before the agency on January 7, but after requesting a delay, ED officials issued a new notice for his appearance



on January 16. While the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is investigating the case, The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against KTR

and others in the case. The ED filed the ECIR after the Telangana ACB registered a First Information Report (FIR) against KTR and others in the Formula-E funding case.

The Telangana High Court had quashed KTR's petition to dismiss the FIR filed against him by the ACB. Furthermore, the Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to intervene in the FIR filed by the ACB, which accused

KTR of misconduct in the misappropriation of funds for the organization of Formula E races in Hyderabad. The Supreme Court clarified at the beginning of the hearing that it was not inclined to intervene in the dismissal orders issued by the Telangana High Court. In response, KTR's counsel chose to withdraw the petition, reserving the right to approach the apex court at a later time if necessary. **CONTINUE:P8**

Huge win for Telangana in Krishna river battle with AP

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 17

In a huge victory for Telangana against Andhra Pradesh over the sharing of the Krishna river water, the Krishna River Water Disputes Tribunal-II on Thursday said it was inclined to take up the issue of project-wise allocation of water under the new terms of reference (TOR) issued by the Centre in 2023, a stand that Telangana had fought hard for in face of stiff opposition from AP.

Telangana irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, who was in New Delhi supervising Telangana's arguments before the Tribunal, welcomed the decision and said: "The decision will pave the way for proper justice to be delivered to Telangana." He said that under the additional terms of reference (TOR) given by



the Centre, allocation of River Krishna waters would include the earlier en bloc allocation of 811 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) done by the Bachawat tribunal, thus enabling Telangana its rightful share of the river's waters."

He said as per the provisions of Section 89 of the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, KWDT-II was to make project-wise specific allocations if they were not made by a tribunal set up as per the Interstate River Water

Disputes (SRWD) Act, 1956. "But as per these TOR, the already existing project-wise allocations are not to be touched, thus restricting the amount of water to be distributed afresh to Telangana," Uttam Kumar Reddy explained.

"In 2015, Telangana went to the Supreme Court asking for the setting up of a new tribunal which eventually paved the way for the Central government to issue new terms of reference (TOR) to KWDT-II (Brijesh Kumar Tribunal).

Armed Gang on the Run After ATM Heist Opens Fire in Hyderabad

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 17

An armed two-member gang, accused of killing two security guards at an ATM kiosk in Bidar, Karnataka, and looting ₹93 lakh, opened fire at a travel company manager in Afzalgunj on Thursday. The manager, Mohammed Jahangir, sustained injuries to his leg and abdomen and is undergoing treatment in the ICU of a private hospital. According to the police, the

gang, attempting to escape to Raipur, entered into an argument with Jahangir at a travel office and fired two rounds before fleeing towards Osmania General Hospital. City police have issued a red alert and intensified frisking operations in southeast, east, central, and southwest zones to track down the assailants. Sequence of Events The gang, aged between 30 and 35 years, reportedly crossed into Telangana on a bike early Thursday morning after their attack in



Bidar. They arrived at a travel office in Hyderabad around 3 PM, requesting tickets to Raipur. Witnesses reported their suspicious

behavior, including wearing hoodies and carrying backpacks. Coincidentally, a Karnataka police team arrived at the office to serve NBWs in a separate case. Spotting the officers, the gang panicked and attempted to bribe Jahangir with a bundle of cash to issue tickets immediately. When Jahangir demanded ID cards, one of the assailants opened fire and fled. Police Response East Zone police, along with four special teams and task force per-

sonnel, are conducting operations to apprehend the attackers. Karnataka police teams have also joined the investigation. IT teams are tracking the suspects through GPS and CCTV footage, and one of the attackers is believed to be detained. Forensic experts are examining spent shells of a 9 mm country-made pistol recovered from the scene. Authorities confirmed Jahangir's condition is stable despite heavy bleeding. Eyewitness Accounts

Mohammed Wali, a passenger at the scene, recounted that the gang initially approached the travel office on a bike and appeared tense. Roshan Travels owner Mohammed Mousam added that Jahangir became suspicious due to their unusual behavior and attempted to delay their request. The incident has triggered widespread alarm, and police efforts are underway to bring the fugitives to justice.

Six-lane ORR-Kondapur flyover likely to be ready by April

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 17

The 1.2-km bi-directional six-lane flyover from Outer Ring Road (ORR) towards Kondapur is likely to be completed by April, having already missed its deadline of last April. This facility will provide traffic relief at Gachibowli junction and also ensure better connectivity between Hitec City and the financial district. The commuters will enter this flyover from one of its ramps on the

ORR and reach street number 2, Gachibowli, skipping the junction. The flyover ends approximately 300 metres before the ZP school. Traffic going out of the city through Gachibowli can directly reach the ORR through another ramp of the flyover. Speaking about the flyover, a GHMC official said that works are in their final stages. He blamed TSSPDCL for the delay. "Despite paying Rs 2.78 crore to it, the utility shifting

was delayed. Finally, GHMC commissioner K. Ilambarathi had to intervene and get the issue resolved," said an official from the corporation. When asked, power officials did not offer comment on the delay in shifting the cables. According to GHMC records, the peak hour traffic at the Gachibowli junction was 9,806 passenger car units (PCU)/hour in 2019. The projected peak hour traffic in 2036 will be 17,711 PCU/ hour. Venkat Rao Infra Projects is the executing

Hyderabad's Heritage Sites Make it to 2025 World Monuments Watchlist

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 17

Hyderabad's Musi River buildings including the Osmania General Hospital (OGH), High Court, and State Central Library, have earned a place on the 2025 World Monuments Watch. The World Monuments Fund (WMF), based in New York, selected these structures from over 200 nominations worldwide, bringing global attention to the challenges they face due to environmental degradation, neglect, encroachment and urban expansion. This recognition could give fresh momentum to the state government's Musi Riverfront Development Project and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's



vision of the city's heritage. The WMF described the Musi River corridor as a cultural anchor of Hyderabad, with its historic buildings reflecting the city's evolution. "Landmarks like the Osmania General Hospital, City College, and the State Central Library represent Hyderabad's civic and architectural history. These structures once

connected neighbourhoods and markets, serving as shared spaces in urban life," the WMF stated. This listing owes much to the efforts of three Hyderabadis and WMF India Council members Shalini Bhupal and Xavier Augustin and conservation architect Anuradha Naik. "When organisations like WMF back a project, it brings global credibility. It also starts local conversations and encourages people to care for their heritage, which is of utmost importance. WMF has been part of rebuilding projects like Angkor Wat and Notre Dame. Their expertise can change how Musi's historic buildings are preserved," Xavier Augustin told.

ESTD. 1960.

Aostoria Restaurant

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

Ek baar khaoge toh baar baar Aaoge

5-9-8 / C Ag Office Road, Opposite To Rbi, Hyderabad

Bhairi Ramachandra Yadav Participates in Sankranti Kite Festival Celebrations in Netaji Nagar Colony



Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan. 17

The Sankranti Kite Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the youth of Netaji Nagar Colony in the Gachibowli division. The event was organized under the leadership of the youth in the area. BC United Forum Telangana State President Bhairi Ramachandra Yadav participated in the festivities and extended his warm wishes for Sankranti and the kite festival to the people of the country.

In his address, Yadav encouraged the youth to move forward with positive thoughts both in the field of sports and in festival celebrations. He particularly emphasized the dangers associated with the use of manja (glass-coated thread), which has led to injuries and even fatalities. He urged the public to avoid using manja threads and to celebrate the festival joyfully in a safe and natural way, ensuring no harm comes to

anyone. Yadav also highlighted the importance of safety and awareness, urging the youth to be cautious during the celebrations. The event was organized by the Netaji Nagar Youth Committee, with participation from Youth President DJ Bhavan, Raju, Lavnachari, Ashok, Krishna, Suman, Chari, Raghu, Subrahmanyam, Shashanth, Prashanth, and other youth members. They wished everyone a prosperous Sankranti and successfully conducted

MP Vaddiraju Invited to Inaugurate New Supermarket

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan. 17

Managing Director of 7AM Organization, Bhukya Shobhan Babu, extended an invitation to Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Vaddiraju Ravichandra to inaugurate a new supermarket being set up by his company. Shobhan Babu has already established 10 supermarkets under the 7AM brand in areas such as Gachibowli, Nanakramguda, and Kokapet. The new store, located in the Kondapur Sumadhura Harijon Gated Community, is set to open on Saturday evening. Shobhan Babu personally in-



invited MP Ravichandra to attend the inauguration as the chief guest. On Thursday evening, accompanied by his close associates and the President of the Lions Club of Kesamudram, Mamidi Ashok, Shobhan Babu felicitated MP Ravichandra with a shawl and presented him with an invitation letter. MP Ravichandra responded positively to the invitation.

Passengers Pick APSRTC Due to Low Fares

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Passengers travelling to Andhra Pradesh for Sankranti were found to be favouring APSRTC buses for their lower fares over those of the TGSRTC. APSRTC retained standard ticket fares, whereas the TGSRTC charged one-and-a-half times the regular fare for its special services. AP buses were offering luxury and deluxe services, the Mahalakshmi fares do not apply for these services on the



TSRTC, thereby eliminating any advantage. APSRTC deployed 2,200 special buses for

the festive season and became the first choice. Those who were unable to secure

APSRTC tickets opted for the TGSRTC services. Despite this, all TGSRTC buses have reported full occupancy through advance bookings. TGSRTC, on the other hand, operated 1,600 special buses and 1,500 regular. A senior TGSRTC official noted that 330 special buses scheduled for Friday and Saturday achieved full occupancy through advance reservations.

Explaining the higher fares, the official said, "TGSRTC's special buses, which often

have no fixed depot stops, run empty in one direction, such as the 650-km trip to Visakhapatnam. The additional fuel costs are a factor, leading to the one-and-a-half fare for special buses. Each bus carries around 40 passengers." TGSRTC reported carrying approximately five lakh passengers during the Sankranti season, with additional trips planned for the weekend to accommodate the ongoing demand of people returning to Telangana.

Telangana launches internship programme to bridge education-industry gap

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has introduced an internship programme for students and young professionals. The initiative, announced on Thursday, aims to provide hands-on experience in policy-making, governance, and higher education management. The programme, aligned with UGC guidelines, is designed to equip participants with practical skills like project management, policy analysis, and research. It seeks to address the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-

world application, ensuring graduates are prepared for industry challenges.

