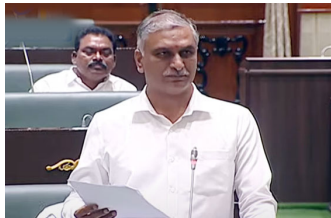




Would you like to subscribe to WAKE UP TELANGANA ENGLISH DAILY

Please give a missed call to +91 8885610056 We will get back to you



**Harish Rao Accuses Congress of Betraying Palamuru Farmers: P3**

**Hyderabad's Numaish to begin on January 1; entry fee hiked to Rs 50: P8**

**Get Ready for BRS in Assembly, Says CM: P2**



### Brief Insights

#### Didi: I Don't Appear, I Practise Secularism

With "secularism" on her lips to shrug off BJP's slur of "appeasement" politics, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday laid the foundation stone of 'Durga Angan', a proposed temple on Goddess Durga, in New Town and also announced of building a Mahakal Temple. The Trinamul Congress supremo made her next plan public hours before union home minister Amit Shah reached the city on a two-day year-end visit to supervise his party's preparations for the upcoming Assembly Election in the state.

In a veiled reference to the BJP, Ms Banerjee said, "People often accuse me of resorting to appeasement. This is not correct. I'm secular in a real sense. I attend all religious programmes. When I visit a Gurudwara, you say nothing. But you criticise me when I attend an Eid programme." Sharing details of 'Durga Angan' project, she informed that the destination spread across two lakh sq ft can accommodate one lakh visitors daily.

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

#### Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Nod for Three New Districts; Total at 29

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has given its approval for formation of three new districts -- Mandapalle, Markapuram and Polavaram -- taking the total number of districts to 29 from the present 26. This followed the issue of a gazette notification on the re-organisation of districts on November 27 and receipt and consideration of the objections to the proposals. The process lasted till December 27.

A gazette notification would be issued on December 31 to create the three new districts. The resultant changes would come into effect with immediate effect. Revenue minister Anagani Satya Prasad, civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar and health minister Satya Kumar Yadav briefed the media on the decisions of the e-cabinet meeting on Monday. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu presided over the weekly meeting. Against the present lot of 26 districts, proposals were received for changes in the composition and areas of 17 districts.

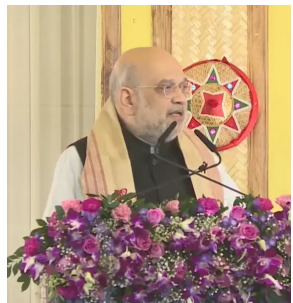
CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

# Will Drive Illegals Out of the Country: Shah

Shah also accused previous Congress governments of failing to honour the sacrifices made during the Assam Movement.

**GUWAHATI**  
Wakeup telangana

Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday said the BJP was committed to driving out infiltrators from the country, beginning with Assam. He said this while inaugurating the Rs 227-crore redeveloped Batadrava Than, the birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva, in Assam's Nagaon district. Addressing a gathering at the Batadrava Cultural Project, Shah expressed anguish over what he described as encroachment of the sacred site by Bangladeshi infiltrators in the past. He recalled that Batadrava Than is the birthplace of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva, the revered Vaishnav saint and social reformer.



Praising Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for removing encroachments and restoring the sanctity of the Namghar at the site, Shah said, "The BJP has resolved to remove all infiltrators from the entire country." He asked the gathering whether it was right for infiltrators to occupy a place associated with Sankardeva. Launching a sharp attack on the Congress, the home minister alleged that the party

had treated infiltrators as a vote bank, despite them posing a threat to Assam's people, culture and identity. Backing the ongoing eviction drive, he said more than one lakh bighas of land had been freed from encroachment in the State.

Shah also accused previous Congress governments of failing to honour the sacrifices made during the Assam Movement. "Congress ruled for many years but did nothing for those who laid down their lives for the Assam Movement," he said. Invoking the legacy of Bharat Ratna Gopinath Bordoloi, Assam's first Chief Minister, Shah credited him with ensuring that Assam and the Northeast remained part of India. "If Gopinath Bordoloi had

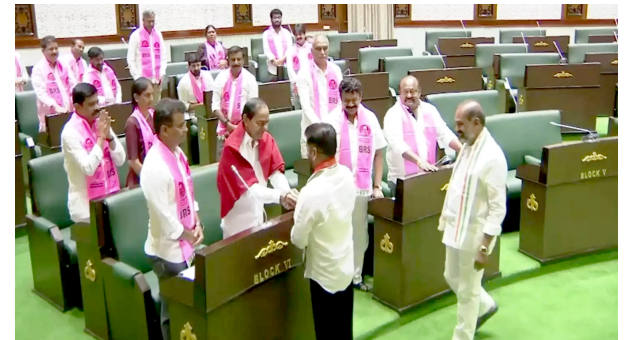
not been there, Assam and the entire Northeast would not have remained with India. He compelled Jawaharlal Nehru to keep Assam within the Indian Union," he said. Describing Batadrava Than as a symbol of Assamese unity and harmony, Shah said it embodied the inclusive nav-vaishnav dharma propagated by Srimanta Sankardeva, where people from all communities come together. Addressing the gathering, Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government had freed around 1.45 lakh bighas of land from illegal encroachers over the past decade and would continue the drive. He appealed to encroachers to voluntarily vacate Satra and government lands.

# CM Revanth Greets KCR In The Assembly

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy walked up to his predecessor K. Chandrashekar Rao and greeted him on Monday, highlight of the day when the Assembly Winter Session commenced on a sedate note. They shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. The much-anticipated presence of Chandrashekar Rao was brief. He who took the seat reserved for the Leader of Opposition, arriving before the Chief Minister, spent just a few minutes, and left shortly after the session commenced.

The session was adjourned after the House paid tributes to former MLAs R. Damodar Reddy and K. Laxma Reddy, who passed away recently, and the



government tabled ordinances that were issued in the past few months. Revanth Reddy later in the day described his going over to Rao to greet him as a matter of courtesy. During a brief chat with reporters in the Assembly lobbies, Revanth Reddy, answering a question about what transpired between the two, said, "Why will I reveal what we talked about?" On possible reasons why Rao left the Assembly after being there for a few minutes, Revanth Reddy

said: "This is a question that he needs to be asked." Revanth Reddy also said this was not the first time he had interacted with the BRS chief. "We respect all members of the House.

It is not just today. I met with KCR when he was in the hospital too.

Among those who accompanied the Chief Minister when he greeted Rao were ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Congress MLAs.

CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

# Trump Warns Hamas, Iran After Netanyahu Talks



**PALM BEACH**  
Wakeup telangana

US President Donald Trump warned Iran of fresh strikes and said Hamas would have "hell to pay" if it fails to disarm in Gaza, as he presented a united front with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday. Speaking at a news conference with Netanyahu in Florida, Trump threatened to "eradicate" any attempt by Tehran to rebuild its nuclear program or ballistic missile arsenal following US and Israeli strikes earlier this year.

Trump also downplayed reports of tensions with Netanyahu over the second

stage of the fragile Gaza ceasefire, saying that Israel had "lived up" to its commitments and that the onus was on Palestinian militant group Hamas. "If they don't disarm as they agreed to do, then there will be hell to pay for them," Trump told reporters at his lavish Mar-a-Lago resort. "They have to disarm in a fairly short period of time." Hamas's armed wing reiterated earlier on Monday that it would not surrender its weapons. A top political adviser to Iran's supreme leader on Monday said any aggression against his country would be met with an

CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

# Zelenskyy Says US Offers Ukraine 15-Year Security Guarantees in Peace Plan

**KYIV**  
Wakeup telangana

The United States is offering Ukraine security guarantees for a period of 15 years as part of a proposed peace plan, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, though he said he would prefer an American commitment of up to 50 years to deter Russia from further attempts to seize its neighbor's land by

force. U.S. President Donald Trump hosted Zelenskyy at his Florida resort on Sunday and insisted that Ukraine and Russia are "closer than ever before" to a peace settlement.

Negotiators are still searching for a breakthrough on key issues, however, including whose forces withdraw from where in Ukraine and the fate of Ukraine's Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia



nuclear power plant, one of the 10 biggest in the world. Trump noted that the monthslong U.S.-led negotiations could still collapse. "Without security guarantees, realistically, this war will not

end," Zelenskyy told reporters in voice messages responding to questions sent via a WhatsApp chat.

Ukraine has been fighting Russia since 2014, when it illegally annexed Crimea and Moscow-backed separatists took up arms in the Donbas, a vital industrial region in eastern Ukraine. Details of the security guarantees have not become public, but Zelenskyy said Monday they include how a peace deal

would be monitored as well as the "presence" of partners. He didn't elaborate, but Russia has said it won't accept the deployment in Ukraine of troops from NATO countries. Trump and Putin discuss peace efforts by phone Trump on Monday had "a positive call" with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the war, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a post on X.

### Former sarpanchs protest



A group of former sarpanchs staged a protest in front of the Telangana Assembly in Hyderabad, demanding clearance of ₹531 crore in pending bills. During the protest, a former sarpanch collapsed and fell unconscious as police carried out arrests. Photo: Mir zulfiquar ali

# Rs.79,000 Cr Defence Buys Get DAC Approval

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Rajnath Singh, on Monday accorded initial approval to defence procurement proposals worth about Rs 79,000 crore for the three services. The approvals include loiter munition (kamikaze drones) for the Indian Army, leasing of High Altitude Long Range (HALE) Remotely

Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for surveillance by the Indian Navy, 200-km-range Astra Mk-II air-to-air missiles for fighter aircraft, and SPICE-1000 long-range guidance kits, which were used during the 2019 Balakot strikes by Mirage-2000 jets.

The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of loiter munition systems for Army artillery regiments. It also cleared



the acquisition of Low Level Light Weight Radars, 120-km-range Long Range Guided Rocket Ammunition for the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), and the Integrated Drone

Detection and Interdiction System (IDD&IS) Mk-II. The loiter munition system will enable precision strikes on tactical targets, while the radars will detect and track small, low-flying unmanned aerial systems. The guided rockets will enhance the range and accuracy of the Pinaka MRLS, and the upgraded drone detection system will protect vital assets in tactical battle areas and the hinterland.

For the Navy, the DAC approved AoN for the procurement of Bollard Pull (BP) tugs, High Frequency Software Defined Radios (HF SDR) Manpack, and the leasing of HALE RPAS. The HALE RPAS will provide continuous intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, strengthening maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region. BP tugs will assist ships.

ESTD-1960.

# ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

## KT Rama Rao slams Congress over farmer distress in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday strongly criticised the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of failing to fulfil its election promises and pushing farmers into severe distress. He asserted that public sentiment was already indicating a return of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi to power, with only two more years remaining.

