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### Brief Insights

#### Modi To Embark On Three-Nation Four-day Visit Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-nation four-day visit on Monday to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman but the visit to the strategic friend Oman will be the most keenly-watched during the visit for its security and economic dimensions. India is hopeful of inking a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with the Sultanate and receive spare parts for the ageing Jaguar fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force from Oman which has retired its Jaguar fleet.

In the first leg of the visit to Jordan, at the invitation of Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a visit to the Hashemite kingdom on December 15 and 16. The Prime Minister will meet His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein to review the

#### Foresters Try Out Cure for Neem-Killer Disease

The withering of thousands of neem trees — Telangana's iconic symbols of health and heritage — over some years had prompted the Mulugu-based Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), to launch a comprehensive scientific probe into the devastating "dieback disease." The disease causes the upper branches to dry up, the foliage to thin out and the flowers to vanish. 'Phomopsis azadiractae', a fungus thriving in recent heavy monsoons, due to high humidity and temperature swings, is found to be the main culprit and was confirmed through lab tests on infected twigs since 2021.

FCRI dean V. Krishna, who once led GHMC's green city efforts, said neem trees were priceless for the environment and culture. Expert Dr Jagadish is guiding a long-term

#### Telangana Govt Readies DPR for Musi Revival Project

The state government has completed preparation for the detailed project report (DPR) for the first phase of the ambitious Musi Rejuvenation project and is set to submit it to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by December-end to seek the release of funds. The ADB has already approved a loan of ₹4,100 crore for the comprehensive revival of the river. The first phase of the project will cover a nine-kilometre stretch from Himayatsagar to Babu Ghat via Kismatpur. Official sources said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to convene a meeting of the state Cabinet by this month-end to secure formal approval for the DPR. Once cleared by the Cabinet, the report will be forwarded to the ADB, enabling the disbursement of the

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**Congress Failed To Win People's Trust In GP Polls, Says KTR: P3**

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## BJP Trying To Snatch Vote Right of SC, ST, BC Persons: Revanth

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday warned people from the poor and middle classes that the BJP government would initially remove them from the voter lists through the special intensive revision (SIR) programme, and later they would also lose Aadhaar cards and ration cards. Participating in a protest organised by the AICC at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi against the alleged 'Vote Chori', Revanth Reddy said the BJP government was planning to implement SIR in all states to keep away genuine voters from the general elections.

When the country was drafting its Constitution, the Chief Minister claimed, RSS leaders like M.S. Golwalkar and others argued against granting voting rights to



Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and the poor. However, Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar ensured these communities received the right to vote. People from SC, ST and BC communities are active now participants in the formation of the government in this country by participating in elections. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister Amit Shah, who follow the ideology of the RSS and Golwalkar,

sought to win 400 seats to implement their ideology in the recent general elections. However, when Rahul Gandhi stated that giving the BJP 400 seats would lead to changes in the Constitution and the removal of reservations, the people limited the BJP to 240 seats," Revanth Reddy claimed. "Because of the Constitution, reservations still exist today. That is why they are now making attempts under the name of Special Intensive

revision (SIR) to remove the voters and implement their agenda."

Similar to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Ambedkar extending their assistance to poor people, Revanth Reddy said, AICC chief Mallikarjuna Kharge and senior party leader Rahul Gandhi stood up for the poor, Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities in protecting their rights. Revanth Reddy explained that the SIR and 'Vote Chori' were not election issues; they are not even the issues of the Congress; these are national issues, which the Congress had taken up to protect the right to vote for all eligible people in the country, irrespective of caste, community and region. Revanth Reddy urged the country to join together in the Vote Chori movement, stating that Telangana is ready to join with Rahul Gandhi to lead the protest across the country.

## Nitin Nabin Appointed BJP's National Working President

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Bihar minister Nitin Nabin was named the BJP's working president today, amid expectations of him eventually replacing JP Nadda who had been heading the party since 2020. Nabin brings a unique blend of experience and youth, party insiders have said. At the age of 45, he is the youngest BJP chief ever. But already, he also holds the distinction of being a five-time MLA and has acquired administrative experience handling important ministerial portfolios, say party leaders.

Nabin also has two decades of organisational experience - rising through the ranks from the party's youth wing chief to the election in-charge in Chhattisgarh. Party sources said with Nabin expected to step into Nadda's shoes in time, the



appointment reflects the BJP's focus on capable leadership and signals a generational shift. He is also the first BJP chief, not just from Bihar, but also eastern India, signalling the party's shifting focus eastwards. Nadda, 65, has already completed his full term and was expected to be replaced in 2023 but was given repeated extensions to lead the party through the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Nabin, saying, "Shri Nitin Nabin Ji has distinguished himself as a hardworking Karyakarta. He is a young and industrious leader with rich organisational experience and has an impressive record as MLA as

well as Minister in Bihar for multiple terms".

Nabin, he added, has "diligently worked to fulfil people's aspirations. He is known for his humble nature and grounded style of working. I am confident that his energy and dedication will strengthen our Party in the times to come. Congratulations to him on becoming the BJP National Working President," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Nabin's appointment as National Working President "is an honor for every young BJP worker who works tirelessly day and night," said his predecessor and the party's chief strategist Amit Shah. "Whether as the National General Secretary of the BJP Youth Wing, the State President of the Youth Wing in Bihar, or the State In-charge of Chhattisgarh, he has fulfilled every organizational responsibility with complete dedication and success.

## Congress-Backed Candidates Win 55 percent Sarpanch Posts

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Congress has continued its dominance in the second phase of gram panchayat elections held on Sunday, by winning up to 55 per cent of sarpanch and ward member posts. Of the 3,911 sarpanch seats for which polling was held on Sunday, at least 2,020 candidates supported by the Congress were elected. Other winners were 1,070 backed by the BRS, 230 supported by the BJP and 580 unaffiliated persons.

According to the TPCC leaders, around 55 per cent of sarpanch candidates supported by the Congress were elected in the second phase. Of 4,236 villages which went to polls in first phase elections, the Congress claimed the victory of 2,864 candidates or 67 per cent. Following the resounding victory of the

Congress-backed candidates, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is understood to be considering a Cabinet expansion in the state soon.

It was reported that the Chief Minister shared the Congress's performance in the gram panchayat elections with Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders and reportedly discussed the Cabinet expansion in Telangana. However, the AICC would take a final decision.

The TPCC leaders expressed their happiness over the victory of the Congress-backed candidates in the panchayat elections. "The resounding victory of Congress-backed candidates across the state reflects the rural electorate's strong confidence in the government's governance." "The people's verdict stood as clear evidence of approval for the performance of the Congress government.

## Terrorist Attack Targets Jews at Sydney's Bondi Beach, Killing 15

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Australian police on Sunday confirmed the discovery of an improvised explosive device (IED) inside a vehicle linked to one of the attackers involved in the deadly mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach, an incident authorities have formally declared a terrorist attack. New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal La-



nyon said the suspected explosive device was found in a car connected to the deceased offender and was located near the beach, as investigators

continued to secure the area and examine the vehicle.

The attack occurred during the "Hanukkah by the Sea" event on Sunday

evening, where two gunmen opened fire on a large public gathering celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. At least 11 people were killed and several others injured. Emergency services rushed a minimum of 29 victims to hospitals. Police said one of the attackers was shot dead at the scene, while the second was taken to hospital in critical condition. Authorities were

alerted to gunfire at around 6.47 pm local time.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese strongly condemned the attack, calling it a deliberate act of hate and terrorism. In a televised address, he said the shooting was a targeted assault on Jewish Australians on the first day of Hanukkah. "An attack on Jewish Australians is an attack on every Australian," he said.

## CAQM Orders Immediate Ban on Outdoor Sports in Delhi

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

As air quality across Delhi-NCR deteriorated to the 'severe plus' category, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Saturday directed Delhi and NCR state governments to immediately suspend all outdoor physical sports activities, warning that their continuation poses a serious health risk to children.

In a letter to the chief secretaries of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the CAQM expressed concern that some schools and institutions were still conducting outdoor sports despite earlier directions issued in line with a Supreme Court order dated November 19. Allowing such activities during adverse air quality, the Commission said, goes against both the spirit and intent of the



apex court's observations and CAQM instructions.

The directive came as the CAQM invoked the strictest curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage IV, following a sharp rise in pollution levels due to unfavourable meteorological conditions. Earlier, on November 19, the Commission had already called for postponement of physical sports competitions scheduled during November and December.

The CAQM has asked the

Delhi government and NCR states to ensure strict and immediate compliance, issue clear instructions to schools, educational institutions, sports bodies and local authorities, and sensitise parents and students about the health risks linked to outdoor exposure. Authorities have also been directed to closely monitor ground-level compliance and initiate action against violations.

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## India Eyes Green Hydrogen Boom

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday hailed India's green hydrogen push, with state-run companies like IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL targeting 900 kilo tonnes per annum (KTPA) capacity by 2030 to slash Rs 1 lakh crore in fossil fuel imports and fuel low-carbon industries. In tune with the Centre's push for green

energy, Telangana has already initiated efforts to emerge as a frontrunner, boasting vast solar and wind potential for green H2 hubs.

Telangana's new Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025 has set a target of adding 20,000 MW (20 GW) of renewable energy and storage capacity by 2030, focusing on solar, wind, battery storage (BESS), waste-to-energy,

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## Thai immigration Begins Deportation Proceedings For Luthras, Detained In Bangkok

BANGKOK  
Wakeup telangana

Thai Immigration authorities have initiated deportation proceedings against the Luthra brothers following their arrest in the country. The individuals were detained after being flagged as subjects of an INTERPOL Blue Notice, requested by Indian law enforcement agencies to gather information concerning a crim-

inal investigation. According to Thai Immigration officials, Luthras were arrested under Section 12(7) of the Thai Immigration Act. Subsequently, officials at Phuket Immigration formally revoked their VISA permission to stay in Thailand, effectively cancelling their legal status in the kingdom. The Luthra brothers have since been transferred to the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) at

Suan Phlu, Sathon, Bangkok, where they are currently being held.