This initiative is said to be part of broader reforms unveiled by TGCHE, which include a major overhaul of the undergraduate syllabus. The revised curriculum would align with global standards and focus on employability, innovation, and practical skills. Committees led by academic and industry experts are working to update the syllabus to meet contemporary demands, the notice said. "These reforms aim to create a robust education system that prepares students for modern challenges like digital

Enumamula agriculture market opens after Sankranti

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

After a five-day holiday for Sankranti, Enumamula Agriculture Market in Warangal saw a bustling atmosphere on Thursday as farmers brought large quantities of chilli and cotton to sell their crops. The market saw the arrival of around 4,000 chilli bags of various varieties and 600 cotton bags. To handle the surge, authorities made special arrangements to ensure smooth operations. Among the chilli varieties, Teja Chilli fetched a maximum price of ₹14,800 per quintal and a minimum of ₹1,100, while Wonder Hot Chilli sold at a maximum of



₹13,000 and a minimum of ₹10,000. Cotton was sold at a maximum price of ₹7,210 per quintal and a minimum of ₹6,200, slightly below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹7,521.

Meanwhile, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) announced a further reduction in the MSP for cotton, citing quality considerations. The new MSP, effective from today, stands at ₹7,421 per quintal, down from ₹7,471, marking a

₹50 decrease. Over the past 15 days, the MSP has been reduced by a total of ₹100. In private markets, cotton is currently being sold at ₹7,060 per quintal, further adding to concerns among farmers. The lively trading at the Enumamula Market reflects both the excitement of post-festival sales and the challenges faced by farmers navigating fluctuating market dynamics.

Telangana Delegation Visits Queensland Sport and Athletics

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

On the second day of their visit to Australia, the Telangana delegation led by government sports adviser A.P. Jitender Reddy engaged in discussions with senior officials of the Queensland government in Australia to gain an understanding of the advanced sports culture and infrastructure. The focus was on the development of a high-performance sports academy, a sports university, and modern sports infrastructure in Hyderabad.

The delegation visited the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre



(QSAC), an elite sports institute known for training world-class athletes and explored their high-performance training programmes. The delegation also inspected Brisbane's preparations as a likely host of the 2032 Olympics. They visited sports science centres to study how technology is being used to boost athlete performance, as well as Springfield City to study its innovative smart city development.

Give Velimela lands back to tribals: Raghunandan

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

BJP Medak MP M. Raghunandan Rao demanded that the government give land rights to tribal farmers who have been cultivating a 429-acre parcel in Kondakal and Velimela villages in Shankarpally and Ramachandrapuram mandals of Sangareddy and Rangareddy districts respectively. He charged that some land sharks had been trying to get control over this huge chunk of land.

Addressing a press conference, Raghunandan Rao said the tribal farmers had been mak-



ing multiple rounds of revenue offices seeking land ownership rights as they have been cultivating the land for generations. The government had long ago allotted 180 acres to the AP radesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) to set up indus-

tries. The MP said the tribals were being deprived of their rights over the land as some BRS leaders have eyed a large chunk of it. "The revenue officers have given new survey numbers to these land parcels as part of survey settlement. Some BRS

leaders took advantage of it and set their sights on the land, which is worth more than ₹1,200 crore. The dispute started in 2009, is still going on and false cases have been filed against 17 tribals," he explained. Raghunandan Rao said the Sangareddy police have been camping on the land for the last three days as some people are trying to get the land by vacating the villagers. He urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to sell the 180-acre land and use the funds for Rythu Bharosa. He announced his visit to the village on Friday.



Karne Prabhakar and G. Devi Prasad Criticize ED Investigations, Defend KTR's Integrity

Hyderabad
R Santosh chowdary
WUT | Jan. 17

Former MLC Karne Prabhakar and senior leader G. Devi Prasad, speaking at Telangana Bhavan, strongly criticized the ongoing ED investigations, calling them a deliberate attempt to implicate Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) in false cases. They alleged that the cases are part of a larger conspiracy to disrupt Telangana's progress and tarnish KTR's image. "KTR has been consistent in his vision for Telangana to become the number one state in the country. His efforts brought global recognition, including hosting a prestigious car race. These baseless cases are aimed at halting such achievements," Prabhakar stated. The leaders accused some media channels of sensationalizing the issue and misleading the public. "In a sensitive matter like an ED inves-

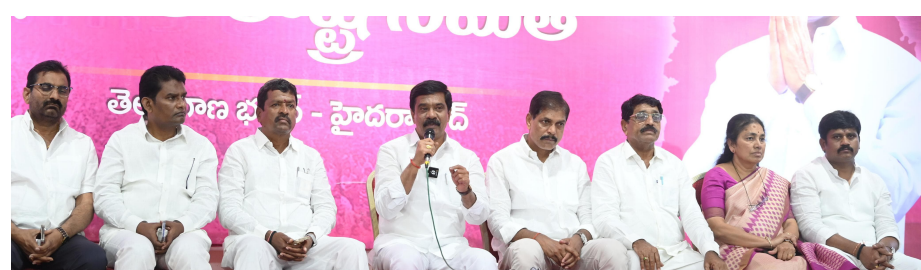
tigation, confidentiality should be maintained. Unfortunately, certain channels are acting as investigators, creating unnecessary confusion among people," said Prabhakar. They also expressed concern over the alleged misuse of law enforcement, claiming that state ministers and police are unfairly targeting opposition leaders. "It's troubling to see some leaders being detained and cases being fabricated to intimidate them. This is unacceptable," Prasad added. The duo demanded the immediate release of detained leaders and the withdrawal of false cases. "Our leader faced the ACB investigation on November 9 without fear, proving his honesty. We stand united against these conspiracies and call for justice," they concluded. The remarks come amidst rising political tensions in the state, with opposition parties alleging vendetta politics.

Prashanth Reddy Slams Revanth Reddy for False Promises and Political Deceit

Hyderabad
R santosh chowdary
WUT | Jan. 17

Former Minister and MLA Prashanth Reddy launched a blistering attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of spreading lies and failing to fulfill promises made to the people of the state. Reddy criticized Revanth for shifting his stance toward Congress leader

Sonia Gandhi, calling it a ploy to gain favor with Rahul Gandhi, who has allegedly refused him a meeting for four months. "He once blamed Sonia for delaying Telangana's formation and causing student deaths but now calls her a great leader to win political brownie points," he remarked. Highlighting Revanth's unfulfilled pledges, Prashanth Reddy pointed out that



promises like financial aid for women, unemployment benefits, and job notifications remain unimplemented even after 400 days of his tenure. He also alleged that Revanth's leadership led

to Congress's defeat in Maharashtra elections, warning Delhi voters of similar outcomes. Addressing the controversy surrounding the Formula E car race, Reddy dismissed corruption allega-

tions against K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), labeling them as politically motivated. He accused Congress and BJP leaders of colluding to tarnish KTR's image, asserting that all expenses for the

race were transparent and accounted for. "KTR is a fearless leader who will emerge unscathed. We will continue to expose Revanth Reddy's failures and fight for the promises made to Telangana's people," he said. The fiery remarks reflect escalating tensions in Telangana's political arena as parties gear up for a heated election season.

Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II prioritises water sharing issues for crucial phase of hearing

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan . 17



The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) issued a significant ruling on Thursday, deciding to prioritize the 'Further Reference' in its ongoing proceedings. This decision pertains to crucial questions concerning the water-sharing arrangement between the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which could have substantial implications for project-wise water allocation under Section 89 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act (APRA) of 2014. The KWDT-II is currently addressing two primary references. The first concerns Section 89 of the APRA 2014, which

outlines the equitable allocation of water resources between the newly formed states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The second reference pertains to Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act of 1956, which focuses on the broader allocation of Krishna River water among the riparian states. In its latest order, the Tribunal clarified that it would consider the evidence from the reference under Section

89 of the APRA in the context of the 'Further Reference'. The admissibility of certain documents will be determined during the arguments. While acknowledging that there is overlap between the issues in both references, the Tribunal determined that it would be more appropriate to address them separately. Telangana had initially requested that the Tribunal consider both references together. However, Andhra Pra-

desh objected to this proposal and filed a writ petition challenging the validity of the 'Further Reference'. Telangana, in its submission, strongly argued for a revision in the existing water-sharing ratio, which has been in place for the past decade. Currently, the ratio stands at 66:34 in favor of Andhra Pradesh, but Telangana has called for an amendment to this allocation. The state has urged the KWDT-II to revise the water-sharing arrangement and issue a permanent resolution in this regard. The proceedings witnessed significant participation from key figures. Telangana's Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Advocate General Sudarshan Reddy, Irriga-

tion Advisor Aditya Nath Das, and the Engineer-in-Chief (E-in-C) were present during the hearing. Senior counsel from the Supreme Court, including Vaidyanathan, former Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC) Vohra, and Ravindra Rao, represented Telangana in the ongoing legal battle over the Krishna River water-sharing dispute. This development adds another chapter to the long-standing dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the equitable distribution of Krishna River water, a matter of paramount importance to the agriculture and water management sectors in both states.

Public Rally in Hyderabad on March 15th to Push for Change in Political Leadership: Nune Venkat Swamy's Call

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan. 17



Nune Venkat Swamy, State Convenor of the Bahujan Liberation Front (BLF) and President of the People's Struggle Committee (PRPS), has called for a massive public rally on March 15th at the Saroornagar Stadium in Hyderabad. Under the slogan "We hold more power in the population," the rally aims to gather one lakh people from various regions to demand a change in political leadership in Telangana. Speaking at a PRPS leadership meeting, Venkat Swamy emphasized the need for a new political system where power is distributed among marginalized

communities. He proposed that over 50% of the state's BC population should have the opportunity to serve as Chief Ministers for two years, SCs (with 20% of the population) for one and a half years, and tribals (with 10%) for one year. Additionally, he called for rotating terms for Muslim and women leaders, with each holding the position for six months. Venkat Swamy also high-

lighted the issues faced by farmers, urging action against rising labor costs for hamalis and delayed payments for agricultural produce. He called for the continuation of CCI procurement centers until the end of January to prevent exploitation by middlemen. The meeting was chaired by PRPS District Vice-President Nagilla Yadayya, and attended by several local leaders and activists.

Laksh Dappulu - Velu Gonthulu Mega Show in Hyderabad's Cantonment Constituency

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan . 17



On February 7, a grand mega exhibition featuring Laksh Dappulu (100,000 drummers) and Velu Gonthulu (100,000 voices) will be held at the Dream Land Garden, located in the Cantonment Constituency of Hyderabad. Prominent poet and singer Daruvu Anjan stated that people from across the state should gather in large numbers to support this historic event. In a press conference at the venue, Daruvu Anjan expressed hope that the long-awaited implementation of the SC categorization, after 30 years of

struggle, is now near. He appealed to the state government to take the initiative and officially implement this process. He praised Manda Krishna Madiga for his relentless 30-year battle to secure the democratic rights of the SC community, calling it a monumental effort. Senior poet

and journalist Mohan Bairagi emphasized that even the Supreme Court has called for the implementation of the categorization, urging both the central and state governments to act swiftly and make it official. He called for widespread support from districts to ensure the success of this movement. The event was

attended by several key leaders including: • Dappu Mallikarjun Madiga, MSP Hyderabad District Official Representative • Itik Sri Kishan Madiga, MSP Hyderabad District Vice President • Ajith Kalyan Valmiki, MSP Hyderabad District Executive President • Mand Madhu Madhukar Madiga, MRPS Hyderabad District Secretary • Babender Madiga, Doba Murali Madiga, Komula Madhu Madiga, Ragati Naresh Madiga, Edelli Praveen Madiga, Tandri Ranjith Madiga, and other leaders from the community.

