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**Bhatti Seeks Funds, Approvals for TG's Infra Projects in Union Budget: P2**

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**Telangana Govt to Boost Sand Bazaars to Curb Illegal Mining: P3**



### Brief Insights

#### Consult CMs on Caste Enumeration Norms to Uphold Social Justice: Stalin to Modi

In order to fine-tune the guidelines for caste enumeration in the forthcoming Census exercise and ensure the data's reliability for advancing social justice, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to evolve a consultative mechanism involving chief ministers. Caste enumeration is an exceedingly sensitive matter that touches upon deep-rooted social dynamics, regional variations in caste structures, and the potential for unintended societal tensions if not handled with utmost care, Stalin said in his letter addressed to Modi.

Hence, the framing of questions, categories, sub-categories, and the methodology for data collection must be precise, inclusive, and free from ambiguity to ensure accuracy and public trust. Any shortcomings in these aspects could lead to disputes, inaccuracies, or even exacerbate divisions,

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#### PCB Survey Confirms Faecal Contamination in Indore's Groundwater

A survey by the regional Pollution Control Board (PCB) of Madhya Pradesh in Bhagirathpura and nearby areas in Indore has found contamination of their groundwater. Water samples collected from some tube wells in these areas have found presence of faecal coliform, clearly suggesting groundwater contamination in these areas, a senior officer of the regional PCB told this newspaper on Saturday, unwilling to be quoted.

This indicates the extent of water contamination in these areas, the officer said. According to him, 50 samples were collected from the Narmada supply line and tube wells in Bhagirathpura, where contamination of water claimed lives of several people and hospitalization of many others, and the nearby areas have tested positive for faecal coliform, contamination beyond drinking water supply line, in these areas. The survey was conducted as a part of the exercise to locate the source or sources of contamination.

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## Revanth Calls Doctors to Prevent Heart Deaths

CM Revanth Reddy Urges Cardiologists to Join Hands in Preventing Heart Diseases

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday called upon cardiologists to join hands with the government to prevent heart diseases and reduce avoidable deaths through awareness, early intervention and community participation. He said preventive medicine was often neglected, and educating citizens about healthy lifestyles and emergency response techniques could improve survival rates and overall public health.

Revanth Reddy suggested that cardiologists could volunteer to train school students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Addressing the Fellows India 2026 conference at the HICC here, the Chief Minister highlighted the need for a united effort involving doctors, government and



society to save more people even as heart ailments continued to claim a large number of lives. Revanth Reddy reiterated that healthcare remained a top priority for the Telangana government and assured the medical fraternity that the administration was open to collaborating with doctors to frame better policies in the public interest. He invited cardiologists to share their suggestions and feedback to strengthen the healthcare system.

Revanth Reddy said advancements in quantum computing and artificial intelligence were trans-

forming medical science into a highly technology-driven field. While urging doctors to remain updated with the latest innovations, he reminded them not to lose the human touch, which he described as the foundation of compassionate healthcare. He appealed to the medical community to constantly work towards improving the quality of healthcare and aspire to make Telangana a global benchmark in medical excellence. Each doctor, he said, should strive to become the best in their profession and uphold the highest standards of service. Revanth Reddy noted that more than 500 cardiologists from across India and neighbouring South-east Asian countries were participating in the event and appreciated their commitment to continuous learning even after achieving professional success.

#### CM Naidu Asserts There Will Be No Compromise on Water Issues



AP Chief Minister and Telugu Desam supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday cautioned that disputes over water sharing would ultimately harm the Telugu people. "Co-operation between the two Telugu states is essential for shared prosperity. "Is it wrong to work towards ensuring that both states do well," the CM asked, stressing that optimal utilisation of surplus waters will make both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana prosperous. During an informal interaction with media at the Telugu Desam Party headquarters, Naidu warned against inter-state water disputes. If such conflicts escalate, Telugu people will suffer the most. "It is not a fault to ensure the welfare of both the Telugu states," he maintained.

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## Feeling blessed in Somnath, proud civilisational symbol: Modi

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday participated in the Somnath Swabhiman Parv and chaired a meeting of the Shree Somnath Temple Trust, reviewing infrastructure upgrades and initiatives to enhance the pilgrimage experience. During his visit, he took part in Omkar mantra chanting, witnessed a drone show, and led a roadshow that drew large crowds.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Feeling blessed to be in Somnath, a proud symbol of our civilisational courage..."

Grateful to the people for the warm welcome." The Somnath Swabhiman Parv, held from January 8-11, commemorates 1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026, celebrating the resilience and sacrifices of citizens who defended the temple. The



town has been festooned with events and cultural programmes for the occasion.

After his engagements in Somnath, PM Modi will travel to Rajkot on Sunday for the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference covering Kutch and Saurashtra regions. He will inaugurate a trade show, formally open the conference at Marwadi University, announce 14 new GIDC estates, and inaugurate a GIDC medical device park.

The two-day conference (January 11-12) will focus on boosting investment and industrial

growth across 12 districts, targeting sectors like ceramics, engineering, ports, logistics, fisheries, petrochemicals, agro-processing, green energy, skill development, startups, MSMEs, tourism, and culture. Japan, South Korea, Rwanda, and Ukraine are partner countries for the event.

This is the second of four regional conferences planned across Gujarat to expand the Vibrant Gujarat model. The first was held in Mehsana in October; conferences for South and Central Gujarat will follow in Surat and Vadodara in April.

## West Bengal BJP Uneasy About Three Disadvantages

"Sensing that their survival is at stake, the TMC cadre is now working like a well-oiled juggernaut," the BJP leaders

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

As the West Bengal elections draw closer, the BJP state unit is increasingly uneasy about three distinct disadvantages. While one section of the party believes the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will work in the BJP's favour, others argue that booth-level officers (BLOs) aligned with the Trinamul Congress at the grassroots have in fact strengthened the ruling party in West Bengal by smoothing over internal frictions and tightening its organisational grip. A second red flag is the possible resurgence of the Left, particularly the CPI(M), which the BJP



leaders fear could split the broader "anti-Mamata vote". And finally, a large section of the Bengal BJP is wary of the central leadership's heavy-handed campaign style, particularly the attempt by "non-Bengali" leaders to invoke the "Lord Rama plank", which they believe may alienate rather than consolidate Bengali voters in the state.

On the issue of SIR, a senior state BJP leader admitted that the exercise has, in fact, ironed out long-simmering rifts within the TMC at the

grassroots. With the TMC's leadership urging its cadre to close ranks and function as booth-level operatives, the party's organisational machinery has received a fresh lease of life. "Sensing that their survival is at stake, the TMC cadre is now working like a well-oiled juggernaut," the BJP leaders remarked.

The CPI(M)'s aggressive bid to reclaim its "lost" vote bank has emerged as another major cause of concern for the BJP. In the 2021 state elections, the Left managed barely seven per cent of the vote share, yet even that modest presence proved electorally damaging by splitting the broader anti-Mamata vote and blunting the BJP's challenge.

## SANKRANTI RUSH AT SECUNDERABAD STATION



Rush of passengers seen at Secunderabad Railway Station, Hyderabad, as people leave for their native places ahead of Sankranti. —Photo: Mir Zulfequar ali

## Coldwave Eases as Telangana Heads into Mild Sankranti Weather

Officials said weather conditions are returning to normal for the season, with no coldwave expected over the next 7-10 days.

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Coldwave conditions have eased after six days, with weather forecasts indicating a shift towards milder nights and stable daytime temperatures during the Sankranti festival period. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin, dry weather is very likely to prevail for the next week, with no warnings of abnormal weather in place. Several districts which experienced the minimum temperature falling to 2°C to 3°C below normal are expected to gradually

warm up. District-wise data on Saturday showed the lowest minimum temperature of 7.6°C recorded in Kohir mandal of Sangareddy district. North Telangana districts including Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem, Vikarabad, Nizamabad, and Jayashankar Bhupalpally reported minimum temperatures between 7.9°C and 9.1°C. In Hyderabad, the minimum temperature stood at 12.8°C, slightly below normal, with partly cloudy and misty conditions reported during early morning hours. GHMC forecasts indicate

that minimum temperatures across city circles will steadily rise over the next three days, moving out of cold alert zones. No coldwave warnings are in force for the city. Day temperatures are expected to remain on the lower side at around 25°C to 26°C in the immediate term due to mid-level cloud cover pushed inland by a depression near the Tamil Nadu coast. However, forecasts indicate a rise in daytime temperatures to around 29°C to 31°C during the Sankranti period.

## Telangana Bans Almont-Kid Syrup After Alert From CDSCO

The Telangana Drugs Control Administration issued an urgent advisory on Saturday to immediately stop the use of Almont-Kid Syrup, commonly prescribed to treat allergies, hay fever, and asthma in children, as it was allegedly found to be adulterated with Ethylene Glycol (EG), a highly toxic substance. A notification from the DCA stated that it received an alert from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), East Zone, Kolkata, regarding a laboratory report that declared the syrup (Levocetirizine Dihydrochloride and Montelukast Sodium Syrup) to be adulterated.

ESTD - 1960.

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

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

## Ukraine Strikes Russian Oil Depot

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A Ukrainian drone strike sparked a fire at an oil depot in Russia's southern Volgograd region, regional authorities said on Saturday. There were no immediate reports of casualties, regional Gov. Andrei Bocharov was quoted as saying in a Telegram post published on the channel of the local administration. The post did not specify the damage, but said that people

living near the depot may have to be evacuated. Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian energy sites aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue its full-scale invasion. Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid, seeking to deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponize winter."

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## Bhatti Seeks Funds, Approvals for TG's Infra Projects in Union Budget

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday submitted Telangana's comprehensive wishlist to the Centre ahead of the Union Budget 2026, during a pre-Budget meeting convened by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman with finance ministers of all states in New Delhi. Bhatti urged the Centre to positively consider the state's key infrastructure, education, irrigation and fiscal reform proposals. He strongly pressed for the early sanction of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, stating that land acquisition had begun in anticipation of approval. The project, he said, would unlock immense development potential by boosting connectivity and industrial growth. He also sought immediate sanction for the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail, which is pending with the Union ministry of urban development.



The Deputy Chief minister sought relaxation of the cap imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act limits for education and health spending, highlighting Telangana's network of over 1,000 residential schools and its plan to establish Young India Integrated Residential Schools in all 119 Assembly constituencies along with super-specialty hospitals and medical colleges. Bhatti also called for rationalisation of cesses and surcharges, better GST compensation mechanisms, acceptance of all recommendations of the Sixteenth Finance Commission, and restoration of States' fiscal autonomy, warning

that unilateral policy changes such as replacing MGNREGA with VBG RAM G would strain state finances and undermine cooperative federalism.

Complimenting the Centre for its vision of achieving a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, Bhatti said Telangana was contributing 5.1 per cent to India's GDP and had unveiled its "Telangana Rising 2047" vision to become a \$3 trillion economy, contributing 10 per cent to the national GDP by 2047. To achieve this, he said states needed enhanced fiscal space, including raising the fiscal deficit limit to 4 per cent of GSDP, converting 50-year interest-free loans into grants and doubling their quantum.

Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented a long list of requests for the state from the Union Budget, during his meeting with Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Hydrabad.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in nine districts which did not have them. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in 16 districts which needed one. Sanction for airports at Peddapalli, Warangal, Adilabad and Kothagudem. Semiconductor project under the Semiconductor Mission. Electronic manufacturing cluster-2, for which land has been identified near Thatiparthi in Rangareddy district. Funding for Rs.45,000-crore radial roads.

Rs.14,100 crore for the Musi Rivefront Development Project. Rs.17,000 crore for the greenfield highway from Hyderabad to Amravati via Future City. Rs.2,677 crore for Vikarabad-Krishna railway line. High-speed rail corridors from Hyderabad to Chennai. Rs.17,212 crore for the Hyderabad sewerage plan. Declaration of the Palamuru Rangareddy lift irrigation scheme as a national project.

## Telangana Women Shine at Mrs India 2025, Win Multiple National Crowns

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana made a remarkable mark at the 14th edition of Mrs India, held in Jaipur on December 21, 2025, as Sakshi Jain and Amrutha Maitreyee brought home national crowns. Sakshi Jain won in the Mrs category, while Amrutha Maitreyee triumphed in the Classic category, showcasing the state's talent and elegance on a national stage.

Other Telangana participants also achieved top honours. Mitallee Agrawal was crowned Mrs India 2025 Global Ambassador and Mrs Congeniality, Archana Konakanchi earned the Mrs India 2025 Beauty with Brain title, and Theresa Harry Allan was adjudged Mrs India 2025 Iconic Queen and Mrs Photogenic. Sakshi Jain additionally received the title of Mrs Talented 2025,



highlighting the multifaceted abilities of these women.

Mrs Mamta Trivedi, Regional Director of Mrs India Telangana, emphasized that the competition celebrates not only beauty and grace but also intelligence, talent, and social impact. She noted that Telangana contestants competed fiercely against 40 finalists from across India, participating in multiple rounds over four days.

Mrs India, led nationally by Director Deepali Phadnis, is the country's largest and longest-running platform for married women.

Mrs Trivedi organizes both Mrs India Telangana and Mrs India Andhra Pradesh events annually, in addition to running the SEWA NGO, which empowers women in society.

The success of Telangana women at Mrs India 2025 reflects their dedication, talent, and ability to inspire on a national stage, proving that the state is a strong contender in beauty, talent, and social influence. For participation in future events, aspiring contestants can register via call or WhatsApp at 9985844870.

## Kazipet to Host 58th Senior National Kho-Kho Championship from January 11

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kazipet will host the 58th Senior National Kho-Kho Championship from January 11 to 15, 2026, at the Railway Stadium, with a record 76 teams—38 men's and 38 women's—participating from across the country. Telangana Oilfed Chairman and Telangana Kho-Kho Association Chairman Janga Raghava Reddy announced the details in Warangal on January 10. Organised by the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) in association with the Telangana Kho-Kho Association, the championship will feature top players representing 26 states, six Union Territories, and major national organisations. Nearly 2,000 participants, including players, 164 technical officials, and 80 coaches, are expected to take part in the five-day event. Defending men's champions Railways (Railway Sports Promotion Board)



will compete alongside prominent institutional teams such as the Airports Authority of India (AAI). A combined team fielded by the All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB)—with players drawn from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other states—will also be in action. In addition, a unified team from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), comprising players from ITBP and SSB, will participate. The tournament will follow a league-cum-knockout format, with pre-quarterfinals and quarterfinals on January 14, and the grand finals scheduled for January 15. To ensure smooth conduct, six high-standard



courts, including four mat courts, have been set up at the venue, all equipped with professional floodlights for evening matches. Accommodation arrangements have been made for visiting players and officials in various schools and colleges in Kazipet and Hanamkonda, Janga Raghava Reddy added, stating that all necessary infrastructure and facilities are in place for the successful conduct of the national championship.

## MANUU Announces UG Admissions for 2026-27 Through CUET

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has announced admissions to its regular-mode four-year Undergraduate (UG) programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Admissions will be conducted through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-2026), organized by the National Testing Agency (NTA). MANUU, a Central University established in 1998 and accredited with an A+ grade by NAAC, is offering UG programmes designed in line with the National Education Policy 2020. The courses follow a Dual Major Holistic Bachelor's Degree structure with a duration of four years (eight semesters), and the medium of instruction will be Urdu. Admission will be based on CUET-2026 scores. Candidates are required to



appear for the Urdu paper (Paper Code 113) and the General Aptitude Test (Paper Code 501). The last date for submission of applications is January 30, 2026. At the Hyderabad campus, the university is offering BA (Honours/Research) with 120 seats, BA Journalism and Mass Communication (Honours/Research) with 50 seats, BCom (Honours/Research) with 60 seats, BSc Physical Sciences (Honours/Research) with 100 seats, and BSc Life Sciences (Honours/Research) with 60 seats. Other campuses offering BA (Honours/Research)

with 30 seats each include Lucknow, Bhopal, Darbhanga, Falaknuma (Old City, Hyderabad), Varanasi, and Nuh. Various dual major combinations are available across programmes. Candidates can apply online through the university website by scanning the QR code or completing the registration process. For further details, applicants may contact 040-23006612/13/14/15 (Ext: 1801) or email admission-regular@manuu.edu.in. More information is available at www.manuu.edu.in. Admission details for B.Voc programmes will be announced separately.

## Aurora Law Colleges Hold Grand Convocation



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Aurora Law Colleges conducted its convocation ceremony, "Snataka," with grandeur on Saturday at RTC Kalabhan, Hyderabad. Degrees were conferred on undergraduate and postgraduate law students, while certificates of merit and gold medals were awarded to academic achievers. Presiding over the event, Professor K. Sashikanth, Controller of Examinations, Osmania University, urged graduates to become responsible cit-

izens and serve society with integrity. Chief guest Justice P. Naveen Rao, former judge of the Telangana High Court, highlighted the need for ethics and transparency in the legal profession. Brahmashri Pasarlapati Srinivasa Bangarayya Sharma delivered an inspirational address. Aurora Group Chairman Anudeep Arora, Secretary Dr. Ramesh Nimmatoori, principals, faculty members, students, and parents attended the ceremony, which concluded on a celebratory note.

## BJP Observes 'Somnath Swabhiman Parvam - 2026'



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

As part of Somnath Swabhiman Parvam 2026, marking 1000 years of the sacred Somnath Jyotirlinga, the Bharatiya Janata Party organised a devotional programme at Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, Jambagh Division. Rakesh Jaiswal, Corporator, Jambagh Division, performed Abhishekam and Pooja, offering prayers to Somnath Mahadev for the good health, strength, and long life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The programme reflected BJP's commitment to India's spiritual her-

itage and cultural pride, with Somnath Jyotirlinga symbolising faith, resilience, and national self-respect. The event was attended by M. Krishna (General Secretary, Golconda Zilla), Aadhari Raj Kumar (President, Jambagh Division), Mayur Kalekar, Venkat Reddy, Nandu Kumar, Ajjur Mudiraj, Srikanth, and dedicated BJP karyakartas of Jambagh Division. The programme concluded in a devotional atmosphere, reaffirming BJP's resolve to uphold and celebrate India's timeless spiritual and cultural legacy.

## Fourrise Premier League Season 1 Launched in Hyderabad with 'Play for a Cause' Vision

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

FOURRISE Sports LLP officially launched the inaugural season of the Fourrise Premier League (FPL) - Hyderabad on January 9 at the Tech Mahindra Auditorium,HITEC City. Promoting the theme "Play for a Cause," FPL is Hyderabad's largest professionally managed corporate cricket league, combining sporting excellence with social impact. The official FPL poster was unveiled by MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, in the presence of senior corporates, sports leaders, and dignitaries, including MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy. The league is founded by Nangi Devenadar Reddy and Dr. Sriprakash Vinnakota, with a vision to create a transparent, professional corporate cricket ecosystem across the Telugu States. FPL Board and advisory members present included corporate leaders, former cricketers, and sports ad-



ministrators. Season 1 features 96 teams and 1,440 players from diverse sectors including IT, Pharma, Healthcare, Education, Manufacturing, and Government departments. Matches will be held across 8 venues, with the MSK Ground as the main venue, from January 24 to April 26, 2026. The tournament will include league, knockout, pre-quarterfinal, quarterfinal, semifinals, and final stages, offering prizes ranging from ₹2 lakh for the winners to ₹50,000 for the fourth place, alongside individual awards and professional cricket gear.

FPL emphasizes social responsibility, supporting hearing-impaired children, women empowerment, self-defense training, and rural sports through its NGO partner, Maurya Foundation. Powered by Microcare ENT Super Speciality Hospital and Bharath Pravasi, with YELDAM as the food partner, the league also features former India cricketer MSK Prasad as Chief Advisor. With strong leadership, corporate participation, and community focus, FPL Season 1 promises a high-quality cricketing experience while driving meaningful social impact.

## Odeon Mall Opens at RTC X Roads Hyderabad's New Retail & Entertainment Hub

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Odeon Mall, a next-generation shopping and lifestyle destination, has opened its doors at the iconic RTC X Roads, promising a world-class retail and entertainment experience. The inauguration was attended by Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, along with Telangana PCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Md. Azharuddin, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA T. Prakash Goud, MLC P. Mahender Reddy, and key developers including Tulla Vijayender Goud and Amarnath Vuppalancha. Strategically located at a historic commercial hub, the mall spans 2.1 lakh sq. ft. of carpet area over seven retail floors, supported by three basement parking levels offering 350 car and 500 two-wheeler spaces. It hosts over 40 outlets across fashion, electronics, lifestyle, din-



ing, and wellness, designed for both destination visitors and daily shoppers. Odeon Mall introduces Hyderabad's first INOX multiplex and India's first AI-integrated mall systems to enhance navigation, safety, and overall customer experience. Architectural and interior design feature expansive atriums, wide corridors, natural light, and premium finishes, creating an immersive and open environment. Entertainment offerings include a family entertainment center, bowling alley,

gaming zones, mystery rooms, laser shooter experiences, and minigolf. Dining options range from cafés and quick-service outlets to fine-dining restaurants and a food court, complemented by wellness and personal care services. With its prime location, curated brand mix, and focus on entertainment and experiences, Odeon Mall is set to become a landmark destination, blending RTC X Roads' legacy with modern design and technology to elevate Hyderabad's retail and lifestyle landscape.

## HYDRAA Reclaims Rs 3000 Cr Govt Land



HYDRAA carried out a major land reclamation drive on Saturday, recovering more than 15 acres of government land estimated to be worth over ₹3,000 crore in Miyapur. The land is located in Survey No. 44 of Maktha Mahubbet in Serilingampally mandal. Officials said the operation followed complaints of government land being illegally occupied. HYDRAA had earlier reclaimed five acres in the same survey number on December 8, 2025, during which 18 shops spread across nearly 200 metres along the Miyapur-Bachupally main road were removed.

After reports of illegal registrations and the suspension of a sub-registrar linked to the land dealings, HYDRAA conducted a fresh field-level inquiry. Inspections revealed attempts to grab nearly 43 acres of government land using fictitious documents. Officials added that an individual named Imran had already been booked for illegally occupying.

## Telangana Govt to Boost Sand Bazaars to Curb Illegal Mining

The decision follows reports of miscreants smuggling sand from closed reaches and selling it at inflated prices. By expanding official supply channels, TGMDC hopes to check illegal transport and stabilise the market.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a significant step to curb illegal sand mining and ensure consistent availability during the rainy season, the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC) has announced plans to expand sand bazaars across the state. The move comes following inputs from Vigilance and Enforcement (V&D) officials, who highlighted widespread violations in sand transport and sales.

TGMDC officials stated that advance bookings for sand for the period of June to October 2026 are now open. The corporation aims to supply high-quality sand at affordable rates, fixing the price at Rs 1,450 per metric tonne (MT). This pricing strategy is intended to discourage consumers from turning to illegal suppliers who often charge exorbitant rates.

Recent joint raids conducted by V&D and mines department of-



Officers revealed rampant violations across the state. At Birkur, vehicles were caught transporting sand even after beach operations had officially closed for the night. In Kamareddy district, several vehicles were seized within Madnur police limits, while in Medak, six vehicles were intercepted for overspeeding and carrying sand illegally from Papannapet. These incidents have underscored the urgent need for controlled and transparent sand supply channels.

To meet the anticipated seasonal demand, TGMDC is offering bulk bookings for coarse sand at four key

sand bazaars: Bowrampet, Vattinagulapally, Adibatla, and Abdullapurmet. Consumers can submit applications online from January 8 to January 18. Dispatch of sand will begin in June and continue through October, ensuring availability throughout the peak construction season.

In addition to the existing bazaars, TGMDC plans to set up extra stockyards near Hyderabad to ensure uninterrupted supply. Quantities available for booking range from a minimum of 32 MT to a maximum of 5,000 MT per consumer. Notably, the advance booking scheme offers sand at

Rs 1,450 per MT, down from Rs 1,600 per MT in 2025, providing a cost-effective solution for builders and contractors.

Officials emphasized that the decision to expand official supply channels aims to prevent the black-market sale of sand, a practice that has flourished due to smuggling from closed reaches and inflated prices. By increasing the number of sanctioned sand bazaars and facilitating advance bookings, TGMDC hopes to stabilise the market, curb illegal mining, and protect consumers from exploitation. The initiative reflects Telangana government's broader strategy to regulate natural resources while supporting construction needs efficiently. Through these measures, TGMDC intends to ensure legal, affordable, and timely sand supply, reducing opportunities for unlawful activities and promoting transparency in the sector.

## Telangana IT Minister Calls on BITSian Diaspora to Partner in State's AI Mission

**BITSians urged to join Telangana's mission for human-centered AI**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana's commitment to emerging technologies received a boost on Saturday as the Minister for IT, Electronics and Communications, D. Sridhar Babu, invited the global BITS Pilani alumni network to collaborate with the State in positioning Hyderabad as a leading global hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Speaking at the second day of the BGM'26 conclave hosted at the BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus, Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted that the expertise of the BITSian diaspora could serve as a "force multiplier" in advancing Telangana's innovation ecosystem. He emphasized the potential for meaningful partnerships between the government and technology leaders worldwide to drive the State's AI vision.

The event saw the presence of prominent industry leaders, including Prem Jain, Co-Founder of Pensando Systems; Anita Sakuru, Chairperson of BGM 2026; Rakesh Verma, Founder and



Chairman of MapmyIndia; and Mayur Patnala, CEO of BGM 2026. Adding a global perspective, Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor of BITS Pilani and Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, delivered a virtual address on the "BITSian Spirit," stressing the importance of ethical leadership in an era marked by rapid technological disruption. Dr. Birla also highlighted that the institute's legacy lies not only in academic excellence but also in the adaptability and resilience of its graduates.

The day's sessions centered on "Purposeful and Human-Centered AI," exploring ways to build frontier technologies that serve India's societal and

economic needs. The conclave also featured discussions with BITSians in Civil Services, a 90-day startup launch workshop, and the 'Impact Dolphins' initiative promoting social giving. As BGM'26 progresses toward its conclusion on Sunday, January 11, the event continues to foster dialogue on leveraging the BITSAA International network to drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and socially responsible technology. Minister Sridhar Babu reiterated that tapping into this global talent pool could significantly accelerate Telangana's journey toward becoming a world-class technology and AI hub.

## Young Disha Jain Distributes Safety Kits to Anti-Malaria Workers in Bowenpally

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a notable act of community service, Disha Jain, daughter of social worker Gautam Jain, distributed essential safety kits to anti-malaria staff working under the Cantonment Board Bowenpally Circle office. The kits, comprising shoes, masks, hand gloves, and jackets, aim to provide frontline workers with protection as they combat public health challenges. The event, held Saturday afternoon at the circle office premises, was attended by local



leaders and dedicated staff. Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap served as the chief guest, personally handing out the kits and praising Disha's initiative. "It's inspiring to see such young talent

stepping up for social service," Pratap remarked, emphasizing her commitment at a young age.

Key participants included Bharat Singhi and sanitation supervisors Vijay Kumar, Ramakrishna, M.R. Raju,

Saibaba Yadav, Narasimha, Tent Raju, and several others. Their presence highlighted the collaborative effort behind welfare initiatives in the cantonment area. Disha Jain's gesture reflects her family's longstanding tradition of philanthropy, strengthening community bonds and supporting essential workers who safeguard public health. As malaria prevention continues to be a priority in Telangana's urban pockets, such contributions provide both resources and morale boosts to those working on the ground.

## Labour Leaders Meet Cantonment MLA Ganesh, Demand Full SC Quota

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Labour leaders, led by Karkanagaraju, visited Cantonment MLA Ganesh at his residence today to extend New Year greetings. The delegation included INTUC President of Kukatpally Constituency and Greater Hyderabad All India Ambedkar Youth Association President. They greeted the MLA respectfully with shawls and presented a portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. During the meeting, the leaders highlighted the need for the state government to ensure a 15% quota for Scheduled Castes in the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elec-



tions. They noted that the previous BRS government had allocated only 10% of the seats, falling short of the mandated 15%, causing injustice to the SC community. MLA Ganesh assured the delegation that he would take the matter to the government and advocate for the rights of Dalits, ensuring that the quota is fully implemented. The programme also saw

participation from HL Union Joint Secretaries Nagarjuna and Polepalli Srikanth, All India Ambedkar Youth Association Greater Hyderabad Secretary Preetam, Secunderabad Constituency President Dommati Shivakumar, and other leaders, who conveyed their greetings to the MLA and supported the discussions regarding SC representation.

## Massive Land Registration Scam Busted in Jangaon

A major fraud involving the new Bhu Bharathi land registration system has been uncovered in Jangaon district, leading to the registration of an FIR against an organised gang accused of siphoning off government funds through digital manipulation. The scam came to light during a routine verification of land registration transactions by Jangaon Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) Hussain, who discovered that the government treasury had been cheated of lakhs of rupees. Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, the Telangana Lokayukta ordered a high-level probe into the organised diversion of public funds.

According to investigators, the accused adopted a sophisticated method to misappropriate stamp duty and registration fees. While landowners paid the full amount, the gang allegedly used specialised software to manipulate digital payment receipts. In one instance, when Rs 1,26,133 was payable to the government, only Rs 1,261 was actually credited, with the balance amount pocketed by the accused. A forged digital receipt showing full payment was then submitted to authorities. Jangaon police and Task Force teams have so far taken four suspects into custody, including an internet centre operator from Yadagirigutta, believed to be the kingpin. Preliminary investigation suggests the racket was widespread, with the gang allegedly working in coordination with more than 150 internet and MeeSeva centre.

## Cold Wave Kills Hundreds Of Chickens In Adilabad

**ADILABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hundreds of chickens have died across Adilabad district due to severe cold weather, with temperatures dropping to as low as 6 degrees Celsius in recent days. Poultry farmers said extreme cold has affected even basic activities such as drinking water, as some chicks were unable to swallow the icy water, leading to dehydration and death. Despite efforts to keep sheds warm, losses continue to mount. Kamalakar, a country chicken farmer from Tan-

tooli village, said he lost nearly 200 birds of varying sizes, ranging from less than half a kg to 1 kg, due to the cold conditions. He added that several farmers in the area are facing similar losses. Another poultry farmer from Tantoli, D. Madhukar, said he suffered a loss of about ₹75,000 after nearly 200 chicks died at his farm over the past few days. He said veterinary doctors advised mixing booster liquids with drinking water to help generate body heat in the birds and improve their resistance to the cold. Madhukar said that even

fully grown chickens died despite measures such as covering sheds, using high-voltage bulbs and attempting to maintain warmth. He observed that sheds with iron sheet roofs were retaining cold, worsening the impact on the birds. According to poultry farmers, incidents of chicken deaths have been reported from several places across Adilabad district over the last 10 days. The cold wave has also affected residents, with many people suffering from cold, cough, fever and throat infections due to the prevailing low temperatures.

## 7 Lakh Electricity Staff Warn of Nationwide Stir

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) has warned of a nationwide strike if the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 was cleared in Parliament with provisions for privatisation. The federation said millions of power engineers and 27 lakh electricity employees were prepared to protest against the move. In a letter to power secretary Pankaj Agrawal, federation chairman Shailendra Dubey demanded immediate public release of the new draft prepared by the parliamen-



tary standing committee on energy. He sought disclosure of the committee's membership and called for stakeholders to be allowed to submit comments until March 31. Dubey noted that while revisions have already been suggested to the ministry of power, the draft remains undisclosed. Dubey criticised Union

power minister Manohar Lal Khattar for convening meetings with state power ministers on January 22-23 to build consensus on the bill. He alleged the agenda includes privatisation, franchisee models, and conditional financial packages aimed at securing passage during the Budget Session. "Power engi-

neers and employees will never accept power sector privatisation," he asserted, questioning why states are being consulted while stakeholders are excluded from discussions on the revised draft. Calling the timing "suspicious," the federation accused the ministry of engaging stakeholders on the original bill while holding closed-door talks on the revised version. Dubey said AIPEF's National Coordination Committee core group will announce its anti-privatization strategy after a meeting with the power secretary on January 12.

# Pakistan Claims Iraq Interested in JF-17 Thunder Fighter Jets

This development follows recent talks between Pakistan and Bangladesh regarding the potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder jets, highlighting the growing interest in Pakistan's military aviation capabilities.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Iraq has expressed keen interest in procuring Pakistan's JF-17 Thunder fighter jets and Super Mushshak training aircraft, signaling a potential expansion of defence cooperation between the two countries, according to a statement issued by the Pakistan Army on Saturday. The development emerged during the official visit of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Baber Sidhu, to Iraq, where he held talks with Lieutenant Gen-

eral Staff Pilot Mohamad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral military ties, particularly in the areas of joint training, capacity building, and operational cooperation.

According to the army's statement, the Iraqi Air Chief praised the professionalism and technological advancement of the Pakistan Air Force and conveyed Iraq's interest in benefiting from PAF's training infrastructure. He also expressed "keen



interest" in acquiring the JF-17 Thunder multi-role combat aircraft and the Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, both indigenously produced with Pakistani involvement. The JF-17 Thunder is a single-engine, lightweight combat aircraft jointly developed by China's

Chengdu Aircraft Corporation and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. Pakistan has positioned the jet as a cost-effective platform with multi-role capabilities, suitable for air defence and strike missions. While Islamabad has claimed the aircraft proved its operational

capability during last year's conflict with India, independent assessments of its combat effectiveness remain limited.

Military analysts note that Pakistan relied more heavily on Chinese-origin Chengdu J-10 fighter jets during the May 7-10 hostilities with India, raising questions about the JF-17's frontline deployment role in high-intensity conflicts.

The outreach to Iraq comes amid Pakistan's broader push to market its defence exports, particularly fighter aircraft and training platforms, to friendly and devel-

oping air forces. Just days earlier, Pakistan confirmed that similar discussions were held with Bangladesh during a visit by Bangladesh Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Mahmood Khan to Islamabad. According to Pakistan's military media wing, talks between the Pakistani and Bangladeshi air chiefs covered operational cooperation, training, capacity development, and aerospace collaboration. "Detailed discussions were also held on the potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder aircraft," the statement said, adding that Pa-

kistan assured fast-tracked delivery of Super Mushshak trainer aircraft along with long-term training and support packages. However, Bangladesh has not officially confirmed any procurement plans.

During the Iraq visit, Air Chief Marshal Sidhu highlighted the historical, religious, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Iraq and reaffirmed PAF's commitment to supporting the Iraqi Air Force in training and institutional development. Both air force commanders agreed to pursue joint exercises and struc-

tured training initiatives aimed at improving interoperability. The Pakistani military described the visit as underscoring a shared resolve to deepen defence cooperation and professional collaboration between the two air forces. If materialized, the interest shown by Iraq and Bangladesh could mark a significant boost for Pakistan's defence aviation industry, even as regional security dynamics and aircraft performance debates continue to shape procurement decisions.

## No Need for Controversy Between AP, Telangana Over River Waters: Naidu

**RAYAVARAM**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said there was no need for controversy between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over river waters flowing into the sea. Addressing a village meeting in East Godavari district, Naidu alleged that certain people were "deliberately creating disputes" instead of focusing on water utilisation. "What is the need for controversies between the two states over water draining into the sea? Some people do not want water; they want controversies," he said while distributing newly issued pattadar passbooks (land documents) to farmers.



Without naming him, Naidu appeared to target YSRCP supremo Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that attempts were being made to stoke controversy in the name of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation project. It aims to lift water from the Srisailem reservoir on the Krishna River to provide irrigation and improve water availability in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region. The TDP supremo asserted that he was not interested in disputes and said the future of the Telugu community

was more important to him. He added that Telangana could also utilise water once the Polavaram project is completed. The mega irrigation project aims to irrigate lakhs of acres of farmland and provide drinking water to lakhs of people. Naidu said "mistakes" made during the previous YSRCP government had been rectified, noting that it took nearly two years to resolve revenue-related disputes. "Some people are spreading lies. After making mistakes, they are trying to shift the blame onto others," he said, without elaborating. Responding to Reddy's reported remarks that the Constitution does not rec-

ognise the concept of a capital, Naidu asked whether "a Bengaluru palace or Idupulupaya in Kadapa district" would then be considered one. Alleging irregularities in the issuance of pattadar passbooks by the previous government, Naidu questioned the need for Reddy's images on passbooks and survey stones. He claimed that Rs 660 crore was spent on engraving images on survey stones and another Rs 22 crore on printing images on passbooks. "Land is your right. That is why we have embossed the official emblem and issued new passbooks," he said, adding that there was no scope for fraud or disputes.

## A Century Later: Wild Water Buffaloes Set to Roam MP Again

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

After seeing the cheetah project through, Madhya Pradesh is gearing up to reintroduce wild water buffalo, that had disappeared in MP a century ago, in the state forest. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has recently conducted a survey in the state to select a suitable habitat for wild water buffalo, an endangered species, for the reintroduction. "A detailed scientific study conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India concluded that Kanha Tiger Reserve is the most suitable site for the reintroduction of wild buffalo. The study evaluated factors such as the



quality of grasslands, availability of water sources, minimal human interference, and pressure from other herbivores", a senior forest officer told this newspaper here on Saturday, unwilling to be quoted. As many as 50 wild buffaloes are going to be translocated from Assam to Kanha Tiger Reserve

in three groups over a period of three years for their reintroduction, the forest officer said. The state government has already initiated the process to obtain necessary approvals from the Central Zoo Authority and the Government of India, he added. The wild buffalo population in Madhya Pradesh had vanished

more than a century ago, the forest officer said. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav held discussions with his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma in this regard during his recent visit to the North-East state, he added. "The restoration of wild buffalo population in Madhya Pradesh will add a new dimension to the state's biodiversity following the successful reintroduction of cheetahs in MP", the chief minister has said. The initiative is a significant step not only towards conserving a species but also towards strengthening the forest ecosystem across the state.

## Annamalai's 'Bombay' Remark Sparks Political Row in Maharashtra

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Political tensions in Maharashtra escalated on Saturday after Tamil Nadu BJP leader K Annamalai referred to Mumbai as "Bombay" and said the city does not belong to Maharashtra but is an "international city," triggering sharp reactions across the state. He also called for "capable people" to manage the civic body, citing its large budget. The remarks drew criticism, with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) strongly objecting. Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut demanded legal action against Annamalai. Campaigning for BJP candidates in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, Annamalai said, "Mumbai needs a triple-engine government. We need a BJP mayor in Mumbai, with (Maharashtra) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the state, and Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi at the Centre. Mumbai is a global metropolis which has a budget of over Rs 40,000 crore. Bengaluru's budget is Rs 19,000 crore, while Chennai's is Rs 8,000 crore. You need good people who sit in the administration to manage the finance." The BMC elections, scheduled to be held on January 15, have already seen a tough contest centred on issues related to the Marathi language and Marathi pride. Against this backdrop, Annamalai's statement has provided ammunition to opposition parties. Mr Raut, a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and spokesperson, described Annamalai's remarks as an insult to the 106 Marathi martyrs, who died during

the 'Samyukta Maharashtra' movement. He said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis should immediately register a case against Annamalai and order his arrest for insulting the martyrs. Mr Raut also said the BJP's star campaigner was claiming that Mumbai does not belong to Maharashtra. He said the chief minister, who has repeatedly asserted that Mumbai will remain part of Maharashtra as long as the sun and moon exist, must clarify whether Annamalai's views reflect the BJP's position. Calling the statement an embarrassment for the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, Mr Raut questioned why the party was maintaining silence despite its claim of being the original Shiv Sena. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule said, "Mumbai belongs to Maharashtra and will remain integral to Maharashtra. Maharashtra and Mumbai are inseparable."

### Ukraine Strikes.....

Saturday's attack came the day after Russia bombarded Ukraine with hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles overnight into Friday, according to Ukrainian officials, killing at least four people in the capital. For only the second time in the nearly 4-year-old war, it used a powerful, new hypersonic missile that struck western Ukraine on Friday in a clear warning to Kyiv's NATO allies. The intense barrage and the launch of the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile followed reports of major progress in talks between Ukraine and its allies on how to defend the country from further Moscow aggression if a U.S.-led peace deal is struck. Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday that its forces used aviation, drones, missiles and artillery to strike Ukrainian energy facilities and fuel-storage depots on Friday and overnight. It did not immediately specify the targets or damage. Overnight into Saturday, Russia struck Ukraine with 121 drones and one Iskander-M ballistic missile, according to the Ukrainian air force. It said 94 drones were shot down.

### CM Naidu.....

Stressing that AP's interests are paramount, the Chief Minister asserted that there would be no compromise on water issues. He underlined that the state government is moving ahead with a comprehensive plan to ensure there is no water scarcity over the next two years. Efficient water management has led to a boom in horticulture in Rayalaseema, propelling Andhra Pradesh to the top position nationally in the horticulture sector, he maintained. Highlighting the Pattiseema project as proof of his government's commitment to Rayalaseema, Naidu said the project has significantly expanded horticultural cultivation. In contrast, he accused the YSRC government of halting the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project in 2020 for selfish political reasons. He accused the previous government of raising Rs 900-crore bills merely for earthworks at Pattiseema. In a scathing attack on the YSRC chief, the CM accused Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of lacking even the basic understanding of river management concepts. He observed that Jagan Mohan Reddy cannot differentiate between a riverbed

and a riverfront. Making a series of sharp comments against the former chief minister, Naidu accused Jagan Mohan Reddy of betraying Rayalaseema's interests. He pointed out that many of the world's great civilisations and cities have flourished along riverbanks, citing the Indus Valley Civilisation and global capitals such as Delhi and London. "The YSRC is indulging in sustained negative propaganda on Amravati without even rudimentary knowledge of water utilisation," he remarked. Questioning Jagan Mohan Reddy's remarks, the Chief Minister asked how the use of surplus waters could ever be deemed wrong.

### Consult CMs.....

Hence, the framing of questions, categories, sub-categories, and the methodology for data collection must be precise, inclusive, and free from ambiguity to ensure accuracy and public trust. Any shortcomings in these aspects could lead to disputes, inaccuracies, or even exacerbate divisions, the CM added. Although census is a Union subject, its outcomes profoundly impact State-level policies on education, employment, reservations, and welfare schemes, it is imperative

that the Union government consults all States and Union Territories before finalising the guidelines and questionnaire, Stalin underscored. The CM said such consultation would allow incorporation of diverse perspectives, account for State-specific nuances, and foster cooperative federalism in this critical exercise. He said: "I, therefore, earnestly urge you to constitute a consultative mechanism involving Chief Ministers and representatives of States to discuss and refine the guidelines for caste enumeration.

### PCB Survey.....

The survey was conducted as a part of the exercise to locate the source or sources of contamination. Although officially the death toll due to water contamination in Bhagirathpura has been put at eight, the Madhya Pradesh government has released financial assistance to the families of 18 deceased people in the area. Meanwhile, a study has revealed that a meagre allocation of 25-30 percent has been made in the budget of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) for drinking water provision and sanitation in Indore, chosen as the cleanest city of India for multiple.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Mom Seeks Cancellation Of Gift Deed To Son

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court reserved its verdict in a writ appeal under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, concerning the cancellation of a gift deed executed by a senior citizen in favour of her son. The panel comprising Moushumi Bhattacharya and Gadi Praveen Kumar was hearing a writ appeal filed by Kurakula Shanta, 76. The appellant invoked Section 23 of the Act before the revenue divisional officer-cum-maintenance tribunal. The appellant sought cancellation of a gift deed through which she transferred property to her son, alleging neglect and ill-treatment. The RDO allowed the application, cancelled the gift deed, and also issued di-

rections requiring the son to treat the senior citizen with dignity and respect. The son challenged the RDO's order by filing a writ petition. A single judge allowed the writ petition, holding that the RDO lacked jurisdiction to cancel a registered gift deed. In appeal, the senior citizen contended that even if the son questioned the jurisdiction of the RDO, he ought to have availed the statutory appellate remedy before the district collector under Section 16 of the Act, instead of directly approaching the writ court. Opposing the appeal, the respondents contended that cancellation of a gift deed was beyond the scope of the powers conferred on the Maintenance Tribunal and that the single judge rightly interfered on the ground of lack of jurisdiction. After hearing the sub-

missions on both sides, the panel reserved the matter for judgment. Plea against GHMC's demolition plan Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court took on file a writ plea challenging the proposed demolition of a building at Sri Raja Rajeswarinagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, allegedly on the ground that it encroached upon the buffer zone of Uracheruvu (Kapra Lake). The judge is hearing a writ plea filed by T.L. Kantha Rao questioning the action of the GHMC seeking to demolish the structure without issuing prior notice and without following due process of law. The petitioner contended that the proposed action violated the provisions of the GHMC Act, the TS-bPASS Act and Rules, and the principles of natural justice. The petitioner sought

a direction restraining the municipal authorities from demolishing, obstructing, or otherwise interfering with the construction claimed to be lawful. During the hearing, a party-in-person, claiming to be a resident of the locality, appeared before the court and raised objections on environmental grounds, contending that a portion of the construction encroached into the buffer zone of Kapra lake. Taking note of the submissions, the judge observed that the action complained of by the petitioner appeared to have stemmed from the objection raised by the party-in-person. The judge directed the party-in-person to file an application seeking impleadment in the writ plea and directed the government pleader to obtain instructions in the matter.

### Karimnagar Businessman Ends Life in Madhapur

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A 32-year-old businessman from Karimnagar, B. Anudeep Kumar, died by suicide at a service apartment in Vittalraonagar under the Madhapur police limits on Friday morning. Police said Anudeep was facing severe financial distress after money he had lent to several people was not returned, which reportedly affected his business operations. According to police, Anudeep attempted suicide at the service apartment and later contacted a friend seeking help. However, by the time the friend reached the location, Anudeep was found dead. The incident was reported to the police, who arrived at the scene and completed the necessary legal formalities. Madhapur Inspector D. Krishna Mohan said Anudeep had been running an architecture-related business in both Karimnagar and Hyderabad. He had arrived in Hyderabad on January 5 in connection with work and was staying at the service apartment where the incident oc-

curred. A purported suicide note recovered from the apartment revealed that Anudeep had lent substantial amounts of money to several individuals who had promised to repay it after land registrations. The delay in repayment allegedly caused serious financial strain, leading to disruptions in his business and mounting mental stress. "People had taken money from him assuring repayment after land registrations. The non-return of funds affected his business and disturbed him mentally. This could have led him to take the extreme step," the inspector said. In the note, Anudeep reportedly requested that his funeral rites be completed on the same day, citing cold weather conditions. Police said the contents of the letter are being verified as part of the investigation. Anudeep is survived by his wife and a young daughter. Police have registered a case and stated that further inquiry is underway to ascertain all circumstances surrounding the incident.

### Cyberabad cops arrest 5 in fake job racket

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad cybercrime police on Saturday arrested five persons for allegedly cheating several youth by promising jobs in reputed multinational companies. Police said only one victim has so far come forward, reporting a loss of ₹3.2 lakh. The accused were identified as Uppala Venkata Sai Ram, Jalli Karthik, Vinukonda Srikanth, Gurindapalli Priyanka, and H.A. Ramesh. All were residing in different parts of Hyderabad and originally hail from Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. According to police, the complaint was lodged by a 32-year-old job seeker from Hyderabad, who said he was contacted on WhatsApp by a woman posing as a job consultant. She allegedly promised him a position in an MNC and made him transfer ₹3.20 lakh through UPI. The complainant was issued a fake offer letter in the name of Genpact Enquero and shown a false office address. After joining, he was neither paid salary nor

refunded, and was later issued a termination letter before being blocked. Investigators said the accused posed as HR executives, created fake email IDs and domains resembling genuine companies, conducted fake interviews and training sessions, and routed victims' money through multiple mule accounts. Police suspect hundreds of victims may have been cheated in a similar manner. Several mobile phones, laptops, forged documents, rubber stamps of fake companies, cheque books and fake ID cards were seized. The arrests were made using technical analysis, including mobile location tracking and call detail records. The accused were produced before a court. A case was registered under Sections 318(4), 319(2), 316(2), 338, 336(3) read with 340(2) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 66-D of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Further investigation is underway.

### SC Says PD Act Must Be Invoked Within the Statutory Limits, Not Based on Apprehensions

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

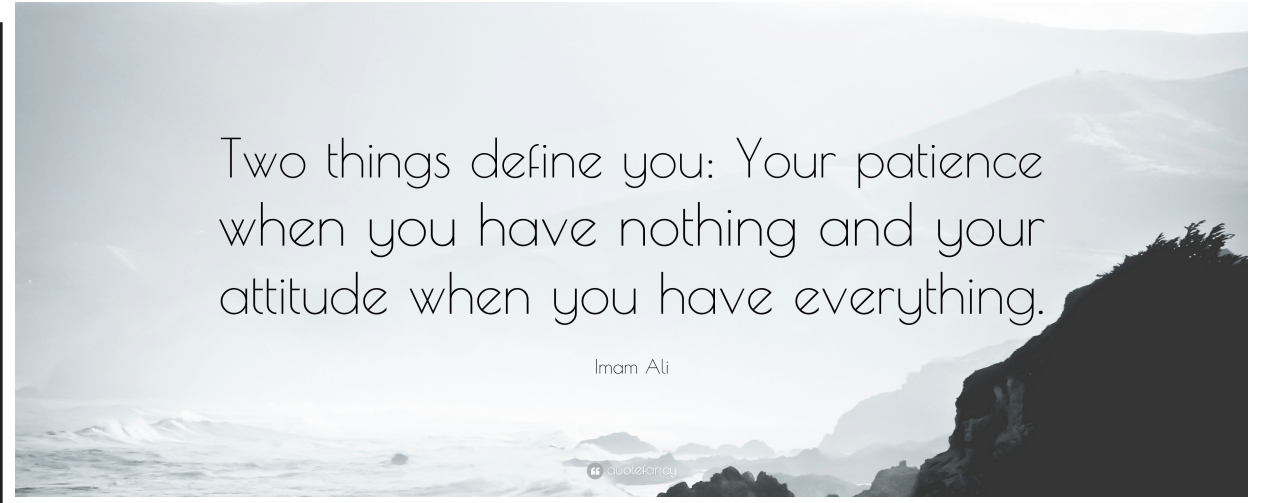


The Supreme Court has made it clear that preventive detention laws, being exceptional in nature, must be invoked strictly within their statutory limits and cannot be used to "clip the wings" of an accused when ordinary criminal law provides safeguards. While giving bail to Aruna Bai alias Anguri Bai, of Dhoolpet, the court also underscored that the extraordinary power of preventive detention cannot be misused as a substitute for ordinary criminal law remedies. Stating this, a bench of comprising Justice J.K. Maheshwari and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar struck

down a preventive detention order passed under the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act, 1986 against Anguri Bai, against whom three criminal cases under NDPS Act were pending. The bench held that mere registration of three offences by itself would not have any bearing on the maintenance of public order unless there was material to show that the narcotic drug dealt with by the detenu was in fact dangerous to public health under the Act. "This material is found to be missing

in the order of detention," the bench pointed out and ordered the immediate release of Anguri Bai, unless required in any other case. The court reaffirmed that there was a fine distinction between "law and order" and "public order". Allying habitual involvement of Anguri Bai in ganja peddling despite criminal cases under NDPS Act, the Hyderabad collector and district magistrate under Section 3(2) of the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities had issued prevention detention orders against her on March 10 last. The Telangana High Court upheld the order, which said that in case Anguri Bai was granted bail, she would resort to similar unlawful activities. Keep-

ing in view her antecedents and considering the ill-effects of ganja on public health, prevention detention is warranted, the collector's order said. It also mentioned that detention under ordinary law had no deterrent effect in preventing Anguri Bai's prejudicial activities. The order said she was being detained by an appropriate order of detention as a last resort, in the interest of public at large and to prevent her from acting in any manner prejudicial to maintenance of public order. The PD order also stated that recourse to normal law would involve considerable time and may not be an effective deterrent. This contention was also upheld by the High Court.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### GRAND ALLIANCE WON'T SWAY TN

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

That grandiosity cannot garner votes is something that the BJP does not seem to bother about. For the way in which the AIADMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu went about roping in the PMK faction, led by Anbumani Ramadoss, reportedly offering close to 20 seats, only betrays a sense of desperation to expand the coalition. Since it happened just as AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami was getting ready to leave for New Delhi for a rendezvous with BJP strongman Amit Shah, it was construed to have happened at the behest of the BJP that is highly concerned about the slow pace of its alliance

gathering in the state that comprised primarily just two parties. Since most political outfits in Tamil Nadu shied away from joining that alliance at a time when the DMK-led coalition remained steadfast in its unity, despite several voices from within seeking to break it, the BJP wanted to tell the world that it, too, has its own allies. It may have told AIADMK, which prides itself as the alliance leader, to go for a tie-up with any party that comes their way. So, the PMK faction of Mr Ramadoss was let in though it did not guarantee that PMK votes would not be splintered with senior Ramadoss declaring that, as founder of the party, he was the boss. What the BJP and the

AIADMK forgot was that the pushy attitude could only help them make showy claims of spearheading a grand coalition but it could not bring in what is required — votes. Or is it that the BJP just wants to tell the rest of the country that it has managed to make inroads into Tamil country, where it has eternally struggled to capture the imagination of the people, by showing off a multi-party rainbow alliance, in which it also wants the presence of former AIADMK leaders with no grassroots support like O. Panneerselvam and T.T.V. Dinakaran? Such efforts may, however, boomerang since politics is no commercial marketplace for loud claims and sales pitches to sway voters.



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## Union Budget Session 2026 from January 28

**Budget presentation likely on a Sunday**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the summoning of both Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session 2026 from January 28 on the government's recommendation, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju announced on Friday.

"On the recommendation of the Govt of India, Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji has approved the summoning of both the Houses of Parliament for the Budget Session 2026. The Session will commence on 28 January 2026 and continue till 2 April 2026. The first phase concludes on 13 February 2026, with Parliament reassembling on 9 March 2026, a vital step towards meaningful debate and people-centric governance," Rijju said in a post on X.



According to reports, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to table the Budget on February 1, which falls on a Sunday — a rare occurrence that would require special arrangements.

The Economic Survey, providing a comprehensive review of the economy, is anticipated to be laid before Parliament on January 29 or 30.

The Budget Session traditionally begins with the President's address to a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, outlining the government's policy priorities and vision.

This address will take place on the opening day, January 28. The announcement sets the stage for one of the most impor-

tant parliamentary events of the year, during which the Union Budget for the financial year 2026-27 is expected to be presented.

Rijju's post stressed the government's commitment to transparent and effective legislative processes.

The two-phase format allows for initial discussions on the Budget and other key matters, followed by detailed scrutiny in standing committees during the recess, before final deliberations and passage of financial bills.

This session comes at a crucial time as the government focuses on economic growth, fiscal consolidation, and addressing emerging challenges in sectors like infrastructure, employment, and sustainability.

Parliamentarians from across parties are expected to engage in intensive debates on taxation, expenditure, and policy reforms.

## Aurobindo Pharma gets Health Canada nod for biosimilar Dyrupreg

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd on Friday announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, CuraTeQ Biologics Pvt Ltd, has received a Notice of Compliance (NOC) from Health Canada for its biosimilar drug Dyrupreg, used in the treatment of cancer patients suffering from low neutrophil counts. The approval was granted by Health Canada's Biologics and Radiopharmaceutical Drugs Directorate (BRDD) following a successful regulatory review. Aurobindo Pharma said in a filing to stock exchanges. The NOC confirms that Dyrupreg meets the Canadian regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy, and quality under the Food and Drug Regulations.

Dyrupreg is a pegylated filgrastim biosimilar, indicated for reducing the risk of infection in patients undergoing chemotherapy by stimulating the production of neutrophils, a vital type of

white blood cell. According to the company, Health Canada has verified that Dyrupreg demonstrates a high degree of similarity to the approved reference biologic drug, with no clinically meaningful differences in safety, purity, or other quality attributes.

The approval marks another significant milestone in CuraTeQ Biologics' global biosimilars portfolio and strengthens Aurobindo Pharma's presence in regulated international markets. The company noted that the Canadian clearance reinforces the robustness of its development, manufacturing, and quality systems for complex biologic products.

Dyrupreg has already received marketing authorisation in major global markets. In 2025, the drug was approved by the European Commission for use across the European Union and also secured clearance from the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

## Makar Sankranti 2026: California Almonds Add Nutrition to Festive

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

As Makar Sankranti ushers in longer days and the harvest season across India, nutrition experts highlight the role of California Almonds in adding nourishment to traditional celebrations. Observed as Pongal, Lohri, Uttarayan and Magh Bihu in different regions, the festival symbolises abundance, gratitude and new beginnings.

Almonds, rich in protein, healthy fats and antioxidants, help provide sustained energy, support immunity and balance indulgent festive foods. Their nutrient-dense profile makes them a suitable addition to traditional sweets and savoury dishes commonly prepared during the season.

Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head – Dietetics, Max Healthcare, New Delhi, said mindful ingredient choices during festivals can support better health. She noted that almonds are naturally satiating, help manage blood sugar levels when combined with carbohydrate-rich foods, and can be easily incorporated into laddoos, savoury dishes or consumed whole.

From an Ayurvedic standpoint, almonds are regarded as balya or strength-enhancing and are believed to build ojas, supporting vitality and immunity,



particularly during winter. Ayurveda expert Dr Madhumitha Krishnan said almonds help balance doshas, aid digestion and add both nutrition and flavour to festive preparations.

Nutrition and wellness consultant Sheela Krishnaswamy said the use of almonds in festive cooking allows families to maintain traditional flavours while improving the nutritional quality of meals, reducing reliance on excess sugar and refined fats. Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan shared that almonds have long been part of her family's festive cooking, helping strike a balance between celebration and well-being.

As families mark the harvest festival, experts say incorporating California Almonds into traditional dishes offers a simple way to blend modern nutrition with age-old traditions, supporting heart health, immunity and overall vitality during Makar Sankranti celebrations.

## German Company Remmers To Acquire 50 Per Cent Stake In Pune Based Teknovace Companies

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Pune based speciality coatings company Teknovace announced strategic global partnership with Remmers Gruppe SE, a German speciality construction chemicals and wood coatings company. As part of partnership, Remmers plan to make a Rs 300 crore strategic equity investment in Teknovace to acquire a 50.01 per cent stake in two tranches. Teknovace is a premium wood coatings processor and operates two manufacturing facilities with a current capacity of 6,000 tonnes per annum.

Remmers, founded in 1949, operates across more than 30 countries

and has over 75 years of global expertise in advanced coatings, construction chemicals, and material science. Under the partnership, Remmers will play an active role in strategy, technology transfer, and global market integration, working closely with Teknovace over the next decade. The capital infusion will be deployed to significantly expand Teknovace's manufacturing and technology capabilities. This includes scaling wood coatings production capacity from 6,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes per annum, setting up an integrated UV coatings manufacturing facility, establishing an in-house resin manufacturing unit, and building a greenfield construction



chemicals factory in India. The partnership also envisages the creation of a global R&D centre in India, combining Remmers' advanced techuring platforms with Teknovace's R&D-led manufacturing expertise. "Beyond domestic growth, the alliance is designed to position India as a global manufacturing and export hub for advanced coatings. Teknovace will directly supply markets across Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, and

Africa, while also acting as a manufacturing and sourcing partner for select global markets through Remmers' international network," said a joint statement. Commenting on the partnership, Pankaj Singh, Managing Director, Teknovace, said, "This partnership with Remmers is not just about capital; it is about building a deeply integrated, technology-led manufacturing ecosystem in India. Despite India's rich raw material base, the country has historically been a net importer of high-performance wood coatings. Together with Remmers, we aim to change that equation by building global-scale manufacturing, backward-integrated capabilities, and export-

ready platforms to position India as a serious player in the global coatings value chain," Pankaj Singh, MD, Teknovace, said. Dirk Sieverding, chairman, CEO & Co-owner, Remmers Group, said, "India is a strategic market for Remmers' long-term global growth. This partnership reflects our confidence in India as a global manufacturing hub and our shared ambition to build sustainable, high-performance coatings solutions for international markets." Bathiya Advisors acted as the exclusive strategic, financial and deal advisor to Teknovace and the selling shareholders. PwC and JSA acted as the financial and legal advisors to Remmers, respectively.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

German luxury carmaker BMW has announced plans to introduce three all-new electric vehicles (EVs) in India this year as part of an aggressive product strategy to strengthen its leadership in the luxury EV segment. The announcement comes after BMW sold more than 10 electric cars every day in 2025, clocking total EV sales of 3,753 units. "We sold over 10 new BMW electric cars daily in India last year, marking a three-fold growth compared to 1,250 EVs sold in 2024," said Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO, BMW Group India. He attributed the strong growth to rising customer acceptance of luxury EVs and BMW's expanding electric portfolio.

To sustain momentum, BMW plans 10 major pro-



duct offensives in 2026, including three brand-new electric models, three new internal combustion engine (ICE) luxury cars, four major updates and 17 refreshed models across its lineup. "This strategy will help us consolidate our leadership in the luxury EV space and boost overall sales," Brar said. The BMW iX1 long-wheelbase electric SUV has emerged as a key growth driver, accounting for close to 3,000 units in sales. Its success has pushed EV penetration in BMW India's portfolio to 21 per cent, up from

around 8 per cent earlier. Monthly sales of the iX1 average nearly 300 units, with a waiting period of up to three months. BMW currently leads India's luxury EV market, ahead of rivals Mercedes-Benz and Volvo. Brar noted that BMW EVs offer parity with petrol and diesel vehicles despite being priced 15–20 per cent higher in the market. Features such as a 530-km driving range, assured buyback plans and lower ownership costs have helped address range anxiety and boost customer confidence.

## India to Clock 6.6 pc Growth in FY27

While US tariffs may impact India's export performance in FY27, strong demand from Europe and the Middle East is expected to mitigate these effects, particularly for key exports like electronics.

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

After an estimated growth of 7.4 per cent in FY26, India may clock GDP growth of 6.6 per cent in FY27 and 6.7 per cent in FY28, finds United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The growth will be supported by resilient consumption and strong public investment, despite US tariffs weighing on export performance. Economic growth in India is projected to moderate from an estimated 7.4 per cent in FY26 to 6.6 per cent in FY27. Resilient private consumption, strong public investment, recent tax reforms, and lower interest rates are expected to support near-term growth, said UN DESA in its global report. However, higher United States tariffs could weigh on export performance in FY27 if current rates per-



sist, as the United States market accounts for about 18 per cent of total exports from India. While tariffs may adversely affect some product categories, key exports such as electronics and smartphones are expected to remain exempt. Moreover, strong demand from other major markets, including Europe and the Middle East, is projected to partially offset the impact. On the supply side, continued expansion in manufacturing and services sectors will remain a key driver of growth throughout the forecast period.

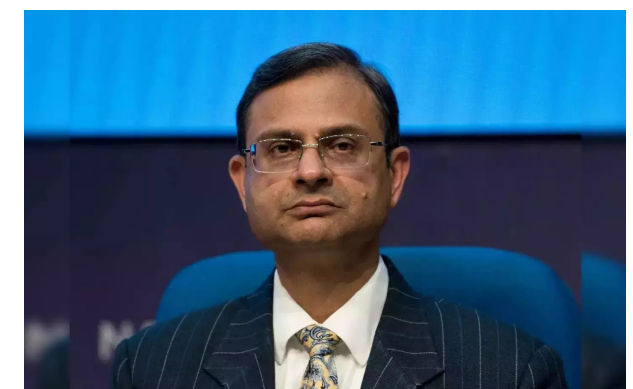
Recent tax reforms and monetary easing should provide additional near-term support. India recorded strong growth in gross fixed capital formation, led by higher public spending on physical and digital infrastructure, defence, and renewable energy. Employment indicators have remained broadly stable in the current year. Unemployment rate stood at 5.2 per cent in October 2025, compared with 4.9 per cent in 2024, while the labour force participation rate edged up in both rural and urban areas during the

second half of the year. Consumer price inflation fell more than expected, averaging 3 per cent in the first nine months of the year amid favourable base effects and lower food prices. Inflation is forecast at 4.1 per cent, close to the central bank's midpoint target. The Reserve Bank of India began its easing cycle in February 2025, lowering the policy rate four times by early December, from 6.5 to 5.25 per cent. Household expectations remain elevated and less anchored despite recent declines in headline inflation. Programmes to expand the domestic production of edible oils and pulses, modernize fertilizer and storage infrastructure, and improve logistics—even if conceived mainly to boost rural incomes and food security—have reduced dependence on imports and exposure to global shock.

## RBI Governor Malhotra Calls for Collaboration to Curb Digital Frauds

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday called for a collaborative effort between the central bank and the regulated entities to protect customers from the menace of rising digital frauds. He called on banks and other regulated entities to build analytics and tools to detect mule accounts and suspicious transactions timely and pre-emptively. In his keynote address 'Regulation and Supervision, adapting to the Digital Age' at the Third Annual Global Conference of the College of Supervisors, Malhotra said, "A key element of this endeavour (customer centricity) should be to protect customers from the menace of rising digital frauds, which has en-



gaged national attention." He said that while banks and other regulated entities individually should continue to improve their tools, techniques and processes in preventing and tackling digital frauds, this is an area where regulated entities need to collaborate with each other to build analytics and tools to detect mule accounts and suspicious transactions timely and pre-emptively. "For all of us, protecting customers' interest is not just a priority – it has to become the

cornerstone of a sustainable and resilient financial system." He said that while digital channels help improve inclusion and convenience, without guardrails, they can also facilitate opaque pricing, weak disclosures and inappropriate recovery practices. The aim should therefore be to ensure that digitalisation and innovations are aligned with fair outcomes for consumers. According to the RBI report on 'Trends and Progress of Banking in India 2024-2025' at the

end of September, banks reported a total of 5,092 frauds, significantly lower than 18,386 frauds reported in the year-ago period. However, the value of frauds rose to ₹21,515 crore from ₹16,569 crore during April-September. On supervisory action and enforcement, the governor said that the purpose of enforcement actions undertaken by the Reserve Bank is generally not punitive. "The intent is largely to correct. They serve two purposes - (i) signal to those against whom such measures have been initiated; and (ii) make others aware of our acceptable standards of conduct and expectations." He said that financial institutions need to imbibe the spirit of regulations, rather than just 'tick-box-based compliance culture.'

# The Raja Saab Draws Meagre ₹9 Crore in Telugu States

Despite massive pre-release buzz and high expectations, Prabhas' latest release *The Raja Saab* has opened to disappointing box-office collections in the Telugu states, sending ripples of concern through film trade circles. The horror-comedy reportedly earned around ₹9 crore net in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on its opening day, a figure considered well below expectations for a film headlined by a star of Prabhas' stature. Trade analysts and distributors expressed surprise at the subdued opening, especially given the aggressive promotions and the actor's strong fan base in the Telugu-speaking states. A leading distributor noted that Prabhas failed to generate the anticipated footfalls, with several centres reporting weak occupancy even during premiere shows. According to trade sources, the film's genre appears to have played a key role in the underperformance, as the actor's attempt at horror-comedy



did not strike a chord with his core audience. Industry insiders pointed out that Prabhas' fans had different expectations from the film, anticipating a larger-than-life commercial entertainer rather than a genre experiment. "Prabhas does not naturally fit into horror-comedy, and that mismatch seems to have affected audience interest, particularly in smaller towns," a distributor observed. Reports suggest that many fans chose to skip theatrical viewing, re-

sulting in muted collections across several regions. The film marks Prabhas' conscious attempt to explore comedy, with the actor reportedly allocating dates to director Maruthi specifically to experiment with a lighter genre. However, early box-office trends indicate that the experiment has not yielded the desired results so far. Trade observers also pointed out that fragmented premiere shows failed to provide the usual opening-day momentum expected from a Prabhas

release. Director Maruthi has faced criticism from trade circles for the film's execution. According to industry feedback, uneven narration, flat humour, and an overdependence on glamour elements diluted the film's impact. A distributor commented that Maruthi was unable to present Prabhas in a compelling or refreshing manner, instead relying on routine jokes and multiple heroines, which failed to elevate the narrative or capitalise on the actor's star appeal. The underwhelming opening has heightened concerns as *The Raja Saab* was reportedly sold for over ₹150 crore in the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana markets. With such a hefty pre-release business, the film now faces an uphill task to recover costs. However, exhibitors remain cautiously optimistic that the ongoing Sankranti holiday season and any improvement in word of mouth could help the film stabilise at the box office in the coming days.

# Telangana Govt Increases Ticket Rates for Chiranjeevi's Movie

*The enhanced rates will be applicable for seven days from January 12 to 18: Govt*

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The State government has approved a temporary increase in ticket prices for Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, starring megastar Chiranjeevi and Nayantara, ahead of its theatrical release on January 12. As per the government order, the ticket price for the premiere show scheduled on January 11 at 8.30 pm has been fixed at ₹600, inclusive of GST. In addition, ticket rates have been enhanced by up to ₹50 in single-screen theatres and ₹100 in multiplexes, including GST. The revised rates will be applicable for a period of seven days, from January 12 to January 18.

To ensure that the benefits of the increased ticket prices extend to film industry workers, the government has directed all theatre managements screening the film at enhanced rates to compulsorily contribute 20 per cent of the incremental revenue earned from the movie. The contribution will be credited to the Telugu Film Industry Employees Federation Welfare Association to support the welfare of cinema workers.

For this purpose, a separate bank account will be opened by the Film Development Corporation (FDC). The account will be operated by the FDC in consulta-



tion with the Labour Commissioner, according to CV Anand, Special Chief Secretary, Home Department. In addition to the financial contribution, theatre managements have been instructed to screen awareness advertisements highlighting the adverse effects of narcotics and drug abuse, as well as the ill-effects of cyber-crimes, during movie screenings.

The District Collectors, Commissioners of Police and Licensing Authorities (Cinemas) across the State have been directed to take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance with the government's orders. All concerned authorities have been asked to monitor implementation and take appropriate action against any violations.

# RK Mission School Student Wins Silver at National Karate Championship



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

P. Bhargavi, a Class 9 student of RK Mission School, achieved a significant milestone by winning a Silver Medal at the 2nd Open National Karate Championship-2026. Her outstanding performance brought pride to her parents, school, and coaches, marking an important achievement at the national level.

The championship was organised by the Dynamic Shotokan Martial Arts Academy and held at the Katedhan Sports Complex Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad. The event witnessed participation from tal-

ented karate practitioners representing different states across the country. Amidst intense competition, Bhargavi demonstrated exceptional technical skills, physical strength, discipline, and mental focus to secure second place in her category.

Bhargavi's success is the result of years of consistent practice, dedication, and commitment to martial arts. Her performance impressed judges and spectators alike, reflecting her ability to compete confidently at a national platform. The silver medal win highlights the growing role of school-level sports training in produc-

ing talented athletes capable of excelling beyond academics.

Congratulating the student, School Correspondent V. Venkata Chary and Principal A. Kishan Rao lauded her determination and perseverance. They stated that RK Mission School firmly believes in providing equal importance to academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. According to them, the institution aims to nurture students holistically so that they grow into confident individuals capable of achieving excellence at state and national levels. They further expressed that such achievements bring rec-

ognition not only to students but also to their parents and the institution.

The achievement was also appreciated by P. Ganesh Nayak, President of Nayak Budokan Karate Academy. He stated that karate training has been conducted at RK Mission School for several years and credited the school management for continuously encouraging students to participate in martial arts. He also acknowledged the school's support in providing the necessary facilities and opportunities that enable students to develop their sporting talents.

Special appreciation was extended to coach P. Pra-

kash Nayak, whose dedicated training, disciplined approach, and constant motivation played a crucial role in Bhargavi's success. His guidance helped the young athlete sharpen her techniques and prepare confidently for national-level competition.

Bhargavi's silver medal victory stands as a source of inspiration for other students and reflects RK Mission School's commitment to promoting sports alongside academic excellence. The achievement reinforces the importance of structured training and institutional support in shaping young athletes for national success.

# Telangana Triathlon Association Holds Executive Meeting



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Executive Committee meeting of the Telangana Triathlon Association was held on January 8, 2026, at the HVS Swimming Pool, Hyderabad, during which key organizational decisions were unanimously approved.

The committee began the meeting by paying condolences to former Secretary M. Krishna, remembering his services to the association. Following this, Surendra Joseph was unanimously

elected as the General Secretary of the Telangana Triathlon Association. His election was proposed by Srisailam and seconded by K. Srinivas.

In another decision, K. Naresh Kumar was elected as Senior Vice President. The proposal was moved by K. Srinivas and seconded by N. Ramkrishna. All the above resolutions were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee members present at the meeting.

# Khelo Yuva Khelo Season-2 Organised in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Guru's Institution on Sunday organised the "Khelo Yuva Khelo - Season 2" One-Day Open Sports Tournament in Hyderabad in memory of late Amarchand Gandhi and Mahavir Gandhi, remembered for their ideals of selfless service and social commitment. The tournament aimed to promote sportsmanship, discipline and healthy competition among degree and intermediate college students from Hyderabad and Secunderabad, drawing enthusiastic participation across multiple sport-



ing events.

Carrying a strong social message, the event encouraged youth to shun substance abuse with slogans such as "Say No to Drugs, Wake Up Young India" and "Stay High on Tournament, Not on Drugs."

The initiative received support from Dr Bhagwat Rao, BJP Hydera-

bad Parliament contestant, who lauded the organisers for combining youth engagement through sports with social awareness. Organised by Shakshi Gandhi, the memorial tournament highlighted the role of sports in building confidence, responsibility and nation-building among young people.

# Osmania Varsity Football Team Qualifies for All-India Championship



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Osmania University men's football team secured third place in the South East Zone Inter-University Football Championship, held at Woxsen University, Hyderabad, from January 4 to 10, 2026.

With this impressive performance, the team has qualified for the All India Inter-University Football Championship 2025-26, which is scheduled to take place in Kolkata from January 30 to February 8, 2026.

# NBKA Students Selected for National Championship



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Students of Nayak Budokan Karate Academy (NBKA), Shiva Ganga Nagar, Chatrinaka, performed excellently at the Open National Karate Championship held at Katedan, Hyderabad. Six-year-old Shirisha Yadav emerged as a star by winning one gold and one silver medal. She hails from Pala village in Mukhed Mandal of Nanded district, Maharashtra, and comes from a financially poor family, proving that talent and determination

can overcome hardships.

The students were congratulated by Temple Chairman Ma Reddy Damodhar Reddy and NBKA President P. Ganesh Nayak, who encouraged them to aim for higher achievements and bring pride to Telangana. The programme was attended by karate masters P. Ganesh Nayak, V. Raju, P. Rahul, and Prakash Naik, who motivated the students. NBKA continues to nurture young talent through disciplined training and expert coaching.

## Telangana ends RTA visits with vehicle registration at showrooms

The Telangana government has simplified vehicle registration by eliminating the need for buyers to visit Regional Transport Authority (RTA) offices for permanent registration. The new system, announced in an official memo on January 8, applies to personal vehicles, including cars and motorcycles, purchased from authorized dealers.

Under the reform, the dealer will now manage the entire registration process on behalf of the buyer at the point of sale. The application will be submitted online through the central Sarathi portal or a dedicated state software platform, expected to go live within the next two weeks. Required documents must be uploaded digitally by the dealer.

Once submitted, a transport department official will verify the documents remotely. Upon approval, a permanent registration number will be assigned, and the smart Registration Certificate (RC) card will be printed and sent to the owner's registered address via speed post. The process is introduced under Rule 48-B of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. While the procedure has been streamlined, all applicable registration fees and taxes will remain unchanged. This initiative is expected to save time, reduce multiple visits to RTA offices, and make vehicle registration more convenient for buyers across Telangana.

## OU students show support to MANU



Students of Osmania University conducted a protest in solidarity with Maulana Azaad National Urdu University (MANUU) on Saturday, January 10, after the Telangana government allegedly issued a show-cause notice to "reclaim" 50 acre of the university land. Students affiliated with the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) student wing raised "Gaddar Revanth Reddy (traitor Revanth Reddy)" and "Save MANUU" slogans, demanding that the government immediately stop land acquisition. On January 8, students of MANUU launched a protest against the Telangana government following a show-cause notice issued to "reclaim" 50 acres of university land located in Manikonda Jagir village, under survey numbers 211 and 212, in the Gandipet Mandal of Ranga Reddy district. They termed the notice a "direct attack" on the future of students from marginalised and backward communities. "We have a shortage of hostels, and departments are forced to run multiple courses in single buildings. This land is not 'surplus,' it is the only space we have for the university's future expansion," former MANUU Students Union President, Umar Farooq, was quoted as saying by News Meter.

## 3 arrested for selling Ganja in 2 separate cases in Hyderabad



The Telangana Police Prohibition and Excise Department sleuths on Saturday, January 10, arrested two people who were allegedly selling ganja in Hyderabad's Afzal Sagar, seizing 1.2 kg of the banned drug from them. Upon receiving information, a Special Task Force (STF) team caught two people, Javeri Lal and Ayesha Fatima, who were allegedly selling the contraband to customers at Mangar Basthi, Afzal Sagar. Eight other people involved in the case are absconding, officials said. A case was booked at the Nampally Prohibition and Excise Station.

In a separate case, one person was caught in Kukatpally, Balanagar, on Saturday, with the police seizing 410 gram of ganja from him. Based on information, the special team raided the house of Y Sunil and caught him. Sunil was allegedly carrying the cannabis in his auto rickshaw. The police registered a case against him.

# Gulzar Houz Kite Market Buzzes Ahead of Sankranti

Students and families flock to Gulzar Houz, buying colourful kites ahead of Sankranti.



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad's kite markets at Gulzar Houz, Hussainialam, and Dhoolpet are bustling as city residents gear up for Sankranti festivities. With school holidays starting today, a huge crowd, especially students, has flocked to the markets, creating a vibrant, festive atmosphere.

Scores of shops have opened in these popular markets, stocked with colourful kites, bobbins, and threads to meet the high demand. Competition among stalls is intense as shopkeepers showcase their

best collections. Paper kites are in huge demand, priced between Rs 50 and Rs 600 depending on size. Flying lanterns are also popular, available at Rs 100 each. According to Owner of Mahboob Aziz Patang House in Gulzar Houz, "Customers start arriving from the afternoon, with students first, followed by office goers in the evening." The markets are set to remain crowded throughout the festival period as Hyderabadis indulge in kite flying, making Sankranti celebrations lively and colourful.



Ahead of the Sankranti festival, residents were seen purchasing colorful kites and threads from temporary stalls set up near Gulzar Houz. The bustling markets reflected the festive spirit as people prepared to celebrate the traditional kite-flying festivities across the city at Hyderabad. —Photo: Mir Zulfeqar Ali

## Erragadda Residents Protest Graveyard Plan

Residents of several colonies in Erragadda staged a protest against the State government's proposal to allot nearby land for a graveyard. The protesters demanded withdrawal of the plan and said the issue was sub judice and unacceptable to residents.



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Over 500 residents from Vasavi Brundavanam, Janapriya, Kalpataru, Brigade Citadel and nearby localities in Erragadda staged a protest on Saturday opposing the State government's proposal to allot adjacent land for a graveyard. The protest was triggered by government orders for land surveying and a letter issued by the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on December 31, 2025. Residents demanded immediate withdrawal of the proposal. Women, children, senior citizens and employees participated in the demonstration, holding placards and raising slogans against the move. They said establishing a graveyard near a densely pop-

ulated residential area would adversely affect the locality. C Hanumantha Naidu, chairman of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) representing Brigade Citadel, Kalpataru, Vasavi Brundavanam and adjoining colonies, termed the proposal unacceptable. He urged the government to either identify an alternative site or withdraw the plan altogether. Residents also questioned the government's decision, stating that officials had earlier informed them the land matter was sub judice. They sought clarity on how the land could be allotted while the issue remained under legal consideration. Naidu said representatives from all affected colonies would soon meet Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and appeal for an early resolution.

## All Telangana govt employees to receive Rs 1 crore accident insurance: Bhatti

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

All Telangana government employees will receive an accident insurance cover of Rs 1.02 crore. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced on Friday, January 9. In a statement, he said that the government has completed consultations with leading banks to provide the insurance cover.

"We have already begun implementing this for Singareni, TRANSCO [Telangana Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited], SPDC [Southern Power Distribution Company Limited], NPDCL [Northern Power Distribution Company Limited] and GENCO [Telangana State Power Generation Corporation]



employees. So far, 38,000 regular Singareni employees and 71,387 employees working in the power department have been covered under the insurance," he said. The scheme aims to ensure financial security for the families of employees who lose their lives in unforeseen accidents, preventing them from falling into distress. Earlier, on January 3, the Deputy Chief Minister held the previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government responsible for the sharp rise in pending dues of retired state

government employees. "The previous administration left us with pending bills worth Rs 40,154 crore as of December 2023, which also include employee arrears," Bhatti had said in the Assembly during its Winter Session. "Of these, we have cleared Rs 1,752 crore out of Rs 6,244 crore in pending dues and are releasing the rest in phases. We have fully cleared Rs 200 crore in pending medical bills and are now releasing an additional Rs 700 crore every month towards retired employees' payments. Since our government took charge, we have been paying salaries on the first day of every month," he said, adding that the BRS government was solely responsible for the accumulation of arrears.

## 3rd protest this week over no job calendar notification

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Young people seeking employment continued to protest over the delay in the job calendar notifications by the Telangana government for the third time this week on Saturday, January 10, in Hyderabad, as unease simmers among the group frustrated over the long wait.

Holding a demonstration at the Chikkadapally library on Saturday, the youth alleged that they had planned a rally from the library to RTC crossroads, but authorities locked them inside the library.

"Our parents have worked hard for our education, but now there is no announcement of job notifications, so we are roaming on the roads unemployed. We demand



that the notification be released as soon as possible," a protestor told reporters. The protests were triggered over the delay in recruitment notifications from the Congress-led government in the state, which had last released a "job calendar" in August 2024 as part of an election promise of providing 2 lakh jobs.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka had released it in the Assembly on August 2, 2024, which consisted of 20 job notifications to be issued from September 2024 to July 2025. The calendar included jobs pertaining to Group 1, 2, and 3 and departments like Health, Telangana State Southern

Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSDDPCL), Telangana Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGNPDCL), etc.

With no such release this year, the youth feel they have been left in lurch.

Similar protests have been held in different parts of the city over the past few days. On Wednesday, January 7, the youth blocked traffic at Dilshuknagar Metro Station carrying banners and raising slogans such as, "We do not want Congress rule," "We want justice, and 'Job calendar announced in the Assembly has to be released immediately."

The next day, on January 8, during a protest in Ashok Nagar, police arrested at least 10 protestors as a preventative measure.

## Centre Attacking Right to Work: Hyderabad DCC

Congress warns MGNREGS dilution will trigger rural distress, labour migration, crop losses, and urban job pressure

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) president Syed Khalid Saifullah on Saturday accused the Centre of systematically weakening the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), warning that the proposed changes would have far-reaching effects on rural livelihoods, agriculture, and urban labour markets. Addressing a press con-

ference at Chintalkunta under the nationwide protest call by the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Saifullah said the amendments amounted to an attack on the constitutional right to work and an attempt to dismantle one of India's key social security schemes. Congress Assembly in-charges Rajesh Kumar Pulipati (Bahadurpura), B. Nagesh (Chandrayangutta), Mohammed Mujeebullah Shareef (Charminar), Shaik Akbar (Malakpet) and K. Ravi Raj (Yakut-



pura) were present. Saifullah warned that weakening MGNREGS would trigger mass migration from villages to cities, adding pressure on urban centres already

struggling with employment, housing, and infrastructure. Rural areas, he added, would face acute shortages of agricultural labour, affecting crops like paddy and vegetables,

lowering production and raising prices. He recalled that under the original scheme, every rural household had a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment annually, with work provided on demand. The proposed changes, he alleged, would turn this legal right into a discretionary benefit controlled by the Union government. Saifullah also raised concerns over wages, erosion of gram panchayat authority, centralisation of works, and contractors'

return. He criticised shifting the financial burden onto states, stagnant wage hikes, delayed payments, and digital systems excluding workers. As part of the "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram", the Congress will conduct village-level meetings, pass gram sabha resolutions, and run awareness campaigns nationwide, demanding a rollback of changes, restoration of the legal right to work, and a national minimum wage of Rs. 400.

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