Addressing a felicitation programme for newly elected sarpanches from Boath constituency at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said that despite completing two years in office, the Congress government had not implemented even a single



major assurance given to the people. He alleged that the farmer-friendly governance under the BRS had been replaced by what he termed an “anti-farmer” Congress regime. Rama Rao pointed out that farmers cultivating cotton and soybean, especially in the erstwhile Adilabad district, were facing acute difficulties due to policy failures and administrative mismanagement. He said uncer-

tainty had gripped the agriculture sector, leaving farmers without adequate support.

Drawing a contrast with the previous BRS rule under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, Rama Rao said farmers had lived with dignity due to welfare initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima and a strong procurement system with over 7,000 centres operating at the

village level. He added that major irrigation projects on the Godavari and Krishna rivers, including Kaleshwaram and the nearly completed Palamuru-Rangareddy project, had transformed Telangana into one of the country’s leading paddy-producing states.

Referring to electoral trends, he said the BRS narrowly lost Assembly seats like Adilabad, Khanapur and Kagaznagar but received clear public backing in the recent panchayat elections. He claimed that people had suffered under Congress rule for the last two years and were eager for a change. “In another two years, KCR will return as Chief Minister,” he said. Rama Rao praised Boath MLA Anil Jadav for his

integrity and urged party cadres to strengthen such leadership. He also accused the BJP, with the Congress’s tacit support, of failing to reopen the Cement Corporation of India factory in Adilabad.

Targeting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao questioned how the government incurred a debt of Rs 2.5 lakh crore in just two years and accused him of filing false cases against Chandrashekhara Rao. He called on party workers to replicate the panchayat election success in upcoming municipal, MPTC and ZPTC polls, reiterating that village funds were a constitutional right of sarpanches and would be fully restored under a future BRS government.

## Revanth: Get Ready for BRS in Assembly

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said all ministers, as well as Congress MLAs, must be prepared to effectively counter the allegations and narratives that the Opposition parties would seek to push during debates and discussions in the Assembly. The Chief Minister’s directive came at his meeting with ministers and party legislators at the Assembly after the proceedings for Monday were adjourned.

With expectations of heated debates on the cards when the House reconvenes after the New Year break on January 2, Revanth Reddy also



made it clear that attendance in the House was mandatory. The BRS, the Chief Minister was learnt to have told the meeting, would do its best to derail any meaningful discussion, and that every minister must be fully prepared to answer questions pertaining to their departments.

With much of the focus of the current session expected to center around irrigation related issues,

the BRS, the Chief Minister said, would attempt to attack the government in a bid to prove that it still existed as a party, and blame the Congress government for problems it inherited from the previous BRS government. “It is important that everyone follows what is being discussed closely, raise point of orders when relevant as part of countering the BRS,” the Chief Minister is learnt to have told the meeting. Revanth Reddy said a second meeting of the Legislature’s Business Advisory Council will be held on January 4 to take stock of the sittings till then and take a call on the following days of the session.

## Congress govt to introduce new law for protection of minorities: Shabbir Ali

**KAMAREDDY**  
Wakeup telangana

Advisor to Telangana Government (SC, ST, OBC & Minorities) Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Monday announced that the Congress government in Telangana is preparing to introduce a new law aimed at safeguarding religious freedom and protecting the rights of minority communities. He said the proposed legislation reflects the government’s deep commitment to communal harmony and inclusive development.

He was speaking at the official Christmas celebrations held at the Limra Function Hall in Kamareddy town, organised under the Telangana government’s initiative to conduct constituency-level festivities for the Christian community. “The Telangana government respects all religions equally and is working to strengthen religious harmony in the state. A new law will soon be brought in to protect minority



rights and ensure no community feels insecure,” he said. Extending Christmas greetings to the Christian community after cutting the ceremonial cake, Shabbir Ali said the life and teachings of Lord Jesus Christ symbolise peace, love, sacrifice, and service to others. “His message is timeless, and his path should inspire all sections of society,” he added.

He also emphasised that the Congress government is offering significantly more welfare schemes and opportunities to Christians than previous regimes. “Unlike past governments that overlooked the needs of minorities, the Congress is giving focused attention to their welfare.

Officially celebrating Christmas in every constituency is a clear reflection of that commitment,” he said.

Assuring continued support, Shabbir Ali stated, “The Christian community in Kamareddy will receive all necessary infrastructure and welfare support. If there are any concerns, you are welcome to bring them to my notice at any time.” Earlier in the day, Shabbir Ali distributed ₹50 lakh worth of cheques to 82 beneficiaries from Kamareddy town and mandals under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF). The programme was held at the Congress district office.

## Sunitha Moves SC Against Yadav’s Win In JH Bypoll

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, the defeated BRS candidate in the Jubilee Hills Assembly byelection, has filed an election petition in the Telangana High Court, challenging the election of Congress nominee Naveen Yadav as MLA, and seeking a declaration that she be declared elected. Her petition primarily focused on the ground that he failed to comply with the mandatory requirement of publishing his criminal antecedents in newspapers during the election period, as prescribed under the election laws and the model code of conduct. She contended that Naveen Yadav did not disclose details relating to FIRs, charges framed



against him, and declarations made to political parties, which were required to be disclosed both in Form 26 affidavit and through publication in print media. Such non-disclosure amounted to suppression of material facts and constituted a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the petition said. It was further alleged that the returning officer improperly and illegally accepted his nomination despite these de-

ficiencies.

The petitioner said that she had secured the second highest number of votes in the election and that, had Yadav’s nomination been rejected in accordance with law, she would have been declared elected. She sought a declaration that the election of Naveen Yadav be declared as void and liable to be set aside, with a consequential declaration that the petitioner (Sunitha) be declared elected. She also alleged non-cooperation bypoll authorities — the returning officer and the election officer — in furnishing certified copies and electronic records relating to the election, despite applications made on November 19 and December 24.

## SHO Nethaji Warns Chinese Manja Sellers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Zaffer abedi

In the wake of the recent accident at Shamsheer Gunj allegedly caused by Chinese manja, Rein Bazar Station House Officer C. Nethaji conducted surprise raids on kite shops within the Rein Bazar police limits. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Mirchowk ACP G. Shyam Sunder. Speaking to the media, SHO Nethaji said the police have intensified checks on all kite shops to prevent the sale of banned Chinese manja. He issued a stern warning to kite shop owners, stating that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found selling Chinese manja. “If anyone is caught selling or storing Chinese manja, cases will be booked and they will be sent to jail,” he said.

As part of the drive, police teams inspected four kite shops on Tuesday. However, no Chinese manja was found during the raids. The SHO added that a special team has been formed to track the illegal sale of



Chinese manja from homes and localities within the area.

Nethaji also appealed to the public to cooperate with the police by avoiding the use of Chinese manja and taking necessary precautions while flying kites, especially from high-rise buildings. He urged parents to ensure that children do not run onto roads chasing kites, as it could lead to serious accidents. The public was further requested to share any information about the sale or storage of Chinese manja in homes or surrounding areas by dialling 100 or contacting the Rein Bazar Police Station directly. Warning those involved in the illegal practice, the SHO reiterated that the police would take strict and immediate action against violators.

## Full RPwD Act rollout: MLC Dasoju Sravan

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan demanded that the State government move beyond paper-thin compliance and ensure proper implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. He welcomed the State government’s recent decision to enforce five per cent reservation for persons with disabilities in higher education.

Speaking in the State Legislative Council on Monday, Sravan cautioned that the move addressed only a small part of the problem. He said parents of children with disabilities were forced to run from pillar to post for basic entitlements such as education. “Without systemic reform, the Act remains an unfulfilled promise for thousands of families,” he said.

The BRS MLC pointed to poor awareness among educators, lack of early diagnostic facilities and

growing dependence on costly private centres, which affected poor and middle-class families. Despite the RPwD Act recognising 21 categories of disabilities, including autism, mental illness and chronic neurological conditions, he warned that the gap in implementation had become a serious social concern. Sravan outlined a clear roadmap, calling for five per cent reservation and financial support from the primary level across public and private institutions, government-funded therapy centres, compulsory appointment of psychologists and special educators in schools, full fee concessions and scholarships, and a dedicated monitoring mechanism at the State and district levels. He stressed the need for cooperation between the government, educational institutions, medical bodies and NGOs to ensure equal opportunity for every child.

## MASTI Celebrates Two Years of Arts and Tech Empowerment

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

MASTI (Music, Arts, Science, Technology, and Innovation), a flagship initiative of the Yashoda Foundation, marked its two-year milestone with a grand celebration at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s Auditorium, Basheerbagh. The occasion highlighted the center’s impactful journey in empowering underprivileged children through a unique blend of traditional Indian arts and modern technology education.

Inspired by the educational philosophy of Dr. Sugata Mitra, MASTI was established to encourage self-directed learning by providing children with the right tools, mentorship, and a joyful learning environment. Over the past two years, the center has emerged as a model



for holistic education—preserving cultural heritage while equipping children with future-ready skills. At MASTI, students are trained in classical art forms such as Kuchipudi dance, Carnatic music, piano, painting, and free-style dance, alongside hands-on exposure to emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, robotics, and coding. This integrated approach has helped children build creativity, confidence, and critical thinking skills. The milestone celebration was a tribute to the collective efforts of artists, educators,

volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to the center’s growth.

Under the leadership of Navin Kumar Barpathi, the foundation has created a meaningful and lasting impact on children and their communities.

Santosh Kaveti, CEO of ProArch and a founding member of MASTI, said the initiative is rooted in the belief that children naturally learn when supported with the right environment and guidance. He noted that integrating cultural traditions with future technologies is key to nurturing the next generation of innovators, artists, and leaders.

## SC Rationalisation Law Under Fire

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Mala Welfare Association has approached the Telangana High Court challenging the constitutional validity of the Telangana Scheduled Castes Reservation Rationalisation Act, 2025. After hearing arguments, a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin issued notices to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), the Registrar General of India (RGI), and the Telangana State Government, directing them to file their counters within four weeks.

The hearing took place on December 29, 2025, on a petition filed under the leadership of Mala Welfare Association State President Battula Ram Prasad. Counsel appearing for the petitioners argued that the Act violates Article 338(9) of the Constitution of India and was enacted by misleading the



Assembly on mandatory constitutional procedures.

The petitioners contended that the Telangana government falsely claimed in the Telangana Scheduled Castes Reservation Rationalisation Bill, 2025, that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes had been consulted on February 17, 2025. However, information obtained from the NCSC headquarters in New Delhi revealed that no such communication was received from the State government on that date and that the letters were received only at a later stage.

Further, the petitioners informed the court that the NCSC placed letters received from the Andhra

Pradesh and Telangana governments under Agenda Item No. 10 in its meeting held on May 30, 2025. The Commission subsequently sought the views of its nodal departments—the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Registrar General of India—on March 28, 2025. As the required inputs were not received by the time of the meeting, the NCSC decided that the matter would be placed before the full Commission for discussion only after receiving responses from the nodal departments, following which its opinion and recommendations would be communicated.