Congress Govt commitment to wards the development of all communities: TPCC Dr Satyam Srirangam

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Jan . 17



Congress party Kukatpally constituency in-charge Bandi Ramesh and TPCC spokesperson Dr Satyam Srirangam attended the swearing-in ceremony of the members of the governing board of the new temple committee of Sri Dwadasha Jyotirlinga Bhuvaneshwari Devasthanam in the Kukatpally Pally village and congratulated them. At this juncture, Satyam Srirangam said that the Congress People's Government will develop temples irrespective of caste and creed politics, and also said that in the next few days, full appointments will be complete in all the committees in the Kukatpally constituency. Market Committee Chairman

Pushpa Reddy, A Block President Nagireddy, B Block President Tumu Venu, Congress Party Senior Leader Satish Reddy, Gottimukkala Venkateswara Rao, Sadhu Prathapa Reddy and Block Presidents, Block Women Presidents, Division Presidents and Congress Party Senior Leaders, Youth Leaders Women Leaders, Activists, local people, devotees, colloquial people and others were participated in this sacred programme.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Faces Criticism Over Remarks on Reservation and Dalit Rights

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan. 17



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent comments on reservation for Dalits and backward classes have sparked widespread criticism. In his statement, Bhagwat suggested that true freedom for the nation would only be achieved when reservations for Dalits and backward classes are abolished. Bhagwat's remarks about the nation having attained "real independence" in 2024 have led to outrage, with many accusing him of dishonoring the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters, martyrs, and patriots. Critics argue that the RSS, during India's independence struggle, lacked active participation and now seems to be conspiring to strip away the remaining support for marginalized communities. Furthermore, Bhagwat's call for abolishing reservation raises concerns

about the treatment of Dalits and backward classes, with accusations that the RSS aims to undermine their historical contributions to society. In response, Mohan Bhagwat was challenged to address several key questions: 1. When will Dalits and backward communities experience true freedom in India? 2. Why has no Dalit ever been appointed as an RSS leader in the organization's 100-year history? 3. Why has a woman never been considered for the position of RSS Chief? 4. When will caste enumeration be conducted? 5. When will reservations for Dalits and backward classes be adjusted according to their population proportion?

Over 2,000 government schools in Telangana lack toilet facilities for girls

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan . 17



Thousands of students in government-run schools across Telangana are grappling with a lack of proper sanitation facilities, with over 2,000 schools having no toilets at all and another 2,200 schools facing defunct facilities. The findings, revealed in the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) Plus report for the academic year 2023-24, have brought to light the grim reality of basic hygiene issues in schools. Out of 29,383 government-managed girls' and co-educational schools, 27,366 schools have toilet facilities, leaving 2,017 schools without this essential amenity. Female students, in particular, are bearing the brunt of this crisis, as many are forced to either use open spaces or hold their bladder until they return home. The lack of toilets has led to several girls reporting urinary tract infec-

tions, with the problem worsening during menstruation. Without access to safe and hygienic facilities, many female students are compelled to stay home during their periods, affecting their education. Even among the schools equipped with toilets, only 25,089 have functional facilities, while 2,277 toilets remain unusable due to poor maintenance, lack of running water, or absence of security. Telangana ranks below the national average, with only 93.1 per-

cent of schools having toilet facilities for girls compared to the national average of 97.1 percent. In terms of functional toilets, the State lags further behind, with just 85.4 percent of schools meeting this criterion against the national average of 93.2 percent. The situation is equally concerning for boys in government schools, where 4,823 schools lack toilet facilities and 2,618 schools have non-functional toilets. Only 83.2 percent of schools in the State pro-

vide toilet facilities for boys, compared to the national average of 94.8 percent, with just 74.1 percent having functional toilets, far below the national average of 90 percent. Teachers and administrators blame stalled construction projects and poor maintenance for the crisis. The construction of toilets under the "Mana Ooru - Mana Badi" program was halted midway in several schools following a change in the State government and subsequent lack of funds.

Efforts to resume these projects under the "Ammam Adarsha Patashala Committees" initiative also failed to address the problem. A government high school headmaster, speaking anonymously, stated, "Lack of maintenance and timely release of school grants are the primary reasons for this issue. Additionally, the absence of security has left school toilets vulnerable to theft. In many cases, taps and fixtures were stolen, and running water supply remains a persistent challenge." The findings highlight the urgent need for immediate intervention by the State government to address these infrastructural issues. Completing stalled projects, ensuring regular maintenance, and providing sufficient funds for school grants are essential to improving the situation. Without these measures, thousands of students will continue to face health risks, indignity, and disruption in their education.

AIMIM MLA Kausar Mohiuddin Meets GHMC Officials to Address Development Issues

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17



AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin met with the GHMC Commissioner and Zonal Commissioner on Thursday evening to discuss various development activities and address pending proposals in the Karwan constituency. During the meeting, the MLA highlighted the need for remodeling the sewerage system in the area and raised concerns about sanitation issues. He also emphasized the impor-

tance of regular fogging around Shah Hatim Lake, Huda Park, Balkapur Nala, and the Musi River to combat mosquito-borne diseases. Additionally, the MLA requested the officials to instruct the entomology department to carry out regular fogging opera-

tions in the constituency. He also urged action to resolve the issue of non-functioning streetlights, which has been affecting residents' safety and convenience. The GHMC officials assured the MLA of their commitment to addressing these issues promptly.

Etala Rajender Lays Foundation for Urban Health Center in Keesara Mandal

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17



Malkajgiri Member of Parliament, Etala Rajender, has laid the foundation stone for a new Urban Primary Health Center in Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District. The initiative is part of the central government's ongoing efforts to

improve healthcare services for the public. The Urban Health Center, along with Basti Hospitals, Dayaganstik Centers, and ASHA

Workers, will receive significant funding to enhance medical access and care. The foundation stone for the facility, which is being constructed at a cost of ₹1.5 crore, was laid in the presence of MLA Malareddy. Located in Rampally, the health center aims to provide essential medical services to the local population.

'We lost so many': Gaza cautiously waits for ceasefire as bombing continues

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 17

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip woke up on Thursday to the sound of renewed bombing, adding trepidation to the joy they felt at the news that a ceasefire had been agreed between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas the night before.

They hope that announcement will mean an end to Israel's 15-month war, which has killed more than 46,700 Palestinians and left thousands more missing. But their memories of the war will not go away any time soon. In Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, many people are displaced from other areas of the enclave after fleeing their homes in the wake of Israeli attacks or Israeli orders to leave or face bombing.

They have struggled to survive. Many have lost their nearest and dearest and feel lucky to be alive. But what comes next is still unknown. And with the devastation across Gaza so evident and Israel seemingly unwilling to leave the territory alone, many pitfalls lie ahead in the future.

Al Jazeera spoke to people in Deir el-Balah the day after Wednesday's announcement of the ceasefire as they await its implementation on Sunday. Here's what they had to say: It feels very nice. We're so happy. It feels like it's Eid. We hope this feeling remains forever and that we don't see any more bloodshed. We hope that we don't see it again and that we won't have to live through this experience again. We all lost people. I lost my brother, my nephew, my other nephew and another relative. I'm worried that in the coming days we will see more escalation. This is the nature of the Israeli politicians. Before signing a ceasefire or before a ceasefire comes into effect, they continu-

ously try to escalate the killing more and more. The pace of the killing intensifies. In 2014, on the last day of the war, I lost my sister and her children.

There is still a great concern that the Israeli leadership might back-track on agreements, and the pace of the killings has increased in the last two or three days, so I pray to God that this does not happen.

After the war, there will be a large number of people suffering from very difficult psychological conditions — from tensions and phobias and the fears they have lived through. It's possible that these conditions and psychological fatigue could even get worse and develop beyond depression.

There must be treatment for these people. Even a few days ago, I had a case of an elderly woman whose son passed away. She was suffering from severe mental health problems and began psychiatry sessions to aid her situation. Honestly, my feelings are indescribable. It was a great joy, I cried and was happy at the same time. I cried over the things that happened to us. It wasn't easy, and there is a lot of sadness. People's hearts are wounded. The experience was a heavy burden and very difficult.

We lost people. Some are missing, some were taken by the [Israeli] occupation and some were martyred. Generally, I'm happy that the bloodshed and violence are going to stop, but at the same time, I'm sad because we've lost many dear and precious people. But it happened, and all you can do is pray to God.

God willing, the ceasefire won't collapse and will continue this time. Honestly, I would have preferred an immediate ceasefire because these two difficult days have been worse than the whole of the past year.

'Devastating': Wildfire ravages historic Black community in Los Angeles

Los Angeles
WUT | Jan . 17

Bill Threadgill picked through the ashes of his home in Altadena, California, where he lived for 15 years, pulling out copper pipes and setting them aside to sell.

Only his chimney and two porch pillars remained standing, but nothing else. A wildfire had burned the whole structure to the ground. Even before flames swept through the area, his family had struggled to make ends meet. "We've been stretched financially," Threadgill, a handyman and caregiver, said through his N95 face mask.

On January 7, the Eaton Fire ignited in the nearby mountains, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. Fanned by hurricane-force winds, the fire damaged or destroyed more than 5,700 structures and killed at least 16 people.

It was one of a series of blazes that tore through the Los Angeles area over the last week and a half, intensified by climate change. All told, nearly 12,000 buildings have been consumed, and mpeople killed.

The fires could become one of the costliest natural

disasters in United States history, with experts estimating \$250bn in damage. While multimillion-dollar homes were destroyed in the wealthy Pacific Palisades area, the working-class neighbourhood of Altadena was also devastated.

Some of the victims were elderly or disabled and could not flee. Threadgill himself lived with and cared for a 73-year-old friend whom he considers family. She was in short-term convalescent care at the time of the fire. She has no home to return to.

As he walked through the debris, he searched for his calico cat, Catra. "I hope that she got out, because I left the back door open for her to get out," he said. He looked at the spot where his front door used to be. "Won't be entering here like this no more. Never again," Threadgill said. "Uprooted unexpectedly. It's devastating." Nestled near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Altadena is a proud African American and immigrant community. Of its 42,000 residents, 58 percent are people of colour.

The community started to take shape in the 1960s. Large numbers of Black



families had left the US South and moved westwards, as part of a trend known as the Great Migration. Altadena was one of the few neighbourhoods in the area where African Americans could obtain housing loans at the time.

Over the years, prominent Black artists would settle in the community, including Oscar-winning actor Sidney Poitier and famed science fiction writer Octavia Butler. Butler, who is buried in the nearby Mountain View Cemetery, wrote a novel called Parable of the Sower, which took place in Los Angeles against the backdrop of raging wildfires — something locals

and fans of the book have drawn parallels to during the current crisis.

