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KTR Launches BRS Labor Department's Diary, Slams Congress Over Policy Failures: P8

HYDRAA's Silence on Bathukamma Kunta Lake Baffles People: P8

Virat Kohli set for Ranji Trophy return after 12 years for Delhi's match against Railways: P7



Brief Insights

SG raises halal-certification of non-meat products in SC



Solicitor general of India Tushar Mehta on Monday raised in the Supreme Court the issue of halal certification of non-meat products such as iron bars and cement, flagging why non-believers should be made to pay higher cost for halal-certified products. The top law officer made the submissions during hearing of pleas challenging a notification prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale and distribution of food products with halal certification within Uttar Pradesh barring items produced for export. **CONTINUE:P4**

UK Drained \$64.8 Trillion from India During Colonial Rule: Oxfam Report



A recent report by Oxfam International has revealed that the United Kingdom extracted a staggering \$64.8 trillion from India during its colonial rule between 1765 and 1900. The report further highlights that \$33.8 trillion of this wealth directly benefited the richest 10% of the UK population. Oxfam's findings, released at the World Economic Forum in Davos, indicate that the massive wealth extraction contributed significantly to the economic disparity seen in the modern world. The report states that the amount siphoned from India during colonial rule would have been enough to cover London in £50 notes nearly four times over. In 1750, India accounted for approximately 25% of global industrial output. **CONTINUE:P4**

Revanth to Attract Investment for Fourth City

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

Focusing on attracting investments from global companies to the Fourth City, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his delegation reached Zurich Switzerland on Monday. From the largest Swiss city, they will travel by train to Davos for the World Economic Forum annual conference. Minutes after landing at



the airport, the Chief Minister was welcomed by professionals from the Telugu states. Revanth Reddy, who was accompanied by state industries

minister D. Sridhar Babu and officials, would meet industrialists at Davos and pitch the state as an ideal investment destination. The Chief Minister

would hold talks with representatives of some of the top global companies with the aim of attracting major investments into Telangana, an official statement said here.

The delegation, led by the Chief Minister, is working with the specific action plan of presenting Telangana as an international investment destination at the Davos event, it said.

Easy to Win Elections Sitting in Jail: SC

New delhi WUT | Jan. 21

The Supreme Court on Monday remarked that persons like former councilor Tahir Hussain, an accused in the Delhi riots, should be barred from contesting elections. The remarks by the apex court came at the hearing on a plea filed by Hussain who sought interim bail to campaign for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls. He is undergoing judicial custody in a

money laundering case. The top court deferred hearing on his interim bail plea to January 21.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Ahsanuddin Amanullah adjourned the hearing due to paucity of time but just as it was rising for the day, Hussain's lawyer mentioned the matter and requested for a hearing on January 21. "It is easy to win elections sitting in jail. All such persons should be barred from contesting the

elections," the bench remarked in response. Hussain's counsel said his nomination was accepted. The Delhi high court on January 14 granted custody parole to Hussain to file nomination papers from the Mustafabad constituency on an AIMIM ticket. It, however, refused his plea for interim bail from January 14 to February 9 to fight the polls, saying the gravity of allegations against Hussain, being the main perpetrator in

the violence, resulting in the death of several persons, could not be overlooked.

The high court observed that about 11 FIRs were registered against him in connection with the riots and he was admittedly in custody in a related money laundering case and UAPA case.

Hussain's counsel argued fighting elections was a complicated process, which required him to not only file his nomination by January 17 but also open a bank account

"Hundreds Of Patients On Footpath": Rahul Gandhi

New delhi WUT | Jan. 21

Spotlighting the "distressing situation" outside Delhi AIIMS, a premier medical institution, where hundreds of patients are often seen huddled on the footpath and subway, Rahul Gandhi urged Health Minister JP Nadda and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi to help resolve this "humanitarian crisis".

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha also urged the central government to take concrete steps to strengthen the public healthcare system in the upcoming budget and increase the necessary resources for it. Pointing out the large "systemic issues", Mr Gandhi urged in his letter to JP Nadda that Delhi AIIMS is overburdened because "crores of people do not have access to af-



fordable and high-quality healthcare where they live".

"I urge you as Health Minister, to recognise and address this systemic issue. As a first step, the new AIIMS facilities across the country should be operationalised at the earliest. In addition, the public healthcare infrastructure should be strengthened at all levels, from primary to tertiary, in partnership with the state government," said Mr Gandhi in his letter dated January 18.

"Central healthcare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat should be re-

viewed to reduce patient out-of-pocket expenses as much as possible, by expanding eligibility, hospitals enrolled, and conditions covered. The sharp rise in the costs of private healthcare also deserves detailed scrutiny. I hope the Government will use the upcoming Budget to review its overall approach, and substantially increase its investment in public healthcare," said Mr Gandhi.

Reducing the long wait times, said Mr Gandhi, at each step of treatment, and providing patients information about wait times, would help reduce patients' uncertainty.

Earlier, on Thursday, the Congress leader met several patients and their families camping on the road and subways around the AIIMS and inquired about their problems and grievances.

Trump becomes the 47th president of the United States

Washington WUT | Jan. 21

Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th president Monday, promising a "revolution of common sense" and taking charge as Republicans assume unified control of Washington and set out to reshape the country's institutions. Trump, who overcame impeachments, criminal indictments and a

pair of assassination attempts to win another term in the White House, will act swiftly after the ceremony, with executive orders already prepared for his signature to clamp down on border crossings, increase fossil fuel development and end diversity and inclusion programs across the federal government.

Declaring that government faces a "crisis of trust," Trump



said in his inaugural address that under his administration

"our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced." Trump claimed "a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal," promising to "give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy and indeed their freedom."

He added: "From this moment on, America's decline is

over." The executive orders are the first step in what Trump is calling "the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense." Frigid weather rewrote the pageantry of the day. Trump's swearing-in was moved indoors to the Capitol Rotunda — the first time that has happened in 40 years — and the inaugural parade was replaced by an event at a

downtown arena. Throngs of Trump supporters who descended on the city to watch the inaugural ceremony on the West Front of the Capitol from the National Mall will be left to find somewhere else to view the festivities.

At the Capitol, Vice President JD Vance was sworn-in first, taking the oath read by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh **CONTINUE:P4**

"Look Forward To Working Together": PM Modi Congratulates "Dear Friend" Trump

NEW DELHI WUT | Jan. 21

Donald Trump took oath as the 47th US president for a historic second term on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated his "dear friend" Trump on his inauguration and wished him a "successful term ahead".

"I look forward to working closely together once again, to benefit both our countries and to shape a better future for the world," PM Modi



posted on X. PM Modi didn't attend the inauguration ceremony - attended by several world leaders - but he sent External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to attend the event as his special envoy. "Privileged to represent India as External Affairs Minister and Special

Envoy of PM at the Swearing-In Ceremony of the 47th President of the United States of America today in Washington DC," he said earlier on X.

Trump, with one hand raised in the air and the other on a Bible given to him by his mother, solemnly took the oath of office beneath the huge Rotunda of the US Capitol.

In his first speech after taking oath as the US president, Trump listed a number of executive orders.

Production from Naini coal mine will commence from March 2025: Bhatti

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Monday said that the production from Naini coal mine would commence from March 2025. "As Naini being a captive block, the coal produced from its coal mine is to be supplied to the end use plant - 2X600 MW Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) at Jaipur in Mancherial district. This power



plant is about 1000 kms, from Naini Mine involving lot of difficulties in logistics, which prompted SCCL to envisage setting up a 2X800 MW TPP in Odisha in the vicinity of Naini Coal Mine as a pit head power plant, so that the coal pro-

duced from this mine is gainfully utilized, ensuring minimum generation cost," he explained.

As per the 20th EPS (Electric Power Survey) report, there is a huge demand for thermal power for the next three decades. Also, a letter dated May 1, 2024, from the Secretary, Ministry of Coal informed the Ministry of Power that there is a pressing need to establish new thermal power plants that are close to the mines to ensure reduced transpor-

tation cost, ensuring steady and reliable fuel supply, reduced environmental impact.

In view of this, after deliberations between officials of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Odisha government and IDCO, a team of SCCL and IDCO officials visited two sites - Jarpada, Tukuda and Handappa, Baninali on November 6, 2024, as a part of land identification process for the prospective SCCL thermal power plant.

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

Harish Rao Slams Congress Government Over Farmers' Water Crisis

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

Former Minister Harish Rao has sharply criticized the Congress government for its failure to provide irrigation water to farmers, leading to widespread protests across the state.



Despite lavish promises and campaign advertisements claiming the release of water to irrigate over 336,000 acres across several constituencies, including Tungaturthi, Suryapet, and Kodad, no water has reached the farmers.

water under SRSP Stage-2, which has not been honored. He called out the government's failure to provide water during critical planting stages, leaving farmers in jeopardy.

BRS Party Forms Study Committee to Investigate Farmer Suicides and Agricultural Crisis

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Jan. 21

In response to the increasing farmer suicides and worsening agricultural conditions in Telangana, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has announced the formation of a 9-member study committee.

The committee's focus will be on examining the rising number of farmer suicides and the ongoing agricultural crisis, with a detailed report to be submitted to the state government.



KTR expressed deep concern over the surge in suicides during the one-year tenure of the Congress government, which had made several promises to the farming community.

discontinue key farmer bonds, and withdraw the Rs. 15,000 farmer guarantee as significant contributors to the crisis.

MC Kotireddy, Yadava Reddy, and former MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, Rasamayi Balakishan, and Anjaiah Yadav.

Media Main Pillar of Democracy: Telangana Governor

Hyderabad Dp srinivas rao WUT | Jan. 21

Telangana Governor Shri Jishnu Dev Verma praised the media as the cornerstone of democracy, emphasizing its critical role in bridging the gap between the people and the government.



ments and evolving alongside the growing media landscape. He expressed admiration for the dedication of reporters who work tirelessly for societal welfare without any profit motive.

sonally greeted and spoke with numerous members, including JAT President Pagudakula Balaswamy, General Secretary Juluri Ramesh, and several other leaders.

Rakesh Jaiswal elected as Advisory board Member for Central Board of Film Certification



Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Jan. 21

BJP's senior leader and Jambagh division corporator shri Rakesh Jaiswal ji BJP from the Goshamahala constituency being felicitated by BJP cadre on Monday January 20.

Film Certification Hyderabad Region. at Jambagh Division Development Office, Hindi Nagar. Along With :- Raghu Kamble, Praveen Babu, Ramakrishna, Rannuka, Kajal, Jagapathi, Bharath, Narsingh, Sandeep, Ravi, Mukesh, Kranti, Ravi, Raju, Sunny, Papuu, participated in this programme.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Launches Traffic Awareness Initiatives for Students

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

Ponnam Prabhakar, Minister of Transport and BC Welfare, emphasized the importance of road safety awareness at the student level during a recent event. The Minister highlighted the newly established traffic awareness parks aimed at educating students about traffic rules.



tainable transportation options. Ponnam Prabhakar urged students to follow traffic rules diligently and encouraged them to share this knowledge with their parents.

Hamalis Union Welcomes Wage Increase

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

The Civil Supplies Hamalis Union thanked the government for agreeing to increase the wage rates of the workers. The decision came after the workers struck work for seven days.

former MLA Chada Venkat Reddy backed their demand. The step was taken after they sought withdrawal of the strike. It also thanked civil supplies principal secretary D.S. Chauhan.

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Jan. 21

Former Minister Jagadish Reddy has accused the Congress party of being fearful of farmers in Telangana, claiming that both Chief Minister and ministers are intimidated by K.T. Rama Rao (KTR).



"We will follow the High Court's advice in this matter," he remarked. Reddy also took aim at Congress leader Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, accusing him of spreading false statements and claiming that the Congress party had colluded with middlemen to exploit farmers.

reddy to engage in a meaningful discussion on the development of Nalgonda, asserting that his leadership had brought significant progress to the district, unlike his political rival, who had not developed his own constituencies.

dadri thermal plant, which he had initially opposed but later attended its inauguration. He claimed that Komatireddy's success in Nalgonda was not achieved fairly, referencing the defeat of Bhoopal Reddy as a key factor.



Damodar Rajanarsimha Assures Continuation of Aarogyasri Services

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

The state government has assured the continuation of Aarogyasri services across the state following a meeting chaired by health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha with representatives of private hospitals. The discussion was to resolve long pending issues raised by the Telangana Aarogyasri Network Hospitals Association (TANHA).

Former MLC Karne Prabhakar Criticizes Political Developments in Telangana

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Jan. 21

former MLC Karne Prabhakar commented on various political matters affecting Telangana. He highlighted a protest initiated by Komatireddy Venkat Reddy at the Clock Tower in Nalgonda, despite being denied permission for political reasons.

health of over one crore residents suffering from river pollution. He warned that public protests against the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) could intensify if the project faced further delays or opposition.



the apparent contradiction in the actions of Telangana Congress leader Revanth Reddy, questioning his protest at Raj Bhavan during

his tenure as Chief Minister. The former MLC drew attention to the ongoing political rivalry, mentioning that during the BRS govern-

ment's rule, Congress leaders organized a dharna at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office. He also expressed concerns over the government's current approach, suggesting that, while they had once advocated for removing barriers, they are now imposing restrictions on the public.

gana may not have been formed. He lauded K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for championing the causes of various communities, contrasting KTR's stance with Revanth Reddy's more cautious approach.

FLDI President PV Rao Suggest the challenges faced by small-scale entrepreneurs

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Jan . 21

Pingali Venkateswara Rao FLDI President appealed to the Prime minister Government of India .He raises comprehensively,an important issue that resonates with the challenges faced by small-scale entrepreneurs and individuals affected by financial rigorous hardships imposed by union government of India. Here are some pivotal points based on Mr Rao concerns:Support for Small Entrepreneurs and Borrowers: The government should establish a comprehensive framework to support borrowers who genuinely face severe

difficulties due to unforeseen circumstances like natural calamities or business disruptions (e.g., COVID-19). Loan restructuring schemes, interest waivers, or moratoriums can provide much-needed relief. Addressing Bank Auction Practices: While banks are under extreme pressure to recover non-performing assets (NPAs), auctioning properties of struggling individuals often leads to distress. Policies must be implemented to ensure borrowers who have made sincere efforts to repay loans are not penalized unfairly . Transparent guidelines for property auctions and borrower protection are



essential and mandatory. Curbing Influence-Based Loan Forgiveness: Large and influential defaulters often exploit loopholes to evade repayment, while small borrowers bear the brunt of strict recovery mechanisms. A strong mechanism to hold influential defaulters accountable and ensure fair treatment for all is critical to restoring public trust.

Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery: Post-pandemic recovery efforts should prioritize small businesses through subsidies, financial packages, and mentorship programs. This will not only support entrepreneurs but also strengthen the economy rapidly. Reducing Pressure on Bankers: Bank officials face tremendous pressure to meet recovery targets, often leading to decisions that harm small borrowers. Reforms in banking practices, coupled with accountability and empathy, can strike a balance between recovery and borrower support. Public Awareness and Cultural Representa-

tion: While movies and media may depict these issues, real change requires consistent dialogue, advocacy, and government action. Awareness campaigns and policy discussions should ensure that public grievances to be addressed. The government and financial institutions must work together parallel to create a more equitable system that balances recovery with compassion. This approach will promote economic stability, protect livelihoods of all sections of business, and foster trust among citizens.

BJP confident of winning all three MLC seats

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 21

As Telangana gears up for the upcoming elections to two teachers and a graduate MLC constituencies, the BJP, which holds sway among the educated class, is making an aggressive push to woo voters. In a strategic shift, the BJP named MLC candidates well ahead of other parties on January 10. Taking a lead, the party named educationist and Peddappally resident Malka Komaraiah, who runs several educational institutions' for the teachers' constituency of Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak MLC seat. Warangal's Puli Sarotham Reddy, who served as general secretary of the Panchayat

Raj Teachers Union (PRTU) has been fielded for the Teachers' constituency of Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam MLC seat. C. Anji Reddy, an industrialist associated with service activity with his trusts, has been named for the Graduates' constituency of Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak. The tenure of the incumbent MLCs - T. Jeevan Reddy (Congress), Alugubelli Narsi Reddy (independent) and Kura Raghotham Reddy (PRTU), will end on March 29. Senior party leader and educationist P.L. Srinivas said that they are into micro management to reach out to every voter. "Our expertise in holding street corner meetings is a huge advantage for us. We are confident of

making a clean sweep of the three seats," Srinivas said. Komaraiah told Deccan Chronicle that the party was in a strong position as four MPs and seven MLAs represent the region, where the MLC polls are slated to be held in February. Stating that north Telangana is a part citadel, Komaraiah said that so far 27,000 members have enrolled for the teachers' constituency election and the number would touch 30,000 as the Election Commission has allowed enrolment of voters till the date the notification is issued. As per the final electoral rolls for the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' constituency, the total number of voters is 3,41,313.

Telangana Sheep and Goat Breeding Association Launches 2025 Calendar

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | Jan . 21

BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar and former MP Mandadi Anjan Kumar Yadav unveiled the 2025 State Calendar of the Telangana State Sheep and Goat Breeding Professionals Association today at Minister Coates, Hyderabad. The launch ceremony was attended by the State President of the Association, Dr. Kommu Ashok Yadav, State Advisor Beri Ramachandra Yadav, and the founders of the Telangana State Panchayat Sarpanch Association, Soudhani Bu-



Yadav. The event emphasized the importance of addressing the issues faced by sheep herders across the state. The association presented a petition advocating for reservations in the political field for shepherds, comprising

ZPTCs, and Mallanna Temple Chairman. A life insurance benefit of Rs. 10 lakh for families of shepherds who die in accidents. 80% subsidy for mini milk dairies. Rs. 5,000 life insurance for sheep killed by lightning. Rs. 5,000 life insurance for educated young women and Rs. 5,000 per child for the shepherd community. The ceremony also saw the participation of Venkatesh leaders, who echoed the need for enhanced support for the shepherding community.

Tribal women in Telangana's Bhadrachalam script success story baking millet biscuits

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan . 21

A women's group at Bhadrachalam in Kothagudem district has been making strides towards self-reliance and financial stability by baking healthy millet snacks. The members of Srirama Joint Liability Group with the assistance of Bhadrachalam Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) recently started a unit making ragi and jowar biscuits. ITDA supplied equipment and offered training in Hyderabad to make the biscuits. The group has been making about five kilograms of biscuits every day. The products are being sold with the brand name Bhadradi Millet Magic in Kothagudem and Bhadrachalam and efforts are on to market them in Khammam as well, informed the group members. A team leader of the group Uke Venkata Lakshmi told Telangana



Today that there has been an increase in demand for ragi and jowar biscuits and to meet the demand they are planning to purchase a larger oven with which nearly 600 biscuits could be baked per batch. The ingredients used in making the biscuits are completely healthy and no artificial preservatives are used. Ragi flour, jowar flour, butter, ghee, and jaggery are used to make biscuits. The consumer base includes traders from Bhadrachalam and the res-

idents. The biscuits are also being shipped to consumers in London as the consumers who tasted the biscuits during their visit to Bhadradi Temple were impressed with their quality and wanted them dispatched to their place, she explained. Another team leader of the group T Lalitha said they are planning to sell the biscuits by setting up a stall at Bhadradi Temple and Khammam collectorate. The biscuit unit was started following advice from former ITDA project officer Prateek Jain. The group initially was engaged in making sanitary pads with brand name 'Giri sanitary pads' under the supervision of Bhadradi Srirama Sanitary Napkin Unit. It was set up seven years ago with a project cost of Rs 13.45 lakh. The sanitary pads are being supplied to girls hostels under the Bhadrachalam ITDA also to hostels in Mulugu, Eturnagaram and Nalgonda, she added.

SCCL to mine coal from Odisha mines next year, says Bhatti

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan . 21

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced on Monday that the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) will begin coal production from the Naini coal blocks in Odisha by March 2026, marking a significant milestone in the company's efforts to expand its operations beyond Telangana. The development follows years of planning to diversify and enhance the national reach of the state-owned mining corporation. Speaking at the third National Mining Ministers' Conference in Konark, Bhatti shared that SCCL intends to establish a 1,600-megawatt coal-based power project near the Naini mining block. He also called on Odisha's

Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Manji, to allocate land for the proposed power plant to support the initiative. Initially, SCCL had planned to transport the coal extracted from the Naini coal block to the 800 MW Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) located in Jaipur, Mancherla district, approximately 1,000 kilometers away. However, to reduce operational costs and logistical challenges, Bhatti stated that the Telangana government decided to construct a pithead power plant directly at the Naini coal block. The Naini coal block, allocated to SCCL by the Union Coal Ministry in 2015, is located in the Mahanadi coal-field and features an opencast mine with a production capacity of 10 million tonnes per



year. The lease for the mining area spans 912.79 hectares. SCCL's mining activities had been delayed for several years due to strained relations between the BRS-led Telangana government and the BJP-led Central government, which hindered the transfer of forest land required for mining operations. However, the issue was resolved when Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy intervened, leading to the approval for the transfer of 643 hectares of forest land in Odisha in July 2024. Bhatti also highlighted the increase in revenue from mining activities for the Telangana government, which rose from Rs. 1,958 crore in 2014 to Rs. 5,440 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal year. The state government has also initiated the auctioning process

for 32 major mining blocks, including those for limestone and manganese, with the goal of completing the process by 2025-26. Furthermore, Bhatti acknowledged the efforts of Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy for successfully organizing the national conference. He noted that the Telangana government has conducted a comprehensive mineral availability audit using Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) and Electronic Total Station surveys. The state currently has 2,552 mining leases in operation, and the district mining foundations have generated Rs. 5,537 crore from auctions. These funds will be allocated for public services, including the construction of schools and other essential infrastructure.

Beautification of Tolichowki Junction Underway in Nanal Nagar Division

Hyderabad
R santosh chowdary
WUT | Jan. 21

A ₹1.50 crore beautification project is currently underway at Tolichowki Junction, under the flyover in Nanal Nagar Division, thanks to successful representation by party President Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi. The project includes several key upgrades: Artistic Paintings: Stunning artwork will adorn the flyover pillars. Flooring with Kabul Stones: Durable and visually appealing flooring for a modern look.



Sculptures: Graceful sculptures will enhance the central space. Greenery and Seating: Added greenery and seating areas for commuters to relax. Vibrant Lighting: Lighting will elevate the ambience of the area. Chequered Terrazzo Tiles: Durable and attractive flooring in high-traffic areas.

In addition to these enhancements, the project also focuses on removing encroachments to ease traffic flow and provide relief to commuters. MLA of Karwan, Kausar Mohiuddin, and Corporator Mohammed Naseeruddin inspected the progress of the beautification efforts, accompanied by GHMC A.E Uday, AIMIM active workers, and other local leaders. This initiative marks a significant step toward transforming Tolichowki Junction into a functional and aesthetically pleasing public space for the community.

Newly recruited irrigation AEEs decry non-payment of salaries

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 21

Assistant executive engineers (AEEs), who have been working in the irrigation department for the last four months, have urged the government to ensure payment of salaries and give them postings based on the multi-zone system taking

into account their local status. The AEEs, who had previously taken this issue to the notice of their higher ups, on Monday, yet again petitioned that they are facing untold problems on account of delays in salary payments that have arisen as a result of their postings. They said that the finance depart-

ment was not releasing their salaries on the ground that their postings were 'not as per norms'. At least now the government should take immediate steps to sort out the issues and ensure the salaries are paid on time, including to the newly recruited AEEs, they said.

After Musk-Ambani Tussle, India Bets Satellite Spectrum Policy Can Attract Many Companies

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 21

India's decision to allocate satellite spectrum, rather than auction it, will give consumers more choice, the telecoms minister said on Monday, playing down concern by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio that it could lose out to Elon Musk's Starlink. Starlink has long wanted to launch in India and has in recent months clashed with billionaire Ambani's company over how the country should grant spectrum for satellite services.

Reliance had urged an auction but the Indian government sided with Musk who wanted it to be allocated administratively, in line with global trends. Analysts say an auction, requiring much more investment, would likely deter foreign rivals. Ambani said he wanted a level playing field and has been worried that his telecom company, which spent \$19 billion in airwave auctions, now risks losing broadband customers to Starlink and potentially even data and voice clients later as technology advances.

"My job as telecoms minister is to make sure that you have as many choices as possible," Jyotiraditya Scindia told Reuters during an interview at his ministry's office in New Delhi.

Asked if there was merit in Reliance's concerns, he said, without naming any company: "Technology is never constant", adding that companies need to keep evolving.

Scindia noted that current satellite technology for communications requires devices to have the sky in their sight, and smartphones cannot use that technology for indoor services that

are provided by terrestrial networks.

"The minute you come into this building, you're done," he said.

India is one of the world's biggest telecom markets with 942 million users and stiff competition among Reliance and rivals Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. Data prices are among the cheapest in the world and internet connectivity has risen rapidly.

Deloitte predicts India's satellite broadband service market will be worth \$1.9 billion by 2030, making it lucrative for players like Starlink, Amazon and Ambani.

Scindia said Starlink and Amazon Kuiper's applications for a licence to launch satellite broadband services in the country were still under review.

Musk has a reputation for disrupting markets. In Kenya, he priced Starlink at \$10 per month, versus \$120 in the United States, prompting a complaint by Kenya's Safaricom last year.

A former aviation minister, Scindia is also overseeing many more telecom initiatives for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India's government owns a stake in Vodafone Idea, and the company in November disclosed it still had around \$24 billion in dues owed to the government.

Scindia repeatedly declined to answer in the interview if there were any plans for relief on the outstanding dues.

The Indian government is, however, working towards reviving state-run telecom player, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which lost market share amid fierce competition over the years, he said.

BSNL has 99 million users but is being supported with expanded

Trump becomes the 47th president of the United States

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 21

Donald J. Trump was officially sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on Monday, marking the beginning of his second term in office. Taking the oath of office inside the Capitol Rotunda due to frigid weather, Trump pledged to usher in what he described as a "revolution of common sense." With Republicans now in unified control of Washington, the administration aims to implement sweeping changes to the country's institutions.

Trump's return to the White House comes after overcoming a series of challenges, including two impeachments, multiple criminal indictments, and assassination attempts. In his inaugural address, the newly sworn-in president declared his intent to restore national sovereignty, enhance security, and recalibrate the justice system.

"Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced," Trump stated. He further promised to reverse what he termed as a "horrible betrayal," vowing to return faith, wealth,

democracy, and freedom to the American people. Trump proclaimed, "From this moment on, America's decline is over."

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Trump is set to sign a series of executive orders. These directives include measures to tighten border security, expand fossil fuel development, and eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs across federal agencies. The swift policy implementation signals Trump's commitment to his campaign promises and his vision for the country's future.

Due to the severe weather, Trump's inauguration took place indoors at the Capitol Rotunda—the first time in 40 years. The traditional inaugural parade was replaced with an indoor event at a downtown arena. Thousands of Trump supporters, who had gathered on the National Mall to witness the event, were left seeking alternative locations to follow the proceedings.

Vice President JD Vance was sworn in first by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, using a Bible passed down from his great-grandmother. President Trump followed,



taking his oath on two Bibles—his family's and the historic one used by Abraham Lincoln in 1861—administered by Chief Justice John Roberts.

A host of influential figures attended the ceremony, including business magnates Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Tim Cook, and Sundar Pichai. Also present was billionaire Elon Musk, who is expected to play a significant role in Trump's efforts to reduce federal spending and workforce numbers.

The day began with a traditional prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump were welcomed at the White House North Portico by outgoing President Joe Biden and First Lady

Jill Biden. Despite their past conflicts, Biden greeted Trump with the words, "Welcome home." The two presidents shared a limousine ride to the Capitol, a stark contrast to Trump's refusal to attend Biden's inauguration in 2021.

Trump's return to the presidency is unprecedented in American history. After losing the 2020 election amid the COVID-19 pandemic and economic turmoil, Trump refused to concede and was accused of inciting the January 6 Capitol riot. However, his unwavering hold over the Republican Party and his strong support base allowed him to stage a remarkable political comeback.

On this day, which coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Trump ac-

knowledged the significance of the moment. "We will strive together to make his dream a reality," he said, thanking Black and Latino voters for their support.

Trump's agenda includes a renewed focus on curbing illegal immigration, imposing tariffs on imports, and rolling back climate initiatives introduced by the Biden administration. His administration is also set to take controversial actions, such as attempting to end birthright citizenship and dismantling DEI programs within the federal workforce.

Biden, in his final hours as president, issued several preemptive pardons, including for his family members, as a protective measure against potential investigations by the

Trump administration. "These are exceptional circumstances," Biden stated, noting his family had faced relentless attacks.

Trump's re-election has drawn mixed reactions domestically and internationally. His "America First" foreign policy is being closely watched, especially as conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East continue to unfold. Notably, Trump plans to lift restrictions on TikTok, the Chinese-owned social media platform previously deemed a national security risk.

With the support of a Republican-controlled Congress, Trump is poised to implement his agenda more swiftly than during his first term. Political analysts predict significant shifts in governance as the new administration sets out to reshape the federal government and address issues such as economic growth, national security, and regulatory reform.

As Trump embarks on his second term, the nation remains divided, with both supporters and opponents gearing up for what is expected to be a transformative period in American history.

140 Business Leaders Attend Himanta Sarma's Investment Outreach In Seoul

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 21

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma rolled out the red carpet for potential investors during the Advantage Assam 2.0 roadshow held in Seoul on Monday.

With over 140 business leaders in attendance, the event, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in South Korea, showcased the state's potential as a key investment hub for global businesses.

Taking to X, Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "I

by speaking to over 140 business leaders at the Advantage Assam roadshow, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in South Korea. Their enthusiasm towards being a part of #AdvantageAssam2 was phenomenal. The Korean business community was buoyed by India's position as the world's fastest growing major economy and the unique opportunities Assam can offer to them to access this market."

The roadshow provided a platform for engaging with potential investors and offering insights into the vast opportunities for

collaboration, growth, and investment that Assam has to offer.

"Coming to Assam will be very, very special. I would like to invite all of you once again. Our Ambassador will facilitate the visit. Please do come and I will wait for a Korean delegation in the Advantage Assam conclave," Mr Sarma said, extending a warm invitation to the attendees.

"I am of the firm belief that if Assam can house an automobile manufacturing ecosystem, we could transform the socio-economic landscape of the North East. Today during my meet-

ing with CEOs and Leaders from South Korea's automobile ancillary firms, I have offered them the unstinted support of our State, should they choose to build a base in Assam. With easy access to India's \$100-billion auto industry and that of South East Asia, Assam offers them unparalleled advantages" Mr Sarma said.

The event also provided a glimpse into Assam's position as a gateway to India's rapidly expanding economy, with the Chief Minister emphasising the unique opportunities Assam presents to the

UK Drained \$64.8 Trillion from India During Colonial Rule: Oxfam Report

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 21

A recent report by Oxfam International has revealed that the United Kingdom extracted a staggering \$64.8 trillion from India during its colonial rule between 1765 and 1900. The report further highlights that \$33.8 trillion of this wealth directly benefited the richest 10% of the UK population.

Oxfam's findings, released at the World Economic Forum in Davos, indicate that the massive wealth extraction contributed significantly to the economic disparity seen in the modern world. The report states that the amount siphoned from India during colonial rule would have been enough to cover London in £50 notes nearly four times over.

In 1750, India accounted for approximately 25% of global industrial output. However, by 1900, this figure had plummeted to a mere 2%, largely due to Britain's stringent protectionist policies that crippled India's thriving textile industry and other key sectors. The report attributes this decline to the systematic dismantling of India's industrial potential by British policies.

Oxfam emphasizes that colonialism pioneered the modern multinational corporation, with the East India Company playing a pivotal role in wealth extraction. The company's army in India, which

grew to 260,000 soldiers—twice the size of the British peacetime army—engaged in widespread land dispossession, violence, and monopolization of trade. This facilitated the establishment of the world's first global financial system, heavily centered around financial markets in London.

The report underscores that wealth and political power in many former colonies, including India, remained concentrated among the elites post-independence. In 1875, top earners in India were predominantly European officers in the army and administration, but by 1940, wealth had shifted to local traders, bankers, and industrialists. This entrenched inequality persists today, with vast economic disparities separating the richest individuals from the masses.

The Oxfam report also draws attention to the rising global inequality, noting that billionaire wealth increased three times faster in 2024 compared to the previous year. In 2024 alone, total billionaire wealth surged by \$2 trillion, with 204 new billionaires emerging—an average of nearly four new billionaires per week. Oxfam projects that the number of trillionaires worldwide will increase from one to five within the next decade, even as 3.6 billion people continue to live below the \$6.85 poverty line.

SG RAISES CONCERNS OVER HALAL CERTIFICATION OF NON-MEAT PRODUCTS IN SUPREME COURT

New delhi
WUT | Jan . 21

Solicitor general of India Tushar Mehta on Monday raised in the Supreme Court the issue of halal certification of non-meat products such as iron bars and cement, flagging why non-believers should be made to pay higher cost for halal-certified products. The top law officer made the submissions during hearing of pleas challenging a notification prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale and distribution of food products with halal certification within Uttar Pradesh barring items produced for export. Also Read - Singh's Resolve on N-deal Ended India's Nuclear Apartheid

Advertisement "So far as halal meat is concerned, nobody can have any objection. But your lordships would be shocked, as I was shocked, that even cement and iron bars used are to be halal certified," Mehta submitted before a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Augustine George Masih. The SG said the halal-certifying agencies were charging and the total amount collected in the process might be a few lakh crore. Also Read - Manmohan Singh's life and work, 1991-2014 will be a golden chapter in India's history: Chidambaram "Even 'atta' (wheat flour) and 'besan' (gram flour) has to be halal-certified. How can 'besan' be halal or non-halal?" asked Mehta. The

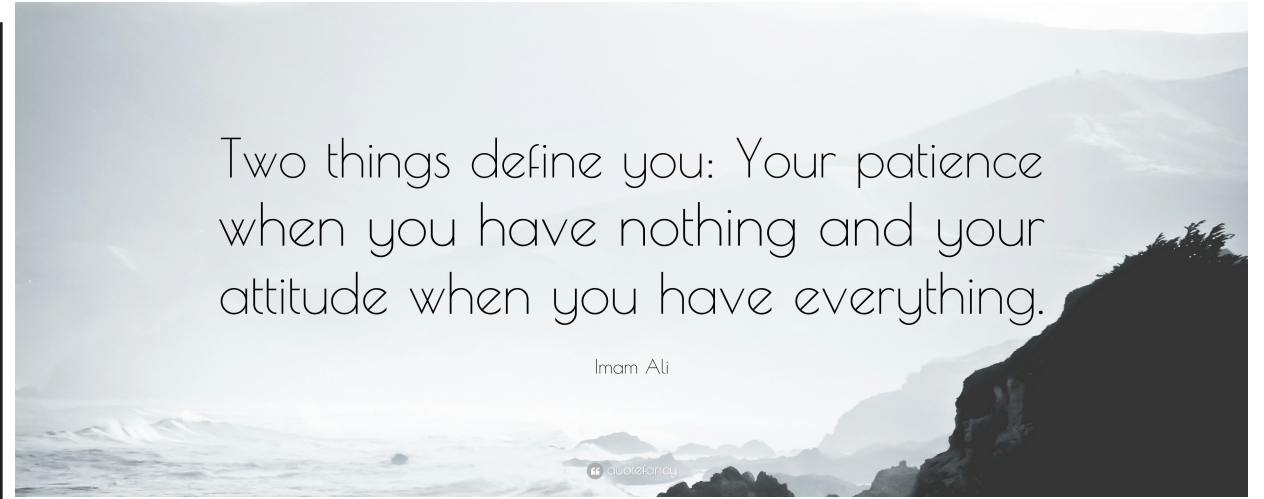


counsel appearing for the petitioners said the Centre's policy says it was a matter of lifestyle. "All this is voluntary. Nobody is forcing anyone," the petitioners' counsel said. Mehta referred to non-believers and

said why they should be made to pay a higher price only because some people wanted halal-certified products. The bench was informed that the Centre had filed an affidavit in the matter. Also Read - Con-

gress Cancels All Programmes for 7 Days to Honor PM Manmohan Singh The top court granted four weeks to the petitioners to file a rejoinder and said the matter would be heard in the week commencing March 24. The November 18, 2023 notification was issued by the office of the commissioner, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Uttar Pradesh, under the provision of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. In its counter affidavit filed in the top court, the Centre said the grievance of the petitioner related to the November 18, 2023 notification issued by the Food Safety and Drug Administration of Uttar Pradesh, which fell entirely

under the jurisdiction and authority of the state. Also Read - Daman Singh's Book Sheds Light on Father's Humble Beginnings and Career Shift The Centre said the Union ministry of commerce and industry had no role or authority over such state-level regulations or notifications. The ministry was primarily concerned with the promotion and regulation of international and domestic trade, industrial growth, and export promotion in India, the affidavit said. Several petitions, including those by Halal India Private Limited and others and "Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind Halal Trust," were filed in the apex court.



EDITORIAL

SMART OR STUPID FOR 2025?

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan 21

"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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The Editor

Brief Insights

Inter-state ATM fraud gang busted



Hyderabad police arrested three persons for ATM fraud, and seized Rs 7.60 lakh cash, 105 bank ATM cards and a fake police ID card from the accused. The operation was carried out by the commissioner's task force (south zone) in collaboration with the Bahadurpura police. The arrested are Vakul Ali, a 45-year-old cattle feed trader from Haryana, Farman, 23, private company employee from Uttar Pradesh, and Obaid Arif, 30, cloth shop worker from Hyderabad. Two other members of the gang, Islam and Gullu from Uttar Pradesh, are absconding. The gang targeted senior citizens, women and illiterate individuals at ATM kiosks. Under the pretext of assisting with transactions, they would observe the victims' PIN, and swap their ATM cards with similar-looking ones.

The gang then used the stolen cards to withdraw money from nearby ATMs or make purchases through POS machines. They were suspected of involvement in 18 offences, 10 in Telangana, two each in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and four in Odisha. In an incident that took place in the Bahadurpura on December 22, 2024, the gang duped a victim and withdrew Rs 2.03 lakh. Following a complaint, the Bahadurpura police registered a case and launched an investigation. Acting on information, the police arrested the suspects and seized the stolen money, ATM cards, vehicles and other items used in the crimes. The arrests were made under the supervision of Ande Srinivasa Rao, additional deputy commissioner of police, task force, Hyderabad, and inspector S. Raghav.

Cyberabad Police Collaborates with Delivery Platforms for Road Safety

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 21

The Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) convened a coordination meeting today at the Cyberabad CP Office Mini Conference Hall, focusing on traffic violations by delivery personnel. The meeting, chaired by Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis, IPS, discussed concerns related to the behavior of gig workers operating within the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate jurisdiction.

Delivery personnel have been frequently observed violating traffic rules to meet tight deadlines. Common offenses include riding without helmets, reckless driving,

wrong-way driving, drunken driving, and unauthorized parking. These violations have led to non-fatal accidents and fatalities among delivery workers.

To address these issues, Jt. CP D. Joel Davis emphasized the importance of delivery platforms conducting regular road safety sessions for their workers. He also assured that the Cyberabad Traffic Police would organize Traffic Safety Training Workshops to enhance awareness and reduce violations.

Key Measures to Address Traffic Violations:
Monitoring Traffic Violations: Delivery platforms will actively monitor and address traffic rule violations by



riders to ensure better compliance with safety regulations. Drunk Driving Checks: Mandatory alcohol checks will be conducted at the beginning and end of delivery shifts to curb impaired driving. Penalty and Reward System: Riders caught violating traffic rules will face penalties, including reduced assignments, lower incentives, and possible

termination for repeated offenses. Conversely, riders demonstrating safe driving practices will be rewarded with higher incentives and recognition. Resolving Traffic Violations: Delivery platforms and riders will collaborate with authorities to address traffic violations swiftly and maintain accountability.

Other recommendations discussed include the implementation of GPS-based speed monitoring, AI-powered violation alerts, and a system encouraging citizens to report violations via dedicated apps. This initiative is aimed at fostering a safer environment for both delivery workers and the general public, ensuring discipline among delivery personnel, and enhancing their commitment to road safety.

The meeting saw the participation of Madhapur Traffic DCP Sai Manohar, Cyberabad Traffic Administrators BNS Reddy and G. Guruvaiiah, as well as representatives from various online delivery platforms and bike taxi services.

HYDERABAD POLICE TEAMS COMPETE IN ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

Hyderabad
WUT | Jan. 21

Hyderabad police commissioner C.V. Anand on Monday said that for the first time, teams from all 14 police departments were participating at the annual sports meet. The four-day event will see police personnel showcase their talent at the Goshamahal police stadium. Anand emphasised the impor-



tance of sports in overcoming work-related stress and maintaining physical fitness. Badminton players Saina Nehwal and P. Kashyap attended the opening ceremony of the event

and also spoke of the importance of staying fit to keep their minds fresh.

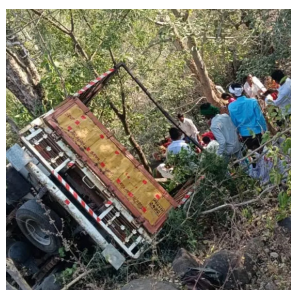
Elsewhere, the 6th edition of the Rachakonda police commissionerate sports meet was inaugurated at the

Sarooragar Indoor Stadium. Speaking at the inaugural event, Rachakonda police commissioner Sudheer Babu said, "Sports are a crucial part of our lives and help us to overcome different types of mental and physical stress." He noted that the competitions would be held every year and encouraged the police personnel to participate enthusiastically in these events.

TWO ADIVASI DEVOTEES SUCCUMB AFTER MISHAP

Adilabad
WUT | Jan. 21

Two Adivasi devotees lost their lives when the van they were travelling in fell into a valley at Malepur Ghat near Narnoor in Adilabad district on Sunday evening. The victims were identified as Kumra Mulku (60) and Thodasam Nagubai (70), both residents of Gudihathnoor mandal. According to reports, Mulku died on the spot, while Nagubai succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at



RIMS, Adilabad. The accident occurred as the van, carrying over 50 devotees from Suryaguda in Gudihathnoor, was on its way to the Jangu Bai temple at Kota-Parandholi near the state border. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident.

KISNA Jewellery Gives Away 100 Cars in #AbkiBaarAapkeLiye Campaign



KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery, a prominent player in India's jewellery retail sector, has successfully concluded its #Abki_Baar_Aapke_Liye campaign, giving away over 100 Maruti Celerio cars to winners across the country. The grand finale took place with simultaneous car handovers in 11 cities, marking a significant milestone for both the campaign and the brand.

Running from September 1, 2024, to January 18, 2025, the campaign saw over 51,000 participants. Customers who purchased diamond, platinum, or solitaire jewellery worth ₹20,000 or more, or gold jewellery worth ₹50,000 or more, were eligible to enter the lucky draw for a chance to win one of the cars.

The 104 winners were selected from a pool of participants across India, with the highest engagement from North India, which accounted for 20,795 entries. Special events were organized in several states, including Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, where winners received their car keys in a festive atmosphere.

Commenting on the campaign's success, Mr. Ghanshyam Dholakia, Founder & Managing Director of Hari Krishna Group, said, "The overwhelming participation in the #Abki_Baar_Aapke_Liye campaign is a testament to the trust and loyalty our customers have for KISNA. This initiative celebrates the joy of giving back to our patrons and creating unforgettable experiences."

Mr. Parag Shah, Director of KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery, added, "This campaign is a reflection of our commitment to connecting with every Indian household. The engagement and excitement during this period underscore the deep bond KISNA shares with its customers, combining tradition, modernity, and trust in every piece of jewellery."

To further enhance the excitement, winners were notified via tele-calls on the same day as the car deliveries, ensuring a memorable and personalized experience. KISNA's wide regional presence ensured that customers from even remote areas had an equal chance to participate and win.

The #Abki_Baar_Aapke_Liye campaign has set a new benchmark for customer engagement in the jewellery retail industry, offering participants a unique and celebratory shopping experience while making dreams come true with every purchase.

Taylor Swift debut performance in India soon?

HYDERABAD WUT | Jan . 21

Excitement is soaring among Indian fans as rumors are rife about Taylor Swift's possible debut performance in India. The global pop icon has reportedly been approached to headline the pre-wedding festivities of Jeet Adani, son of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani, and Diva Shah, a celebrated

entrepreneur. According to reports, discussions are underway between Swift's management and the Adani family. "Taylor Swift's team has been in talks with the Adanis to finalise her performance at one of the pre-wedding events. If everything aligns, this could mark her first-ever performance in India," sources said. The Adani-Shah wedding is already



being touted as one of the most extravagant celebrations of the year. Expected to span multiple days, the festivities will reportedly include

lavish ceremonies, drawing a guest list of prominent global figures, Bollywood celebrities, and industry magnates. Swift's potential performance would add an unprecedented international flair to the occasion. Meanwhile, fans of the singer have taken to social media to express their anticipation. Though neither Swift's team nor the Adani

family has confirmed the development, the possibility of the pop sensation gracing Indian shores has already made headlines worldwide. If confirmed, the performance will be a historic moment in India's entertainment scene, cementing the country's status as a destination for global icons. Stay tuned as the story unfolds!

'Sweet Dreams' trailer is a beautiful amalgam of realism and fantastical elements

HYDERABAD WUT | Jan . 21

Mithila Palkar, who is gearing up for her upcoming streaming title 'Sweet Dreams', has said that her character of Dia, a songwriter, is confused, ambitious, and yearns for something beyond the mundane thrown by life. The trailer of the film was unveiled on Monday.

The film is directed by Victor Mukherjee, and follows the story of two strangers linked by the surreal world of dreams. Talking about the film, Mithila said, "Dia's story is one that many of us will relate to because she is confused, ambitious, and yearning for something beyond. The dreams she shares with Kenny aren't just about romance; they're about understanding what truly matters. Shooting this film felt like an emotional journey, and I hope the trailer gives viewers a glimpse of the magic we've tried to create. This



could-n't have been possible without the vision of Victor sir and an amazing co-star like Amol. With a platform like Disney+ Hotstar having our back, we hope we are able to conquer horizons and travel leaps and bounds with the help of our film." The film also stars Amol Parashar, Meiyang Chang, and Sauraseni Maitra. The film's soulful soundtrack, created by the talented team of Mukund Suryawanshi, Shubham Shirule, Dev Arijit ,

my life personally and doing this alongside a talented co-star Mithila Palkar."

The film captures the magic of serendipity and the intensity of love that transcends the ordinary. Director Victor Mukherjee said, "'Sweet Dreams' is more than just a love story. It's a journey into the subconscious, exploring the millennial desire to chase the extraordinary while often missing the beauty of the present. With the film, I wanted to give audiences a taste of the magnificent yet grounded tone of the film. I'm thrilled with how Mithila and Amol brought Kenny and Dia to life with such authenticity and heart and hope the audiences enjoy it."

Produced by Jio Studios & Mango People Media, Mithila Palkar, Amol Parashar, Meiyang Chang, Sauraseni Maitra, 'Sweet Dreams' is produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Neha Anand, Pranjal Khandhiya. The

Taiwan Excellence to Unveil Ground-breaking Metal Processing Technologies at IMTEX 2025



Taiwan Excellence, a renowned symbol of innovation and quality, is set to make a significant impact at IMTEX 2025, South and South-East Asia's premier exhibition for machine tools and manufacturing technology. The event will be held from January 23 to 29, 2025, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). Taiwan Excellence will debut its Pavilion with the participation of 13 leading Taiwanese companies, presenting 17 revolutionary technologies designed to reshape India's manufacturing sector.

This highly anticipated debut underscores Taiwan Excellence's dedication to fostering strong partnerships with India's manufacturing industry. By introducing advanced metal processing solutions, Taiwan Excellence aims to empower Indian manufacturers with the latest tools to enhance precision, efficiency, and sustainability, paving the way for a future of shared innovation and growth.

The opening day will feature the launch of the product session "Crafting Excellence for a Progressive Tomorrow," where Taiwan Excellence will showcase cutting-edge metal processing technologies from top Taiwanese brands such as Chmer, Quaser, Palmay, Syntec, and Hiwin. Highlighted products include the Intelligent 4.0 Guideway, Underwater Direct Drive Rotary Table, Multi-Program Mill-Turn, CNC Grinder, and CNC Machining Center.

The exhibition will offer live demonstrations that showcase how Taiwanese innovations are set to revolutionize India's manufacturing landscape. Visitors, including industry leaders, companies, distributors, and dealers, can engage with the technologies that promise to redefine manufacturing practices in India.

Participating brands in the Taiwan Excellence Pavilion include CHMER, KANFON, AXISCO, Honor Seiki, PALMARY, QUASER, OSCARMAX, HIWIN, INNGRIT, SYNTEC, AutoGrip, TBI Motion, and Mecom.

Joju George's 'Pani' Takes Sony LIV by Storm, Ranks 2 on Google Trends

Hyderabad WUT | Jan . 21

Joju George's directorial debut Pani has quickly become a sensation following its release on Sony LIV on January 16. The film has surged to the second position in Google Trends' All-India Entertainment category, making it one of the most talked-about releases in the country.

The gripping narrative of Pani revolves around a single event that disrupts ordinary lives, unearthing long-buried secrets and testing steadfast loyalties. As characters confront their deepest fears, the



challenges the audience to question whether uncovering the truth is worth the painful consequences. In addition to directing, writing,

and starring in the film, Joju George leads a talented ensemble cast that includes Sagar Surya, Junaiz V. P., Bobby Kurian, Abhinaya, Abhaya Hiranmayi, Seema, Chandini Sreedharan, Prashanth Alexander, Sujith Shankar, and Rinosh George. The film, produced by M. Riaz Adam and Sijo Vadakkan under AD Studios, features stunning cinematography by Venu ISC and Jinto George.

With its captivating storyline and powerful performances, Pani has quickly captured the attention of viewers, solidifying its place as one of the most discussed releases in recent days.

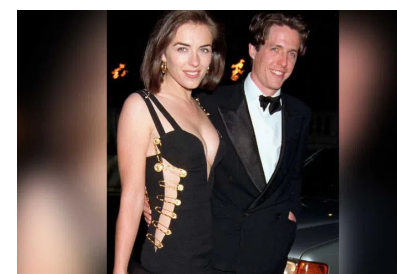
Hugh Grant calls ex-girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley 'high-maintenance'

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21

Hollywood star Hugh Grant has taken a humorous dig at his former girlfriend-model Elizabeth Hurley, whom he dated from 1987 to 2000, and called her "high-maintenance".

The couple made headlines in 1994 when Hurley attended the premiere of "Four Weddings and a Funeral" in a daring safety pin dress designed by Gianni Versace. The gown instantly propelled Hurley to stardom and became a defining moment in her career, reports 'aceshowbiz.com'.

Speaking with his 'Bridget Jones' co-star Renee Zellweger, Grant revealed that he and Hurley would often have lunch with Versace before his shows in Milan. "But I did have very high-maintenance girlfriends who liked all this," he added.



He had spoken about Hurley during an interview with 'Vogue'. Hurley herself has recounted her experience wearing the iconic dress in a 'Vogue' documentary. She recalled not having heard of Versace before and finding the dress rather "precarious". However, she felt secure in it and acknowledged how daring the choice was. Grant and Hurley have remained close friends since their split in 2000. Hurley has credited their shared experience with fame and the public spotlight for

their enduring bond.

She has said that being in the trenches with someone creates a significant connection. Reflecting on her rise to fame, Hurley has expressed surprise at the level of attention she received after wearing the Versace dress. "To my family, I was a success; but I had no idea what it actually meant to really be in the public eye," she said.

Earlier, Grant had revealed that he has "forbidden" his wife from watching his 'Nine Months' because he thinks he was not good.

He told 'variety.com': "Let me stress, everyone involved with ('Nine Months'), with the exception of me, was brilliant and talented. It was just me that let it down. My wife wants to watch it, but I've forbidden her. I've put parental controls on the screen so that you can't get it."

KDM's Kumbh Digital Mela Blends Technology with Culture, Supporting Maha Kumbh 2025

Mumbai WUT | Jan. 21

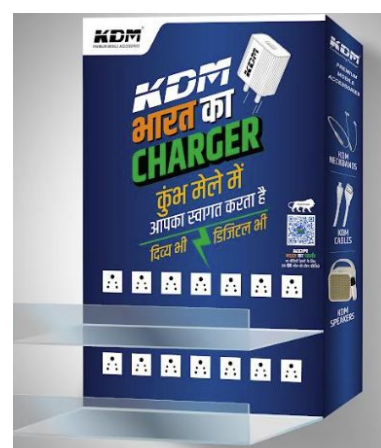
Leading Indian lifestyle and mobile accessories brand KDM is taking a significant step in integrating technology with culture through its Kumbh Digital Mela initiative at Maha Kumbh 2025. This innovative program underscores the brand's commitment to enhancing the spiritual and cultural experience of millions of devotees attending the grand event in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, from January 13 to February 26, 2025. Referred to as "Bharat Ka

Spiritual Charger," the Kumbh Mela draws devotees from across the country. Similarly, KDM serves a wide spectrum of customers across urban and semi-urban areas, providing affordable, high-quality mobile accessories that cater to India's evolving digital needs.

KDM's flagship product, featuring Kinetic Dynamic Mobile Charging Technology (KDM-T Technology), is a 100% indigenous solution developed under the "Make in India" initiative. It ensures uninterrupted mobile charging for devotees, enabling them to share moments of devotion while staying connected

with their loved ones.

Powering Maha Kumbh 2025 With the establishment of over 90 mobile charging stations in Mahakumbh Nagar, KDM is set to charge devices for an estimated 16.2 lakh people over the course of the 45-day event. Each tent, accommodating up to 200 visitors, will facilitate charging twice a day, ensuring that devotees remain connected while embracing the spiritual significance of the Kumbh Mela. Recognizing the role of mobile phones as both "Devices of Growth" and cultural connectors, KDM Co-Founder B H Suthar em-



phasized the brand's role in promoting Digital India. "Strengthening Digital India calls for local

innovation and unified industry efforts. KDM remains committed to fostering technological excellence while celebrating India's cultural heritage," he said. Founder N D Mali added, "As India journeys toward Viksit Bharat by 2047, we aim to align with the mantra of 'Make for the World' alongside 'Make in India.' Our Kumbh Digital Mela initiative reflects our dedication to merging technological advancement with cultural preservation."

Expanding Digital and Cultural Frontiers As the Maha Kumbh grows as a

global religious and cultural tourism hub, KDM continues to solidify its position as a leader in mobile accessories and lifestyle products. Over the past decade, the brand has built an extensive distribution network and a diverse product portfolio, including chargers, earphones, speakers, neckbands, and headphones.

KDM's involvement in Maha Kumbh 2025 not only supports the event's logistical needs but also reinforces India's position as a global leader in cultural and technological innovation.

CITY CLICKS

Everyone has been told to be flexible, Axar Patel highlights ahead of England T20Is



Openers are the only ones with a fixed slot in the Indian T20 line-up and the batting order that follows will be made up of "multiple floaters", new vice-captain Axar Patel said on Monday while spelling out the team's strategy ahead the five-match series against England.

India will start their campaign against England in a five-match T20I series at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. Asked about being a floater in batting order, the all-rounder replied: "...it's not just about me; it applies to everyone in the team.

"Right from the start of 2024, we had decided to have a fixed opening slot, and from No. 3 to No. 7, everyone has been told to be flexible based on the situation, combinations, and match-ups." Axar, who is now a part of the team management for the series, spoke in a manner that reminded one of Rohit Sharma's interaction before the 2023 ODI World Cup where he called for flexibility in the middle-order.

"There is no fixed position where a particular batter will always play... it's the same for everyone in that range (between Nos 3 to 7), depending on who is having a great day, which we assess during practice sessions.

"In T20 cricket, it's all about utilising the right batter in the right situation." There is not much that changes for Axar as Suryakumar Yadav's deputy except for the fact that he will now also be a part of certain hard calls that are taken by the team management.

"It's been only one day. Yes, we (skipper Surya, head coach Gautam Gambhir and myself) have had a discussion. There is an extra responsibility on the leadership group. There is not much of a change. Obviously, we have a settled T20 side, there is not much pressure."

Nigeria script historic win over New Zealand in Women's U-19 T20 World Cup

Debutants Nigeria scripted the unimaginable as they stunned a formidable New Zealand by two runs for a historic win in a rain-interrupted low-scoring thriller of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup in which both sides were restricted for under-70 totals here on Monday.

Nigeria scored 65-6 batting first, before producing an energetic display on the field derailed New Zealand's run chase. The Kiwis were 57-5, needing nine runs with one over to go in the 13-over contest. However, tight bowling from pacer Lilian Udeh got them over the line with the Kiwis falling short by just two runs.

Udeh (19) and skipper Lucky Piety (18) were the only ones to hit double figures in the game for Nigeria, while Anika Todd top-scored for New Zealand with a 19-run effort. Football and athletics are popular sports in Nigeria, unlike in the south of the continent (South Africa, Zimbabwe) where cricket has a big fan following.

But the Nigerian girls placed the spotlight on their country's cricketing growth by becoming the first West African country to qualify for a global tournament and then producing the biggest shock by upsetting an ICC full-member nation in a Group C match.

The Nigerians were left to wait for an opportunity after their contest with Samoa on Saturday was abandoned due to rain. Wet weather again threatened the proceedings in Sarawak, but the African nation made the most of their chances once it was confirmed there would be play, albeit a reduced contest of 13 overs each.

In another match of the day, Australia beat Bangladesh by two wickets in a tense Group D match and all but secured their progression to the next stage. USA also announced itself as a World Cup force after stunning Ireland in Johor, winning by nine wickets and drastically improving their net run rate position in Group B.

Brief Scores: Nigeria 65/6 in 13 overs (Lucky Piety 19) lost to New Zealand 63/6 in 13 overs (Anika Todd 19).

Virat Kohli set for Ranji Trophy return after 12 years for Delhi's match against Railways

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 21

Indian superstar Virat Kohli is set to play his first Ranji Trophy game since 2012 after making himself available for Delhi's tie against Railways scheduled here from January 30.

Kohli could not make it for Delhi's upcoming away clash against Saurashtra, beginning in Rajkot on January 23, due to a neck sprain but he has communicated to DDCA that he is available for the team's last league match of the Ranji Trophy. "Virat has conveyed to DDCA president (Rohan Jaitley) and team management that he is available for the game against Railways," Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh said. The BCCI has made playing domestic cricket mandatory for its contracted cricketers unless there is a fitness issue following the series loss in Australia earlier this month.

Kohli last played a Ranji Trophy match in November 2012 when Delhi took on Uttar Pradesh in Ghaziabad. Thanks to BCCI's directive, the last two rounds of Ranji Trophy will be star-studded affairs. Kohli's India and Delhi teammate



Rishabh Pant will play his first Ranji game in six years when he takes the field in Rajkot. He too could be seen alongside Kohli in the Railways game. After the Champions Trophy squad announcement on Saturday, India captain Rohit Sharma confirmed his availability for Mumbai's match against Jammu and Kashmir at home.

Other India stars including Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ravindra Jadeja will also be seen in action in the next round of Ranji Trophy for their respective sides.

The clamour for Rohit and Co to play red-ball cricket had grown after India lost their second successive Test series. After being blanked 3-0 by New Zealand at home, India lost the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 1-3 in Australia.

Both Rohit and Kohli had a series to forget in Australia. While Rohit decided to bench himself for the final Test in Sydney due to poor form, Kohli was caught in the slip cordon off balls outside the off-stump as many as eight times in the series.

Samson to miss Kerala's Ranji match against Madhya Pradesh after selected for India duty



Sanju Samson will miss Kerala's sixth-round Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh, beginning here on January 23, as he has been included in India squad for the five-match T20I series against England.

India will face England from January 22 at Kolkata and the rubber will culminate on February 2 at Mumbai. Unless Samson does not get released from India squad, the wicket-keeper batter will also miss the final Group C match against Bihar, starting on January 30. However, the 30-year-old has a chance to play for Kerala in the knockout phase as the state team is currently

placed second in the group with 18 points behind leaders Haryana (20 points). Samson was also not selected to play for Kerala in the recent Vijay Hazare Trophy after he skipped a three-day camp preceding the tournament.

It also played a part in Samson not getting considered to India's ODI squad against England and for the Champions Trophy, despite making a hundred against South Africa at Paarl late last year. Sachin Baby will lead Kerala, while middle-order batter Vishnu Vinod, who was dropped after the second match, has been included in the 15-member squad.

Mohammed Siraj may play for Hyderabad in Ranji Trophy game against Vidarbha

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 20

Mohammed Siraj, after missing out on India squad for Champions Trophy and ODIs against England, is likely to play for Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy game against Vidarbha on January 30, according to the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).

In the Elite Group B table of the Ranji Trophy, Hyderabad are placed sixth with nine points from five matches. They will resume their Ranji Trophy campaign against second-ranked Himachal Pradesh at home on January 23. Jagan Mohan Rao, the president of



Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), said that there's likely chance of Siraj playing the next Ranji Trophy game for Hyderabad, where they will be up against table-toppers Vidarbha, starting January 30 in Nagpur.

In ODI matches from 2022 to 2024, Siraj has picked 71 wickets at an average of just 22.97, the most by an Indian pacer in this period. In

his place, the BCCI drafted left-arm fast-bowler Arshdeep Singh, alongside Jasprit Bumrah (subject to fitness), Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya and Harshit Rana (included only for England ODIs). On the Hyderabad's omission from the squad, captain Rohit Sharma said he was a good opening pace bowler but was found wanting during the death overs.

Rinku Singh to marry Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj, family confirms

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 21

Indian cricketer Rinku Singh is set to get hitched to Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Priya Saroj, according to her family.

Priya Saroj's father and SP MLA from Kerakat Tufani Saroj told PTI that his family held "meaningful talks" with Singh's father in Aligarh on February 16 regarding the marriage of their children and both sides agreed to the matrimonial alliance. No ring ceremony or pre-wedding programme has been held so far, he said. According to Tufani Saroj, a three-time MP, his daughter and Singh got acquainted through one of her friends whose father is

also a cricketer.

"Rinku and Priya have known each other for more than a year now. They both liked each other but needed the consent of their families for their relationship. Both the families have agreed to this marriage," he said. Dates of engagement and wedding will be decided after the Parliament session. The engagement will be held in Lucknow, he said. Singh will be playing the T20I series against England from January 22. He will also be playing in the IPL after this. It will be ensured that the wedding functions do not impact his game, he added. According to sources, the two families met at Singh's house in Ozone

City, Aligarh and finalised the marriage by exchanging 'shagun' and gifts. Priya Saroj is a resident of Karkhiyaon village in Varanasi. She has been associated with the SP for several years now and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Machhlishahr constituency in Jaunpur district last year at the age of 25.

A former Supreme Court lawyer, Priya Saroj first shot into the limelight while campaigning for her father in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. She graduated in arts from Delhi University before getting a law degree from Amity University, Noida.

England coach McCullum vows a 'watchful' strategy against India despite 'Bazball' reputation

New delhi
WUT | Jan. 21

Credited with introducing the ultra-aggressive 'Bazball' brand of batting, England coach Brendon McCullum on Monday sprang a surprise by promising to "play very watchful style of cricket" in the limited overs series against India.

The upcoming assignment against India will be McCullum's first in white-ball cricket, having coached the Test team with plenty of success since May 2022. "I know it's going to be a tough tour, taking on a very good Indian side, but I'm sure we'll play what I hope is a very watchful style of cricket," McCullum said. The tour begins with the first of the

five-match T20I series at Eden Gardens on Wednesday, followed by three one-day internationals. "It's great, actually. That's really exciting, I think. Obviously, we've known for a couple of months this was going to unfold, and it's been great." The ODI series is seen as dress rehearsal for both teams ahead of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, which will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19.

"We'll use the next few weeks to try and hit the ground running, I'm sure there will be some times where we don't quite get it right," he said. "But, hopefully, we will chisel away at that over the next few weeks, and we'll be in good shape come that Champions Trophy."



The 43-year-old was appointed England's white-ball coach in September, succeeding Matthew Mott, and he will now juggle between his role as Test coach while guiding the limited-overs side. In India, England will play five T20Is and three ODIs. Despite England's penchant for power-hitting, McCullum emphasised the importance of adapting to conditions and making the most of their resources.

"You won't win every game we play, right? We're fiercely competitive and want to be successful, but for us, the conversations in the dressing room are different. It's about getting the best out of the talent we have, gelling the guys together, and finding the right complementary skills." He acknowledged that the team has all the ingredients to succeed in India.

"We've got a batting lineup that's as power-

ful as any in the world. We've got gun spinners, top fielders, and guys who bowl absolute rockets with the ball. It's about using those strengths to entertain and maximise our chances." England skipper Jos Buttler was part of the team's 2019 World Cup-winning squad and led them to the T20 world title in 2022 but there has been a downward spiral since then.

"He is excited about the team we have got and the opportunity that sits in front of us," said McCullum of Buttler. "I am sure we will see Jos over the next couple of years really enjoy himself and finish with a real strong enjoyment of the game at the back end of his career. "Sometimes when you get the opportunity to

lead in the latter part of your career there are times when you can be desperate for success and that can create frustrations and it doesn't become quite as enjoyable.

"If you can let yourself go with nothing to prove other than getting the best out of those around you, sometimes that can free you up even more and you can perform really strongly. "He is fully on board with that. He is excited about the next little while. I am sure you will see him smiling on the field." Buttler won't keep McCullum further said Buttler would play as a specialist batter and not keep wickets on the tour. "I think he won't be keeping wickets in this series."

KTR Launches BRS Labor Department's Diary, Slams Congress Over Policy Failures

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) recently attended the diary launch program of the BRS Labor Department at Telangana Bhavan. During his speech, KTR emphasized that the BRS Labor Department would continue to oppose the anti-worker policies of the Congress government, highlighting that the fighting spirit of the department has not waned despite BRS losing power. KTR praised Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for his support to laborers, particularly porters. He noted that KCR resolved the

porters' issues within the first 15 days of taking office, increasing their wages from ₹8 to ₹26. KTR also recalled how KCR provided significant support to migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering them financial aid, food, and transport back to their hometowns, even though many of these workers were not from Telangana. Highlighting KCR's unique approach to labor welfare, KTR pointed out that KCR had sanctioned thousands of houses for beedi workers as the Union Labor Minister in 2004. In 2005, he succeeded in creating a committee to address issues faced by unorganized



workers. KTR also referenced KCR's initiatives to increase the wages of safai workers and Anganwadi teachers, as well as his efforts to increase salaries for Asha workers and other municipal staff. KTR strongly criticized the Congress leadership for misleading the public about KCR's fiscal policies. He pointed out that, under KCR's leadership, Telangana's per capita income rose from ₹1.14 lakh in 2014 to ₹3.56 lakh, and the state's debt was turned into an investment. KTR further noted

that the state's revenue surplus increased from ₹369 crore in 2014 to ₹5,944 crore, while Telangana's overall development—including infrastructure and irrigation projects—had been funded through loans seen as long-term investments. Responding to Congress allegations about the state's debt, KTR highlighted KCR's key achievements, such as building the Damacherla power plant, various irrigation projects, and welfare schemes for farmers, which have laid the foundation for future prosperity. KTR also took a jab at Congress leader Revanth Reddy, questioning the allocation of a ₹1.4 lakh

crore loan taken under his leadership, accusing him of failing to deliver on promises made to the people of Telangana. He challenged Congress leaders to explain how they would address the issues of workers, including the establishment of an auto welfare board and other worker benefits. In closing, KTR urged the BRS Labor Department to elect new leaders in all 33 districts to take up the cause of workers and hold the Congress government accountable for its unfulfilled promises. He assured that the BRS leadership would continue supporting the legal fight for workers' rights.

HMDA Visits Kokapet Areas to Review Water Supply



HMDA commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmad and Water Board MD Ashok Reddy visited Kokapet and Neopolis on Monday to plan for future water needs in these areas which are growing rapidly. They inspected sites for building reservoirs and water infrastructure. At Neopolis, they reviewed land allocated for a balancing reservoir and pump house. The plan is to bring water from the Godavari Phase-2 project to the Khanapur reservoir and distribute it to nearby areas using gravity. Officials were asked to finalise the required plans for this. The team also visited the Khanapur balancing reservoir. Ashok Reddy suggested proposals to build more reservoirs and water treatment plants here to meet future demands. Ashok Reddy also inspected the water conduit from Gandipet to Asifnagar filter beds. He directed officials to install fencing along the maintenance roads and repair any leakages immediately. He also asked to remove any encroachments on the conduit with the help of the vigilance team. At Kokapet, Ashok Reddy reviewed the construction of pressure filters at the Water Board's reservoir site. He directed the team to complete them by February 15.

Coal sector will create 5 lakh jobs: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21 Union coal and mines minister G. Kishan Reddy said even though the use of coal in power generation had almost plateaued, thanks to the shift to renewable energy sources, the coal sector would still create five lakh new jobs in the next few years and urged states to focus on skill development and capacity building. Addressing the 2nd national conference of coal ministers at Konark in Odisha, Kishan Reddy said that the country needed 2 billion tonnes of coal per year, with demand set to peak by 2040. He said that thermal power met around 72 per cent of demand, and coal production has increased by 76 per cent compared to 2014, to reach 997 million tonnes in 2024. The government has set a target to produce 1.5 billion tonnes of coal by 2030. Domestic coal production is worth around Rs.1.86 lakh crore and the coal sector contributes 2 per cent of the GDP. Kishan Reddy said the government has started a coal gasification project with Rs.8,500 crore with the target to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030. Stating that the Na-



tional Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) had funded 329 projects so far to promote mine exploration, Kishan Reddy asked the states to make use of the funds to promote mineral exploration and set up similar trusts. Kishan Reddy said that the Centre has started a mining surveillance system to check illegal mining with the help of advanced technology to prevent illegal mining and sought the cooperation of states to check it. The transport bidding of mines has generated Rs.2.69 lakh crore revenue to the states in 2024 in the form of royalty as against Rs.55,636 crore in 2015, he noted. Kishan Reddy expressed hope that the country will shortly emerge as a global leader in critical mineral exploration and informed that the country has been taking part in global bids to get strategic minerals. He said the government has completed bidding of 24 out of 48 critical minerals in the country.

GHMC officials step in to save park from encroachers

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21 Some encroachers are eyeing a Rs 80 crore worth property, which is a GHMC park in Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills. Spread over 2,000 square yards, the space has compound walls and two temporary entrances, which have been laid from an adjacent structure that is owned by retired IAS officer Venu Gopal Reddy. Vegetables are being grown by using a drip irrigation system, while a sign board with the corporation's logo outside the lung space has been uprooted. Ironically, the park is lo-

cated behind Jubilee Hills police station and is adjacent to the property bearing plot number 457, which is owned by Venu Gopal Reddy. It is from his property that water to the drip irrigation system is being supplied. Though no one is presently living in the structure owned by the retired IAS officer, there is a watchman and a caretaker. The encroachers have built compound walls that are blocking the only entrance to the lung space. The two temporary wooden staircases placed horizontally facilitating entrance from Gopal Reddy's property are the only provisions to enter the GHMC park.

By Monday evening, the walls raised by the encroacher were demolished using a heavy vehicle and the entire vegetation grown on it will also be razed, said a GHMC official. "This is an encroachment attempt," said a GHMC official stationed in the head office. However, the officials at the demolition site said that they are yet to identify the encroacher. "We are probing the incident to understand whether the encroachment has been done by the plot owner or whether he has leased out to a third party," said another official from the corporation.

VHR demands action against Shah over Ambedkar remark

Hyderabad WUT | Jan .21 TPCC senior leader V Hanumantha Rao on Monday lodged a complaint with the Amberpet police seeking action against Union home minister Amit Shah and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for allegedly making derogatory remarks on Dr B.R. Ambedkar. In his complaint, Hanumantha Rao alleged that Amit Shah had insulted Dr Ambedkar in Parliament. RSS chief



Bhagwat had insulted Dr Ambedkar by stating that India had achieved independence after the consecration of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

"The Odisha police have registered fake and illegal cases against Rahul Gandhi. When Amit Shah and Mohan Bagwat made such objectionable comments, why did the police fail to register a cases," Hanumantha Rao asked. He said if the police failed to lodge a complaint, he would organise protests in front of police stations by lodging a number of complaints and take the issue to the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Telangana HC dismisses writ appeal of Waqf Board

Hyderabad WUT | Jan .21 A two-judge panel of Telangana High Court dismissed a writ appeal filed by the State Waqf Board on termination of its employee. The panel of comprising of Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili and Justice Laxmi Narayana Alishetty, upheld an order of a single judge

who allowed the writ petition of Mohammedm Sanaulah Khan. Earlier, the employee of State Waqf Board filed a writ petition questioning the termination of his services. He contended inter alia that the termination was arbitrary, discriminatory and disproportionate to the charge levelled against him. The writ petitioner is charged

of going on strike alongside other employees in May 2015 for non-payment of wages of April 2015. The panel speaking through Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili pointed out that the petitioner was purged at the domestic enquiry of other charges including demarcation of Waqf properties in Adilabad and the termination was based upon

on the only surviving charge of participating in the strike. The panel also found that all the other striking employees were not given the extreme punishment of termination. The theory of proportionality in imposing the punishment as held by the single judge, was legal and valid, the panel found. It accordingly dismissed the appeal.



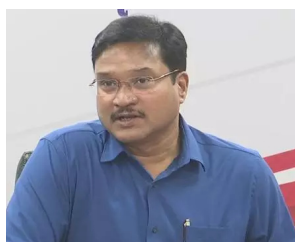
Saina Nehwal and P Kashyap inaugurate Hyderabad City Police Annual Sports Meet, joined by Police Commissioner CV Anand at Sivakumar Lal Stadium.

HYDRAA's Silence on Bathukamma Kunta Lake Baffles People

HYDRAA's Continued Delay in Rejuvenating Hyderabad's Lakes Draws Public Criticism

Hyderabad WUT | Jan. 21 Hyderabad's lakes, including the historically significant Bathukamma Kunta and Sunnam Cheruvu, which were initially earmarked for rejuvenation under the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency's (HYDRAA) initiative, remain in a state of neglect, leaving residents and environmentalists baffled. Despite earlier assurances from HYDRAA regarding the rejuvenation of several lakes in the city, including those located in key areas like Kukatpally and Khajaguda, no substantial progress has been witnessed on the ground. HYDRAA, tasked with the responsibility of reviving these water bodies, had submitted proposals to the state government with the

objective of rejuvenating 12 lakes across the city. Among the lakes listed for rejuvenation are Sunnam Cheruvu in Guttala Begumpet, Nalla Cheruvu in Kukatpally, and Thoutankunta at Khajaguda. However, despite these submissions and several public briefings, the agency's promises have not been materialized into visible action. There has been no noticeable improvement or development on-site at any of these locations, raising serious concerns about the efficiency of the agency and its ability to deliver on its commitments. Bathukamma Kunta, one of the most prominent lakes in Hyderabad, has become the focal point of this delay. The lake, which holds cultural and historical significance, was at the center of HYDRAA's re-



juvenation efforts, which began on November 13 of last year. The project was halted unexpectedly due to a legal dispute. Sudhakar Reddy, a local individual, filed a petition in the High Court claiming ownership of the land surrounding Bathukamma Kunta, effectively stalling the rejuvenation process. This legal intervention delayed the agency's work for several weeks, despite the critical importance of the lake in the city's urban landscape. After weeks of legal proceedings, the Telangana High Court delivered a ruling on January 7, 2025, rejecting Sudhakar Reddy's claim and re-

affirming that the land surrounding Bathukamma Kunta was indeed public property. The ruling was seen as a victory for the preservation of the lake and its potential for community revitalization. The court's decision cleared the way for HYDRAA to resume its rejuvenation efforts. However, more than two weeks have passed since the judgment, and there is still no sign of the agency taking concrete steps to restart the restoration work at the site. Locals are growing increasingly impatient and frustrated by the inaction. "We had high hopes that after the court's ruling, the work would resume immediately. But now, over two weeks have passed, and nothing has changed. There hasn't been a single worker seen at the site," said Mohd. Arif, a local resident.

Many are disappointed by the lack of urgency displayed by the agency, especially given the court's favorable ruling and the widespread community support for the lake's rejuvenation. The Bathukamma Kunta lake itself has a long history, with many locals believing that it was originally constructed by the Nizam of Hyderabad for his cavalry. Over time, the lake became culturally significant as it became a traditional spot for local women to immerse Bathukammams during the Bathukamma festival, which celebrates the harvest season. The lake holds sentimental value for the local community, which has been advocating for its restoration to enhance the city's landscape and preserve its cultural heritage.

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