Passport Cell Clears  
2.3 Lakh Cases

Special Branch DCP K. Apoorva Rao on Sunday said the passport verification cell had achieved a 99 per cent disposal rate, having received 2,30,617 applications out of which 2,27,889 were cleared. Another 2,782 were pending investigation, she said. SB teams identified 2,549 fake URLs, of which 10 were deleted and 390 were under process. The Special Branch also received 261 threat perception reports and disposed of 254, achieving a 97.3 per cent clearance rate. The force monitored 7,016 programmes this year, including 2,036 of a religious nature, 852 protests and 4,128 others. The DCP said the PD Act was invoked against 22 persons and one was bound over. The Special Branch of the city police acts as the intelligence and verification arm, primarily responsible for maintaining internal security, public order and communal harmony. It undertakes extensive verification work, including passport, job and police clearance checks, threat perception assessments, and issuance of NOCs and press declarations.

# Cyberabad Records Highest Crime Load as Greater Hyderabad Sees Overall Dip in 2025

The three major police commissionerates of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) saw the overall crime rate drop in 2025.

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A comparative analysis of crime statistics for 2024 and 2025 across the three major police commissionerates under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) — Hyderabad City, Cyberabad and Rachakonda — reveals contrasting trends, with Cyberabad continuing to register the highest volume of crimes despite an overall decline across the region.

According to annual crime data released this month, Cyberabad recorded 37,243 cases in 2025, reflecting a marginal 1.2 per cent drop compared to the previous year. Rachakonda, however, witnessed a sharp 15 per cent surge in crime, with cases rising from 28,626 in 2024 to 33,040 in 2025. In contrast, Hyderabad

City reported a significant decline of nearly 15 per cent, with cases dropping from 35,944 to 30,690 during the same period. Collectively, the three commissionerates constitute the Greater Hyderabad region.

### Crimes Against Women Show Mixed Trends

Crimes against women remained a major concern across the commissionerates. Hyderabad City and Cyberabad reported increases, registering 2,625 and 3,350 cases respectively. Rachakonda showed a mixed picture — while serious offences such as cruelty by husband or relatives, rape, dowry deaths, murder and abetment to suicide declined by 25 per cent, cases affecting women's safety in public spaces rose sharply. Offences like molest-



tation, kidnapping and cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in Rachakonda increased from 1,186 in 2024 to 1,804 in 2025. Under the POCSO Act, Cyberabad and Hyderabad City topped the list with 568 cases each, while Rachakonda reported 516 cases.

Cyberabad also recorded the highest number of rape cases at 500, followed by Hyderabad City with 405 and Rachakonda with 330. In dowry-

related deaths and murders, Hyderabad City reported 31 cases, Rachakonda 18, and Cyberabad 17.

### Narcotics Crackdown Yields Major Results

The narcotics departments across the tri-commissionerates registered a significant success in 2025, seizing a total of 7,066 kg of drugs valued at approximately Rs 37 crore. Of this, ganja accounted for nearly 97 per cent of the total volume seized. Ra-

chakonda led the seizures with 2,090 kg of drugs worth Rs 20.01 crore, followed by Cyberabad with 1,525 kg valued at Rs 16.85 crore. Hyderabad City recovered 3,243 kg of narcotics, though its estimated value was comparatively lower at Rs 56 lakh.

Apart from ganja, 209 kg of non-ganja narcotics — including MDMA, cocaine, LSD and heroin — worth Rs 15.61 crore were seized across the region, with Rachakonda accounting

### Cybercrime Declines, Losses Remain High

Cybercrime cases dropped across all three commissionerates, with Cyberabad registering a notable 35 per cent decline. Despite this, financial losses remained substantial, totalling nearly Rs 850 crore across Greater Hyderabad. Investment fraud, part-time job scams and smishing emerged as the most prevalent cyber offences, though digital arrest scams fell sharply by nearly 90 per cent. Overall, while enforcement measures have yielded gains in narcotics control and cybercrime reduction, rising conventional crimes and low traffic fine compliance continue to pose serious challenges for policing in Greater Hyderabad.

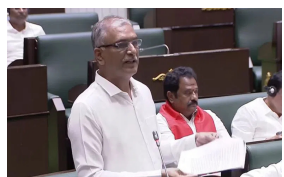
### Road Safety: Accidents Up, Fatalities Down

Road accidents increased marginally to 10,775 in 2025 from 10,094 the previous year. However, fatalities declined from 1,810 to 1,756. Cyberabad reported the highest number of accidents and deaths, followed by Rachakonda and Hyderabad City.

## Harish Rao Accuses Congress of Betraying Palamuru Farmers

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Senior BRS MLA and former Minister T Harish Rao on Monday accused the Congress government of failing to protect Telangana's water rights and neglecting the interests of farmers, particularly in the Palamuru region. He alleged that Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy was indulging in "double speak" over water allocation for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project and demanded clarity on whether the allocation was reduced from 90



TMC to 45 TMC.

Speaking to mediapersons on the Assembly premises after the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, Harish Rao said Uttam Kumar Reddy appeared to be acting under the influence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and was misleading the public. He challenged the Minister to clearly state if the Congress government had scaled down the project's water requirement.

The BRS leader questioned why the Detailed Project Report (DPR), returned by the Centre nearly a year ago, had not been resubmitted so far. He pointed out that while the previous BRS government secured seven crucial approvals from the Centre, the Congress government had failed to obtain even one approval in the last two years.

Recalling the BRS government's record, Harish Rao said projects neglected during the earlier Congress regime in undivided Andhra Pradesh were completed under BRS, providing irrigation facilities to over 6.5 lakh

acres. He accused Congress leaders of being "traitors of Palamuru" and alleged that Uttam Kumar Reddy had earlier obstructed the Palamuru-Rangareddy project by approaching the National Green Tribunal. He stated that the BRS government got the cases vacated, completed nearly 90 per cent of the project works, and spent around Rs 27,000 crore. Drawing a comparison, he said while the BRS cleared 11 km of the SLBC tunnel in 10 years, the Congress government managed only 200 metres of tunnelling in the last two years.

## Hyderabad shivers as temperatures dip to single digits across Telangana

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad and multiple districts in Telangana continue to experience chilly cold-wave-like conditions, with multiple locations recording minimum temperatures in single digits. While the India Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad has not issued any outright cold wave alert, it has, however, in its forecast, indicated that minimum temperatures in a majority of the districts, including Hyderabad, will be between 11 degree Celsius and 15 degree Celsius.

"Minimum temperatures



are likely to be below normal by 3 degree Celsius to 4 degree Celsius C, at isolated pockets over Telangana," the IMD-Hyderabad on Monday forecast said.

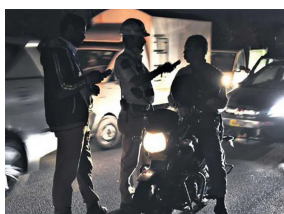
In its five-day forecast, the IMD-Hyderabad indicated that minimum temperatures will remain between 11 and 15 degree Celsius across multiple locations in districts till Friday, January 2.

Meanwhile, independent weather trackers from Hyderabad, on X and other social media platforms, indicated that almost all the districts of Telangana have been experiencing cold wave situations for the past 25 days. Independent weather trackers from Hyderabad, including Raj (Hyderabadians on X), said that it has been almost 25 days since the cold wave began. It is still going strong across the city, with many regions in Hyderabad recording less than 10 degree Celsius. Meanwhile, some of the regions that have recorded minimum temperatures in Hyderabad.

## New Year traffic curbs: Cyberabad police announce strict drunk-drive

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Ahead of New Year celebrations, the Cyberabad Traffic Police have announced stringent traffic regulations and enforcement measures to ensure public safety and prevent road accidents on December 31. The police, in an advisory issued on Monday, have warned cab, taxi and auto-rickshaw operators against refusing rides, misbehaving with passengers, or charging excess fares. Drivers have been directed to wear proper uniforms and carry valid documents. Refusal to ply citizens will attract penalties under



the Motor Vehicles Act, and citizens can report such incidents via WhatsApp. Meanwhile, Bars, pubs, and clubs have been cautioned against allowing intoxicated patrons to drive from their premises. Establishments found facilitating drunk driving will face legal action for abetment, police said, and are urging managements to arrange alternative transport and educate customers on the risks of drunk driving. For the

general public, extensive drunk-and-drive checks will begin from 8 pm across Cyberabad limits. Special surveillance cameras have been installed to detect violations such as speeding, signal jumping, wrong-side driving, rash driving, helmet violations and illegal parking. Vehicles may be seized if drivers fail to produce valid documents. The advisory further prohibited high-decibel music systems, vehicles without number plates, overcrowding, triple riding and dangerous driving. Strict action will be taken against minors driving and those without a valid licence.

## Malkajgiri Zonal Commissioner Reviews Sanitation Arrangements at Moula Ali hills

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Malkajgiri Zonal Commissioner Sanchit Gangwar conducted an early-morning inspection on Monday to review sanitation and civic arrangements across key locations in the Moula Ali circle, with a special focus on preparations for the birth anniversary and Urs celebrations at the Moula Ali Dargah.

Beginning at 6 a.m., the Commissioner inspected the Lalapet Flyover and later visited the Moula Ali Hazrat Ali Abin Koyi Dargah hill area. He reviewed sanitation measures being undertaken for the Urs fes-



ivities and interacted with officials to assess preparedness. Emphasising public hygiene and pilgrim safety, he directed that sanitation services be carried out in three shifts and that adequate dustbins be placed for devotees and visitors. He instructed officials to ensure that garbage is not dumped openly on the hill and called for strict ar-

rangements to prevent littering. Temporary toilets were also ordered to be installed to cater to the large influx of pilgrims.

As part of special sanitation drives, the Commissioner inspected the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Neredmet. Noting deficiencies in cleanliness, he directed daily sweeping of the bridge and instructed the Circle Executive Engineer to deploy special staff during night hours to prevent unhygienic conditions and anti-social activities.

During the inspection of the Lalapet Flyover, he instructed that no debris, stones, soil heaps, or wild vegetation should be allowed on the central di-

vider and ordered the immediate removal of green waste. He also reviewed operations at the garbage transfer station in Yapuri, enquiring about the number of Swachh auto tippers arriving daily. Officials were directed to ensure that no garbage accumulates at the site and that waste is promptly transported to Jawahar Nagar. The inspection was attended by Deputy Commissioner Moula Ali Gopal Rao, Executive Engineer Laxman, Dr K. Manjula (Circle Deputy Medical Officer), Maheshwar (DEE-SWM), AE Madhurima, Sanitary Supervisor Srinivas (SFA), and other officials.