Today, 18 percent of Altadena residents are Black, a markedly higher percentage than in neighbouring Pasadena.

On January 7, the neighbourhood was under a red flag warning, signalling conditions were perfect for fires.

The weather was warm. The vegetation was unseasonably dry. And the Santa Ana winds were blowing strong.

That day, when the Eaton Fire ignited in the mountains, Threadgill felt relaxed. "I was 100 percent [certain] that the fire up in the hills was not come down here," he said.

Then the wind kicked up and blew the flames towards his home. As he gathered bags of possessions and loaded them into his truck, he could feel the heat of the flames. "As I was walking down the street, embers were under my feet, so I really had to run at that point. And the rest is history. It caught fire," he said.

Down the street from Threadgill, Elisa Gonzalez and her husband arrived home from vacation on January 7 to a cloud of smoke over the city. They began unpacking, but when the wind picked up, they repacked their bags and evacuated.

When they returned the next day, they saw the

house next door had burned down. Embers still smouldered across the neighbourhood. But Gonzalez noticed several community members were in her back yard, spraying her house with water. She credits them with saving her home.

"It was amazing. I couldn't believe that people around the neighbourhood were just doing whatever they could to save the structures that were left," she said.

Threadgill was one of the people who hosed down houses on their street after losing his own home. "I was doing everything that I could to help," he said.

While it's not yet clear what ignited the Eaton Fire, some residents who lost their homes are suing Southern California Edison, alleging that the utility company's electrical equipment sparked the fire.

They also claim it was negligent to run electricity through the utility's power lines during a red flag warning.

"It really upsets me to know that it could have been negligence on their part," Gonzalez said. "That gets me really upset, thinking that it could have been prevented."

BJP Releases Second List for Delhi Assembly Elections, Features 29 Candidates

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 17

The BJP on Saturday released its second list of 29 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, fielding former AAP leader Kapil Mishra from Karawal Nagar. Mishra, now aligned with hardline Hindutva politics, replaces sitting MLA Mohan Singh Bisht. The party also named Harish Khurana, the son of former Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana, as the candidate from Moti Nagar. With this announcement, the BJP has now named candidates for 58 out of the 70 seats

in the Delhi Assembly. The elections are scheduled for February 5, with the vote counting set for February 8. Mishra, known for his controversial speeches before the communal riots in north-east Delhi in February 2020, will compete for the seat alongside Abhay Verma, the sitting BJP MLA from Laxmi Nagar, who will seek reelection. Verma won the constituency in 2020 by a narrow margin of just over 800 votes. Additionally, BJP has fielded candidates from the Purvanchali community, including Bajrang Shukla from Kirari and Pankaj Singh from Vikaspuri.

Karnail Singh, Delhi BJP's Mandir Prakashth chief, will contest against sitting AAP MLA and former minister Satyendar Jain in Shakoor Basti. Other notable candidates include former Kasturba Nagar MLA Neeraj Basoya, who recently defected from Congress, and Pawan Sharma, the former Delhi BJP general secretary, who will contest from Uttam Nagar. The list also includes several women candidates, such as Deepti Indora from Matia Mahal, Urmila Kailash Gangwar from Madipur (SC), Shweta Saini from Tilak Nagar, Priyanka Gautam from Kondli

(SC), and Neelam Pahalwan from Najafgarh. The BJP has fielded four former MLAs and eight sitting municipal councilors. Former mayor Shyam Sharma has been nominated from the Hari Nagar seat, which has a significant Sikh population. The party is expected to announce candidates for the remaining 12 seats, including Delhi Cantt, Greater Kailash, and Shahdara, after further discussions. Sources indicated that former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi was considered for the Greater Kailash seat, although she expressed interest in contesting from

Mark Carney, ex-Bank of Canada governor, launches bid to replace Trudeau

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 17

Mark Carney, the former head of the Bank of Canada, has formally entered the race to replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as leader of the ruling Liberal Party. Carney launched his campaign for the party leadership at a rally in Edmonton, the capital of Canada's western province of Alberta, on Thursday afternoon. "I'm back home in Edmonton to declare my candidacy for leader of the Liberal Party and prime minister of Canada," said Carney, flanked by supporters and Liberal lawmakers.

The 59-year-old is considered one of the frontrunners in the race to replace Trudeau. He previously served as governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013, before he took the helm of the Bank of England until 2020.

Trudeau, who announced he was stepping down in early January amid growing pressure and slumping public support, will stay on until the party chooses his successor in early March.

The Liberals are hoping that a new leader will help boost their chances ahead of an election that must be held before late October. Recent surveys about the upcoming election show the opposition Conservative Party with an advantage of more than 20 percentage points over the Liberals, who

have faced growing anger as many Canadians grapple with an affordability crisis.

Recent surveys about the upcoming election show the opposition Conservative Party with an advantage of more than 20 percentage points over the Liberals, who have faced growing anger as many Canadians grapple with an affordability crisis.

The Liberal government also has been under pressure to stave off a threat from United States President-elect Donald Trump to impose steep, 25-percent tariffs on Canadian goods when the Republican leader takes office next week.

Carney, who has tried to position himself as a political outsider, said on Thursday that his leadership bid comes at a critical moment for the country.

"Too many are falling behind. Too many young people can't afford a home. Too many people can't find a doctor," he said.

"And then on top of that ... in just four days, the United States will swear in Donald Trump as their 47th president, a man who threatens economic force on his closest, most steadfast allies, including Canada."

Carney also criticised Pierre Poilievre, the head of the Conservative Party, who is widely expected to become the country's next prime minister after this year's elections.

CABINET'S DECISION ON 8TH PAY COMMISSION WILL BOOST CONSUMPTION: PM MODI

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 17

In a major decision on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of the 8th Pay Commission to revise the salaries and allowances of central government employees and pensioners. This move, aimed at improving the quality of life for millions of government personnel and retirees, is also expected to give a significant boost to domestic consumption and the economy. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi expressed his gratitude toward government employees, saying, "We are all proud of the efforts of all



employees, who work to build a Viksit

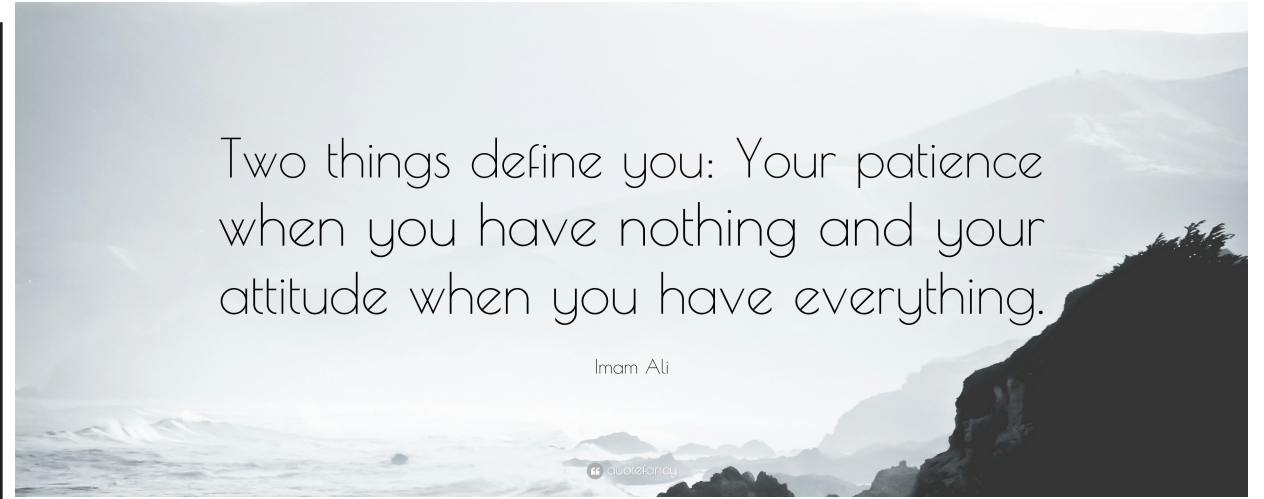
Bharat. The Cabinet's decision on the 8th Pay Commission will improve quality of life and give a boost to consumption." Scope and Impact of the Decision The new Pay Commission is set to benefit nearly 50 lakh central government employees and approximately 65 lakh pensioners. By ad-

ressing key salary revisions and improving allowances, the initiative is expected to enhance the purchasing power of government personnel, ultimately driving greater economic activity. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnav, officially confirmed the development and shared critical details during a press briefing. "The Prime Minister has approved the formation of the 8th Central Pay Commission for central government employees. The chairman and two members of the Commission will be appointed shortly," the minister stated. Vaishnav further highlighted the government's proactive ap-

proach, noting that the Commission's recommendations would be delivered well in advance of the 2026 expiration of the 7th Pay Commission's term. "The new Pay Commission will be operational by 2025 to ensure a seamless transition," he added. Consultative Approach To ensure comprehensive and effective recommendations, consultations will be held with central and state governments, as well as with various stakeholders. The recommendations of the Pay Commission are expected to continue shaping the salary structures, benefits, and allowances for government employees, which also serve as a

benchmark for most state-owned organizations. Historical Context Since 1947, the government has constituted seven pay commissions to address the evolving financial needs of government employees and pensioners. The last Pay Commission, the 7th, was formed in 2014, and its recommendations were implemented from January 1, 2016. The role of the Pay Commission has remained critical in maintaining equitable salary structures and improving the quality of life for government personnel. Anticipated Outcomes The decision to set up the 8th Pay Commission comes at a crucial time, with the government focus-

ing on stimulating economic growth and improving domestic consumption. By increasing the disposable incomes of millions of employees and retirees, this move is expected to catalyze demand in various sectors and provide an economic boost. The announcement underscores the government's commitment to addressing the welfare of its employees and pensioners while aligning with broader national objectives of economic stability and growth. The details regarding the Commission's leadership and specific terms of reference are expected to be finalized in the coming months.



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

Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

SMART OR STUPID FOR 2025?

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan 12

"If we are so smart, why are we so stupid?" This striking remark by Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari has gained the attention of millions worldwide, sparking diverse reactions and reflections on the state of contemporary human intellect. My brief exploration into this question led me to realise that Harari is not the first great mind to express such a sentiment. Similar notions have been echoed by intellectuals and geniuses across history. For instance, there's a popular saying that, 'scientists should stop analysing animal intelligence and start studying human stupidity.' This perspective is often (though not definitively) attributed to Argentinian Nobel laureate César Milstein. Exis-

tential Questions

In the same manner, Albert Einstein once humorously quipped, "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe." Einstein's words remind us to be mindful of our own fallibility when attempting to understand and master the unknowns of the cosmos. Harari's statement reflects this lineage of thought. Like Milstein and Einstein, he underscores the importance of questioning, rethinking and facing our ignorance, even as we invent, discover, and innovate.