"The process for their deportation is now underway, though the final confirmation on the date, time, and specific flight details for sending them back remains pending approval from the Commander authority," as per Thai officials. Indian government officials are in continuous contact with

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ESTD - 1960

### ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

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5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## T Govt Readies DPR for Musi Revival Project

Phase-I DPR ready, Cabinet nod awaited as Telangana moves to unlock ADB funds for Musi river revival.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government has completed preparations for the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Phase-I of the ambitious Musi River Rejuvenation project and is preparing to submit it to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by the end of December to facilitate the release of funds. The ADB has already approved a substantial loan of ₹4,100 crore for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the Musi, marking a significant milestone in the state's efforts to restore one of Hyderabad's most historic and environmentally stressed rivers. Phase-I of the project will cover a nine-kilome-

tre stretch of the Musi, extending from Himayatsagar to Babu Ghat via Kismatpur. According to official sources, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to convene a meeting of the state Cabinet by the end of this month to secure formal approval for the DPR. Once the Cabinet gives its nod, the report will be forwarded to the ADB, enabling the disbursement of the sanctioned loan amount. In parallel, the state government also plans to submit the DPR to the Union government to seek additional financial assistance for the project.

The responsibility of preparing the DPR has been entrusted to a high-profile international consortium



comprising Meinhardt, Cushman & Wakefield, RIOS, Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA), and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). Officials of the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. (MRDCL) recently held a detailed review meeting with the consultant consortium and directed it to

complete and submit the Phase-I DPR within a week, indicating the urgency with which the state is pushing the project forward.

According to official sources, the Phase-I DPR proposes a comprehensive riverfront development plan aimed at improving both environmental qual-

ity and urban livability. The project envisages the construction of service roads along both banks of the river, along with the creation of expansive green spaces, landscaped promenades, recreational zones, and amusement parks to encourage public use and enhance the city's open spaces. To improve

water retention and create opportunities for leisure activities, the plan also includes the construction of check dams at Kismatpur, which would enable controlled water flow and facilitate water sports.

Land acquisition requirements for Phase-I are expected to be minimal, which is seen as a major advantage for timely implementation. Only around 60 properties have been identified for acquisition, and officials noted that encroachments along the proposed stretch are limited, reducing the likelihood of major rehabilitation challenges or legal hurdles.

Alongside riverfront development, the state government is also focusing on addressing pollution in

the Musi. It plans to launch the Trunk Interceptor Sewer Main (TISM) project along both banks of the river at an estimated cost of ₹3,100 crore, covering a total length of 55 km. The objective of this project is to intercept sewage flowing into the river and divert it to sewage treatment plants, ensuring that only treated water is released back into the Musi. This is expected to play a crucial role in improving water quality and sustaining the long-term benefits of the rejuvenation effort.

In addition, the government has asked the consultant consortium to prepare separate DPRs for three major components of the Musi rejuvenation initiative. These include a

55-km East-West Corridor project connecting Narsingi to Gowdelli along the Outer Ring Road, a 21-km riverfront infrastructure project that includes the development of Babu

Ghat as Gandhi Sarovar, and a dedicated heritage conservation phase. While Phase-I focuses on the Himayatsagar-Babu Ghat stretch, the DPR for Phase-II, covering a 12-km stretch from Osman-sagar to Babu Ghat, is nearing completion. Phase-III proposes the construction of 11 heritage bridges across the Musi at an estimated cost of ₹1,000 crore, aimed at preserving and showcasing the river's historical significance.

## Telangana Gets Second Prize in Energy Reforms

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana has been conferred the second prize in the state performance award category under the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA), instituted by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the Union Power Ministry. The award was received for Telangana's performance in the field of energy conservation and energy efficiency, spearheaded by the Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TGREDCO), functioning as the state-designated agency (SDA). The award ceremony was held on Sunday at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu. The Telangana delegation, represented by principal secretary (energy) Naveen Mittal, and TGRRedco



vice-chairman and managing director V. Anila, received the award from the President. The award recognised Telangana's initiatives in energy conservation. The notable achievements include the Cool Roof Demo Project implemented at the University of Hyderabad, covering 36,746 square feet with an estimated annual energy saving of about 7,000 kWh, contributing to mitigation of urban heat island effects and improved thermal comfort in buildings. Under the state energy conservation fund (SECF), TGREDCO im-

plemented clean cooking initiatives by distributing 600 induction cooktops and 600 induction pressure cookers (5L) and initiated an electric two-wheeler loan scheme for employees of TGREDCO, TGDISCO, TGTRANSCO and TGGENCO. Telangana has also made significant progress in the adoption of the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) – 2025 and ENS – 2025, with around 1,178 ECBC-compliant buildings, resulting in estimated energy savings of 412.25 MU per annum.

## State's Neglect Damages Telangana's Errum Manzil Beyond Repair

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Errum Manzil palace, once a symbol of Hyderabad's rich heritage, continues to rot in silence. The palace, which served as a government office, is in a pathetic condition, with its structure crumbling. A majority of the doors and windows are broken beyond repair. In addition, the heritage structure has severe water seepage issues, with wall plaster peeling off. Further, there is massive vegetation growth all across the building façade.

The pathetic condition of the structure has raised serious concerns among heritage enthusiasts and historians, who stated that the building, which comes under the protected sites of HMDA, has continued to be neglected. Activists said that even after several people approached the court and stopped the palace from being demolished by the earlier government, successive governments did not initiate any steps to restore the structure to its past glory.

Errum Manzil, an Indo-European-styled palace, was built around 1870 by Nawab Fakhruddin Khan on a hillock from where Hussain Sagar could be seen. The palace had about 140 rooms, a large hall, golf courses, a polo ground, stables for horses, and a dairy farm, covering an



area of 36 acres. According to Anuradha Reddy, convener of Intach (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), Hyderabad, the neglect of Errum Manzil began with the previous government, which lacked interest in restoring heritage structures. "Heritage structures are being neglected intentionally. Errum Manzil building is a gem of the city," she added.

Nawab Safdar Jung Musheer-ud-Doula Fakhruddin Khan was a prominent and wealthy nobleman in the Hyderabad State during the Nizam era. Later, the palace, which was taken over by the state government in 1951, served as a government office complex. Despite being under government control, the palace structure became a victim of negligence, and its condition has now deteriorated completely, activists said. They added that the BRS government tried to take advantage of the situation and, in 2019, planned to demolish the palace and build a new legislative assembly complex there.

## BJP Slams Rahul Gandhi for Prioritising Footballer Messi's Visit Over

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union minister for state Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of ignoring Telangana's mounting woes while rushing to the state for a high-profile football event featuring global icon Lionel Messi. Kumar mocked Gandhi's earlier promise to reach Telangana "in a minute" when needed, claiming his "clock only ticks for VIP events and photo ops." Sanjay contrasted Gandhi's presence for the football match with his alleged absence amid plethora of governance failures under the Congress administration in the state.

Sanjay highlighted several pressing issues, including demolition of houses of the poor by



HYDRAA, student deaths from food poisoning, suicides among farmers and weavers, unpaid pensions and retirement benefits, mounting fee reimbursement dues, open collection of commissions, broad-daylight murders, temple demolitions, and unfulfilled "six guarantees and 420 promises." "Absent during suffering. On vacation during chaos. Fully present when the spotlight is on," Kumar concluded, accusing Gandhi of giving a football star priority over "Telangana's pain."

## Tight Security in Maoist-Affected Areas; Phase II GP Polls Peaceful

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Heavy police deployment was in place in once Maoist-affected areas, and no untoward incidents were reported during the second phase of gram panchayat elections in the erstwhile Adilabad district on Sunday. MLA Palvai Harish Babu and former minister Jogu Ramanna cast their votes in their respective native villages Rebbena in Bejjur mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district and Deepaiguda village in Jainad mandal of Adilabad district. Tight police bandobast was provided at polling stations in Kasipet, Vemanpalli, Bheemini, Kanepalli, Tandur, Nennela and Bellampalli mandals in the Mancherla division. Section 163 was enforced in these areas as a precautionary measure. Police also intensified surveillance at polling sta-

tions in interior and previously Maoist-affected mandals, including Kautala, Chinthalamanepalli, Bejjur, Sirpur (T), Dahegaon and Penchikalpet in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. Elderly voters actively participated in the polling process, with many standing in long queues and some arriving at polling stations in wheelchairs across various parts of the erstwhile Adilabad district. A keen contest was witnessed among candidates of the Congress, BRS and BJP in the Adilabad Assembly constituency, as sitting MLA Payal Shankar treated the sarpanch elections as a matter of prestige and campaigned extensively for party candidates. Police registered 27 cases related to violations of the election code in eight mandals where polling was held in the second phase in Adilabad district.

## 145th Gnyana Mala Held, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Mission Formed in Lothkunta

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The 145th weekly Gnyana Mala programme was held on Sunday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue in Lothkunta, Alwal, where a new committee titled "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Mission" was formally announced. The initiative aims to strengthen community action to uphold constitutional values and protect the rights envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The newly formed mission, headquartered in Lothkunta, Cantonment, Secunderabad, will function under the leadership of Shri Anantharaj, with Mr. Ramesh Kamala and other senior members serving as advisors. The mission has pledged to work actively towards safeguarding the Constitution and ensuring the implementation of constitutional provisions, particularly in the face of present-day challenges.



The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and Ambedkarite supporters, reflecting continued commitment to social justice, equality, and empowerment. Special guests Mrs. Kalavathi, a noted Buddhist leader, and Mrs. Suvarna, a senior journalist, addressed the gathering and spoke on Dr. Ambedkar's enduring vision of an inclusive and just society. The event was successfully organised with the support of active committee members including C.L. Yadagiri, Ramesh Kamala, P. Kannaiah, C.

Suresh Delhi, Charlinraj, Shiv Shankar, K.M. Suresh, D. Srinivas, L. Mahender, R.S.G. Prakash, P.S. Ananthraj Rao, D.P. Srinivas Rao, G. Naveen Kumar, Er. S. Rameshwar, J. Anil Kumar, and others. Organisers expressed gratitude to all participants for making the 145th Gnyana Mala programme a success. With resounding cries of "Jai Bhim," the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Association, Lothkunta, appealed to like-minded citizens to join the newly formed mission and contribute to the collective struggle for justice and welfare.