## New Year Bonanza for NIMS Staff as Earned Leave Encashment Scheme Gets Nod



In an early New Year boost to employees of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (Nims), health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has approved the long-pending scheme for annual surrender of earned leave encashment, fulfilling a key demand of the institute's workforce. Nims employees drawing AIIMS (Central) pay scales had been seeking the facility for several years. As per GO 230 issued on Monday, Nims employees will be eligible to surrender earned leave and receive cash benefits on par with government employees, in accordance with the Telangana Leave Rules, 1933. The announcement triggered jubilation across the Nims campus, with staff and employee unions welcoming the move. They described the decision as a "New Year gift" and expressed gratitude to minister Rajanarsimha.

# Five key takeaways from Trump-Netanyahu meeting

US president and Israeli prime minister exchange flattery as Trump threatens Iran and stresses that Hamas must disarm

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump projected close political alignment during their meeting at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort on Monday, focusing on the wars in Gaza, mounting pressure on Iran, and broader Middle East security concerns.

The meeting marked Netanyahu's fifth visit to the United States since Trump returned to office in January. At the forefront of the talks was Gaza, where Trump reiterated his hardline stance against Hamas, insisting the Palestinian group must disarm or face severe consequences. "It would be horrible for them," Trump warned when asked what would happen if Hamas re-

fused to give up its weapons. "It's going to be really, really bad." Trump dismissed concerns over Israel's near-daily ceasefire violations, claiming Israel was fully complying with the truce agreement "100 percent." This came despite reports that Israel has killed more than 400 Palestinians since the ceasefire began in October and continues to restrict the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza, even as residents endure harsh winter conditions in makeshift shelters. While US Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently stated that Washington's priority was to move toward a second phase of the ceasefire—envisioning a technocratic Palestinian administration supported by an international police



force—Trump kept the spotlight squarely on Hamas.

He repeated claims that unnamed countries were prepared to "wipe them out" if the group refuses to disarm. The meeting also underscored growing US and Israeli pressure on Iran.

Trump warned that Washington would respond militarily if Tehran attempts to rebuild its nuclear or missile capabilities. He

again linked US air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June to the current Gaza ceasefire. "Now I hear that Iran is trying to build up again," Trump said. "If they are, we're going to have to knock them down. We'll knock the hell out of them." Asked whether the US would support Israeli strikes on Iran's missile programme, Trump responded affirmatively, saying action

would be swift if Iran continued missile development. Iran has consistently denied pursuing nuclear weapons and has ruled out negotiations over its missile programme. Israel, meanwhile, is widely believed to possess an undeclared nuclear arsenal. Beyond policy, the meeting was marked by open displays of mutual admiration, dispelling recent media speculation

about tensions between the two leaders. Trump praised Netanyahu as a "hero," crediting him with Israel's wartime survival and reaffirming unwavering US support. "We're with you, and we'll continue to be with you," Trump said. "A lot of good things are happening in the Middle East." Trump also highlighted his efforts to secure a presidential pardon for Netanyahu, who faces corruption charges in Israel, though no pardon has been granted. In a reciprocal gesture, Netanyahu announced that Trump would be awarded the Israel Prize, typically reserved for Israeli citizens, saying it reflected "the overwhelming sentiment of Israelis across the spectrum." Another key issue discussed was Syria. Trump signalled sup-

port for improved Israel-Syria relations, praising Syria's new president Ahmed al-Sharaa following the fall of Bashar al-Assad last year. Since Assad's removal, Israel has expanded its military presence in southern Syria beyond the Golan Heights, including operations in Jabal al-Sheikh. "We do have an understanding regarding Syria," Trump said, adding that he respected the new Syrian leadership. Netanyahu responded cautiously, saying Israel's primary concern was maintaining a secure and terror-free border. Concerns over Lebanon also surfaced during the meeting. Since the Gaza truce, Israel has escalated attacks in Lebanon, raising fears of a renewed full-scale war. Although the Lebanese government has moved to disarm

Hezbollah, the group has refused, citing the need to defend against Israel. When asked if he would support further Israeli strikes in Lebanon, Trump did not rule out military action. "We'll see about it," he said, accusing Hezbollah of "behaving badly" and suggesting the Lebanese government was at a disadvantage. Overall, the meeting highlighted a reinforced US-Israeli alliance under Trump, marked by shared military priorities and strong political messaging. Despite humanitarian concerns and regional instability, both leaders emphasized deterrence, military pressure, and close coordination as their strategy for maintaining what Trump described as "peace in the Middle East."

## SC To Hear CBI Plea Against Suspension Of Sengar's Life Term

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging a Delhi High Court order that suspended the life sentence of expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the Unnao rape case. A three-judge vacation bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih is expected to hear the matter. The apex court will also consider a separate petition filed by



advocates Anjale Patel and Pooja Shilpkar seeking a stay on the High Court order.

In its appeal, the CBI referred to a Supreme Court judgment in the L.K. Advani case, which held that holders of public office, including MPs and MLAs, are deemed public servants. The agency argued that the High Court erred in ruling that Sengar, who was an MLA at the time

of the offence, was not a public servant and therefore not liable to be prosecuted under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The CBI contended that the High Court failed to recognise that a sitting MLA, by virtue of holding a constitutional office, carries public trust and authority and has enhanced responsibilities towards the state and society. It said the court erred in law by not adopting a purposive interpretation aligned with the objectives of the POCSO Act. On December 23, the Delhi High Court suspended Sengar's sen-

tence, noting that he had already served seven years and five months in prison. The suspension will remain in force pending disposal of his appeal against the December 2019 trial court verdict convicting him of kidnapping and raping a minor.

However, Sengar will continue to remain in jail as he is also serving a 10-year sentence in the custodial death case of the survivor's father, in which he has not been granted bail. His appeal in that case, along with a plea seeking suspension of sentence on the ground of prolonged incarceration, is also pending.

## Future Skills Hub To Empower Youth, Women, Farmers, SHGs

**KAKIINDA**  
Wakeup telangana

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the artificial intelligence (AI) powered Skill Hub at Pdamynavanilanka village in Narasapuram mandal of West Godavari district would empower youth, women, farmers, self-help groups and locals. They would be provided with future-ready skills aligned with livelihood opportunities, she said. Sitharaman, along with the Union minister of state for steel and heavy industries Bhupathiraju Sriinivasa Varma, finance minister Payyavula Kesava, the



water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, BJP state president PVN Madhav and others, inaugurated the skill hub at Pdamynavanilanka—her adopted village. It gets the support of Cyient Foundation. Sitharaman said the centre has been established under the aegis of the Cyient Foundation with the

objective of transforming it into a model AI-based rural skill and livelihood centre. She said, "PMLanka is not a remote village now. It is recognized as a main centre for AI-powered skill training." This initiative, she said, is designed to strengthen India's AI-powered rural transformation journey,

support national priorities such as Digital India, Skill India, and Viksit Bharat 2047. "It operates on the premise of how government infrastructure can be leveraged through CSR partnerships to create scalable, inclusive development models."

She said that the centre features AI-powered systems and smart classrooms, a 40-system computer lab, drone training equipment, high-speed connectivity, licensed and open-source AI tools, and a centralized learning management system enabling structured training delivery, real time tracking.

## Didi: I Don't Appease, I Practise Secularism

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

With "secularism" on her lips to shrug off BJP's slur of "appeasement" politics, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday laid the foundation stone of 'Durga Angan', a proposed temple on Goddess Durga, in New Town and also announced of building a Mahakal Temple. The Trinamul Congress supremo made her next plan public hours before union home minister Amit Shah reached the city on a two-day yearend visit to supervise his party's preparations for the upcoming Assembly Election in the state. In a veiled reference to the BJP, Ms Banerjee said, "People often accuse me of resorting to appeasement. This is not correct. I'm secular in a real sense. I attend all religious programmes.



When I visit a Gurudwara, you say nothing. But you criticise me when I attend an Eid programme." Sharing details of 'Durga Angan' project, she informed that the destination spread across two lakh sq ft can accommodate one lakh visitors daily. "It will be the biggest Durga Temple in the world to honour the UNESCO intangible heritage title awarded to the festival," Ms Banerjee explained.

She then pointed out how her government offered support to various religious institutions by providing them land. On her next project, the CM said, "The foundation stone of Mahakal Temple will be laid in the second week of January. I have selected the land

and the date." She also expressed her anguish over the deaths due to the special intensive revision of voters' list which has been underway. "People have been subjected to harassment. Already more than 50 people have died either by suicide or in stress. This can not be tolerated. Anyone living in Bengal needs to show proof of citizenship," Ms Banerjee added. Meanwhile, Mr Shah, who arrived here in the evening, visited the BJP office in Salt Lake from the Kolkata Airport and held a meeting with the state leadership there. On Tuesday, he will meet BJP MPs and MLAs and then the RSS functionaries to take stock of the organizational strength. On Wednesday, the union home minister is expected to visit Thanthania Kali Temple before addressing a party meeting at the Science City.

### CM Revanth.....

Earlier, in the House, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar led the House in paying tribute to Suryapet former MLA Ramireddy Damodar Reddy, and Chevella former MLA Konda Laxma Reddy. He later initiated the Zero Hour during which members various issues. The AIMIM raised issues related Greater Hyderabad, while BRS MLA T. Harish Rao asked about the employees and police staff issues, and BJP floor leader Aleti Maheswar Reddy asked the House to urge everyone to maintain decorum, and sought time for the opposition parties. After Zero Hour, the House was adjourned to meet again on January 2. During the Zero Hour, in a rarely witnessed occurrence, the Speaker raised the issue of monkey menace in different districts. The Speaker asked minister D. Sridhar Babu to look into the issue, which he said was posing a major challenge in Vikarabad district resulting in large number of farmers suffering. Soon after the House adjourned for the day, the Chief Minister, along with the Speaker, and Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy, inspected the ongoing

renovation works in the old legislature building. They were briefed about the ongoing work and Revanth Reddy directed the officials to speed up the construction works.

### Trump Warns.....

Hamas's armed wing reiterated earlier on Monday that it would not surrender its weapons. A top political adviser to Iran's supreme leader on Monday said any aggression against his country would be met with an "immediate harsh response." "Iran's #Missile\_Capability and defense are not containable or permission-based. Any aggression will face an immediate #Harsh\_Response beyond its planners' imagination," Ali Shamkhani wrote on X. 'Productive' meeting - Netanyahu said his meeting with Trump had been "very productive" and announced that Israel was awarding the US leader its highest civilian honor -- the first time it has gone to a non-Israeli citizen. Trump, the self-proclaimed "president of peace," has been keen to move onto the next phase of the Gaza truce, which would see a Palestinian technocratic government installed and the deployment of an international stabilization force. While

some White House officials fear Netanyahu is slow-walking the process, Trump said he had "very little difference" with the Israeli premier and was "not concerned about anything that Israel's doing." During their fifth meeting in the United States since Trump's return to power this year, Netanyahu also appeared to have steered the US leader toward focusing on Israel's concerns about Iran. Israeli officials and media have expressed concern in recent months that Iran is rebuilding its ballistic missile arsenal after it came under attack during the 12-day war with Israel in June. Trump said Iran "may be behaving badly" and was looking at new nuclear sites to replace those targeted by US strikes during the same conflict, as well as restoring its missiles.