A few days ago, I watched an intriguing interview in which journalist Andrew Ross Sorkin spoke with Harari. In this conversation, Harari raised numerous existential questions about the

trajectory of technological advancements — are they for the good or the detriment of humanity? His most emphatic observation was a haunting one: how can humans, capable of showcasing amazing scientific and technological achievements, also exhibit such profound stupidity that they risk self-destruction?

Harari's latest book, Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI, released in September 2024, delves into the hidden dynamics of information networks, which are truthful and deceptive, that form the foundations of artificial intelligence (AI) systems. He warns that these networks can lead to unpredictable and potentially catastrophic consequences, including scenarios like an AI-



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

Brief Insights

Notice to director of prosecutions in contempt case

Justice Pulla Karthik of the Telangana High Court ordered notice to the director of prosecutions holding full additional charge for the state and others in a contempt case pertaining to delegation of powers to a junior officer. The judge was dealing with a contempt case filed by P. Manjula Devi alleging wilful disobedience of the orders passed by the judge in an earlier writ plea. The petitioner, the most senior officer, working as additional public prosecutor (grade I)/deputy director of prosecution before the XIII Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, LB Nagar filed the writ plea. The petitioner contended that administrative powers were delegated to the APP (grade-I)/deputy director of prosecution declaring them as unit officers at the district-level as per GO dated September 24, 2013.

As per the GO, since the petitioner as the senior-most officer in the unit was deemed as the unit officer and the drawing and disbursing officer in Rangareddy district. The petitioner alleged that the respondent vide impugned proceedings delegated the powers to the unofficial respondent, who is junior to the petitioner and is the most junior officer in the district. The judge in the earlier plea passed an interim order suspending the impugned proceedings, insofar as conferring the powers of drawing and disbursing officer to unofficial respondent was concerned. The petitioner alleged that despite the interim suspension, the respondents failed to implement the orders passed by the judge and thus guilty of contempt. The matter is posted for further adjudication.

Telangana HC disposes 66-year long pending CS-7/1958 suit

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

The Telangana High Court has recently disposed of a partition suit that was pending for 66 years, known as CS 7/1958, among the legal heirs of Nawab Moin-ud-Dowla Bahadur (son of Asman Jah Bahadur, 28th prime minister of Hyderabad and Tahniyath Ali Khan, daughter of the fifth Nizam) over the Matraka properties of the family, which includes several maktas like Raidurg and Shamshiguda. The CS 7 suit led to multiple court cases and applications before the High Court and the Supreme Court.

A division bench of the High Court, comprising Chief Justice

Alok Aradhe and Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar, disposed of the suit a week back by substantiating the orders issued by the High Court in 1970, which had directed drawing the final decree by confirming the proportionate shares to the daughters and sons of Moin-ud-Dowla in all the scheduled properties, excluding the 25 maktas of Scheduled A properties of Asman Jah.

The 25 maktas, including Raidurg, Shivarampally, Shamshiguda, Somajiguda, Balapur and others, are claimed by the revenue department and the land is attached to the government. In the preliminary decree



issued in 1959, it was clearly stated that if the 25 maktas were restored or released in favour of the Asman Jahi Paigah, the arrears of income, future income, compensation or sale proceeds derived from them shall be distributed among the legal

heirs. While the suit was pending, several third parties and the legal heirs of the Nawab filed applications in the pending partition deeds claiming the land, seeking possession and delivering possession of the lands mentioned in

the 25 maktas. The third parties claimed that some of the legal heirs had sold their share and submitted to the High Court a copy of the order of the commissioner of survey settlement—releasing makta land dated 30.12.1977.

No document has been filed to the extent of the release order pertaining to the land in the maktas. The court faulted their claims and wanted to know what they were doing till 2023, as the release order was issued in 1977. The court expressed doubts about the document and rejected the claims, since the land was not available physically. The division bench, while concluding the litigation of CS 7/1958, observed that it went in respect of non-existing properties for 66 years and directed the registry to draft a final decree as per the orders issued in 1970, and to engross the same on stamp papers.

APPROACH AFTER ALL APPEALS: HC

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Justice T. Vinod Kumar of the Telangana High Court dismissed a writ plea reiterating that the remedy of appeal needed to be exhausted first, before invoking the jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by Gopu Srinivasa, who challenged the freezing orders issued by the inspector of police, Rajendranagar, which was confirmed

by the competent authority under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) that froze the petitioner's assets on suspicion of involvement in narcotics-related activities.

The petitioner argued that the original freezing order was set aside by the metropolitan sessions judge of RR district. Despite this, authorities issued fresh orders freezing the assets, which the petitioner claimed were illegal, violated principles of natural justice, and infringed rights under the

Constitution. The petitioner sought a declaration that the freezing orders were null and void and requested de-freezing of his properties. The judge, however, held that the petitioner should first exhaust the appellate remedy provided under Section 68-O of the NDPS Act. Citing the Supreme Court's judgment in Whirlpool Corporation v. Registrar of Trade Marks (1998), the judge, while dismissing the writ plea, directed the petitioner to approach the appellate authority under the NDPS

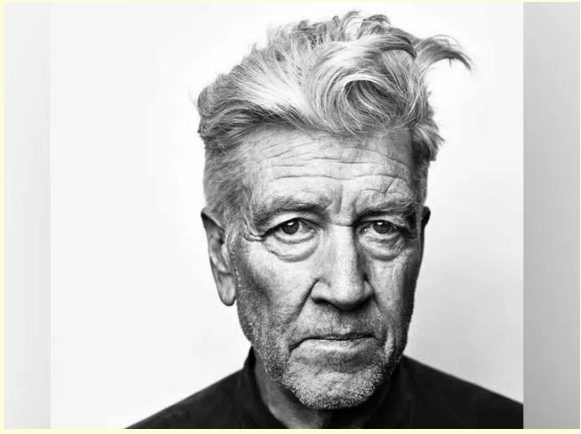
3 MEN FROM MADHYA PRADESH MURDER SEX WORKER IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Police on Thursday arrested three natives of Madhya Pradesh for murdering a commercial sex worker (CSW) and her associate in Puppalaguda, Narsingi, on January 11. The accused were identified as Rahul Kumar Saket, 26, Raj Kumar Saket, 22, Sukhendra Kumar Saket, 30. Police said Rahul had engaged the services of a CSW. She noticed that Rahul was secretly filming her and told her associate about it. Her friend then confronted Rahul, resulting in an argu-

ment. Police suspect Rahul then hatched the plan to kill the two. Rahul solicited the victim again, saying it was for his friend Sukhendra. The CSW was paid ₹4,000. On January 11, when the CSW was away, Rahul and Raj Kumar took her friend to a secluded place and stabbed him. He briefly fought back, police said. The duo then took the CSW to the spot and killed her. On January 12 morning, the accused left for their respective native villages in Madhya Pradesh. The Narsingi police traced them using technical.

'Blue Velvet' filmmaker David Lynch dies days before his 79th birthday



David Lynch, the filmmaker celebrated for his uniquely dark vision in such movies as Blue Velvet and Mulholland Drive and TV series Twin Peaks, has died just days before his 79th birthday.

His family announced the death in a Facebook post on Thursday. The cause of death and location was not immediately available, but Lynch had been public about his emphysema. "We would appreciate some privacy at this time. There's a big hole in the world now that he's no longer with us. But, as he would say, 'Keep your eye on the donut and not on the hole,'" the post read. "It's a beautiful day with golden sunshine and blue skies all the way."

Last summer, Lynch had revealed to Sight and Sound that he was diagnosed with emphysema and would not be leaving his home because of fears of contracting the coronavirus or "even a cold."

"I've gotten emphysema from smoking for so long and so I'm homebound whether I like it or not," he had said, adding that he didn't expect to make another film. "I would try to do it remotely, if it comes to it," Lynch said. "I wouldn't like that so much."

Lynch was a onetime painter who broke through in the 1970s with the surreal Eraserhead and rarely failed to startle and inspire audiences and peers in the following decades. His notable releases ranged from the neo-noir Mulholland Drive to the skewed Gothic of Blue Velvet to the eclectic and eccentric Twin Peaks.

His other credits included the crime story Wild at Heart, winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival; the biographical drama The Elephant Man and the G-rated, aptly straightforward The Straight Story.

Actors regularly appearing in his movies included Kyle McLachlan, Laura Dern, Naomi Watts and Richard Farnsworth.

Lynch was a Missoula, Montana, native who moved around often with his family as a child and would long feel most at home away from the classroom, free to explore his fascination with the world.

He had an early gift for visual arts and a passion for travel and discovery that led to his enrollment in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the beginning of a decade-long apprenticeship as a maker.

Saif Ali Khan attack: Give space to cope and heal as family, says wife Kareena Kapoor

Hyderabad WUT | Jan . 17

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan on Thursday requested the media to give them space to heal as a family as they deal with the attack on her husband Saif Ali Khan by an intruder at their Bandra home.

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan was repeatedly stabbed by an intruder in his highrise apartment in upscale Bandra early Thursday and rushed to



hospital with the blade still lodged in his spine,

an audacious attack that raises intriguing questions about security and celebrity life in the financial and showbiz hub. The 54-year-old, who received six stab injuries, including in his neck, was out of danger following an emergency surgery at the Lilavati-Hospital where he was taken after the attack outside his younger son Jeh's room around 2.30 am. In a statement on her Instagram account, Kareena said the family

was still trying to process the challenging day. She expressed gratitude to their well-wishers and fans for their love and concern and requested the media and paparazzi to refrain from their "relentless speculation" over the incident.

"It has been an incredibly challenging day for our family, and we are still trying to process the events that have unfolded. As we navigate this difficult time, I respectfully and humbly

request that the media and paparazzi refrain from the relentless speculation and coverage," she wrote on the social media platform.

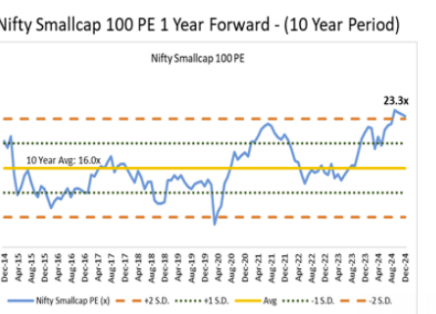
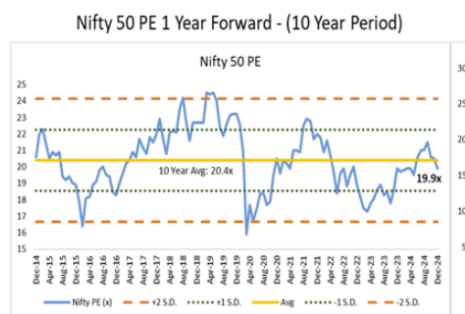
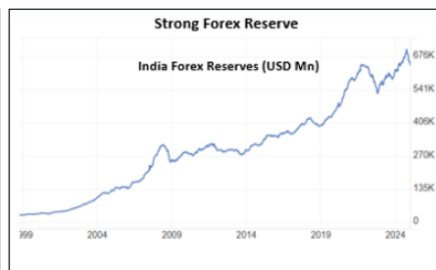
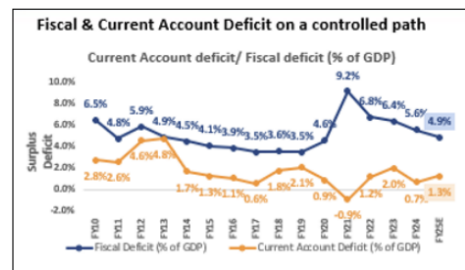
"While we appreciate the concern and support, the constant scrutiny and attention are not only overwhelming but also pose a significant risk to our safety. I kindly request that you respect our boundaries and give us the space we need to heal and cope as a family," Kareena added.