## Cities Flooded With Doctors, Villages Face Acute Shortage

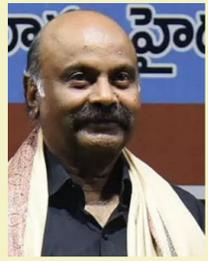
**NIZAMABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A parliamentary standing committee has flagged serious regional imbalances in the availability of MBBS seats across India, raising concerns over equitable healthcare delivery. While the national average stands at 75 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population, southern states such as Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu report nearly double that figure, with around 150 seats per 10 lakh people. However, experts warn that higher seat availability has not translated into better healthcare access on the ground. Medical counselling expert Abdul Rab Arif questioned why seats in alternative medicine streams such as naturopathy and Unani remain vacant every year. He pointed out that despite

counselling deadlines approaching, unfilled seats are not being converted into open category seats, even though a Supreme Court judgment permits such conversion. "Even this year, nearly 14 seats are vacant, but KNRUHS never responds," he alleged. Experts emphasised that merely increasing MBBS seats is not a comprehensive solution. Nearly 90 per cent of doctors prefer urban postings, leaving rural and district areas underserved. This imbalance has weakened preventive and secondary healthcare, which is critical for managing seasonal and childhood illnesses. The lack of medical professionals in rural regions continues to severely impact public health outcomes. Experts stressed the need for mandatory regulations by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to ensure

equitable doctor distribution. Dr G. Srinivas, vice-chairman of the Telangana Medical Council, highlighted the role of private medical colleges in addressing the issue. Telangana has 64 medical colleges, of which 35 are government-run and 29 are private. He noted that most vacancies exist in private colleges and must be filled to optimise available capacity. Dr Srinivas added that improving infrastructure, including hostels, libraries and faculty strength—particularly assistant professors—would enhance the quality of medical education. Strengthening these areas, he said, would improve public health services and enable the delivery of super-specialty care even at district hospitals, reducing dependence on urban centres.

Subhani to Receive Bapu Award Today at Grand Show



Deccan Chronicle's award-winning cartoonist Subhani has been selected for Bapu Puraskaram, named after the eminent cartoonist, filmmaker and writer. The award will be presented on Monday. At the 11th awards ceremony here on Monday, the Ramana Puraskaram will be conferred upon Jonnavithula Ramalingeswara Rao, an eminent Telugu cinema lyricist and poet. The lifetime achievement award will be presented to Maganti Murali Mohan, veteran film actor and former Member of Parliament. The Bapu-Ramana Academy (Atreyapuram, Hyderabad), a Telugu cultural organisation, was established ten years ago by eminent artist and poet Bnim (Bhamidipally Narasimha Murthy) and Vegiraju Subbaraju. Since its inception, the Academy has been presenting the Bapu-Ramana Puraskaram, an award instituted to honour the legacy of two cultural icons, the legendary director, illustrator and cartoonist Bapu, and renowned writer Mullapudi Ramana.

# Congress govt's borrowing surges to alarming levels of Rs 2.88 lakh crore

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In just over two years, Telangana's debt trajectory has entered a zone of serious fiscal concern. The Congress government has already piled up debt worth Rs 2.88 lakh crore, which is expected to hit Rs 3 lakh crore by the end of the current financial year.

Of this, a staggering Rs 1.45 lakh crore was raised in the current fiscal alone through a mix of market borrowings and off-budget or non-FRBM loans.

The scale and pace of borrowing since December 2023 marks a

sharp departure from earlier trends. According to data placed before Parliament by the Union government, total public debt stood at Rs 3.5 lakh crore at the end of 2023-24, comprising open market borrowings, loans from the Centre, autonomous bodies and special securities issued to the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).

According to a white paper tabled by the Congress government, the non-FRBM loans which were raised by various corporations, stood at Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Together, both the FRBM and non-FRBM loans accounted for around Rs 4.6 lakh



crore. This included nearly Rs 35,000 crore borrowed by the Congress government between December 2023 and March 2024, besides around Rs 72,000 crore debt inherited from the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh at the time of State forma-

tion in 2014. The debt slide accelerated further in 2024-25. As per the Union Finance Ministry in the Lok Sabha this year, the outstanding liabilities of the State climbed to Rs 4.42 lakh crore, including around Rs 68,000 crore raised in the correspon-

ding fiscal under FRBM limits. During the current fiscal, market borrowings rose by another Rs 66,000 crore as on December 2, pushing total public debt under FRBM limits to Rs 5.08 lakh crore.

The off-budget loans or non-FRBM loans also rose to nearly Rs 2.4 lakh crore as on December 2 this year. This includes Rs 10,000 crore loan against Kancha Gachibowli lands, another Rs 12,000 crore by various urban local bodies, and HUDCO loans of around Rs 5,000 crore. At present, the total liabilities of the State stand at a staggering Rs 7.48 lakh crore. Even after accounting for

repayments including interest made over the last two years, official estimates pegged Telangana's total outstanding liabilities at around Rs 6.8 lakh crore.

Adding to the fiscal stress, the Centre has granted Telangana a fresh borrowing consent of Rs 71,400 crore for 2025-26, significantly higher than the Rs 54,009 crore allowed in the current year under FRBM norms. To facilitate this enhanced borrowing, the Union government also permitted rescheduling and restructuring of existing loans, which is considered an extraordinary concession.

Economists warn that the borrowing spree has not been matched by a commensurate expansion in productive capital expenditure or revenue-generating assets, raising fears of shrinking fiscal space and long-term growth constraints.

In comparison, excluding inherited debt and the loans raised in 2023-24, the previous BRS government borrowed about Rs 2.8 lakh crore through open market borrowings and Rs 1.1 lakh crore via non-FRBM channels over nearly a decade, a scale now surpassed by the Congress regime in just over two years.

## Congress Failed To Win People's Trust In GP Polls: KTR

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday congratulated the newly elected sarpanches backed by his party in the first phase of gram panchayat elections in the State. He praised them for achieving "remarkable victories" de-

spite what he described as police excesses, conspiracies and irregularities by the ruling Congress party.

Speaking on the occasion, Rama Rao asserted that the people of Telangana stood firmly behind the BRS, undeterred by the Congress government's use of force and malpractices. The massive victories by BRS-backed



candidates in the first phase of sarpanch elec-

tions were proof of this, he said.

Applauding the resilience and fighting spirit of each winner, he highlighted the significant number of BRS-backed sarpanches elected in Kodangal, the home constituency of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Sarpanches from the area, led by Kodangal in-charge and former MLA Patnam Narendar Reddy, also met Rama Rao to cele-

brate their success. "This large-scale victory in the Chief Minister's own constituency is a clear indication of strong public dissatisfaction with Congress rule and solid support for the BRS," he remarked, adding that similar results would continue in the coming days, reflecting growing confidence and support for the BRS at the

grassroots. He announced that he would meet newly elected sarpanches from different districts over the next 10 days. These meetings will include felicitations and discussions on the party's future action plans. Senior party leaders from several districts also participated in Saturday's event.

## Telangana GP elections: BRS scores key wins as Congress faces multiple setbacks

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The message is loud and clear. As in the first phase, several followers, close associates and relatives of Congress Ministers and MLAs suffered defeats in the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections conducted across the State on Sunday. Revenue Minister Ponuguleti Srinivas Reddy faced a setback in Khammam district. In Suddavagu Thanda, BRS backed Banoth Ravi, popularly known as Army Ravi, won the Sarpanch post with a majority of 133 votes. Ravi had recently attempted suicide, accus-



ing harassment by the Minister and local police. After recovering, he contested the Sarpanch election and won comfortably.

At Devarkadra MLA G. Madhusudhan Reddy's native village of Damagnapur under Chinna Chintakunta mandal, BRS supported candidate Sai Kiran Yadav registered a victory with a majority of 500 votes. Similarly, Dornakal

MLA and Government Whip Ramchander Naik suffered a setback in his native Reddykunta Thanda village, where Congress backed candidate Banoth Shanti lost to BRS supported candidate Yamuna.

Likewise, Palakurthy MLA Yashaswini Reddy also faced a reversal when Congress rebel candidate D. Mahender won the Sarpanch election in her native Charlapally village of Thorur mandal. Despite complaints of money and muscle power being used by the ruling Congress party during the elections, BRS candidates emerged victorious in several villages.

In the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections, polling was conducted for 3,911 Sarpanches and 29,903 ward members. The State Election Commission had notified elections for 4,333 Sarpanches and 38,322 ward member posts. Of these, 415 Sarpanches and 8,304 ward members were elected unanimously.

In many places, the contests were intense, with candidates winning by wafer thin margins. At Pothangal Kurd village in Kamareddy district, independent candidate Santosh won the Sarpanch election by a margin of just one vote.

## Edulabad's Ancient Petroglyphs Face Neglect Amid Urban Threat

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Edulabad near Ghatkesar hides rare petroglyphs on the Bhairavagutta hillock, revealing Telangana's prehistoric past. Discovered two decades ago by local historians, these Mesolithic-era rock carvings are located along the Musi River on government land in Medchal district. Despite their value, they remain unprotected and unseen. The site features a mysterious pictograph repeated 66 times, unique in Telangana and still undeciphered. Twelve nearby hillocks hold pre-



historic structures, burial sites, rock grooves, and Kakatiya-era inscriptions of Bhairavudu and Lord Hanuman.

"This is our ancestors' epic — a time capsule of Megalithic mystery and medieval history," said Musi Shankar, former village sarpanch. Quarrying once scarred the hill but it was stopped by villagers. Now, an unstoppable

urban sprawl threatens the site. Experts fear the artifacts could vanish if the government does not take quick and strict action. Local historian Dr G. Dasarath noted that the Sri Goda Ranganatha Swamy Temple was Edulabad's key ancient landmark from the 15th-16th century Quli Qutb Shah era. "Edulabad, once Rayapuram, links to Satavahana and Kakatiya heritage with ancient caves, but lacks national monument status like the Golconda fort or the Ramappa temple," Dr Dasarath told. Shankar called the petroglyphs 'Telangana's

## Father defeats son in gram panchayat poll battle in Medak

In a rare and keenly watched contest during the second phase of gram panchayat elections, Mangegalla Ramakrishnaiah defeated his own son in Jhansi Lingapur village of Ramayampet mandal on Sunday, drawing widespread attention across the district.

Ramakrishnaiah emerged victorious with 684 votes, while his younger son, Venkatesh, secured 585 votes. The closely fought election was decided by a narrow margin of 99 votes, underscoring the intense competition between the two family members.

The direct electoral battle between a father and son became one of the most talked-about developments of this year's gram panchayat elections in the district. Villagers closely followed the contest, which reflected deep political engagement at the grassroots level.

Despite sustained efforts by family members to persuade Venkatesh to withdraw from the race, he chose to remain in the fray, leading to a straight fight within the household. The decision reportedly created sharp divisions within the family during the campaign period.

Most members of the family, including Ramakrishnaiah's elder son, openly supported the father, consolidating his position in the village. Their backing played a key role in strengthening Ramakrishnaiah's campaign and mobilising voter support.

The unusual family contest added an emotional and dramatic dimension to the elections in Jhansi Lingapur, highlighting how local body polls can sometimes mirror larger political rivalries. The outcome reaffirmed Ramakrishnaiah's standing in the village, while the son's strong showing indicated his own growing support base, signalling the possibility of continued political engagement within the family.

## Haritha Polling Stations Boost Voter Turnout in Warangal

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a unique initiative to promote both civic duty and environmental awareness, Warangal district has introduced 'Haritha (Green) Polling Stations' as part of the ongoing Gram Panchayat elections, with the aim of boosting voter turnout. District election officer and collector Satya Sharada spearheaded the initiative and personally inspected the special polling centres across the district on Sunday.

Warangal is the only district to have introduced theme-based polling sta-

tions. The main objective, the collector said, is to increase the voting percentage. Based on the success of the first phase, during which Green Polling Stations recorded a 2 to 3 per cent higher turnout compared to regular stations, two such centres were set up in each of the four mandals going to polls in the second phase. The polling stations were attractively decorated to create a calm and welcoming atmosphere for voters. They were adorned with green leaves and featured placards carrying environmental slogans urging people to protect nature, increase green

cover by planting saplings and avoid plastic use and tree cutting.

In addition to environmental messages, the stations prominently displayed motivational slogans highlighting the importance of voting, such as "Vote for a better future", "We have the power to make a difference" and "Do not sell your vote". The ambience was designed to encourage voters to exercise their franchise in a relaxed, pressure-free environment.

Satya Sharada visited several Green Polling Stations, including those at Geesukonda.

## Second Phase of Gram Panchayat Polls Peaceful; 105-year-old Rasool Bhi Casts Vote

**ADILABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The second phase of gram panchayat elections concluded peacefully across the erstwhile Adilabad district on Sunday amid tight security arrangements. In Nirmal district, polling was held for 414 sarpanch posts and 735 ward member posts across 121 gram panchayats. In Adilabad district, elections were conducted in 156 gram panchayats for 1,260 ward member posts across eight mandals. Mancherla district witnessed polling for 111 sarpanch posts and 873 ward



member posts, while in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, elections were held in 112 gram panchayats for 834 ward member posts across six mandals.

District election officials monitored polling at sensitive booths through webcasting across the erstwhile Adilabad dis-

trict. Adilabad district recorded a polling percentage of 86.68 per cent, with 1,14,802 votes cast out of a total electorate of 1,32,438. Komaram Bheem Asifabad district recorded 86.64 per cent polling, with 1,13,733 votes polled out of 1,31,278. Mancherla district registered 84.59 per

cent turnout, with 1,16,205 votes cast out of 1,37,382. Nirmal district recorded 82.67 per cent polling, with 1,37,162 votes polled out of a total of 1,65,919. In Mancherla district, Venkatswamy, a sarpanch candidate from Tandur, reportedly complained of chest pain during polling and was shifted to a hospital, where he was treated. Doctors said his condition was stable. Officials said heavy police deployment was ensured at sensitive polling stations to prevent any untoward incidents.

# EC Demands Extra Security as Unrest Grips Bangladesh Afresh

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Election Commission (EC) has demanded extra security for its chief, other commissioners and officials as fresh unrest visibly gripped Bangladesh after gunmen shot an upcoming parliamentary polls candidate and front-line leader of last year's violent street movement dubbed 'July Uprising'. "The EC has written to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) urging comprehensive security arrangements for the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Election Commissioners (ECs), senior officials of the Election Commission Secretariat," the state-run



BSS news agency reported on late Saturday. The EC simultaneously sought the extra security for its field-level offices ahead of the 13th national election, as two of them came under attack in southeastern Lakshimpur and southwestern Pirojpur by unidentified miscreants

the four commissioners and the senior secretary. Critically ill former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) simultaneously asked Muhammad Yunus' government to provide security for all candidates in the upcoming election after the attack on Hadi, who leads a radical right-wing cultural group called Inquiab Mancha. "We demand that the real culprit be identified immediately and brought under the law, and we call upon this government to ensure the security of all candidates without delay," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said. Hadi was also a frontline

leader of last year's student-led violent uprising that toppled then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5, 2024. His Inquilab Mancha was also at the forefront of a campaign to disband the Awami League, which the interim government complied with in May this year, disqualifying the party from contesting the polls. The government on Saturday ordered a nationwide security clampdown called 'Operation Devil Hunt 2' amid escalated fears over the law and order situation and promised to issue firearms licenses for election candidates for their own security.

## Two Killed, 8 Wounded in Shooting at Brown University

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

A shooter dressed in black killed at least two people and wounded eight others at Brown University on Saturday during final exams on the Ivy League campus, authorities said, as police searched for the suspect. Officers were hunting through campus buildings and sifting through trash cans more than three hours after the shooting erupted. The suspect was a male in dark clothing who was last seen leaving an engineering building where the attack happened, said Timothy O'Hara, Deputy Chief of Police. Mayor Brett Smiley said a shelter-in-place was in effect for the area and encouraged people living near the campus to stay inside and not to return



home until it is lifted. "We have all available resources" to find the suspect, Smiley said. The eight wounded people were in critical but stable condition, the mayor said. He declined to say whether the victims were students. University officials initially told students and staff that a suspect was in custody, before later saying that was not the case and that police were still searching for a suspect or suspects, according to alerts issued through

Brown's emergency notification system. The mayor said a person preliminarily thought to be involved was detained but was later determined to have no involvement. The shooting occurred in the Barus & Holley building, a seven-story complex that houses the School of Engineering and physics department. According to the university's website, the building includes more than 100 laboratories, dozens of classrooms and offices.

## Foresters Try Out Cure for Neem-Killer Disease



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The withering of thousands of neem trees — Telangana's iconic symbols of health and heritage — over some years had prompted the Mulugu-based Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), to launch a comprehensive scientific probe into the devastating "dieback disease." The disease causes the upper branches to dry up, the foliage to

thin out and the flowers to vanish. 'Phomopsis azadirachtae', a fungus thriving in recent heavy monsoons, due to high humidity and temperature swings, is found to be the main culprit and was confirmed through lab tests on infected twigs since 2021. FCRI dean V. Krishna, who once led GHMC's green city efforts, said neem trees were priceless for the environment and culture. Expert Dr Jagadish

is guiding a long-term study that tracks dying trees using maps, studies the fungus causing it, checks how pollution and hard soil worsen things, and tests fixes. Dr Jagadish fixed the treatment in a simple three-spray treatment (Carbendazim first, Thiophanate-methyl after a week, Profenofos after 20 days) that brought neems back to life in 2023 trials at the forest institute, in addition to some natural

remedies. Focusing first on Hyderabad and expanded GHMC areas, with remote site comparisons, the initiative eyes statewide trials, citizen guidelines for pruning and mulching, and national protocols. "Early intervention ensures recovery," Krishna stresses, urging municipal support, departmental logistics, public reports of sick trees, and funding. Neem's resilience shines through: treated trees flush new growth while untreated ones fade. This crisis, echoing northern India outbreaks, underscores urban tree vulnerabilities amid climate change. The FCRI has invited collaboration from forest, agriculture, NGOs, and citizens to propagate hardy strains and fortify green cover. "We're turning concern into action," dean Krishna affirmed, positioning the effort as a blueprint for India's neem conservation.

## Old Friend, New Friend, Need Balancing Act: Akhilesh

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Despite the 'unpleasant experience' in the Bihar Assembly polls, Samajwadi Party president and Uttar Pradesh former chief minister made it clear that he would not only continue with the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, but would strive for strengthening the alliance. Addressing mediapersons on the sidelines of at event, 'Vision India: AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit', here, Yadav clarified: "Bihar's experience was unlike what we had hoped for. We will run the I.N.D.I.A. bloc and strive for bringing along all partners," Akhilesh said. Asked about his meetings with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, he said that latter could not be ignored for befriending a 'new one'. Describing Rama Rao as an 'old friend', Yadav said that making a choice between an old friend and a new one "becomes tough, hence the balancing act." "This type of difficulty comes when you have an old friend and also a new one. I will leave it to your wisdom to decide if friendships are to be strength-



ened with only one or both. It is our ingrained nature that we cannot abandon the old friend," he explained. Yadav also met BRS leaders T. Harish Rao and Talasani Srinivas Yadav and went with Rama Rao to an eatery here on Saturday. Yadav said the Samajwadi Party would use AI technology to defeat the BJP in the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh in 2027. He clarified that he was against divisive politics and was working through 'Vision India' with the goal of putting an end to it. He stated that he would only pursue positive, developmental, and progressive politics. The Samajwadi Party is conducting 'Vision India' summits in all major cities with the aim of creating awareness among the youth about the use of technology

in governance and future transformation. The first summit was held in Bengaluru, and the one being held in the city is the second. Yadav also coined the slogan 'Jisse ho sabki bhalaai, wahi hai saccha AI' (The true AI would be the one which will benefit everyone). He expressed concern that Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of cybercrimes in the country, and that cybercams were increasing by the day. He explained that cyber criminals were not only stealing money from ordinary people but are also defrauding high-ranking officials and judges. "Fake videos are created with the help of AI, which are circulated on social media. There is a need to curb all these activities by utilising AI technology. I hope everyone would benefit from technology," he underlined. Responding to a question regarding the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken by the Election Commission of India, he said Uttar Pradesh had a population of approximately 25 crore, and that the BJP government was trying to remove about 3 crore voters through the exercise.

## Fadnavis Unveils 'Housing for All' Ahead of BMC Polls

**NAGPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday announced a major urban housing push aimed at resolving long-pending redevelopment hurdles in Mumbai. Launching a "Housing for All" scheme, he said redevelopment would now be permitted in areas affected by regulatory and security-related restrictions, including the Funnel Zone, the Juhu Military Transmission Station, the Kandivali-Malad Central Ordnance Depot (COD) complex and land adjoining defence establishments. A key announcement was the proposed relocation of High-Frequency Radar Centres at Dahisar and Juhu, a move expected to remove height restrictions

that have stalled redevelopment in densely populated areas for decades. Deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde also made an important announcement in the Legislative Council in connection with a new scheme. He said the new scheme would revive thousands of stalled redevelopment projects in Mumbai. The BMC election is likely to be announced within the next 72 hours, with the BJP-led Mahayuti stepping up outreach efforts in Mumbai. Addressing the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Fadnavis said the scheme would provide free FSI of up to 300 sq ft for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) component and free reconstruction of tenements up to 600 sq ft for the Lower Income Group (LIG). Incentive FSI will be granted without affecting the basic FSI rights of original landowners. Unconsumed FSI will be made

available as Transferable Development Rights (TDR) to help raise redevelopment funds, while existing incentives and premiums will continue. "This scheme will make previously unviable redevelopment projects feasible, including those near the Juhu Military complex and the Kandivali-Malad COD," Mr. Fadnavis said, adding that residents in these areas would receive long-awaited relief. On radar relocation, the Chief Minister said the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had agreed to shift the Dahisar radar to Gorai, with the state bearing the cost and providing alternate land free of charge. In return, 50 per cent of the AAI land in Dahisar will be developed as a public garden. An alternate site for the Juhu radar has also been proposed, and technical inspections are underway.

### CAQM flags dust.....

Under GRAP Stage IV restrictions, all construction and demolition activities across Delhi-NCR have been banned, including linear public infrastructure projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, power transmission lines, pipelines and telecom works. The entry of trucks into Delhi has also been stopped, except those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services, with CNG, LNG, electric and BS-VI diesel trucks exempted. Additionally, schools in Delhi and the worst-affected NCR districts have been instructed to operate in hybrid mode, allowing online classes for students from primary levels up to Classes VI to IX and XI where feasible. State governments have been advised to consider further emergency steps if pollution worsens, including closing colleges and educational institutions, shutting non-essential commercial activities and implementing odd-even vehicle restrictions.

### Modi To Embark.....

The Prime Minister will meet His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein to review the gamut of relations between India and Jor-

dan, and exchange perspectives on regional issues. PM Modi is also expected to discuss the situation in Gaza with the Jordanian leadership. On the second leg of the visit, PM Modi will visit Ethiopia for the first time on December 16 and 17. He will be holding wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali on all aspects of bilateral ties. Both nations are also partners in the Global South. PM Modi will address a joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament. On the third and final leg of the visit, at the invitation of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, the Prime Minister will visit the Gulf nation on December 17 and 18. This will be the second visit of Prime Minister Modi to Oman. India and Oman share an all-encompassing strategic partnership underpinned by centuries-old bonds of friendship, trade linkages and strong people-to-people ties. "This visit will be an opportunity for both sides to comprehensively review the bilateral partnership, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, defence, security, technology, agriculture and culture as well as exchange views on regional and global issues of

### India Eyes Green.....

Telangana's new Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025 has set a target of adding 20,000 MW (20 GW) of renewable energy and storage capacity by 2030, focusing on solar, wind, battery storage (BESS), waste-to-energy, and green hydrogen, with significant incentives for investors and commitments to grid stability. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the state aims for energy security, creating jobs, and aligning with national goals by boosting its current capacity (around 11 GW) through diverse projects, including supporting farmers with paddy straw-based biogas and enabling women-led solar initiatives. The Ramagundam industrial cluster eyes a dedicated H2 valley under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, leveraging NTPC and local industries for decarbonisation. "Telangana's policy alignment with the Centre's Rs 19,744 crore Mission positions Hyderabad as a green energy nexus, creating jobs and export hubs," said a senior official of the energy department. "With pilots already blending surplus RE for H2, the state's 11,399

MW capacity can scale nationally — a win for net-zero goals."

### Thai immigration.....

"The process for their deportation is now underway, though the final confirmation on the date, time, and specific flight details for sending them back remains pending approval from the Commander authority," as per Thai officials. Indian government officials are in continuous contact with their Thai counterparts to finalise the necessary arrangements for the extradition. The owners of the ill-fated Birch Club in Arpora, Goa, Saurabh and Guarav Luthra, were held in a detention centre in Bangkok after being transferred from Phuket. According to Thai authorities, an Indian law enforcement team is also coordinating formalities for the brother's return. This is possible under an extradition treaty between the two countries, which has been in force since 2015. Thai officials stressed that due process will be followed as cooperation between the two countries continues. Authorities say they will work with their Indian counterparts to ensure a prompt, lawful handover.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Plea Challenges Police Recruitment Rule

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two judge panel of the Telangana High Court took on file a writ plea challenging the validity of Rule 15 introduced under para 6 of GO dated April 8, 2022, governing recruitment under the Telangana Police (Stipendiary Cadet Trainee) Rules. The panel comprising Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin was hearing a writ plea filed by Banoth Narendra challenging the adoption of the amended rule and its implementation by the Telangana State Level Police Re-

cruitment Board in the ongoing recruitment process for 15,644 posts. Counsel contended that the operation of the rule has resulted in a large number of vacancies remaining unfilled despite the availability of eligible candidates.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that carry-forward of such vacancies to a future notification was contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court, which mandates that non-joining vacancies must be offered to the next meritorious eligible candidate. The panel granted the state two weeks to file its response.

### Judge slams colleges holding certificates

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice Surepalli Nanda strongly condemned the growing practice of educational institutions withholding students' original certificates to force payment of alleged financial dues. The judge directed Alphores Girls Junior College to immediately issue the consolidated marks memo of a student whose certificate was allegedly withheld over a demand for ₹75,000. The judge held that withholding academic certificates was impermissible in law and that institutions cannot retain them under any pretext. The judge was

dealing with a writ petition filed by P.V. Amarendra Reddy, who said his daughter Pargi Shriya Reddy completed her Intermediate course with 98 per cent marks and that all fees had been paid. Despite this, the college demanded an additional amount for issuing the long memo required for higher-education counselling. Though most certificates were returned during the case, the long memo continued to be withheld, with the college insisting on payment. Relying on earlier rulings of the Telangana High Court, Justice Nanda reiterated that academic certificates are the property of student.

### HC sets aside deletion of five voter names

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice T. Madhavi Devi of Telangana High Court set aside the deletion of five women voters from the electoral rolls of Madanapuram, Chintapalli mandal, Nalgonda district. The judge was hearing writ petitions filed by former sarpanch Uduthala Akhila and four others challenging the action of the tahsildar-cum-election officer in

deleting their names on the ground that they were married and allegedly residing at their matrimonial homes. The petitioners would contend that they continue to reside in Madanapuram and that their voter identity cards and other records reflect the same. It was contended that Akhila served as sarpanch from 2019 to 2024 and executed development works in the village, demonstrating continued residence. The

State Election Commission, opposing the pleas, argued that the names were removed after an enquiry based on a complaint, and that the petitioners were found not to be "ordinarily resident". It was also argued that an appellate remedy under the Representation of People Act was available. The judge observed that marriage did not automatically sever a woman's residence or connection with her native village and held

that deletion of names solely on the basis of marital status was arbitrary, particularly when the petitioners had not enrolled elsewhere. Considering the urgency in view of the upcoming local body elections and noting that the statutory remedy would not be efficacious in the present circumstances, the judge allowed the writ petitions and directed restoration of the petitioners' names to the rolls.

### Plea Questions Poll Quota

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court on Tuesday referred to a division bench, a batch of writ petitions challenging the reservation roster notified for the gram panchayat elections. The petitions were filed by residents of villages where the sarpanch and ward members seats in panchayats had been reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Backward Classes communities despite the admitted absence, or extremely negligible presence, of such communities. The petitioners said that the state government had reserved

the posts by taking the population of the ST and SC communities as per 2011 Census and BC reservations on the basis of SEEEPC-2024 data. In the process, the seats had been reserved in villages where there was either no population of concerned community, or they were present in negligible numbers. They feared that such seats would remain vacant.

The writ petitioners sought reconsideration of the reservations in these villages and the holding of elections on the basis of current population. The state, represented by special government pleader Rahul Reddy, submitted that for reservations.

### HC sets aside Tribunal order on RTC staffer

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao of the Telangana High Court set aside an award passed by the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Warangal in a long-pending service dispute concerning disciplinary action against an APSRTC cleaner. The judge was hearing a writ plea filed by the depot manager, APSRTC, Narasampet challenging the tribunal's 2007 award modifying the punishment imposed on the em-

ployee. It was contended that the tribunal intervened despite proven misconduct and despite the employee raising the dispute after an unexplained delay of over 16 years. The record showed that the charges related to the employee leaving night-shift duty without permission in 1988 and failing to sweep several vehicles. A domestic enquiry was conducted and punishment of deferment of one annual increment for two years was imposed in August 1988.

## Murder accused get bail



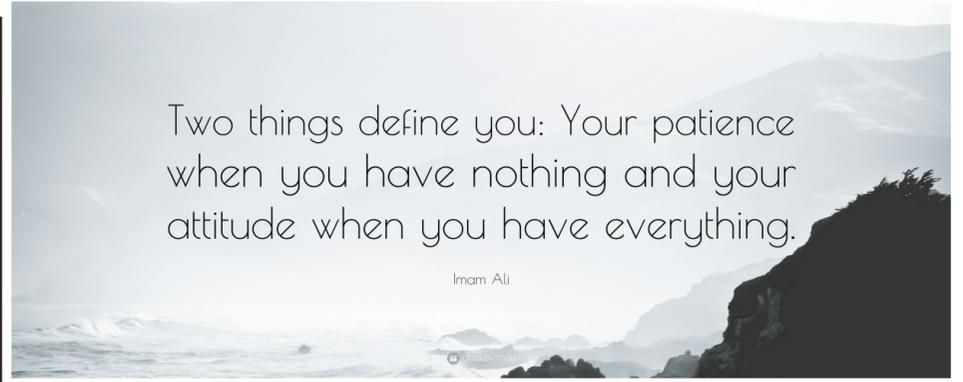
**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday granted bail to three accused facing trial in connection with the alleged murder of a youth following his inter-caste marriage with the sister of two of the accused. The judge was hearing criminal petitions filed by Kotla Naveen, Kotla

Vamshi and Bairu Mahesh. The accused are charged with causing death with intent, criminal acts done with common intention, and aggravated offences alleged to have been committed against a Scheduled Caste person under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. According to the prosecution, the deceased married a girl

against the wishes of her family, following which he allegedly received threats from her brothers. The complainant, the deceased's father, lodged a report after his son was found dead near a pond at the outskirts of Pillalamarri. The petitioners were arrested on January 29 and have remained in judicial custody since then. Senior counsel Vinod Kumar Deshpande appearing for the accused argued that the petitioners were falsely implicated solely on account of the inter-caste marriage and family hostility. It was contended that the case rested on circumstantial evidence and alleged extra-judicial confes-

sions, with no direct material linking them to the death. The defence contended that the deceased had multiple criminal cases pending against him, creating several possible motives unrelated to the accused. Senior counsel also argued that the victim and her husband were in a relationship for over a few years and therefore charges of honour killing were baseless. It was argued that since the charge-sheet was filed and the investigation completed, further custodial detention amounts to pre-trial punishment. After hearing submissions, the judge enlarged the petitioners on bail.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### AS INDIA, RUSSIA DEEPEN TIES; US & EUROPE WATCH

**KARNATAKA**  
Wakeup telangana

With India's strategic trajectory swinging to a post-Trump 2.0 realignment, the visit of the Russian President Vladimir Putin assumed a larger-than-life dimension. Thanks to US tariffs and sanctions, it is a very old, time-tested friendship with Russia that India leans on now as its calculus of national interest points it squarely in this direction. What should normally have been a routine annual summit and bilateral between two friends had to become a big show of optics in quick hugs and another episode of limousine diplomacy — in an interesting choice of a "made in India" car — as the US was bound to have been watching Mr Putin in

India with added interest. The warm and genuine welcome may even have seduced the guest to speak extensively of peace in Ukraine after Mr Trump's peace overtures had been rebuffed in a stern reply from the Russian President asking Ukraine to withdraw from the Donbas failing which it would seize it by force, no matter how long it takes. India's position may have been nearer to neutral on the Ukraine war, which may not have pleased the US and the West but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration that India was on the side of peace may have set the tone for Mr Putin to speak about the war in New Delhi.

A tri-services guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and a visit to the memorial of the apostle of

peace were formal events that stressed the importance of the state visit, but the host country's focus was more on pursuing its national interests that trump everything else, particularly in the face of shifting geopolitics. The ballooning trade deficit in the region of \$60 billion-plus, owing to large purchases of Russian oil but which tapered off to near nil this month after US sanctions, the need to modernise India's forces with more Russian assistance by way of supply as well as technology transfer and finding avenues for Indian workforce in view of abnormal restrictions the Trump regime has been imposing were addressed in the bilateral meeting culminating in valuable memoranda of agreements.



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# India's Russian Crude Imports Hit 5-Month High in November: Report

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a five-month high in November, reaching ₹2.6 billion, a 4% increase from October, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The rise comes as India remains the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels after China, which accounted for 47% of Russia's crude exports during the month. India purchased 38%, followed by Turkey (6%) and the European Union (6%). The increase in imports is partly driven by deliveries of cargoes loaded before the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions came into effect in late October.



CREA noted that India's crude imports from Russia may continue to rise in December as these shipments are cleared. Russian crude accounted for roughly 35% of India's total crude imports in November, underscoring its growing role in the country's energy mix. Much of this crude is refined into petrol, diesel, and other oil products,

both for domestic consumption and export. In November, six refineries in India and Turkey exported ₹807 million worth of refined oil products partially derived from Russian crude. Key destinations included the EU (€465 million), the USA (€110 million), the UK (€51 million), Australia (€150 million), and Canada (€31 million). CREA estimated that

about €301 million of these products originated directly from Russian crude, while ₹297 million remained with unspecified destinations.

The increase in Russian crude imports comes amid Western sanctions targeting Russia after its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The United States recently imposed restrictions on Rosneft and Lukoil, two of Russia's largest oil producers, aiming to cut funding for Moscow's war efforts. As a result, private Indian refiners such as Reliance Industries, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), HPCL-Mittal Energy, and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd temporarily reduced imports from sanctioned en-

ties.

However, state-owned refiners stepped in to fill the gap, increasing their Russian crude purchases by 22% month-on-month in November. Some non-sanctioned Russian producers continue to supply Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and other refineries, ensuring a steady flow of discounted crude to the country.

India, now the world's third-largest oil importer, has become the biggest buyer of discounted Russian crude, taking advantage of lower prices while Western countries have largely shunned Moscow. The trend highlights India's strategic role in global energy markets and its growing dependence on Russian crude amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

# TVs May Be Costlier from January Due To Memory Chips Shortage, Weak Rupee

*Some TV manufacturers have already communicated to their dealers about the expected hike in prices*



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Prices of televisions are expected to rise by 3-4 per cent from January next year on account of the rising cost of memory chips and depreciation of the rupee, which recently crossed the 90-to-a-dollar mark for the first time. The falling rupee has put the industry in a precarious position, as the domestic value addition in an LED TV is around 30 per cent only, and major components like the open cell, semiconductor chips and motherboard, are imported.

Moreover, this is coupled with the memory chip crisis, where a severe global shortage is driven by massive demand for High-Bandwidth Memory (HBM) for AI servers, causing prices for all memory types (DRAM, flash) to surge. Chip-makers are focusing on high-profit AI chips, tightening supply for legacy devices like TVs. Haier Appliances India President NS Satish told PTI that prices of LED TV sets will increase by 3 per cent because of shortage of memory chips and weak rupee.

Some TV manufacturers have already communi-

cated to their dealers about the expected hike in prices. Super Plastronics Pvt Ltd (SPPL), a TV manufacturing company having licences of several global brands including Thomson, Kodak, and Blaupunkt, said: Memory chip prices have gone up by 500 per cent in the last three months. According to its CEO Avneet Singh Marwah, there could be 7-10 per cent price hike in televisions from January, predominantly due to memory chip crisis and the impact of depreciating rupee.

He also warned that if memory chip prices in the next two quarters remain the same, then there could be further hike in TV prices." According to experts, this upcoming hike may mitigate the boost received on sales of smart TVs, after the rationalisation of GST. The government has slashed GST on TV screens of 32 inches and larger sizes to 18 per cent from the previous 28 per cent, reducing price by around Rs 4,500.

Similarly, Videotex, a homegrown ODM (Original Design Manufacturer) for several brands, and which has its own brand Daiva, said it is also facing sustained pressure due to sharp increase in mem-

ory chip prices, with availability emerging as a critical challenge. We are currently facing sustained pressure due to sharp increase in memory chip prices, with availability emerging as a critical challenge. Flash memory and DDR4 prices at the sourcing level have risen by up to 1,000 per cent, driven largely by supply being diverted to AI data centres, said Arjun Bajaj, Director of Videotex. This pressure is anticipated to continue until at least Q2 of the coming year, after which some stability may return depending on global memory chip supply dynamics. The situation is further exacerbated by the depreciation of the rupee, which has significantly increased import costs. These increases will be reflected in the market in the coming weeks as older inventory moves out, said Bajaj. Though Videotex is adjusting production schedules and optimising inventories to manage the impact, the prolonged nature of this cycle makes it challenging to fully absorb the cost escalation. Videotex manufactures smart TVs for Reliance Group (BPL & Reconect), Havells (Lloyd), Vijay Sales (Vise).

# SEBI Launches PaRRVA for Verified Investment Performance Transparency

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday inaugurated the pilot launch of the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA), a first-of-its-kind standardised framework for independent verification of investment performance claims. The initiative has been developed by CARE Ratings Limited in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and conceptualised under the guidance of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). PaRRVA aims to significantly enhance transparency, credibility and

investor confidence in the securities market by ensuring that all performance-related claims made by Investment Advisors, Research Analysts and Trading Members are independently verified using authenticated market data. With India's investor base expanding rapidly, the framework is expected to play a crucial role in enabling informed decision-making and curbing misleading or selective return disclosures.

Under the PaRRVA framework, financial intermediaries can submit their recommendations through secure API-based integrations or structured file uploads. The PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC), supported by NSE, then val-

idates these submissions using transaction-level data sourced directly from stock exchanges and clearing corporations. Nearly 50 different risk and return metrics are computed, covering both risk-adjusted and absolute performance measures, which are subsequently made available to investors through the official PaRRVA portal. Investors can access verified reports via direct links or QR codes shared by intermediaries.

Addressing the gathering, SEBI Chairman Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey said PaRRVA would, over time, provide investors with credible, comparable and reliable performance data related to investment

services. For regulated entities, the platform offers a transparent mechanism to demonstrate genuine performance, thereby strengthening trust between investors and market participants. He reiterated that investor transparency remains central to SEBI's vision of maintaining fair, orderly and resilient securities markets.

NSE MD and CEO Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan described PaRRVA as a critical SEBI-led initiative to standardise performance disclosures and reinforce investor confidence. He noted that NSE's role in providing the PaRRVA Data Centre enables the framework to leverage high-quality, au-

thenticated market data for robust verification. CARE Ratings MD & Group CEO Shri Mehul Pandya said

PaRRVA introduces greater discipline and accountability in the financial advisory ecosystem. By preventing selective presentation of returns and enforcing uniform disclosure standards, the platform strengthens compliance and market integrity. With features such as T+1 validation for portfolios and end-of-day checks for intraday strategies, PaRRVA balances accuracy with operational efficiency, marking a significant step forward in investor protection.

# Dr. Nawab Khan Honoured with U.S. Congressional Medallion, Proclamation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the United States Congressional Medallion and the Congressional Proclamation, two of the highest recognitions granted by the U.S. Congress. The honours were presented during an official ceremony at Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., by U.S. Congressman Jonathan L. Jackson of Illinois, a member of the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

The Congressional Medallion is a prestigious award recognizing exceptional leadership, societal contributions, diplomacy, and global development. The Congressional Pro-



Congressman Mr. Jonathan L. Jackson, Member of Congress 1st Congressional District of Illinois Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Agriculture, flanked by (L-R) Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, India & Begum Meher Fatima Khan, Spouse of Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan; after Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, was honoured with the United States Congressional Medallion and the United States Congressional Proclamation, two of the highest recognitions granted by the U.S. Congress, at an official ceremony held at Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

clamation acknowledges individuals whose contributions hold national or international significance and will be permanently

recorded in the U.S. Congressional Record. Congressman Jackson lauded Dr. Khan for his "exceptional leadership in

strengthening international partnerships and building bridges across nations," highlighting his work in promoting global cooperation, sustainable development, and international trade. He emphasized that Dr. Khan's efforts advance peace, economic collaboration, and meaningful engagement among the United States, Kazakhstan, India, and the broader international community.

In response, Dr. Khan said, "Receiving the United States Congressional Medallion and Congressional Proclamation at Capitol Hill is a historic honour. I am sincerely grateful to Congressman Jonathan L. Jackson for these recognitions, which reinforce my commitment to fostering international cooperation and shared global progress.

# Students of IHM Hyderabad Celebrate Christmas with Grand Gala Lunch

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Hyderabad, a premier Central Government institution with over five decades of excellence in hospitality education, hosted a vibrant Christmas Gala Lunch at its DD Colony campus. The festive event brought together students, industry leaders, alumni, and guests to celebrate the spirit of Christmas while ushering in the New Year with warmth and grandeur.

The celebration was graced by senior HR and training professionals from leading hospitality brands, including ITC, Hilton, Marriott, Taj Hotels, and Sheraton, along with alumni, entrepreneurs, social media influencers, and officials from the Ministry of



Swathi Gupta Student of IHM, dressed as Santa Claus & Ms. Srija Paul Student of IHM dressed as Angel, Mr. Saranjay Thakur, Principal, IHM; Chief Ramesh Yadav, Executive Chief, Hotel Anshu, Mr. Rajesh, Lecturer, IHM; Ms. Dotsi, Asst. College Manager, IHM; at the Christmas Lunch Celebration hosted by Institute of Hotel Management Hyderabad (IHM), at its campus in DD Colony.

Civil Aviation & Tourism (Internal Audit Wing), Government of India. The presence of these dignitaries created a rich platform for student-industry interaction and mentorship.

A major highlight of the event was the lavish Christmas-themed buffet prepared and presented by IHM Hyderabad's budding chefs. The menu featured traditional Christmas favourites such as roast turkey and stollen, complemented by international offer-

ings like hummus mezze, shepherd's pie, and an extensive range of festive desserts. The culinary showcase reflected the institute's strong emphasis on practical excellence and creativity.

The campus was beautifully transformed into a festive wonderland with handcrafted decorations, wreaths, mistletoe, and seasonal décor enhancing the celebratory mood. Adding to the cheer, the in-house band FLUTE, led by Pastor

Gaurav, enthralled guests with soulful Christmas carols sung by teenagers, filling the atmosphere with joy and harmony. The event stood as a perfect blend of culinary artistry, cultural celebration, and professional engagement, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

As part of its continuing festivities, IHM Hyderabad is preparing to welcome New Year 2026 with renewed enthusiasm. The institute has also invited applications for its prestigious three-year B.Sc. in Hospitality and Hotel Administration (B.Sc. HHA) programme for the 2025-26 academic year. Admissions will be through NCHM JEE 2026, scheduled for the second week of April 2026. More details are available at [www.ihmhyd.org](http://www.ihmhyd.org)

## Akhanda 2 Trolled for Exaggerated Action and Gravity Defying Stunts

The much-anticipated Akhanda 2, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, hit theatres today with sensational openings across the Telugu states, though audience reactions have been mixed in several centres. The Aghora-centric action drama has also been trending on social media for unusual reasons, with viewers questioning some of its gravity-defying stunts. One particular scene, where Balakrishna performs the mystical 'Drishti' while holding a thug upside down, has gone viral online, drawing both admiration and ridicule. While fans of Balakrishna are hailing the invincible Aghora's heroic feats, social media commentary indicates that many viewers, including those in the United States, have expressed mixed opinions. Responding to the trolling trend, producer-director M S Raju said such online debates have become a form of unpaid publicity. "Trolls trigger curiosity among audiences. People want to see what the fuss is about, which eventually drives them to theatres," he remarked, highlighting how social media chatter can indirectly boost collections. Akhanda 2 is a supernatural thriller that blends multiple genres, including patriotism, science fiction, and black magic, to craft a



mass entertainer. According to M S Raju, filmmakers are increasingly experimenting with genre combinations in Tollywood because sticking to a single genre has become predictable. "Directors are exploring hybrid storytelling, which is challenging but necessary to engage audiences," he explained. On whether younger viewers perceive Telugu superhero films differently compared to Hollywood blockbusters like Avengers, Superman, or Spider-Man, Raju added, "I don't think so. Any large-scale action needs strong emotional backing; otherwise, even superhero films feel flat." The film opened to Rs 28 crore net collections on its first day, including Rs 8 crore from premieres in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. On the second day, collections

stood at around Rs 16 crore in the two states. Analysts suggest that social media negativity might have influenced day-two earnings, though M S Raju emphasized that many audiences are yet to watch the film. "These minor variations in collections can be ignored. If a film is good, negativity usually fades in a few days," he noted. Akhanda 2 marks the fourth collaboration between Balakrishna and director Boyapati Sreenu, following blockbuster hits like Simha, Legend, and the original Akhanda. The sequel has reignited discussions about its over-the-top action sequences, including viral memes showing Newton being knocked down as villains fly through the air. Defending the film's logic, Boyapati Sreenu explained in a post-release interview, "From

the beginning, we establish that Akhanda undergoes Ashta Digbandhana for 12 years to achieve Ashta Siddhi. Once attained, he becomes a superhuman. For someone like him, conventional rules of logic or magic don't apply. There is a framework within the story — he is exceptional because of Ashta Siddhi." Despite the criticism, the combination of Balakrishna's star power, Boyapati Sreenu's direction, and the film's unique genre blend has generated substantial curiosity, making Akhanda 2 one of the most talked-about releases of the festive season. The buzz, whether positive or negative, appears to be keeping theatres packed as audiences seek to witness the superhero-like feats of the invincible Aghora.

## 'Kasoor 2' pushed me to my emotional and mental limits: Urvashi Rautela

Actress Urvashi Rautela said her role in Kasoor 2 pushed her to emotional and mental extremes, requiring intense preparation and sleepless nights. She described the supernatural drama as one of the most demanding performances of her career.



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Actress Urvashi Rautela recently revealed the intense preparation behind her role in the upcoming supernatural drama, Kasoor 2. Speaking on the sidelines of the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, she described the role as emotionally and mentally demanding, pushing her to her absolute limits. In an exclusive statement shared with IANS, Urvashi said, "This will be a never-before-seen avatar for me in a supernatural drama film. Portraying this role in Kasoor 2, presented by Bablu Aziz Barudgar, produced by Asif Shaikh under Practical Production Films, and directed by Glen Barretto, alongside Aftab Shivdasani and Jassie Gill, de-

manded sleepless nights, pushing me to the absolute limits emotionally and mentally." The actress added that the character required her to completely surrender to the role, diving deep into the character's intensity and vulnerability. "To truly embody the character, I had to surrender completely, diving deep into her intensity and vulnerability. Experiencing this at the Red Sea International Film Festival has been profoundly transformative and unforgettable," she shared. Urvashi was invited to Saudi Arabia to promote the film, which marks a sequel to the 2001 hit Kasoor directed by Vikram Bhatt. The original film starred Aftab Shivdasani and Lisa Ray, and Kasoor 2 sees Aftab reprising a lead role alongside Urvashi and

singer-turned-actor Jassie Gill. Produced under Practical Production Films, the film is directed by Glen Barretto and presented by Bablu Aziz Barudgar. Earlier this year, on June 25, Aftab Shivdasani announced the sequel on his birthday, sharing behind-the-scenes photos from the set. He wrote, "On this special day, as I turn a year older, the only gift I ask for is your love and blessings. Thank you for all the love over the years. I'm very grateful and blessed to be working on a very special film that means a lot to me." With its blend of supernatural drama and emotional intensity, Kasoor 2 is already generating buzz among fans, promising a fresh and challenging cinematic experience for both Urvashi Rautela and her co-stars.

## National Online Webinar on Career Growth and Skill Development Held

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Government Degree College (GDC), Hayathnagar, successfully organized a national online webinar on career growth and skill development, attended by 182 students, academicians, and technical experts from across India. The event focused on equipping students with the skills needed to secure employment in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Python programming, and other technical domains. Karnati Ashrith from Grad Guru, the main speaker, emphasized that students must develop technical expertise along with



interview-facing skills to seize job opportunities in today's competitive market. He highlighted the growing demand for professionals with specialized technical skills. Dr. Madhu, IQAC Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Physics, serving as the chief guest, noted that employment opportunities are attainable for students who maintain a

learning attitude and acquire the right skill set. Dr. D. Makla, Co-convenor and Assistant Professor of English, underscored the importance of communication skills, particularly proficiency in English and effective presentation abilities, as critical tools for career success. The webinar was organized jointly by the College Library Department, Department

of English, Career Guidance Cell, Telangana Skills Knowledge Center, and Grad Guru organization. Dr. A. Durgaprasad, librarian and convener of the webinar, stated that participants received electronic certificates upon completing a quiz via Google Forms. Students actively engaged in the session, asking questions related to career growth, which were addressed by the resource persons and faculty members. Dr. Durgaprasad and the college library team declared the online national webinar a major success, highlighting its contribution to enhancing students' employability and skill development.

## Sree Vishnu Launches Shuddh Vilas Premium Veg Restaurant in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tollywood actor Sree Vishnu inaugurated Shuddh Vilas, a premium pure vegetarian restaurant, at Malkajgiri today. The launch was attended by Brand Owners Shashikanth and Sriram, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajashekhar Reddy, film director Sekhar Kammula, screenwriter Kona Venkat, and Malkajgiri branch partners Rajeev, Rajsekar, Hussain, and Venkat Marthand. The event drew a large crowd of food lovers, fans, and local residents, marking an enthusiastic start for the new culinary destination. The inauguration featured traditional rituals and celebrations, with Sree Vishnu praising Shuddh Vilas for its commitment to authentic, hygienic, and pure vegetarian cuisine.



He emphasized the rising importance of clean and wholesome dining experiences in today's fast-paced lifestyle and wished the management success in establishing the restaurant as a favorite among families and vegetarian food enthusiasts. Brand Owners Shashikanth and Sriram highlighted that Shuddh Vilas was conceived to offer authentic vegetarian dishes rooted in Indian culinary traditions, ensuring con-

sistency, purity, and high customer satisfaction. They also revealed plans for expanding the brand to additional locations in the near future, aiming to make Shuddh Vilas a well-recognized name in vegetarian dining across the city. The grand opening concluded with Sree Vishnu interacting with guests, media, and fans, followed by a special tasting session of signature dishes from Shuddh Vilas. The

event showcased the restaurant's vibrant ambiance, diverse menu, and commitment to creating a premium dining experience for vegetarian patrons. With its focus on quality, purity, and authentic flavors, Shuddh Vilas promises to become a go-to destination for Hyderabad's vegetarian food lovers, combining traditional Indian recipes with a modern dining atmosphere.

## SIB Ex-Chief Hands Over 4 Mobiles To SIT

Former SIB chief T. Prabhakar Rao, who surrendered before the special investigation team (SIT) probing the phone-tapping case, reportedly handed over four mobile phones to the police while another gadget was abandoned in the US. The SIT questioned Prabhakar Rao for the second consecutive day on Saturday, after he surrendered to them on Friday following a Supreme Court directive. The SIT reportedly inquired about the mobile phones he used as SIB chief.

It was reported that the SIT officials questioned Rao based on forensic analyses by as well as reports filed by Apple and Gmail representatives on data that he had stored during his tenure at the SIB. SIT officials obtained inputs that some data related to personnel was deleted by the former SIB chief. Senior police officials were monitoring the questioning process, directing the SIT to establish a proper link in the case. It was reported that the SIT officials advised Prabhakar Rao not to hide any information, and that there was nothing exceptional in being questioned to get leads.

## 460 held for drunk driving in Hyderabad over the weekend

As many as 460 people were held for drunk driving in Hyderabad over the weekend. The Hyderabad traffic police conducted a special drive on December 12 and 13. Out of these, 350 were two-wheeler riders, 25 three-wheeler riders, and 85 four-wheeler riders. As many as 185 offenders recorded a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) ranging from 51-100; 99 had a BAC ranging from 101-150. As many as 98 offenders recorded BAC of 30-50. A total of 48 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 151-200; 16 offenders had BAC level 201-250, 10 had 251-300, and four had BAC levels above 300. The traffic police have warned that if anyone is found driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, they will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

## People Oppose GHMC Proposal Over Revenue Potential Or Distance

The GHMC has received 1,328 objections and suggestions till Sunday on the delimitation of 300 wards in the enlarged corporation after the merger of 27 urban local bodies. Most objections to the proposed boundaries appear to stem from the distance to municipal office in the circle. Some others opposed the proposed zones under which their divisions would fall under — either for the overall economic make-up of the zone or due to the distance of the zonal head office. Some people from Adibatla opposed their inclusion in the Charminar zone as they feel that revenue generated in their area — that houses Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Sikorsky Aerospace Limited and dozens of villas and apartments — will be used for the areas that don't generate enough revenue. "We want our area to be merged at least with the LB Nagar zone," said a resident from Adibatla which was in the former Badangpet municipality. A few residents of Dammaiguda wanted their area to be part of the Kukatpally zone, instead of Serilingampally as proposed. "I live in Kismatpur and the zonal office is over 20 km away from my colony," said a resident of that area. Reception centres have been set up at the GHMC head office, zonal and circle offices to receive the objections. The centres are kept open on holidays also. GHMC officials said the zones had not been finalised. The merged ULBs were assigned to the existing GHMC zones provisionally and will be changed later. "We are also exploring to divide the GHMC jurisdiction into 12 zones and 60 circles. A final decision has not been taken," said a GHMC official.

# AIMIM will lose kingmaker status with GHMC expansion

Congress leaders however brushed aside the AIMIM's apprehensions, stating that it will continue to hold the same position it does politically now.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Congress-led Telangana government's decision to merge 27 municipalities into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits has not gone down with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM). The decision will increase the GHMC seats from the existing 150 to 300, double its since. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led party has been a dominant force in the GHMC area as it has been retaining close to 50 out of the 150 wards in the GHMC elections until now. However, with the seats increasing to 300 now, the AIMIM will lose its status as kingmaker or even king perhaps, as other parties will now no longer need its support if it wins half the seats on its own. The main opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) had won 99 out of 150 wards, while the AIMIM won 44 seats in the 2015 GHMC polls. The BRS then did not need any support to bag the position of the GHMC Mayor and dep-



uty Mayor. Subsequently in the 2020 elections, the AIMIM retained its 44 seats, while the BRS won 56, and the BJP 48. With the BRS emerging as the single largest party, but without a clear majority, it was able to still bag the GHMC Mayor and deputy Mayor positions with support from the AIMIM. With the total wards now going above 300, bigger parties can try and win more seats on their own. More importantly, the AIMIM will also have to fight more for funds for the Old City in Hyderabad, where civic infrastructure is always in question. "How are they doing this expansion? It is being done on the basis of voters. The 2015 delimitation of GHMC wards was done on the 2011 census basis of

population. Earlier there were 100 wards in the old MCH area, and it was expanded to 150 under the Congress in the joint Andhra Pradesh state. In 2015, census enumeration data was used and the 150 GHMC seats were reorganised to make each one uniform," said a senior AIMIM functionary. "The government doesn't even have money to spend for its people as they keep saying they don't have money. Even civic amenities in the city like streetlights, roads and garbage cleaning are not there. So how will they spend money on the new areas?" he further questioned. According to the GHMC website, the current civic body is spent over an area of 65 square kilometers, and with the expansion it will go a little above 2000 sq km,

about three times its size. The civic body was formed on April 16, 2007, by merging 12 municipalities and eight Gram Panchayats with the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, which ceased to exist after the GHMC was formed. The municipalities added to MCH to create GHMC are: LB Nagar, Gaddi Annaram, Uppal Kalan, Malkajgiri, Kapra, Alwal, Qutubulapur, Kukatpally, Serilingampalle, Rajendranagar, Ramachandrapuram, and Patancheru. These municipalities are in Rangareddy district and Medak district. The panchayats are Shamshabad, Satamarai, Jallapalli, Mamdipalli, Mankhal, Almasguda, Sardanagar and Ravirala. Prior to the creation of GHMC, the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad had a population of 4.5 millions (or 45 lakh) in an area of 172 sq km. In 2007, the GHMC area had a population of 6.7 million or 67 lakh. It is to be seen what the exact population will be after the new expansion.

## KCR to launch movement to protect Telangana's water rights on Dec 19

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana



Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao will chair a joint meeting with Bharat Rashtira Samithi Legislature Party (BRSLP) and the party's state executive committee on December 19 at Telangana Bhavan to discuss Congress's 'negligence' towards irrigation projects. The BRS also plans to launch a public movement to protect the water rights of Telangana's farmers, which the party claims are being siphoned off by Andhra Pradesh. The meeting assumes great significance as KCR, chief minister for the first nine years after Telangana's formation, has not been much active since his party's defeat in the 2023 Assembly elections. In an X post, the BRS party stated that while they allocated 91 TMC of Krishna water for the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, Congress has now compromised before the Centre, saying just 45 TMC is enough. "State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy agreeing to 45 TMC and returning

empty-handed from the Centre is nothing but sabotaging the interests of the state's farmers. The Congress government's stance is committing a grave injustice to the state." BRS stated. It also slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for "keeping silent" when Telangana's interests are being harmed. "Even with 8 BJP MPs from Telangana state present, not a single one has spoken up," the post said. KCR has said that direct public struggles are now the only option for Telangana as the BJP continues to support water diversion to Andhra Pradesh under the guise of river-linking projects. He said that if BRS had returned to power, water would have already reached farmers through the Palamuru Lift Irrigation Project, protecting the interests of farmers in Palamuru, Rangareddy, and Nalgonda.

## Hyderabad techie challenges IT firm's Rs 5 L exit bond rule in HC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A Hyderabad-based software engineer has approached the Telangana High Court, challenging what he termed as coercive and illegal exit bond practices followed by an IT company, prompting sharp observations from the court on the treatment of software employees. Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka, while hearing a petition filed by Potnuru Rajesh, a software engineer from Nallagandla, came down heavily on Algonox Technologies for allegedly forcing employees to sign multiple minimum service agreements and demanding Rs 5 lakh as compensation on resignation. The petitioner alleged that the company made him sign three consecutive "minimum service surety agreements" and

later harassed him by insisting on payment of Rs 5 lakh as liquidated damages if he chose to resign. Taking serious note of the allegations, the High Court criticised the conduct of the company and expressed strong displeasure over the inaction of the Labour department. The court observed that senior officials, including the Principal Secretary of the Labour department, the Labour Commissioner, and the Ranga Reddy district Joint Commissioner, had "miserably failed" to address the grievance despite serious complaints of illegal bargaining. The bench questioned the legality of demanding a fixed amount as liquidated damages without any formula or calculation linked to the employee's tenure or alleged loss suffered by the company. It noted that such arbitrary demands appeared to be aimed at

harassing employees. Directing labour authorities to examine whether such exit bond clauses amount to an illegal bargain under labour laws, the court posed a pointed question: "Do labour laws not apply to software employees?" The High Court also remarked on the contrast between the public image of the IT sector and the ground realities faced by employees. While modern offices, high salaries, and perks are visible, the court said software professionals are often left without even basic social security. Highlighting the significant contribution of software professionals to the country's economic growth, the court suggested that the Telangana government consider bringing in special legislation to protect the welfare and rights of IT employees.

## Bandi Sanjay hits out at Rahul Gandhi for 'prioritising' Messi event in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday attacked Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for attending the GOAT India Tour event featuring football legend Lionel Messi here, alleging that a soccer star gets priority over Telangana's "pain". The Minister of State for Home, in a post on 'X', said that Rahul Gandhi promised that he would be in Telangana in a minute when people need him. However, that minute clearly runs on a "luxury" time zone. "For the people of Telangana, his clock never works. It only ticks for VIP events and photo ops. A football star gets priority over Telangana's pain", Kumar said.



Rahul Gandhi, who landed here on Saturday afternoon, joined Messi and his Inter Miami teammates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo de Paul and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the felicitation towards the end of the event. Kumar further slammed Rahul Gandhi, alleging that the Congress government is playing with people's lives in Telangana.

He alleged that the Congress party's six guarantees and several poll promises were unfulfilled. The union minister tagged a video of the speech by Rahul Gandhi promising that he would be in Telangana in a minute when people needed him. He further claimed that Rahul Gandhi was "absent during suffering. On vacation during chaos. Fully present when the spotlight is on."

## Uttam Kumar Urges Centre To Release Rs 1,811 Cr

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Civil supplies minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday requested the Centre for the release of ₹1,468 crore, the pending subsidy for excess mill levy rice (KMS 2014-15), besides the release of subsidy for 89,988 MT of rice distributed under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) (April 2022) amounting to ₹343.27 crore. In his letter addressed to Union con-

sumer affairs minister Pralhad Joshi, Uttam Kumar said that a subsidy claim of ₹1,468 crore towards excess mill levy rice procured during KMS 2014-15 (Kharif) is pending release. "Despite repeated efforts by the state government, the department of food and public distribution has conveyed its decision not to release the subsidy amount of ₹1,468.95 crore for 6.88 lakh MT of levy rice procured during KMS 2014-15 and distributed under DCP (decentralised

procurement scheme). Your kind intervention is sought to ensure the release of the pending levy subsidy. Further, the subsidy of ₹343.27 crore 89,988 MTs of rice distributed by the state government under PMGKAY during April 2022 instead of March 2022 remains unreleased," he pointed out. He highlighted the operational and financial issues regarding procurement activities for the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025-26. Uttam



Kumar Reddy urged the Union government to allot additional rakes to facilitate expeditious movement of parboiled rice from FCI godowns in Telangana. He cited that there was a shortfall of 13.5 LMTs in rake movement during the current year as compared to the

previous year, resulting in an 'accumulation of stocks', particularly parboiled rice in FCI godowns. Urging for the enhancement of Storage Capacity in Telangana, the minister stated that the present storage capacity available with SWC (State Warehousing Corporation) (SWC) / CWC (Central Warehousing Corporation) in Telangana, with 65 LMTs was not supporting the exponential increase in paddy production in the state

year after year. "There is no commensurate increase in storage capacity, which is causing a major hurdle in the completion of CMR (Custom Milled Rice) deliveries in time. To tide over this situation, it is requested to enhance storage capacity by an additional 15 LMTs under the storage schemes of the Union government and to enable the construction of godowns and silos in the state to facilitate timely CMR delivery and smooth MSP operations," he urged.

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