### AP Cabinet Nod.....

Against the present lot of 26 districts, proposals were received for changes in the composition and areas of 17 districts. Accordingly, 25 changes were made in 17 districts. No change has been made in relation to the nine districts of Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Visakhapatnam, Eluru, NTR, Kishna, Guntur, Palnadu and Anantapur, the ministers said.

The Rampachodavaram assembly segment has been reorganised as Polavaram district while the Polavaram village would be developed into a revenue division. Three mandals in Guduru, including Kota, Chilakuru and Guduru are brought into Nellore. The Samarlakota mandal has been shifted to Peddapuram, and Mandapeta to Rajamahendravaram. Penugonda in West Godavari district has been renamed as Vasavi Penugonda. The Addanki assembly segment --from Bapatla-- would be shifted into Prakasam district. Entire Darsi assembly segment is retained in Addanki sub-division, to be within Prakasam district. The new Markapur district has been created by merging Markapuram, Kanigiri, Yerragondapalem and Giddalur into it. The Cabinet also decided to hift Railway Koduru to Tirupati district and Rajampet to Kadapa district. While forming the new Madanapalle district, the Rayachoti assembly segment has been retained in Annamayya district and Madanapalle is declared as the district headquarter. Banaganipalle would be developed as a subdivision and Addaroad in Anakapalli district as a subdivision. Siddavatam.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Maoists Urge TG to Produce Arrested Cadre in Court

**ADILABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Communist Party of India (Maoist) on Wednesday condemned the arrest of 16 unarmed Maoists by the police, including two villagers from Kakarbudhi and Babjipet villages in Sirpur (U) mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, and demanded that the State government produce the arrested persons before a court. In a press release, CPI (Maoist) Telangana Committee official spokesperson Jagan appealed to the ruling Congress government in Telangana not to support what he described as

the "Kagar War" launched by the BJP-led government against Maoists in Chhattisgarh. He alleged that arrests of unarmed Maoists would disturb the peaceful environment prevailing in Telangana. The spokesperson further accused the RSS and BJP of using governmental power to promote what he termed a "fascist social system" based on caste and aimed at benefiting a few corporates. He urged the state government not to implement the RSS-BJP agenda and called on it to uphold peace and democratic values.

### SC Refuses To Vacate HC Stay On Shamshabad Land

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court has directed individuals claiming ownership of 100 acres of disputed land in Shamshabad against constructing any building or alienating or encumbering the property till the disposal of the appeal by the Telangana High Court. The division bench comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was dealing with a petition filed by Mohammad Taher Khan, who claimed the ownership of the land in survey Nos.661, 662, 663, 664, 720, 721, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732 and 775 at

Shamshabad Paigah. HMDA, however, contended that it had acquired around 180 acres in the 1990s. When the objections raised for enhanced award amount, the Supreme Court in 2009 had ordered for enhancement. During the arguments in April 2025, a Division Bench of the Telangana High Court had found that one of the judicial orders furnished by the Taher Khan was fabricated and directed the Charminar police for criminal charges against him and had directed the government to constitute SIT for a probe. The court had also issued status quo orders till the finalisation of the appeal.

### Gig Workers Union Seeks Taxi Fare Regulation

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice K. Sarath of the Telangana High Court took on file a writ plea seeking regulation of taxi fares across the state and implementation of government-notified prepaid taxi rates at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad. The judge was hearing a writ plea filed by the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union



(TGPWU), complaining of inaction on the part of the transport and allied authorities in regulating taxi fares. The union contended that despite statutory obligations under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the authorities failed to fix and

enforce fare structures, allowing taxi aggregators to charge arbitrary and exorbitant fares. It was contended that government order dated December 9, 2024, issued by the transport, roads and buildings (Tr.I) department, directing the state transport authority to fix fares for prepaid motor cabs operating at the Shamshabad airport, was not implemented. Owing to such inaction, taxi aggregators were al-

legedly operating without effective regulatory control. The petitioner contended that the failure to regulate fares violates the Motor Vehicles Act, the Legal Metrology Act, and the Constitution of India, besides being contrary to Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002. The judge directed the government pleader for transport, and for the legal metrology to file their response.

### Rohingya Man Murdered in Hyderabad, Stabbed 19 Times

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A 19 year old Rohingya man was stabbed to death allegedly by another Rohingya following a drunken brawl here, police said on Thursday. The victim was attacked by a knife by the suspect who stabbed him 19 times at their camp in Balapur around 1.30 am on December 17 resulting in his instant death, they said. A police team reached the spot after getting information. "At the time of the incident,

both were in drunken condition and quarrelled over some reason. The suspect stabbed the victim multiple times with a knife due to which he died on the spot," a police official at Balapur police station said. Police, citing the autopsy report said the deceased had 19 stab injuries on different parts of his body. The official further said the suspect has been taken into custody, and they were verifying details if he is a minor. A murder case was registered.

### Pre-arrest bail to man in abetment case

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court granted anticipatory bail in a suicide case for lack of incriminating evidence for abetting the act of abetment of suicide in connection with the death of a twenty-year-old woman in Mahbubnagar district. The judge was dealing with a criminal petition filed by C. Balaji, seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered by Mahbubnagar II-Town police. The case arose from a complaint lodged by the father of the

deceased woman. According to the prosecution, the death was treated as a case of suicide following reprimand by family members over a love affair, and the police registered a case. It was later alleged, based on statements recorded after about three months, that the petitioner left the deceased at her house on the day of the incident, following which the offence was altered to one relating to abetment of suicide. Counsel for the petitioner contended that he was falsely implicated, that there was no incriminating.

## Medico appeals against govt service, bond

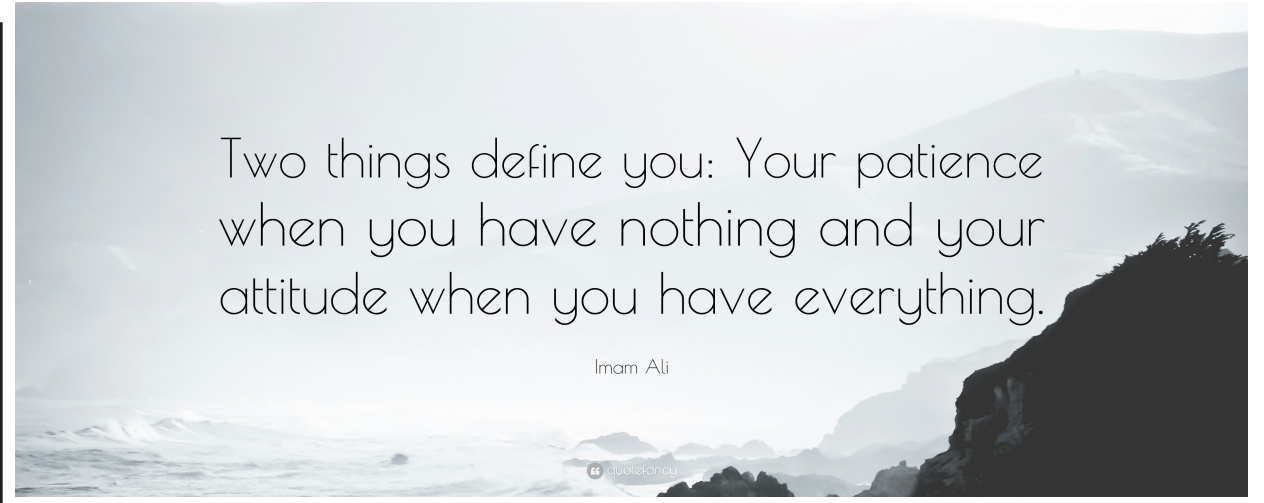
**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka of the Telangana High Court on Monday ordered notice to LV Prasad Eye Institute, Visakhapatnam, and Osmania Medical College in a writ plea filed by a postgraduate medical doctor challenging compulsory government service and enforcement of a '20 lakh bond imposed at the time of admission to the course. The judge is dealing with a writ plea filed by Dr Rallapalli Poojitha. The petitioner

secured admission through NEET-2022 and questioned the applicability of the government notification dated November 13, mandating compulsory service for senior residents, along with the consequent posting orders directing her to join a government institution. The petitioner assailed the action of the authorities in withholding her original educational certificates and refusing to issue a no-objection certificate (NOC) and registration of her PG degree under the Telangana Medical

Practitioners Registration Act, contending that the same effectively stalled her professional career and fellowship. The petitioner also challenged the '20 lakh bond executed in 2022 and the Government Order dated November 18, 2021, terming them illegal and unenforceable in view of the Amendment Act of 2018, which amended provisions relating to mandatory government service for PG students. Alleging violation of her fundamental rights under the Constitution,

the petitioner contended that the insistence on compulsory senior residency was arbitrary, without authority of law, and contrary to legislative intent. The petitioner sought directions to release her original certificates, issue NOC and registration, declare the impugned notification, posting orders, and bond conditions as non-binding, or alternatively, exempt her from compulsory government service during the tenure of her fellowship.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### FRESH START FOR BJP WITH A YOUNG WORKING CHIEF

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The BJP's search for a new national president has culminated in the appointment of Bihar minister Nitin Nabin as its working president by the party's parliamentary board. This marks the generational shift within the party, and hence a momentous decision. Once the party goes through the organisational motions and confirms him as the topmost office-bearer, Nabin, 45, will be the youngest president of the 45-year-old party. The new BJP boss is ideologically rooted in the party, and has organisational and administrative experience not many of his age would command. The five-time legislator has been a member of the Bihar Cabinet twice. His grooming in the Akhil

Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and his stint with the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the BJP's youth wing, point to his standing within the larger Sangh parivar. The organisational positions he held, including that of the party in-charge of Chhattisgarh, must have given him an inside view of the party organisation. The leadership must have taken into account his lack of experience in holding a national position while naming him for the working president's post. The period under incumbent president J.P. Nadda should help him get an exposure to the challenges of the position. The choice of Mr Nabin is perfectly in line with the party's focus on identifying young leaders for

senior and critical positions. It may be remembered that several of the party's chief ministers, including Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra), Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha), Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh) and Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) were all under 60 when they were chosen for the post. The new young boss will be working with those young veterans. Unlike the BJP bosses in the past, the new working president has the experience of working in a coalition and under a chief minister who does not belong to his party. Bihar's NDA is led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP gracefully accepted his leadership within the formation even though.