Motilal Oswal Private Wealth Recommends Hybrid Investment Approach Amid Global and Domestic Uncertainty

Mumbai WUT | Jan . 17

Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW) has advised investors to adopt a hybrid investment strategy for the first half of 2025, citing anticipated volatility driven by global and domestic events. Factors such as the new U.S. administration's policies, China's trade tariff responses, and the upcoming Indian Union budget are expected to create short-term uncertainty.

However, as clarity emerges, MOPW predicts a reduction in market volatility in the latter half of the year. Despite recent GDP slowdown, MOPW remains optimistic about India's growth trajectory. The firm highlights India's macroeconomic stability, bolstered by foreign exchange reserves and a regulated twin deficit. MOPW projects improved GDP growth in the second half of the year, with a recovery from the modest performance in Q2 FY25. Ashish Shanker, MD & CEO of MOPW,



noted that equity investors have seen strong returns post-COVID, driven by earnings growth and domestic inflows. However, with the inauguration of a new U.S. president and potential market fatigue, Shanker cautioned against overly optimistic expectations and emphasized the importance of risk management through asset allocation. MOPW's outlook for equities remains positive in the medium term, supported by India's stable economic environ-

ment, increasing government spending, and strong domestic investment flows. Despite flat growth expectations for FY25, the firm expects significant corporate earnings growth in FY26 and FY27. It recommends increasing equity allocation through Hybrid Equity-Oriented Funds or a staggered approach, with accelerated deployment in the event of a market correction. On fixed income, MOPW anticipates stability, advising overweight positions in

accrual and high-yield strategies, while remaining neutral on duration. For gold, MOPW maintains a positive outlook due to factors like declining USD share in global reserves and central bank buying. The real estate sector also shows promise, particularly in the commercial segment, with office space vacancies at their lowest since 2020. Investors are urged to carefully consider market risks and assess their portfolios accordingly.

Trident Group Launches Karamyogi Recruitment Drive to Hire 3,000 Skilled Individuals Across India



Trident Group, a leading global conglomerate, has announced the launch of its Karamyogi Recruitment Drive, with the goal of hiring 3,000 skilled individuals across India. This initiative demonstrates the company's continued commitment to creating positive change in local communities and contributing to the socio-economic growth of the nation. The recruitment drive will focus on key locations in Madhya Pradesh (Budhni) and Punjab (Dhaura and Sanghera), prioritizing female applicants and candidates with sports backgrounds. By providing employment to over 3,000 individuals, Trident Group aims to benefit more than 15,000 family members, boosting local economies, enhancing quality of life, and contributing to the national GDP. The initiative also seeks to promote skill development, empower women, and generate valuable tax revenue. Pooja Luthra, CHRO of Trident Group, commented on the recruitment drive, stating, "The Karamyogi recruitment drive aligns with our vision to create meaningful work opportunities for thousands while positively impacting the communities we serve. This initiative not only strengthens our workforce but also contributes to nation-building - towards a Viksit Bharat by empowering individuals and providing them with opportunities to grow." The recruitment process will include online registration, application submission, offline assessments, and skill evaluations. Successful candidates will be placed in various departments such as Operations, Engineering, Maintenance, and Administration. The positions will offer a starting salary of INR 50,000 per month for an 8-hour workday, ensuring dignified wages and a better work-life balance. Through this drive, Trident Group reaffirms its dedication to creating a lasting, positive impact on the communities it serves, while contributing to the broader goal of a Viksit Bharat.

Stonecraft Group Announces Entry into Assisted Living Sector with New Luxury Project in Hyderabad

Hyderabad WUT | Jan . 17

Stonecraft Group, a prominent biophilic real estate developer, has revealed its foray into the assisted living sector with a new luxury senior living project in Hyderabad. The project, set to be the largest and most premium of its kind in the city, will be located in Yadagirigutta. The development will feature state-of-the-art villas equipped with senior-focused amenities, offering enhanced comfort and care for elderly residents. The demand for senior



living solutions in India has been rising rapidly, with a recent JLL report projecting the senior population to exceed 0.1 billion and potentially triple by 2050. Southern India, particularly Hyderabad, leads the mar-

ket, accounting for 68% of the nation's senior living projects. This growing demand is fueled by an aging population and changing lifestyle preferences. Yadagirigutta, the chosen site for the project, is renowned for its proximity to world-class medical facilities like AIIMS and its cultural and spiritual significance. The location offers a moderate climate and cosmopolitan atmosphere, making it an ideal environment for senior citizens. Its spiritual ambiance, surrounded by temples, is expected to ap-

peal to seniors seeking a tranquil and nurturing community. Kirthi Chilukuri, Founder & Managing Director of Stonecraft Group, commented, "Assisted living has always been part of our long-term vision. With this project, we aim to redefine senior living by introducing premium, managed living solutions tailored to the evolving needs of our aging population. Hyderabad's exceptional weather, connectivity, and inclusive culture make it the perfect location for our first assisted living venture."

Samsung Launches New 9KG Bespoke AI Front Load Washing Machines in India

Hyderabad WUT | Jan . 17

Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, has expanded its Bespoke AI Laundry Series with the launch of its 9KG Front Load Washing Machines. This new range builds on the success of its 12KG counterparts, offering advanced features in a more compact design ideal for modern Indian households.

The 9KG washing machines are designed to handle large loads, making everyday laundry tasks such as washing clothes, bedsheets, and towels more efficient. Key features include Super Speed, which allows for faster



cycles, AI Energy Mode for up to 70% energy savings, and AI Eco Bubble, which ensures better fabric care. Additionally, the machines come with Hygiene Steam for a deep, hygienic clean. Samsung's Senior Director of Digital Appliances, Ghufan Alam, highlighted the machines' ability to blend style and functionality. "The sleek and compact design ensures they fit seam-

lessly into any space while offering exceptional performance. With AI-driven features like AI Control and Super Speed, these machines save both time and energy."

The new models feature Digital Inverter Technology (DIT) for quieter operation and improved durability, supported by a 20-year warranty. The 9KG washing machines are available in Navy, Black, and Inox finishes, priced starting at INR 40,990. Consumers can also avail of up to 15% cashback.

The machines are now available for purchase via Samsung's website, Samsung Shop App, retail stores, and other e-commerce platforms.

Coca-Cola India Sets to Refresh and Engage at Maha Kumbh 2025

New delhi WUT | Jan . 17

Coca-Cola India is all set to make its mark at Maha Kumbh 2025, offering its signature range of beverages including Coca-Cola, Thums Up, Sprite, Charged, Maaza, Kinley, Limca, Fanta, and Minute Maid to millions of attendees at the world's largest cultural gathering. The brand's commitment to hydration will be ev-

ident with Coca-Cola products available every 400 meters, ensuring no visitor is far from a refreshing drink. To commemorate this iconic occasion, Coca-Cola is introducing special edition packaging for select beverages, inspired by India's cultural traditions. These unique designs will provide attendees with collectible keepsakes, making the experience even more memorable. Additionally, the

brand has planned on-ground activations to enhance consumer convenience. Hydration carts and food court activations will offer easy access to refreshing drinks, perfectly complementing the diverse culinary offerings of the Kumbh. Coca-Cola India aims to elevate the festive atmosphere with engaging visuals and activations that not only refresh but also inspire social impact. The company



is focused on raising awareness about sustain-

ability through waste management initiatives

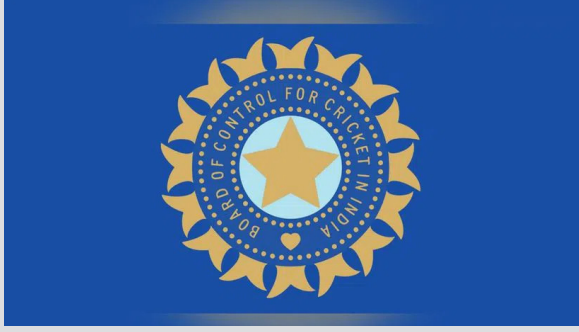
aimed at collecting and recycling PET waste,

showcasing the potential of repurposed packaging. Greishma Singh, Vice President Marketing, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, expressed her excitement, saying, "We're thrilled to be part of such a significant cultural event and are committed to enhancing the experience for millions. Our diverse beverage portfolio will pair perfectly with local flavors and offer immersive

experiences. Through our initiatives, we aim to foster social responsibility and collective action around sustainability." As Coca-Cola India joins in celebrating Maha Kumbh 2025, the brand is not just refreshing visitors but creating lasting moments of connection, reinforcing its commitment to making a positive impact and promoting a shared sense of responsibility.

CITY CLICKS

BCCI's 10-point policy: Domestic cricket mandatory, restrictions on family and personal staff stay



Mandatory domestic cricket, restriction on the presence of families and personal staff on tours and a bar on individual endorsements during series were among a slew of measures that the BCCI unveiled on Thursday in a 10-point policy to promote "discipline and unity" in the embattled national cricket team.

Non-compliance would invite sanctions, including cuts in their retainer fee from central contracts and a bar on participating in the cash-rich Indian Premier League. The measures have been announced in the wake of the team's disastrous tour of Australia which was preceded by a series whitewash against New Zealand at home.

The Board has approved only a two-week window for families to stay with the players during overseas tours, besides imposing restrictions on personal staff, and commercial shoots.

"Any exceptions or deviations must be pre-approved by the Chairman of the Selection Committee and Head Coach. Non-compliance may lead to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the BCCI," the Board policy states.

"Additionally, the BCCI reserves the right to take disciplinary action against a player which may include sanction against the concerned player from participating in all BCCI conducted tournaments including the Indian Premier League; and deduction from retainer amount/match fees under BCCI Player contract," it warns.

The document also states that from now on, players won't be allowed to travel separately during a tour and would also be discouraged from leaving early in case a tour or a match ends early.

Barcelona hammer Real Betis 5-1, advance to quarterfinals of Copa del Rey



Barcelona followed up its rout of Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup final with a comfortable 5-1 victory over Real Betis in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey.

Gavi and Jules Koundé scored a goal each in the first half-hour and Raphinha, Ferran Torres and Lamine Yamal added to the lead in the second half to give the Catalan club the win and a spot in the quarterfinals. It was the fourth straight victory in 2025 for Barcelona, which on Sunday defeated Madrid 5-2 in Saudi Arabia to win the Spanish Super Cup.

"We wanted to keep the momentum from the Super Cup here at home in front of our fans," Barcelona defender Pau Cubarsí said. "We continue like this and keep the foot on the throttle. The (Christmas) break did well for us, we were able to refresh." Barcelona had lost its last two games in 2024 before going on a winning streak against Barbastro in the Copa del Rey and Athletic Bilbao and Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

Playmaker Dani Olmo, registered in the last minute after a long battle between Barcelona, the Spanish league and Spain's federation because of a missed deadline by the club, helped set up Gavi's opening goal in the third minute at Montjuic stadium. Yamal gave the pass for Koundé's goal in the 27th.

Koundé thought he had added to the lead in first-half stoppage time but his effort was disallowed by video review because he was offside. Yamal also had one called back by the VAR because of offside early in the second half.

Barcelona's third goal finally counted when Raphinha found the net in a breakaway in the 58th. Torres scored the fourth from inside the area in the 67th, a few minutes after coming off the bench, and Yamal sealed it after a nice run in the 75th. Vitor Roque scored Betis' lone goal by converting an 84th-minute

Satwik-Chirag's speed, power, tall stature make them formidable opponents: Liang and Wang

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 17

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have established themselves as a formidable pair in men's doubles badminton because of their speed, power, and height, top opponents who could often run into the Indian duo in the coming times opined on Thursday. Satwik and Chirag inched closer to their first title of the season by reaching the quarterfinals of the India Open Super 750 tournament with a 20-22 21-14 21-16 win over Japan's Kenya Mitsuhashi and Hiroki Okamura. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chi-lin, the world No. 3 and Olympic silver medallists, acknowledged the Indian pair's strength.

"The Indian players' style is characterised by their exceptional strength and power," Wang said. "Their attacks are highly threatening, and their height further enhances their gameplay, making them formidable opponents." Liang and Wang, who have claimed titles at the Malaysia, Indonesia, and Denmark Opens, are among the many top players who have recognised the growing influence of Satwik and Chirag in men's doubles on the international circuit. Top Indonesian pair Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto, who have also faced Satwik and Chirag in recent tournaments, have had similar assessments. "They



have a good speed-power game, and with their tall stature, facing them has been difficult for us," Alfian said. "The key point is that they play with a lot of confidence and have incredible attacking and defending power, which boosts their confidence during matches. And that's what makes them strong. That's why they perform well, and they are experienced also," Ardianto added.

Satwik and Chirag's journey has been marked by steady progress, with key milestones being the Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, Thomas Cup victory, India's first-ever men's doubles bronze at the World Championships in 2022, Commonwealth Games and

Asian Championships title triumphs.

The duo also won Super 1000 title in Indonesia in 2023 and finished runner-up in Malaysia last year, besides claiming the French Open Super 750 twice in 2022 and 2024 and four Super 500 titles in Thailand, Korea and India.

Despite a tough Olympic campaign, where they narrowly missed out on a medal, the duo has maintained a strong focus on their goals, reaching the semifinals in 2024 China Masters and Malaysia last week.

On the other hand, Alfian and Ardianto were part of Indonesia's winning team at the 2020 Thomas Cup, and were silver medallists at the 2024 edition.

Talking about the changing competitive landscape, Alfian said, "In men's doubles, many have also changed their partners. After the Olympics, many Korean players, many Indonesian players have also changed their partners. We must always be ready to face anyone because they are not the same pair." Beyond the competition on court, the badminton world fosters mutual admiration and friendships.

Alfian, 29, shared that his parents are Bollywood fans. "My parents often watch Indian films. I've seen some films, like Kuch Kuch Hota Hai," he quipped, before striking a playful pose with Ardianto to replicate a famous Shah Rukh Khan gesture.

Satwik-Chirag lose Malaysia Open semifinals

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament came to an end following a straight-game loss to Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals, here on Saturday. Seeded seventh, Satwik and Chirag, who reached the finals last season, lost 10-21 15-21 in a 40-minute semifinal clash. "They played really well, and we could have followed our game plan a bit better. Instead, we played some random strokes, but kudos to them for playing a solid game," Satwik told reporters.

"Today, the pace of the game was very slow compared to the last three days. It's part of the game. It was a valuable learning experience for us. It is disappointing, but we have a long way to go. Today's match showed that we can still make it a good fight." The Asian Games champions struggled to get the right start and trailed 6-11 at the break in the opening game. Despite their efforts, the Indians could not make



a comeback as Kim and Seo wrapped up the first game in just 19 minutes.

After the break, Satwik and Chirag showed better control and intent, making it 11-8 at the interval. However, they couldn't maintain the momentum, allowing the Koreans to recover and seal the contest comfortably. Kim and Seo have reunited for the 2025 season after finding success with other partners. Seo previously partnered Kang Min Hyuk to the world title in 2023 and reached world No. 7 with Choi Sol Gyu before that. Kim, on the other hand, claimed the mixed doubles silver medal alongside Jeong Na-eun at the Paris Olympics. "They both are playing like a mixed doubles pair now, which is making it tougher," laughed Satwik.

WPL 2025: Full schedule out, season begins from February 14, final on March 15

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 17

The third edition of the Women's Premier League will begin on February 14 and for the first the WPL will be played across four cities — Baroda, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Lucknow, the BCCI announced on Thursday while releasing the full schedule. The WPL 2025 will kick start at the newly built BCA Stadium in Baroda, where the Gujarat Giants will square off against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Both Baroda and Lucknow are hosting the league for the first time, while Mumbai made a return to the host stadium's list. In 2024, the



WPL was held across Bengaluru and New Delhi. The Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai will host the final on March 15.

"The reigning champions RCB will have their first home game on February 21 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium when they face former title holders Mumbai Indians," the BCCI said in a statement.

Lucknow, who is host-

ing the league for the first time, will see home team UP Warriorz playing four matches from March 3.

"The final leg of the tournament will unfold in Mumbai, with the iconic Cricket Club of India (CCI) hosting the last two league matches and the two high-stakes Playoff games — Eliminator (March 13) and Final," the release said.

The table-toppers will earn a direct berth in the final, while the second and third-placed teams will clash in Eliminator, for a chance to compete in the final. Continuing the format from the previous season, all matches in the third edition will be single-headers.

Vidarbha outclass Maharashtra, march into Vijay Hazare Trophy final

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Hundreds by Dhruv Shorey and Yash Rathod found a perfect ally in inform Karun Nair's brutal fifty as Vidarbha outclassed Maharashtra by 69 runs to enter the Vijay Hazare Trophy final here on Thursday.

Vidarbha will face four-time champions Karnataka in the title clash here on Saturday. Vidarbha posted a mammoth 380 for three, riding on Shorey's 114 (120b, 14x4, 1x6), Rathod's 116 (101b, 14x4, 1x6) and Karun's breezy unbeaten 88 (44b, 9x4, 5x6) after they were asked to bat first. At no point, Maharashtra were able to challenge Vidarbha and they

were restricted to 311 for seven despite solid fifties by Arshin Kulkarni (90) and Ankit Bawne (50). Nikhil Naik made a quick 49 (26b) to carry Maharashtra past the 300-run mark.

Earlier, openers Shorey and Rathod gave Vidarbha a wonderful start adding 224 runs in 34.4 overs, going through the gears effortlessly. The stand was broken when left-arm spinner Satyajit Bachav castled Rathod and Shorey too walked back four overs later, giving a simple catch to Bawne off pacer Mukesh Choudhary.

But those quick dismissals did not offer any respite to Maharashtra, and if anything, they were sent on a harsher leather

hunt by Karun and wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma (51, 33b 3x4, 3x6). The third-wicket pair added 93 runs in about 10 overs as Vidarbha stormed past the 300-run mark. Jitesh was ousted soon after making his fifty but Karun was in no mood to relent.

He plundered pacer Rajneesh Gurbani for 24 runs in the final over through a sequence of 4, 6, 4, 4 and 6 that saw him leaping from 38-ball 64 to 44-ball 88 as, in total, Vidarbha made over 100 runs in the last seven overs. Karun too swelled his tally in this tournament to 752 runs at an unreal average of 752 and his career List A average too rocketed to 41.34 from pre-tourna-

Australian Open: US teen Learner Tien knocks Daniil Medvedev out in Round two thriller

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Learner Tien, a 19-year-old qualifier from California, became the youngest American man to reach the Australian Open's third round since Pete Sampras in 1990, upsetting a racket-tossing Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (8), 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) on Thursday night.

The 4-hour, 49-minute contest had a bit of everything, including — hard to believe — a six-minute rain delay that interrupted play shortly before 2:30 a.m. with Tien serving at 5-all, 15-all in the fifth set. When they resumed, Medvedev broke and served for the victory at 6-5, but Tien wouldn't cede a thing, broke back, and forced the concluding first-to-10 tiebreaker that he emerged to win shortly before 3 am, about two hours after he failed to convert his initial match point.

The outcome was eyebrow-raising because of the wide gulf in experience and accomplishments between the two players at Margaret Court Arena. Tien is ranked 121st and owned a career Grand Slam record of 0-3 before this week; Medvedev was seeded No. 5, won the 2021 US Open and was the runner-up at Melbourne Park in three of the past four years, including 12 months ago.

"I was definitely hoping it wouldn't go to a fifth-set breaker. ... It was definitely harder than maybe it could have been, but, whatever," Tien said, then told the crowd: "I really appreciate all you guys staying out here. I know it's late. I have no idea what time it is."

Because of the time difference, the match ended at about 8 am on Thursday morning back home in California, and he took the microphone to speak directly to his family —



he said he hoped they were tuned in on TV. "I don't know if my parents are still watching. ... I love you guys. Thank you for always supporting me from across the world," Tien said. "I know you guys wish you could be here. I wish you could be here, too."

The left-handed Tien played fearlessly and almost flawlessly for stretches, surprisingly getting the better of lengthy exchanges at the baseline: Across the first

two sets, he won 32 of the 51 points that lasted nine or more strokes, even coming out on top on one that went 45 shots and another that lasted 32. Tien did not blink until he reached the precipice of by far his most important win, holding a match point in the third-set tiebreaker when he led it 7-6. But Medvedev erased that with a 122 mph (196 kph) ace and eventually converted his third set point at a little past 1 am, then easily pushed things

to the fifth set.

Medvedev was penalized a point in the third set while showing the same sorts of signs of frustration that led him to destroy a tiny camera hanging in the net by smacking it with his racket during a surprisingly difficult, five-set, first-round win against an opponent ranked 418th. After getting broken to trail 4-3 in the second set when Tien delivered a lob that landed at a baseline — not the only time he did that to his 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) foe — Medvedev chucked his equipment toward the sideline, skidding it across the court until it reached an advertising panel near his bench.

At other moments of anger, Medvedev hit a ball against the back wall, toppled a camera behind a baseline and punched his racket bag. He also voiced displeasure about being called for two con-

secutive foot faults, resulting in a double fault, during the second-set tiebreaker.

This was Medvedev's first tournament of the season — his wife recently gave birth to their second child — and he never really displayed his best tennis. As he often does, the 28-year-old Russian shifted tactics in an attempt to change the course of things, pushing forward to the net frequently early in the third set.

Some mistakes by Tien handed over a service break and a 4-3 lead to Medvedev in that set. But Tien broke right back, then held for a 5-4 edge after Medvedev got docked a point. Tien reached two junior Grand Slam singles finals in 2023, at the Australian Open and US Open, and played one semester of college tennis at Southern California before turning pro that year.

Formula-E case: KTR dares Revanth Reddy for live lie detector test

Hyderabad
R santosh chowdary
WUT | Jan. 17

In a bold counter to the ongoing allegations against him, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to a live lie detector test before a judge to settle cases of corruption rather than wasting public money in investigations for political vendetta. He said the investigation into the cases filed against him was costing Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore for investigation. Addressing the media after a seven-hour marathon questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Formula-E case, Rama Rao criticised the Chief Minister for using investigative agencies

as tools for political vendetta. He reiterated that the corruption cases against him were filed with mala fide intentions and political vendetta. He said as Revanth Reddy faced ACB and ED cases, similar cases were filed against him as well. "I have a Sankranti offer to Revanth Reddy. Let us undergo a lie detector test together and face questioning by judges in front of the media with live telecast. I am ready to appear anywhere, anytime. Let the truth come out," he said, charging Revanth Reddy with orchestrating false cases to distract the public from his own legal troubles in the Cash-for-Vote scam and called on the Chief Minister to stop wasting public money on baseless investigations. The BRS working president



reaffirmed his cooperation with investigative agencies, stating that he had appeared before the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on January 9 and the ED on January 16, despite no evidence of wrongdoing or corruption. "Both agencies asked the same questions, and I have answered everything transparently," he said, reiterating his confidence in the judiciary.

The ACB had asked about 80 questions, while the ED about 40, he said. Questioning the basis of the allegations, Rama Rao said, "Where is the case here? Every transaction has been transparent and accounted for. This cannot be classified as money laundering." He condemned the Chief Minister's actions as politi-

cally motivated, aimed at maligning his reputation. He also asserted that as a law-abiding citizen, he had and would cooperate with the investigation agencies as well as utilise the legal avenues available to prove his innocence. He vowed to face any inquiry and prove his innocence, asserting that the truth will triumph ultimately — if not today, then tomorrow. He urged the public to see through the political games being played at the expense of governance and accountability. Earlier, Rama Rao left his Gachibowli residence at 10 am and arrived at the ED office in Basheerbagh under heavy police security. The ED had summoned him for questioning after the Telangana High Court dismissed a

quash petition filed in the ACB case linked to the matter. Initially scheduled to appear on January 7, Rama Rao sought an extension until the High Court's decision, and the ED subsequently summoned him on January 16. Tensions ran high outside the ED office as a large number of BRS leaders and activists gathered in solidarity. They raised slogans against the government for indulging in political vendetta. A scuffle broke out between the party activists and police. BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank was prevented from speaking to the media and detained. Several other BRS leaders, including Bathini Keerthi Latha and Pavan Goud, were also arrested.

Joyride Turns Into a Terrifying Experience at Numaish



Joyriders, who were enjoying a ride at the Numaish on Thursday, faced a terrifying situation as it stopped midway, leaving riders hanging upside down. The problem cropped up due to battery charging issues, following which the ride was halted midway leaving the 32 riders hanging upside down. Speaking to Decan Chronicle, secretary of the Exhibition Society Sunder Reddy said, "The amusement ride got stuck upside down during a run due to battery issues. Technicians immediately replaced the battery and got the people out of the ride." While it was reported that the ride was stuck midway for more than 25 minutes, Reddy said it was resolved in less than five minutes. After repairs, the amusement ride was resumed.

CM Revanth Remembers Jaipal Reddy's Contributions for Statehood

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid glowing tributes to former Union Minister and parliamentarian S. Jaipal Reddy on his birth anniversary on Thursday. The CM extolled Jaipal Reddy's contributions in realising the dream of statehood for Telangana and highlighted his unwavering commitment to moral values throughout his political career. Revanth Reddy garlanded a portrait of Jaipal Reddy at his official residence in Delhi. The CM lauded Jaipal Reddy's journey from humble beginnings in a village to becoming a prominent figure in Indian politics.



Parliament, earned him the title of the best parliamentarian in the country," said the Chief Minister. The event was attended by several prominent leaders, including revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, Bellampalli MLA Gaddam Vinod, Parigi MLA T. Rammohan Reddy, and government adviser Shabbir Ali. The attendees joined in remembering Jaipal Reddy's immense contributions to Indian politics. The Chief Minister said Jaipal Reddy's legacy of integrity, eloquence, and dedication continues to inspire generations of leaders in Telangana and beyond.

Traffic on Chityal, NH No. 76, Slows Down after Container Mishap

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

The city roads leading from the Vijayawada highway were not as crowded as the police had anticipated, with those going to AP to celebrate Sankranti apparently phasing out their return to work. Police, in coordination with the TSRTC, have been closely monitoring the return traffic following the conclusion of the Sankranti festivities. According to Rachakonda Traffic DCP D. Srinivas, "The return dates of many people were



spread out from Friday to Sunday, contributing to a more manageable flow of traffic." "The traffic situation is expected to remain calm due to the staggered return of travellers. With a possibility of employees applying for a couple of more days of leave, the return trip will extend till Sun-

day." On the highway, however, the toll plazas at Panthangi and Korlaphad experienced a surge in vehicles though no traffic jams were reported. At 6.30 am, the Korlaphad toll plaza faced a traffic jam of half a kilometre when the FASTag servers went down. Authorities managed to restore the FASTag system within 10 minutes. Panthangi toll plaza operated 16 gates, and Korlaphad 13. Depending on the rush, toll plaza authorities may decide to open additional gates for the Vijayawada-Hyderabad route

Hyderabad Airport Launches Fast Track Immigration for Indian and OCI Passport Holders

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

The RGIA has introduced the Fast Track Immigration — Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), virtually inaugurated by Union home minister Amit Shah, to provide Indian passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders with a faster and smoother immigration experience. The FTI-TTP allows pre-verified travellers to bypass queues and use dedicated electronic gates (e-gates) for quicker immigration



proved, travellers can use the e-gates for both departures and arrivals. At the first gate, passengers scan their passport and boarding pass and at the second gate a face scan completes the process. Speaking about the initiative, Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL), noted the airport's commitment to adopting technology. "This initiative simplifies the immigration process and enhances the overall travel experience," he said.

CM Revanth Dished out Falsehoods to Delhi Voters: TG BJP

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has come under sharp criticism from the state BJP for his alleged failure to fulfill election promises in Telangana, even as he makes new pledges to voters in Delhi on behalf of the Congress party. Addressing the media on

Thursday, BJP general secretary Dr. Kasam Venkateshwarlu accused Revanth Reddy of exhibiting duplicity and inconsistency, claiming that his unfulfilled commitments in Telangana highlight a lack of credibility in his promises to Delhi voters. Dr. Venkateshwarlu stated that the Congress government in Telangana had failed to deliver on its



six key guarantees, which included a farm loan waiver for all eligible beneficiaries, Rythu Bharosa schemes for farmers

and tenant farmers, an unemployment allowance for students, and the implementation of 42 per cent reservations for BCs in elections. These promises, he argued, were instrumental in securing Congress' victory in the state but remain largely unfulfilled. The BJP leader also pointed out that the Congress has struggled to implement its electoral

guarantees in other states like Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, which he claimed has led to financial turmoil in those regions. This, according to Dr. Venkateshwarlu, underscores a pattern of empty promises by the Congress party that ultimately burden state finances without delivering tangible results to the people. As part of its cam-

paigned strategy, the BJP announced the launch of a state-wide initiative titled 'Samvidhan Abhiyan' (Constitution Campaign). This campaign will run until January 26 and aims to engage with various sections of society while promoting awareness about the Constitution and the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Revanth visits Singapore, Davos, seeks investment

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 17

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with a delegation from Telangana, embarked on an ambitious foreign tour on Thursday night, aimed at attracting global investments and promoting the state's development agenda on an international stage. The tour begins with a three-day visit to Singapore, from January 17 to 19, followed by participation in the prestigious World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, from January 20 to 22. The delegation includes IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, as well as senior officials from the industries department. In Singapore, the Chief Minister is scheduled to meet with corporate leadership teams from several multinational companies to present investment opportu-

nities in Telangana and to foster collaborations in key sectors. A highlight of the Singapore visit will be a meeting with the leadership of the Singapore Institute of Technical Education (SITE), where discussions will center on skill development policies and technical education programs. To bolster skill development initiatives in Telangana, an agreement is set to be signed between SITE and the Young India Skills University. This partnership aims to bring global best practices to Telangana and strengthen the state's workforce development programs. The Chief Minister will also tour the Singapore Riverfront to explore design and development strategies that could be replicated in Hyderabad's Musi Riverfront revival project. The state government envisions transforming the Musi Riverfront into a world-class



urban space adhering to international standards, thereby contributing to Hyderabad's urban renewal initiatives. On January 20, the delegation will travel to Davos, Switzerland, to attend the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, where global leaders from business, politics, and academia convene to discuss pressing global challenges and opportunities. Telangana's participation at the WEF meeting last year was highly successful, resulting in ₹40,000 crore worth of investments for the state. Reflecting on the success,

Revanth Reddy expressed confidence in surpassing that achievement during this year's summit. The Chief Minister has identified key sectors, including IT, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and renewable energy, as focal points for investment discussions at Davos. The state's new Clean and Green Energy Policy will also be a major talking point, aligning with global efforts to promote sustainability and clean energy solutions. Telangana's flagship development projects, such as Hyderabad's Future City initiative, Metro Rail expansion, elevated corridors, radial roads, and the Musi Riverfront revival, will also be showcased to attract international interest. Telangana's rapid economic growth over the past year has cemented its position as a major economic driver in

India. Hyderabad, in particular, has emerged as a global hub for capability centers (GCCs), attracting top-tier international firms. Foreign tours led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy have played a pivotal role in securing investments from countries such as the United States and South Korea. The Chief Minister's current tour builds on this momentum, with a clear focus on ensuring Telangana's sustained growth as a premier destination for global investments. This high-profile visit underscores Telangana's commitment to creating a thriving investment climate and adopting global best practices in development. With its strategic focus on innovation, infrastructure, and sustainability, the state is poised to strengthen its position as a leader in India's economic transformation.

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