**Dear Reader**  
If you are facing any problem in your neighborhood or strongly feel about any issue, you can write to us. We will publish your complaint in our columns. Please send your complaint to editor. wtonlinedaily@gmail.com Or whatsapp us @885610056 Please mention your name, addresses and email id. You can also share photographs or videos about the issue.



# RBI To Issue Norms To Curb Mis-selling of Financial Products

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will issue comprehensive norms for regulated entities on advertising, marketing and sales practices to prevent mis-selling of financial products and services, the central bank said in its report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2024-25, released on Monday. The RBI said mis-selling of financial products and services by regulated entities has significant consequences for both customers and the fi-



ancial sector.

To address conduct-related concerns, it proposed to review the existing instructions associated with the engagement of recovery agents and recovery of loans, and issue harmonised instruc-

tions in this regard. Meanwhile, complaints received by the RBI's Ombudsman offices rose marginally in 2024-25, with issues related to loans and advances, credit cards and digital banking accounting for the bulk of

grievances, according to the report. The offices of the RBI Ombudsman (ORBIOs) received about 2.96 lakh complaints during 2024-25, marking an increase of 0.8 percent over the previous year. A majority of these complaints originated from metropolitan and urban centres.

Complaints against public sector banks (PSBs) and private sector banks together accounted for over 72 percent of the total complaints. Complaints relating to loans and advances, credit cards, mobile/ internet

banking, and deposit accounts contributed to around four-fifths of the total complaints received by ORBIOs during 2024-25. The credit cards category witnessed the highest increase in the number of complaints during 2024-25. Among banks, private banks accounted for the highest share in complaints related to loans and advances and credit cards, while a majority of complaints relating to mobile/electronic banking, deposit accounts, and ATM/debit cards were against nationalized banks, the report said.

# Air India Announces 'PayDay Sale' Special Fares For New Year

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Air India Express has rolled out its monthly 'PayDay Sale' offering special fares across its domestic and international network. Travellers can book value fares starting from Rs. 1,950 on domestic routes and Rs. 5,590 on international routes. A press release from the company said flight bookings at the special fares could be made on the airline's website, mobile app and on all major booking channels from December 30 to January 1. Additionally, passengers could book lite fares (zero check-in baggage fare) starting from Rs. 1,850 for



domestic routes and from Rs. 5,355 on international routes. The special fares are valid for domestic travel from 12 January to 10 October 2026 and for international travel from 12 January to 31 December 2026.

The airline offers zero convenience fees on all bookings made on the airline's mobile app. Guests could also enjoy zero convenience fees on the website for payments made through net banking. Lite

fares also offer discounted check-in baggage rates of Rs. 1,500 for 15 kilograms on domestic flights and Rs. 2,500 for 20 kilograms on international flights, the release added. The website also offers deals for loyalty members including 25 percent off business class fares with best-in-class legroom, complimentary hot meals, extra check-in baggage allowance and priority services, it added.

# India Revamps Tax Regime In 2025, New Act Comes Into Effect From April 1

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

India overhauled its tax regime in 2025 with sharp cuts in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates and a higher income tax exemption limit, with the spotlight now turning to customs duty rationalisation and procedural simplification in the coming Budget.

Next year will see the new simplified Income Tax Act, 2025, to come into effect from April 1, replacing the over six-decade-old current Income Tax Act, 1961.

Also, two new laws -- one to levy additional excise duty on cigarettes and another to levy cess on pan masala over and above GST rates -- will be implemented on a date decided by the government. The tax reforms rolled out by the government in 2025 were aimed at stimulating demand amid a challenging global eco-

nomie environment. With tariff uncertainties casting a shadow over economic decision-making, India's tax reform measures focused on boosting domestic demand to drive consumption and support growth.

A key highlight was the reduction of GST rates on about 375 goods and services effective September 22, which lowered the tax burden on commonly used items and addressed longstanding concerns over inverted duty structures.

The move to compress the four-tier GST slab structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent into two principal rates of 5 and 18 per cent, with a 40 per cent levy retained only for sin goods, marked a major step towards rationalisation and simplification of the indirect tax regime.

The GST overhaul was designed to make the indirect tax regime simpler and more predictable, with fewer rate slabs and

reduced litigation.

On the collections front, GST mop up touched a record high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April, and was averaging Rs 1.9 lakh crore during the current fiscal year. The sweeping rate cuts have put some pressure on the GST revenues with a slowing growth rate. India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections slipped to a year-low of Rs 1.70 lakh crore in November -- growing at a meagre 0.7 per cent year-on-year. November was the first month that recorded the full impact of the GST rate cut effective September 22.

On the direct tax front, the government raised the income tax exemption limit, providing relief to middle-income taxpayers and leaving more disposable income in the hands of consumers. The move was seen as a consumption booster, particularly for urban households,

while also reinforcing voluntary compliance under the simplified tax regime.

The Budget for 2025 announced that no income tax will be payable on income of Rs 12 lakh a year under the new income tax regime, which offers lower tax rates without the benefit of claiming exemptions and deductions. The tax rates applicable under this regime are 5 per cent of income between Rs 4-8 lakh, 10 per cent (Rs 8-12 lakh), and 15 per cent (Rs 12-16 lakh). Tax at 20 per cent rate is applicable on income between Rs 16-20 lakh, 25 per cent (Rs 20-24 lakh), and 30 per cent on income above Rs 24 lakh.

However, the tax cuts slowed down non-corporate income tax collections between April and mid-December. Net non-corporate tax (which includes taxes paid by individuals, HUFs, and firms) grew 6.37 per cent

at Rs 8.47 lakh crore between April 1 and December 17, as against a 10.54 per cent growth in net corporate tax collection at Rs 8.17 lakh crore.

Refund issuances slowed during the current fiscal year as the Income Tax department did extra analysis of high-value refund claims. Refund issuance dropped 14 per cent compared to last year to over Rs 2.97 lakh crore, according to recent data.

With major reforms in GST and income tax largely in place, policy-makers have now turned their focus to customs duty rationalisation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said that simplification of customs would be the next big reform agenda for the government. There is a need to bring the virtues of income tax, like faceless assessment, to the customs side in terms of transparency and entail duty rate-rationalisation.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing and high-conviction wealth centres, driven by the rapid expansion of Global Capability Centers (GCCs), strong infrastructure development and a vibrant start-up ecosystem, according to Emkay Wealth Management, the wealth management arm of Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.

Reflecting rising affluence among high-net-worth individuals, the city is witnessing strong demand for ultra-luxury real estate, especially 5,000+ sq ft "Sky Mansions" in premium micro-markets such as Kokapet and the Financial District. "These structural trends position Hyderabad as a key market for long-term wealth creation, offering opportunities across equities, private markets, real assets and alternative investments," said Abhishek Vaish, Vice President, Emkay Wealth Manage-

ment.

Sharing its outlook for calendar year 2026, Emkay Wealth Management expects capital markets to turn more balanced and earnings-driven, supported by high GDP growth and low inflation. The Nifty 50 is projected to generate steady returns of 11-14 percent, while mid- and small-cap stocks are likely to outperform on the back of improved valuations and stronger balance sheets.

In commodities, Emkay Wealth does not expect precious metals to repeat their exceptional 2025 performance, though it remains structurally bullish on gold and silver over the long term. In the debt segment, a potential pause in rate cuts may cap bond yield gains, prompting a preference for medium-duration strategies and selective credit opportunities.

Sectorally, BFSI is expected to drive Nifty profitability, consumer discretionary stocks may see a recovery following

GST 2.0, and select IT stocks could offer value opportunities.

Highlighting market trends in 2025, Abhishek Vaish noted that precious metals delivered extraordinary returns, with silver and gold gaining around 155 percent and 75 percent respectively, while equity markets remained subdued. The Nifty rose about 10 percent, mid-caps gained 3 percent, and small caps declined nearly 6 percent.

Looking ahead, Emkay Wealth Management emphasised disciplined asset allocation as the cornerstone of investment strategy in 2026. Portfolio rebalancing may involve shifting gains from precious metals into equities, with a tilt towards large caps for stability, complemented by selective mid- and small-cap exposure. In fixed income, investors are advised to focus on low-duration and credit risk funds, with long-term consideration for alternative credit investments.

# Samsung Certifies 450 Youth in AI, Coding at NSIC Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has certified 450 students in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Coding & Programming at the NSIC Technical Service Centre, Hyderabad, under its flagship digital skilling initiative, Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC). The certification programme aims to strengthen India's future-ready technology workforce by equipping youth with advanced, industry-relevant digital skills. Of the total students trained at NSIC Hyderabad, 100 completed advanced AI training, while 350 were trained in Coding & Programming through a structured curriculum focused on



practical application and real-world projects.

The certificate felicitation ceremony was attended by Rajivnath, Centre Head, NSIC Hyderabad, who congratulated the students and underlined the importance of continuous investment in youth skilling to support India's digital transformation and innovation-led growth.

Samsung Innovation Campus is a global skilling initiative designed to enhance employability by offering hands-on

learning, project-based outcomes and exposure to emerging technologies. The programme aligns with the Government of India's Skill India and Digital India missions, addressing critical skill gaps in the rapidly evolving digital economy.

The Hyderabad programme is part of Samsung's larger commitment to skill 20,000 youth across India in 2025. Emphasising inclusivity, the initiative has recorded 42 percent women par-

ticipation nationally and focuses on reaching students from tier-2, tier-3 and semi-urban regions to ensure equitable access to quality technology education. By expanding access to in-demand digital skills and nurturing job-ready talent, Samsung Innovation Campus continues to strengthen India's future-tech talent pipeline and support the country's journey towards a digitally empowered economy.

# Index of Industrial Production Grows At 6.7% In November

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With the strong performances in key sectors, India's industrial production grew at a two-year high of 6.7 per cent in November this year. The sharp acceleration was led by the expansion not only in the manufacturing and mining sector, but also supported by higher output in basic metals, pharmaceuticals and motor vehicles, according to official data released on Monday. The factory output, measured in terms of the index of industrial production (IIP), had expanded by 5 per cent in November 2024. The previous high was recorded at 11.9 per cent in November 2023. However, the government data showed that the growth of a two-year

high of 6.7 per cent in November was led by the manufacturing sector and mining sector, which posted a growth of 8.0 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively year-on-year.

Ahead of the festivals, the goods and services tax (GST) rates were cut on a host of consumer items, effective from September 22, 2025, to boost demand and consumption in the country. This led to piling of manufacturing orders to get benefit of GST rate reduction. "The impact of the US tariffs and penalties is likely to reflect across some of the manufacturing segments, partly offsetting the positive impact of the GST rate rejig. However, the electricity demand expanded in December 2025 after a gap of two

months, which should boost power generation in the month, auguring well for IIP growth in the month," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head-research & outreach of ICRA.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) revised the industrial production growth to 0.5 per cent for October 2025 from the provisional estimate of 0.4 per cent released last month. "We expect the IIP growth to ease to 3.5-5.0 per cent in December 2025, as the base effect normalises and the benefit from restocking wanes," Nayar added. During the April-November period of FY26, the country's industrial production growth decelerated by 3.3 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent in the same period a year ago. "Driven by 8 per

cent growth in the manufacturing sector, IIP recorded a 6.7 per cent year-on-year growth in November 2025. The growth is led by Manufacture of basic metal products, pharmaceuticals and motor vehicles," the data showed. It also explained that the growth in the mining sector at 5.4 per cent has also rebounded due to closure of monsoon season and strong growth in metallic minerals such as Iron ore. "Within the manufacturing sector, 20 out of 23 industry groups have recorded positive year-on-year growth in November 2025. As per the use-based classification, the capital goods segment grew 10.4 per cent in November 2025, up from 8.9 per cent in the year-ago period," it said.

# Only Woman On Set: Radhika Apte's Shocking Revelations About South Films

**H** Actress Radhika Apte, widely regarded as the

"poster girl of regional and arthouse cinema," has completed 20 years in the film industry. Known for her powerful performances across languages and industries, the versatile actor has worked in Marathi, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and Malayalam films. As she marks this milestone, Apte has spoken candidly about her early years in cinema, particularly her experiences while working in South Indian films.

Radhika revealed that financial constraints at the beginning of her career compelled her to take up roles in South Indian cinema. While these projects helped her sustain herself and gain visibility,



she admitted that the journey was far from easy. Recalling some difficult moments, the actress said she faced several challenges on film sets, and certain unpleasant

memories from that phase continue to stay with her. Without naming anyone, Radhika shared an incident from a film shoot in a small town where she

was the only woman present on the set. She said that several men repeatedly asked her to add padding to her body for the role, a demand she firmly refused. "With no

manager or agent, and surrounded only by men, I suddenly realised how isolated I was," she recalled, highlighting the vulnerability she felt at that time in her career.

Radhika Apte made her South Indian debut with Ram Gopal Varma's bilingual political drama Rakta Charitra 1 and 2 in 2010. She later appeared in Telugu films Legend (2014) and Lion (2015) opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna. In Tamil cinema, she featured in notable films such as Kabali (2016), starring Rajinikanth, which brought her wider recognition among mainstream audiences.

Despite the struggles, Radhika went on to carve a distinct space for herself with strong, content-driven roles in independent and mainstream cinema. Over the years, she has earned critical acclaim for choos-

ing unconventional characters and narratives that challenge stereotypes.

On the personal front, Radhika welcomed her first child, a daughter, with her musician husband Benedict Taylor in December 2024. She has since shared glimpses of motherhood on social media and spoken about balancing her personal life with her professional commitments. Currently, Radhika continues to focus on meaningful cinema. Her recent projects include Saali Mohabbat and Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders, both streaming on OTT platforms, as well as the American biographical drama Last Days. As she completes two decades in films, Radhika Apte's journey stands as a testament to resilience, honesty and artistic integrity.

## Dhurandhar 2 Will Terrify the Audience: Ram Gopal Varma



**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has once again heaped praise on Aditya Dhar's blockbuster Dhurandhar, stating that the second part of the film will "terrify" audiences. The director shared his views in a fresh note posted on social media on Monday, building anticipation for Dhurandhar 2, which is slated for release on March 19. Released on December

5, Dhurandhar has emerged as a massive box office success, crossing the Rs 1,000 crore mark in worldwide collections. The film, directed by Aditya Dhar, features Ranveer Singh in the lead role and boasts a powerful ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, R Madhavan and Rakesh Bedi. Its scale, performances and gripping narrative have drawn widespread attention from au-

diences and industry figures alike.

Varma, who had earlier praised the film in a detailed social media post, shared another message on his X handle, expressing strong confidence in the sequel. In his post, he remarked that Dhurandhar had effectively pushed back what he described as the "Southies invasion" into Bollywood. Using a metaphor, Varma said the first part, likened to Aditya Dhar's "left foot," had already made

a powerful impact, while the second part, the "right foot," is ready to strike even harder. According to him, if the first installment scared viewers, the sequel would terrify them.

Produced by Aditya Dhar and his brother Lokesh Dhar under their banner B62 Studios, in association with Jyoti Deshpande of Jio Studios, Dhurandhar is set against the backdrop of the underworld. The

film narrates an intense saga involving criminals, informants and operatives whose lives intertwine through covert missions, espionage and betrayal.

Set in Lyari, a town in Karachi notorious for its history of gang wars and violent turf battles, Dhurandhar explores the dark and complex world of organized crime, setting the stage for an even more intense continuation in its upcoming second part.

## Young Swimmers Make Waves at South Zone Aquatic Championship

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana  
Waheeduddin

The 36th South Zone Aquatic Championship 2025 concluded on a high note at the Aquatic Complex, GMC Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli, after three days of intense competition from December 27 to 29. Organised by the Telangana Swimming Association, the championship witnessed outstanding performances by young swimmers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala across multiple age groups and events.

In the Boys 15-17 years 800m Freestyle (Group 1), Karnataka swimmers dominated the podium with Renukacharya Hodmani clinching gold in 9:04.66, followed by Akshaj Parigi with silver in 9:19.57, while Sai Smaran Nalluri of Tamil Nadu se-



secured bronze in 9:54.27. Andhra Pradesh made a strong impact in the Girls 15-17 years 200m Individual Medley, where Pavani Sarayu N won gold in 2:36.86 and Avighna Chinthala claimed silver in 2:37.69, with Hitashree N of Karnataka finishing third. Karnataka continued its dominance in the Boys 13-14 years 200m Individual Medley as Aarav J topped the event in 2:24.38, followed by Saatvik Singh, while Telangana's Sachin Satvik

Suresh Saritha secured bronze. In the corresponding girls' event, Alakananda Raju of Kerala won gold, with Telangana's Shivani Karra taking silver.

Telangana swimmers delivered notable performances in butterfly and backstroke events. Mokshitha Addanki secured gold in the Girls 15-17 years 100m Butterfly, while Shivani Karra and Siva Kumari Nandigam added medals in the Girls 13-14 years 50m Backstroke. Aarav J once again

impressed by winning the Boys 13-14 years 400m Individual Medley.

In the longer medley events, Pavani Sarayu N clinched another gold in the Girls 15-17 years 400m Individual Medley, underlining her consistency. The Girls 15-17 years 200m Butterfly saw Karnataka's Vaishnavi G take the top spot, with Telangana's Likhitha G Merupula finishing second. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by P. Chandrashekar Reddy, President, Telangana Swimming Association; G. Umesh, Secretary, TSA; P. Madan Mohan, President, Triathlon Association of Telangana; K. Srinivas Goud, Additional Commissioner, GHMC; and S. Gridhar Rao, Joint Secretary, TSA, who felicitated the medal winners, including the Boys 13-14 years 400m Individual Medley champions.

## Vijay Hazare Trophy: Fifties By Priyansh, Tejasvi Carry Delhi To 3-wicket Win Over Saurashtra

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Opener Priyansh Arya and Tejasvi Dahiya made aggressive fifties as Delhi rose above skipper Rishabh Pant's ordinary outing to beat Saurashtra by three wickets in a Group D match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Monday. Chasing 321, Arya (78, 45 balls) and Tejasvi (53, 51b) did the heavy lifting for a Virat Kohli-less Delhi as they romped home in 48.5 overs losing seven wickets at Alur 2 grounds.

Saurashtra made a challenging 320 for seven in 50 overs, courtesy a 115 (104b) by opener Vishvarajsinh Jadeja and an unbeaten 65-ball 95 by Ruchit Ahir. Kohli had played a stellar role in Delhi's win in the first two matches, scoring a hundred and fifty. The star batter is set to rejoin the team on January 6 for the match against Railways at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. Pant could not



make a heavy contribution, getting out for a 26-ball 22. The left-hander gave a catch to Jay Gohil off Chirag Jani.

But his teammates more than made-up for Pant's lapse and their talisman Kohli's absence. Arya was involved in a 66-run alliance for the second wicket with Ayush Doseja before falling to Chetan Sakarya. Delhi was 115 for two then in 13.2 overs and despite losing wickets at regular intervals they did not allow the asking rate to spiral out of control. Tejasvi was involved in two crucial stands after Delhi found themselves at 160 for four -- 48 for the fifth wicket with Pant and

40 for the next wicket with Harsh Tyagi. When Tejasvi was consumed by Ankur Pawar, Delhi still needed 73 runs in 12 overs with four wickets in hand. But Tyagi (49, 45b) and Navdeep Saini (34 not out) knocked off those runs during their doughty seventh wicket alliance to give Delhi valuable four points from the game. They are now leading Group D with 12 points from three games. Earlier, Jadeja led Saurashtra's charge with two substantial partnerships -- 79 for the second with Gajjar Sammar (41), and 80 for the sixth wicket with Ahir. For Delhi, pacer

Saini also shone with the ball, taking three wickets for 41 runs off his 10 overs.

Brief scores: Saurashtra: 320/7 in 50 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 115, Ruchit Ahit 95 not out; Navdeep Saini 3/41) lost to Delhi: xxx (Priyansh Arya 78, Tejasvi Dahiya 53, Harsh Tyagi 49, Navdeep Saini 34 not out; Chirag Jani 2/51) by 3 wickets. Andhra: 221 all out in 49.2 overs (SDNV Prasad 66, Saurabh Kumar 47; Biplab Samantray 3/36, Govinda Poddar 3/36) lost to Odisha: 223/4 in 43.4 overs (Govinda Poddar 89, Om T Munda 91; Satyanarayana Raju 2/49) by 6 wickets. Railways: 365/7 in 50 overs (Pratham Singh 73, Ravi Singh 88, Ashutosh Sharma 50, Zubair Ali 48 not out; Pulkit Narang 2/43) beat Services: 281 all out in 47.2 overs (Sagar Dahiya 95, Ravi Chauhan 73; Raj Choudhary 3/27, Zubair Ali 2/46) by 84 runs.

## Congress MLA announces Rs 5000 reward for information on Chinese manjha



Ahead of Sankranti, Congress MLA Danam Nagender on Monday, December 29, announced a reward of Rs 5,000 for reporting the sale of Chinese manjha. "I am especially appealing to the people of Khairatabad to report if they come across shops selling Chinese manjha. Your identity will be kept confidential. We will catch the culprit and reward the whistleblower with Rs 5000," he said.

He also appealed to the shopkeepers across Telangana not to sell the nylon thread. "Wherever you find the Chinese manjha, please report it, and we will reward you," the MLA reiterated. A food delivery boy sustained injury on his neck after a nylon thread (Chinese manja) got entangled while travelling in Shamsheer Gunj, Hyderabad's Old City area.

Jameel, a resident of Nawab Sahab Kunta, was riding to Shahalibanda. As he reached Shamsheer Gunj, the razor-sharp thread fell and twisted his neck, causing a deep cut wound. He was rushed to a private hospital, where he is under treatment.

## 2 held in Gujarat for duping Hyderabad woman of Rs 1.95 crore

The Cybercrime police in Hyderabad apprehended two fraudsters in Gujarat on Monday, December 29, for siphoning off Rs 1.95 crore from a victim through a digital arrest scam. The accused persons, Saiyad Soyab Jahid Bhai and Belim Anas Rahim Bhai, residents of Bhavnagar in Gujarat, used multiple mule bank accounts to receive and withdraw the stolen money, which was later transferred to cyber fraudsters in Dubai via hawala networks.

According to the police, the victim filed a complaint on December 13, claiming that she was "trapped in a digital arrest." She accused the fraudsters of impersonating government officials, who also issued threats, stating her husband was involved in serious crimes. After several intimidation attempts, they subsequently convinced her to transfer large amounts of money on the pretext of 'verification of currency numbers.' They also promised the victim help in clearing her husband's alleged crimes.

The accused, Belim and Saiyad, are habitual offenders and are involved in 22 cases so far, the cybercrime police said in a release. Saiyad, who assisted in opening mule bank accounts, received 15 per cent of the commission, and Belim, who managed the accounts on the orders of the higher-level individuals, ensured that the funds were successfully transferred overseas. A total of Rs 3.5 crore worth of transactions was carried out, including the previous cases, across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. Previously, a 68-year-old woman from Mumbai was similarly duped of 3.71 crore in a digital arrest scam. The police traced the cybercrime racket to Surat in Gujarat, where one accused was arrested.

## Sale of Rs 4k laptops leads to chaotic stampede in Hyderabad

An electronics store in Hyderabad's Dilsukhnagar triggered a stampede on Sunday, December 28, after advertising laptops for just Rs 4,000 for a limited time, leading to chaos in the queues. According to local media, the lines of people stretched all the way to the main road. As impatience grew, the situation soon turned chaotic, eventually prompting police intervention. Videos of the incident going viral on social media show people climbing on top of each other as the police attempt to bring the situation under control. All this unfolded in pursuit of a laptop sale that many likely missed, as the deal reportedly applied only to the first ten to fifteen customers. The organizers, unprepared for such a massive turnout, failed to put adequate security measures in place, leading to an uncontrolled crowd. Women and elderly people standing in the queue struggled to breathe as the crowd swelled. When the situation spiralled out of control, locals alerted the police. Upon arrival, the police found it difficult to manage the crowd and temporarily shut the shop as a precautionary measure. They also warned the organizers against putting people at risk in pursuit of large profits.

# Hyderabad's Numaish to begin on January 1

Hyderabad's iconic All India Industrial Exhibition, popularly known as Numaish, will begin on January 1 with 1,050 stalls and a revised entry fee of Rs 50.

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's iconic All India Industrial Exhibition, popularly known as Numaish, will commence on January 1, marking its 85th edition. The 45-day annual trade fair will be inaugurated by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the Numaish Maidan. State Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said 1,050 stalls have been set up for the exhibition, with traders and business organisations from across the country participating. The entry fee has been increased to Rs 50 from Rs 40, while admission will remain free for children below five years.

The exhibition will be open daily from 4 pm to 10.30 pm, and till 11 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. It is expected to attract around 45,000 visitors every day. Describing Numaish as a symbol of Hyderabad's enterprise and cultural heritage, Sridhar Babu said the exhibition continues to bring together artisans, MSMEs, families and communities under one roof. He added that this year's edition places special emphasis on safety, accessibility and



opportunities for women entrepreneurs, while retaining its traditional spirit.

Established in 1938 as Numaish-e-Masnaat-e-Mulki to promote locally manufactured goods, the exhibition was first inaugurated by the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad State, Mir Osman Ali Khan. Conceived by a group of Osmania University graduates as part of an economic survey initiative, it began with just 50 stalls and a capital of Rs 2.50.

Following its early success, Numaish became an annual event, with revenues earmarked for promoting education. The exhibition was not held in 1947 and 1948 due to



post-Independence turmoil, and again in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It resumed in 1949 after Hyderabad's accession to the Indian Union. Over the decades, Numaish has grown into one of the largest industrial exhibitions in the country, offering a mix of shopping, amusement rides, cultural attractions and diverse food options. Revenues generated from

the fair support educational and charitable institutions run by the All India Industrial Exhibition Society. Now regarded as the "mother of all carnivals," Numaish remains an integral part of Hyderabad's cultural life, drawing visitors not only from Hyderabad and Secunderabad but also from across Telangana and neighbouring states.

## Hyderabad police focusing on drug menace ahead of New Year's Eve



## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Ahead of New Year's Eve, the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing has formed clusters to curb the drug menace in Hyderabad. These clusters are formed as per the direction of the Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar. The clusters are divided into 10 teams in coordination with the Law and Order Police, City Armed Reserve personnel from CAR Headquarters, and Narcotic Dog Squad conducted surprise special checks at pubs, clubs, bars, and restaurants across the city in view of the forthcoming New Year celebrations, with the objective of preventing drug abuse and maintaining public order in Hyderabad. As part of enforcement

plans, 15 decoy teams conducted surprise inspection at various pubs on December 27 and 28. On December 28, 25 suspicious persons were screened using Rapid Drug Testing Kits, and no individual tested positive.

The operation was conducted with the active participation of the Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), Law & Order Police, CAR Headquarters Police, and the Sniffer Dog Team.

The Hyderabad City Police reiterates its commitment to ensuring drug-free, safe, and peaceful New Year celebrations. Such special drives will continue across the city during the New Year period to deter offenders and safeguard public interest.

## AIMIM urges govt to release student scholarships

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Ahmed Balala urged the Telangana government to release overseas and post-Class 10 scholarships for students during the first day of the Winter Session of the Assembly on Monday, December 29.

The Malakpet MLA highlighted that the post-metric reimbursement has not been released. "This is causing a lot of trouble for the students. Since the fee reimbursement is halted, educational institutions have withheld their certificates," Balala said. He said that the institutions are facing a faculty crunch and are on the verge of closing down, since they are unable to pay salaries to teachers. "I request the government to release the amount for fee

reimbursement and overseas scholarships."

The MLA reiterated that colleges in Telangana shouldn't shut down, which could lead to loss of jobs. "The jobs of teachers, lecturers and professors are in danger. Hence, the government must ensure fee reimbursement at the earliest," he said.

Responding to the MLA, Telangana Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin said he has noted the concerns and will pay attention to them. The fee reimbursement has been a long standing issue in Telangana. Following its general body meeting in September 2025 and faced with a severe fund crunch, the Federation of Associations of Telangana Higher Institutions (FATHI) called for an indefinite strike of private colleges

in the state.

In a statement, FATHI said thousands of private colleges are grappling with a financial crisis due to delays in the release of funds. The association alleged that despite repeated representations, the state government had neither clarified pending dues nor provided any concrete proposals in recent meetings with college managements.

FATHI demanded the immediate release of Rs 1,200 crore already sanctioned in the state budget before Dussehra, along with the clearance of all longstanding dues by December 31. They sought a fresh government policy on fee reimbursement for the 2025-26 academic year by the end of this year, covering admissions, reimbursement, and fee fixation in consultation with institutions.

## Telangana govt to complete irrigation scheme as planned: Minister

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Telangana Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday said the Congress government would complete the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) with its original water allocation of 90 TMC.

Dismissing BRS' allegations of deviation from the project's planned design thus causing "injustice" to Mahabubnagar and other districts, he said the Congress government is strictly adhering to the Government Order (GO) issued by the previous BRS government in 2022 which proposed 90 TMC. The 90 TMC includes 45 TMC from savings in minor irrigation schemes and another 45 TMC from Telangana's share due to



Andhra Pradesh's diversion of Godavari water. "The BRS initiated the Palamuru-Rangareddy project and sought 90 TMC in their own submissions to the Centre. We are following that same GO without any changes," Reddy said, accusing the opposition BRS of spreading misinformation.

He alleged that the previous BRS government had halted works on key links of the project and not commenced works of distributary channels and ayacut canals, despite the

project's potential to irrigate over 12.3 lakh acres in drought-prone districts including Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Narayanpet and parts of Nalgonda and Khammam, an official release said. According to Reddy, the BRS government started the project with an initial estimate of Rs 35,000 crore but it escalated to Rs 55,000 crore by the time the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC). The Rs 55,000 crore cost estimate submitted in DPR to CWC did not include the full cost of land acquisition of 30,000 acres required for ayacut canals and other works. At present cost, the full cost of PRLI Scheme is likely to exceed Rs 70,000 crore, the release said.

## New police commissionerates Future City, Malkajgiri created

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government on Monday, December 29, said that it has reorganised the city's three police commissionerates - Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Rachakonda - into four new ones. The old Rachakonda police circle has now been reorganised into Future City and Malkajgiri commissionerates. The reorganisation was done in tune with the GHMC area being expanded by the government.



Under the new police limits, key areas such as the Assembly, Secretariat, Begumpet, Shamshabad Airport, and Budvel High Court have been brought under the Hyderabad Commissionerate, the state government said in a press release late on Monday night.

The Telangana government had last month announced the merger of 27 municipal urban bodies into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, expanding its size from 625 square kilometres to a little over 2,000 sq km now. Prior to this, the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led government also announced that it was going to set up Future City, a greenfield smart city project, which would essentially expand Hyderabad's boundaries.

In tune with its expansion

plan, 27 municipalities inside the Outer Ring Road (ORR) were merged with the GHMC to develop what the government calls the Core Urban Region (CURE). The expanded GHMC has now been reorganised into 12 zones, 60 circles, and 300 wards. "As part of providing better services to the public, maintaining law and order, and controlling crime, the police administration has been divided into four commissionerates," added the release.

Under the new structure, Hyderabad's IT areas of

Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Madhapur and Raidurg, along with industrial areas like Patancheru, Genome Valley, RC Puram and Ameenpur, will fall under the Cyberabad Commissionerate.

Areas such as Keesara, Shamirpet, Quthbullapur and Kompally will come under this commissionerate as well. Bhongir, which was previously under Rachakonda, has been made a separate police unit. Along with new police commissionerates, a superintendent of police

(SP) has also been appointed for the Yadadri Bhongir district. Chevella, Moinabad, Shankarpally, Maheshwaram, Ibrahimpatnam and other areas have been brought under the Future City Commissionerate. In an order dated December 29, Sudheer Babu, who was the Rachakonda Police Commissioner, was appointed as the Future City Police Commissioner. Similarly, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty was transferred and made the Malkajgiri Police Commissioner.

9966806010 whole sale & retail 9966228274

# AL BUSHRA

## PERFUME CENTER

ONLY CENTRE FOR FAMOUS AND PURE SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD

PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI

MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD