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## Brief Insights

### RSS Remains Unchanged At Core: Bhagwat



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat declared that the Sangh remains fundamentally unchanged, gradually manifesting and evolving in diverse new forms like a seed transforming into a tree, countering public perceptions of alteration. He emphasised that while some people feel the Sangh is changing, its continuity reflects natural growth as it adapts to new forms.

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### Yuva Shakti Leading Nation-Building: Modi

Lauding India's Gen Z for their creativity and innovative ideas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Yuva Shakti is at the forefront of nation-building with its energy, purpose, and innovation. Addressing the concluding session of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) on National Youth Day, marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, in New Delhi, the Prime Minister said the initiative has, in a short span, emerged as a significant platform enabling young people to actively shape the nation's future.

"Every year on January 12, we celebrate National Youth Day in honour of Swami Vivekananda, whose life and teachings continue to inspire us. Drawing inspiration from him, the Viksit Bharat

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## Revanth Reddy Announces DA for Government Staff as Sankranti Gift

"We will soon appoint a Commission with a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge for the reorganization of districts and mandals," Revanth Reddy said

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday approved a 3.64 percentage point hike in dearness allowance (DA) for government employees and pensioners with effect from July 1, 2023, providing relief to nearly 6.5 lakh beneficiaries. The hike would impose an additional burden of about Rs 287 crore per month. The DA has been enhanced from 30.03 per cent to 33.67 per cent, benefiting about 3.5 lakh employees and nearly 3 lakh pensioners. The enhanced DA will be paid along with the salary for January 2026, which is payable on February 1. The Chief Minister announced the decision, which he described as a Sankranti gift, while addressing employees at a meeting after releasing the Annual Diary 2026 of the Telangana Gazetted Employees Association. Revanth Reddy strongly objected to the BRS alle-



gations that leaders of employee unions had colluded with the government. The relationship between the government and its employees was cordial and transparent, and any attempt to create a rift was politically motivated, he said. The Chief Minister accused the previous BRS government of pushing the state into a debt trap of over Rs 8 lakh crore. The Congress government was grappling with its consequences, he said. The state was generating around Rs 18,000 crore in monthly revenue but was forced to spend nearly Rs 22,500 crore every month, including debt servicing.

He compared the government's situation to that of a middle-class family striving to manage its expenses with limited resources while maintaining dignity and responsibility. Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS government had increased the retirement age from 58 to 61 years to postpone payment of retirement benefits. When the Congress assumed office, nearly 1,000 employees were retiring every month, and on average, about Rs 1 crore had to be paid as retirement benefits for each employee. The previous regime had left behind dues amounting to nearly Rs 11,000 crore.

### CM Revanth Suggests Appointing Transgenders as Corporators in Civic Bodies

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday mooted the idea of ensuring representation for transgender persons in urban local bodies by nominating one person from the community as a corporator in every municipal corporation in the upcoming civic elections. He suggested that transgender persons be co-opted as members in civic bodies so that they have a platform to voice their concerns and participate in local governance. Drawing a parallel with the existing practice of co-opting members of minority communities into the zilla parishads and municipalities, the Chief Minister said a similar approach could empower the transgender community and integrate them more meaningfully into democratic processes.

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## India, Germany to simplify defence trade: PM Modi

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

India and Germany on Monday finalised measures to deepen economic and security cooperation, including a roadmap for defence industrial collaboration, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Friedrich Merz describing the two countries as natural partners in a world grappling with geopolitical upheaval and uncertainty. Merz, on his first visit to Asia since taking office last year, was accompanied by a large business delegation to emphasise the importance of bolstering economic ties with India amid unpredictability created by US trade policies. During talks with Modi in Ahmedabad, Merz underscored the importance of finalising the India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement to drive trade and investment.

The two sides finalised 19 agreements, including



a joint declaration of intent on strengthening bilateral defence industrial cooperation, and unveiled other measures such as a Track 1.5 foreign policy and security dialogue and a dialogue region that will see them working more closely on defence and security matters. "The growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade," Modi told a media interaction, referring to Germany's easing of strict procedures for defence exports that has

benefited India in recent years. "We will also work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between our defence industries, which will open up new opportunities for co-development and co-production," Modi said, speaking in Hindi. Merz emphasised the need to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership amid "profound geopolitical changes and upheavals in the world". He said, "Europe and trans-Atlantic relations remain important to us. Today, we need to forge a broader network of partnerships and we need to do so swiftly."

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## Sankranti Rush Continues on Hyd-Vijayawada Highway

NEW DELHI: The Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway continued to witness heavy rush for the third consecutive day on Monday with several people from Hyderabad heading to their native places in Andhra Pradesh to celebrate Sankranti festival. Cars and other vehicles are moving slowly at the Pantangi toll plaza. Authorities have opened 10 toll booths for ve-



hicles, which are going towards Vijayawada. Vehicles are moving slowly at Pedakaparthi, Chityala, Kodad, and Ramapuram. The police officials de-

ployed additional personnel at the places where the traffic was moving slowly to clear the festival rush. Many families started going to their native places from Saturday onwards as the State governments in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh declared holidays for educational institutions on account of the festival.

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### Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Hiked By Rs 111, Domestic Rates Unchanged

The price of commercial LPG cylinders has been increased with effect from Thursday, January 1, bringing some pressure on costs to hotels, restaurants and other commercial users at the start of the new year. Oil marketing companies have raised the price of the 19 kg commercial LPG gas cylinder by Rs 111 with immediate effect. Following this revision, the retail sale price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now stands at Rs 1,691.50. Along with the increase in commercial LPG rates, the prices of 5 kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders have also been raised. The cost of the 5 kg FTL cylinder has gone up by Rs 27, effective January 1.

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## TG IAS officers' body complains against news channels over defamatory telecast

IAS Officers' Association complained to police over defamatory TV content; case registered.

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana IAS Officers' Association members have lodged a formal complaint with Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar against several private news channels over the telecast of what they described as defamatory and baseless content targeting women IAS officers and a State minister. The association in its formal complaint on Saturday alleged that the broadcast aired unverified claims and fabricated narratives, misrepresenting administrative processes and casting aspersions on the integrity and dignity of serving officers. The representatives said the content violated privacy, promoted a regres-

sive narrative against women in public service, and amounted to character assassination. Condemning the telecast, the association demanded the immediate withdrawal of the content and a public apology, warning of legal action if accountability was not ensured. It further stated that civil and criminal remedies were being explored and asserted that any attempt to malign constitutional officers or demoralise officers would be met with a strong institutional response. Based on the complaint, the Hyderabad Central Crime Station officials have booked a case and are investigating.

## Suspected Pakistan drones sighted along LoC in J&K's Naushera-Rajouri sector

The development prompted the Indian Army to undertake counter-unmanned aerial systems measures.

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Suspected Pakistani drones were sighted along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Naushera-Rajouri sector of Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday night, prompting swift countermeasures by the Indian Army, defence sources said. According to the sources, Indian Army troops detected the presence of a few drones believed to have been operated by the Pakistan Army. In response, counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) measures were immediately activated, forcing the drones to retreat back across the LoC. No casualties or material damage were reported in the incident. "The drones were sighted in the Naushera-Rajouri sector. Indian Army troops undertook counter-unmanned aerial systems measures, which com-



elled the drones to return," defence sources said, adding that the situation remains under close surveillance. The incident comes amid heightened security concerns along the international border and the LoC, particularly following the recent recovery of arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district. Earlier on Saturday, the Border Security Force (BSF) and Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a joint search operation after receiving specific inputs about a suspicious consignment in the border village of Paloora in

Samba district. During the operation, security forces recovered a cache of weapons and ammunition suspected to have been dropped using drones. The recovered items included a made-in-China 9mm pistol with two magazines, a Glock 9mm pistol with one magazine, and a Chinese hand grenade bearing the marking "SPL HGR 84." In addition, police said that 16 live 9mm cartridges were also found in the consignment. Security agencies believe the recovered arms were intended to aid terror-related activities in the region. Investigations are under way to identify the handlers and end recipients of the consignment, while additional search operations and surveillance have been intensified along the border to prevent further infiltration or weapon drops.

## India-US Trade Deals Today: US Envoy Gor

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor assumed office in New Delhi on Monday and immediately announced that India and the United States would take the "next call" on the proposed trade deal on Tuesday. Terming India-US ties as "the most consequential global partnership of this century", Gor said that "no partner (for the US) is more essential than India", adding: "In the months and years ahead, it is my goal as ambassador to pursue a very ambitious agenda. We will do this as true strategic partners, each bringing strength, respect and leadership to the table... We are raising the standard for diplomacy itself. That means fair trade, mutual respect and shared security." Gor also announced India would be invited next month to join the Pax Silica, a US-led initiative



on silicon supply chains relating to critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Gor, a close confidante of US President Donald Trump, is expected to present his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu soon. On the proposed bilateral trade deal with India that his country is still negotiating, Gor said: "Many of you have asked me for an update on the ongoing trade deal negotiations. Both sides continue to actively engage. In fact, the next call on trade will occur tomorrow. Remember, India is the world's largest nation, so it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line,"

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### SC seeks EC reply on TMC MPs' plea over West Bengal electoral rolls

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Election Commission on fresh interim pleas of Trinamool Congress MPs alleging arbitrariness and procedural irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joyymalya Bagchi took note of applications filed by lawmakers Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen in their pending petitions challenging procedural actions in the ongoing SIR in the state. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Derek O'Brien, said the EC's instructions on the SIR are being issued through social media platforms like WhatsApp and made booth-level officers (BLOs) act without formal orders. Sibal also said the poll panel has introduced a 'logical discrepancy' category of voters, who may be issued notice for a quasi-judicial hearing on their eligibility over errors or anomalies in voter

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ESTD-1960

## ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

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

## 5K Run Promotes Drug-Free Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chevella MP Visweswar Reddy and Medak MP Raghunandan Rao called on citizens to actively contribute to making Hyderabad drug-free, highlighting the urgent need to tackle drug abuse at both local and global levels.

The call was made during a National Youth Day event organized to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's Jayanti. The program, hosted by The Quantum School and Excellency Junior College at Kokapet campus, brought together students and their parents for a 5-kilometer run aimed at promoting health, awareness, and community engagement. As chief guests, MPs Visweswar Reddy and



Raghunandan Rao addressed the gathering, underlining the growing threat of drugs, which they described as a pressing social issue affecting families and communities. They stressed that awareness, education, and collective action are essential to combat the rising drug menace. The MPs praised participants for braving cold weather to join the run



and for their enthusiastic support of the campaign. They urged every citizen to take responsibility, emphasizing that a drug-free society requires the active involvement of all sections of the com-

munity. The event successfully combined fitness, youth engagement, and social consciousness, leaving a strong message about the importance of collective action against drug abuse. Both MPs concluded by encouraging vigilance, personal responsibility, and sustained efforts to eradicate drugs from Hyderabad. The program was organized under the leadership of Raghunath Vereballi, Director; Dr. Pavan Kumar, Head of Operations; and Mahesh Mohal, Event Director. Their coordinated efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the event and reinforced the campaign's central message: that community participation is vital in creating a safer, healthier, and drug-free city.

## DRDO successfully tests indigenous fire-and-forget anti-tank missile

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory, Hyderabad has successfully flight tested Third Generation Fire and Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) with top attack capability in KK Ranges, Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra, according to a press release here on Monday.

The indigenously developed MPATGM consists of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies like Imaging Infrared (IIR) Homing Seeker, all electric Control Actuation System, Fire Control System, Tandem Warhead, propulsion system and high-performance sighting system. All these systems have been developed by DRDO's sister laboratories namely Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh,



High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and Instruments Research & Development Establishment, Dehradun. The Thermal Target System was developed by Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur to simulate the target tank. The IIR seeker is well accomplished with day and night combat operation capability. The warhead is capable of defeating modern main Battle Tanks. Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited are the Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPP) for the weapon System. The

missile can be launched from Tripod or Military Vehicle Launcher. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, DcPP Partners and the Industry for the successful test. He termed it as an important step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Congratulating the team, Department of Defence R&D Secretary and DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat said the trial target was successfully conducted, thereby leading the weapon system for induction into the Indian Army.

## Road Safety Drive at Indira Gandhi Statue Junction

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Alwal Traffic Police, in collaboration with Sarvejana Foundation and Dr. Gurava Reddy, M.D., KIMS Sunshine Hospitals, organized a road safety awareness program at Indira Gandhi Statue Junction under Alwal Traffic Police limits. The initiative, part of the organizations' Corporate Social Responsibility program, aimed to promote responsible driving habits and reduce risky behavior at traffic junctions under Malkajgiri Commissionerate. ACP G. Shankar Raju, Traffic Tirumalagiri Division, and Inspector



Shankaraiah, along with SIs and other Alwal Traffic personnel, led the program. Citizens were engaged through a special performance by an artist portraying Yamadharm Raju, which highlighted important traffic rules, helmet and seatbelt usage, stop line discipline, and overall road

safety. Compliant commuters were appreciated with chocolates and roses, while enforcement measures were simultaneously implemented. Penalties were imposed for violations such as signal jumping, triple riding, wrong parking, and driving without helmets or seatbelts. Traffic ACP G. Shankar Raju appealed to all commuters: "Follow traffic rules; your safety is in your hands." Media representatives are requested to widely publicize such awareness and enforcement programs to ensure the safety of citizens.

## Jampana Pratap Pays Tribute to PJR on 78th Birth Anniversary

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Congress leader and former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap paid tribute to legendary trade unionist and five-time MLA PJR on his 78th birth anniversary, calling him "a leader etched in workers' hearts forever." The event at New Boyinapally playground drew a large crowd of party workers and supporters. Jampana Pratap gar-



landed PJR's portrait and cut a commemorative cake, recalling his lifelong dedication to workers and the underprivileged. "PJR rose through sheer commitment, solving laborers' problems and advocating tirelessly for public welfare," he said. He highlighted PJR's role in addressing drinking water issues in Hyderabad and his pivotal contributions to the Telangana state-

hood movement. Senior Congress leaders, including Muppidi Madhukar, Hari Krishna, Bangaru Sadanandam, Maruti Goud, Gomati, Marri Lakshman Reddy, Prabhukumar Goud, Ashok Kumar, and Mukesh Yadav, attended, reflecting party unity. The program underscored PJR's lasting impact on social justice and labor rights, inspiring future generations to uphold his legacy of service.

## Vivekananda's Interpretation of Advaita Remains Central to India's Intellectual Tradition: Prof. Yudhveer Katta

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, Prof. and scientist Yudhveer Katta, an IIT Madras alumnus and Convener of the BJP Intellectual Cell, said that Swami Vivekananda's reinterpretation of Jagatguru Shri Adi Shankaracharya's Advaita philosophy provides a powerful intellectual foundation for India's modern engagement with education, science, and nation-building. Prof. Katta observed that Vivekananda must be understood as a philosophical successor to Adi Shankaracharya, who revitalised Advaita Vedanta, while extending it from metaphysical inquiry to social and national action. "Vivekananda transformed Shankaracharya's Advaita from a doctrine of liberation into a dynamic framework for societal regeneration," he said. Elaborating on the concepts of Daivatva (divin-



ity inherent in the human being) and Adaitvatya (the denial or neglect of this inherent divinity), Prof. Katta noted that Vivekananda interpreted Advaita as a call to awaken human potential rather than withdraw from the world. According to him, Vivekananda argued that social stagnation arises from Adaitvatya—forgetfulness of one's divine nature—while national resurgence requires the realisation of Daivatva through education, strength, and ethical conduct. Highlighting Vivekananda's educational philosophy, Prof. Katta said it was deeply rooted in Advaita, viewing education as the process of manifesting the perfection already present within the individual. This approach, he noted, aligns with contemporary thinking on experiential learning, intellectual autonomy, and character formation, moving beyond rote-based pedagogy.

From a scientific standpoint, Prof. Katta underlined that Vivekananda did not see a contradiction between Advaita and scientific inquiry. Instead, Vivekananda envisioned a civilisational balance where empirical science operates within an ethical and philosophical framework, preventing purely materialistic interpretations of progress. Prof. Katta further emphasized that Vivekananda's Advaitic humanism placed the youth at the centre of national regeneration, advocating fearlessness, discipline, and service as expressions of realised divinity. Concluding his remarks, Prof. Katta urged scholars and policymakers to engage with Vivekananda's writings as serious philosophical texts rooted in the Shankaracharya tradition, offering India a confident, ethical, and knowledge-driven civilisational vision.

## Traffic curbs imposed after Madhapur road cave-in



Traffic movement near Madhapur Cyber Gate has been affected due to a road cave-in, resulting in congestion on the stretch from IKEA towards Cyber Towers and JNTU. Cyberabad Police said restoration works are being undertaken by the departments concerned, and necessary traffic diversion arrangements have been made to ensure smooth flow of vehicles. Commuters travelling from IKEA towards Cyber Towers and JNTU were advised to follow the notified diversions or use alternative routes for the next five days to avoid inconvenience. As part of the diversion, traffic coming from IKEA will be diverted at Lemon Tree Hotel/Raidurgam Metro Station via Tech Mahindra-CII Junction towards Cyber Towers, and thereafter proceed towards JNTU through the regular route.

## Expose Congress Failures: Harish Rao to BRS Cadre in Medak

Harish Rao Calls for Hard-Hitting BRS Campaign Ahead of Medak Municipal Polls



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former minister T Harish Rao on Monday urged Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders and cadre from the erstwhile Medak district to intensify efforts to expose what he termed as the failures of the Congress government during the forthcoming municipal election campaign. Addressing a review meeting of BRS leaders from 17 municipalities and the party in-charges appointed to oversee the campaign, held at his residence in Hyderabad, Harish Rao alleged that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy-led government had completely neglected urban local bodies over the last two years. He claimed that municipal administration had been paralysed due to the absence of regular funding and lack of governance focus. Recalling the Pattana Pragathi programme implemented during the BRS regime under former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao said

that towns and municipalities earlier received monthly financial assistance, enabling uninterrupted development works and efficient civic administration. He contrasted this with the present situation, stating that basic civic services had deteriorated after the Congress came to power. The former minister also raised concerns over disruptions in urban drinking water supply. He pointed out that the BRS government had ensured water connections to every household through the Mission Bhagiratha scheme, whereas the current government had failed to maintain consistent water supply in towns and cities. He attributed this to what he described as the Congress government's lack of commitment to addressing people's everyday problems. Harish Rao further accused the Congress of renegeing on key election promises. He reminded party workers that the Congress had assured ₹4,000 pension to eligible beneficiaries and ₹2,500

per month to every woman under the Mahalakshmi scheme but had failed to implement these commitments even two years after assuming office. He said these unfulfilled promises had caused widespread disappointment among the public. Referring to the recent gram panchayat elections, Harish Rao said the BRS had put up a strong fight, indicating growing public dissatisfaction with the ruling party. He called upon BRS leaders and workers to capitalise on this sentiment by conducting door-to-door campaigns, clearly explaining how the Congress had, according to him, cheated the people by going back on its promises. Emphasising the importance of digital outreach, Harish Rao urged the cadre to effectively use social media platforms to spread awareness about the alleged failures of the Congress government. He asserted that urban voters felt betrayed and were eagerly waiting to teach the Congress a lesson in the upcoming municipal elections.

## BRSV Questions Delay in ₹1,000 Cr Osmania Funds

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BRSV State Secretary Nagram Prashanth on Monday questioned when the Telangana government would release the ₹1,000 crore announced for Osmania University by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Addressing a press conference at the Arts College on the OU campus, he alleged that despite the CM's visit to the univer-



sity about 40 days ago, no tangible benefit had reached the institution. Prashanth claimed that the Chief Minister's visit was limited to photo opportunities and the issuance of a "meaningless" government order, while pressing issues at the uni-

versity remained unresolved. He expressed concern over the state of higher education in Telangana, stating that poor infrastructure and lack of support were contributing to severe distress among students. He further criticised the government for spending hundreds of crores on events and ministerial tours while neglecting basic needs in educational institutions, including in-

frastructure development, hostel facilities, and food quality in hostels. Demanding immediate action, Prashanth urged the government to prioritise higher education and release the promised funds to Osmania University without delay. BRSV OU leaders Elpukonda Ramakrishna, Singireddy Prashanth Reddy, Dhara-vath Santhosh Naik, Damodar, Madhu, and others were present.

**BRS aims to sweep Karimnagar municipal polls, says Gangula Kamalakar**



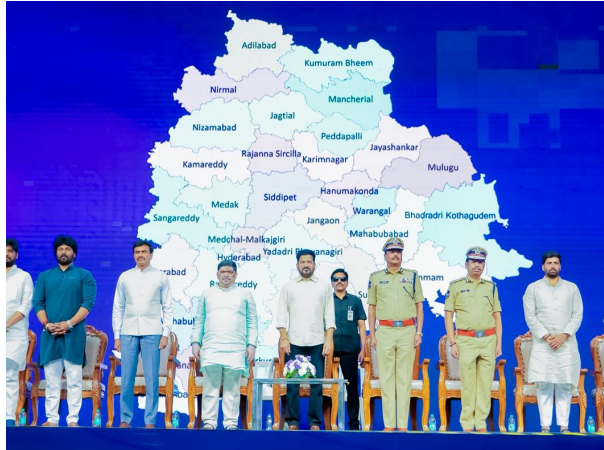
Local MLA Gangula Kamalakar called upon party workers to strive for the victory of BRS candidates in the forthcoming municipal elections in the district. Expressing confidence, Kamalakar said that besides Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, the BRS would capture Huzurabad, Choppadandi and Jammikunta municipalities. BRS working president KT Rama Rao is scheduled to participate in the party's sarpanches meeting in Karimnagar on January 19. The district unit organised a preparatory meeting with party leaders at the district party office in Chinthakunta here on Monday. Later, speaking to reporters, Kamalakar said that development which was not achieved in 45 years had taken place in Karimnagar, Jammikunta, Huzurabad and Choppadandi during the ten-year regime of the BRS government. Stating that development works were their main weapon to seek votes, he said the BRS, which had developed municipalities on all fronts, had a moral right to seek public support. He added that even after two years of the Congress coming to power in the State, no significant development had taken place. Senior party leader B Vinod Kumar stressed the need to demonstrate the strength of the BRS once again in the municipal elections. Huzurabad MLA Padi Koushik Reddy said the party had performed better than expected in the recent gram panchayat elections and should continue the same momentum in the municipal polls as well. Party district president GV Ramakrishna Rao, former MLAs Rasamai Balkishan, Sunke Ravishankar and V Sathish Kumar, among others.

# CM Revanth Reddy Proposes Auto-Debit System for Traffic Challans

**■ Revanth Reddy wants cops to start auto debit system, no discounts for traffic challans**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday proposed a major reform in traffic enforcement by suggesting the introduction of an auto-debit system for traffic challans, directly linking penalties to vehicle owners' bank accounts. He said such a system would ensure strict compliance with traffic rules and eliminate habitual violations. Addressing a road safety programme, the Chief Minister said that bank account details of vehicle owners should be synchronised with the transport department at the time of vehicle registration. Once this linkage is established, any traffic violation—such as over-speeding or other offences—would automatically result in the challan amount being debited from the owner's bank account. "When a person registers a vehicle, their bank account details should also be recorded. If the vehicle violates traffic rules, the challan amount should be directly de-



ducted without delay," Revanth Reddy said, emphasising that this would instil greater discipline among motorists. The Chief Minister also strongly criticised the practice of offering discounts or concessions on traffic challans. He observed that many violators continue to break rules with the expectation that the government or police would later announce rebates, allowing them to clear pending challans at reduced rates. Such a mindset, he said, defeats the very purpose of traffic enforcement. "Not a single paisa should be reduced on traffic challans. Strict enforcement alone can bring behavioural

change," he asserted, calling for an end to concession schemes. Highlighting the seriousness of road safety issues, Revanth Reddy said the State government has identified road accidents as one of the most critical areas requiring urgent attention. He pointed out that more lives are being lost in road accidents than soldiers on the nation's borders, underscoring the gravity of the situation. Referring to recent tragic incidents involving the deaths of children of Cabinet Ministers, film personalities and police personnel in road accidents, the Chief Minister said these incidents reflect a disturbing trend.

He attributed many such accidents to parents allowing minors to drive vehicles without adequate awareness, as well as to drunk driving. He stressed that the police must adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards minors driving vehicles and those involved in drunken driving. Strict action, he said, is essential to prevent further loss of lives and to send a strong message to society. The Chief Minister further revealed that the government is considering enacting new laws through the traffic and transport departments to strengthen enforcement mechanisms. He said the State is working on re-vamping and modernising the traffic department, equipping it with better systems, technology and legal backing to ensure safer roads. Re-iterating the government's commitment to public safety, Revanth Reddy said comprehensive reforms and tough enforcement are the only way to reduce accidents and protect lives on Telangana's roads.

**Mahabubnagar turns pink as BRS takes out massive bike rally**

Mahabubnagar town turned into a sea of pink on Monday as thousands of BRS activists took out a massive bike rally with over 6,000 two-wheelers, giving a grand welcome to party working president KT Rama Rao. Amid chants of "KCR Zindabad" and "KTR Zindabad", they took out the rally, which stretched for around 11 km. Rama Rao was first received in Shadnagar, where jubilant cadres surrounded his convoy. He greeted supporters before moving ahead in a spirited procession to the MBC Grounds, where he felicitated BRS-backed Sarpanches, Deputy Sarpanches and ward members who won in the recent Panchayat elections despite what he termed "Congress suppression". In Jachchera too, the reception was overwhelming. Rama Rao and former Minister C Laxma Reddy were welcomed at every junction as cadres showered petals, held party flags and lined the Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway in large numbers. At Peddapally crossroads in Balanagar mandal, the BRS working president unfurled the party flag and thanked workers for their support. "It felt like the 2028 elections were already won and KCR had become Chief Minister again," he said, responding to the overwhelming welcome.

**All-New Kia Seltos Launched in Hyderabad; Prices from ₹10.99L**



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kia India unveiled the All-New Kia Seltos at Prospera Kia – Somajiguda, offering customers an opportunity to experience the next-generation mid-size SUV. Launched by Ponnamp Prabhakar, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Government of Telangana, in the presence of Sirajuddin Babu Khan, Managing Director, Prospera Kia, the new Seltos is priced from ₹10.99 lakh (ex-showroom). Built on Kia's India-first global K3 platform, the SUV delivers enhanced scale, sophistication, and capability, featuring segment-leading length of 4,460 mm, width of 1,830 mm, and a longer wheelbase of 2,690 mm. The exterior reflects Kia's "Opposites United" design philosophy with the new Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube LED projector headlamps, Star Map LED DRLs, automatic streamline door handles, sporty 18-inch alloy wheels, and connected LED tail lamps. The Seltos is offered in 10 mono-

tone shades, including new Morning Haze and Magma Red. The cabin combines technology and premium comfort with a 30-inch Trinity Panoramic Display Panel, Premium Bose 8-speaker audio, ventilated front seats, 10-way power-adjustable driver seat with memory, dual-pane panoramic sunroof, and 64-colour ambient lighting. Safety is a key focus, with a robust 24-standard safety package, six airbags, ABS, Hill-Start Assist, and an ADAS Level-2 suite offering 21 autonomous features, complemented by a 360-degree surround view camera and Blind View Monitor. The All-New Seltos comes with versatile powertrains including Smartstream G1.5 Petrol, 1.5 T-GDI Petrol, and 1.5L CRDi VGT Diesel, paired with 6MT, 6iMT, IVT, 7DCT, and 6AT transmissions. Available in four trims – HTE, HTK, HTX, GTX/X-Line – with optional Convenience, Premium, ADAS, and X-Line packs, the SUV caters to diverse customer preferences.

## Secunderabad Temple Committee Protests Theft of Ancient Ornaments

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Temple administrators and committee leaders from Secunderabad's Ganesh Temple staged a protest on Monday following a daring robbery at the renowned Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Ammavari temple in Regimental Bazaar. The theft occurred around midnight on Saturday, when a miscreant broke the locks, entered the sanctum, desecrated the goddess, and stole valuable ancient ornaments. Stolen items include gold mangalsutras, a silver crown, abhaya hastas, sandals, and contributions from a donation



box commissioned in the 1980s. Temple committee members discovered the break-in at 6 AM on Sunday and promptly lodged a police complaint. The thief also intruded into an adjacent enclosure, killing four small goat kids, further shocking the local community. Leading the protest,

Cantonment Mala Mahanadu president K.V. Suresh demanded that senior police officials take immediate responsibility for recovering the stolen artifacts, emphasizing their centuries-old cultural and religious significance. He called for stringent security measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

## Officials gearing up for municipal elections in Khammam and Kothagudem

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With the State government planning to hold municipal elections soon, election officials in erstwhile Khammam have been busy preparing voters' lists and releasing draft electoral rolls. Five municipalities — Khammam, Sathupalli, Madhira, Wyra, Edulapuram and Kallur — will go to the polls, while the term of Khammam Municipal Corporation has not ended yet. The newly formed Edulapuram Municipality with 32 wards has the highest number of 45,256 voters as per the draft rolls. In Sathupalli Municipality, there are 28,411 voters, of which 14,970 are women, 13,426 are men and 15 others. Madhira, with 22 wards, has 25,679 voters — 13,424 women, 12,251 men and four others. In Wyra Municipality, which has 20 wards, there are 24,689 voters — 12,991 women, 11,696 men and two others. In Kallur Municipality,



also with 20 wards, there are 18,866 voters — 9,785 women and 9,081 men. In Kothagudem district, the newly formed Kothagudem Municipal Corporation as well as Aswaraopet Municipality will go to the polls along with Yellandu Municipality. The final list of electoral rolls of Kothagudem Municipal Corporation was released on Monday by municipal commissioner K Sujatha. There are 1.34 lakh voters in 60 municipal divisions — 70,314 women, 64,431 men and 30 others. As per the draft rolls, Yellandu Municipality with 24 wards has 33,777 voters — 17,523 women, 16,250 men and four others. In Aswaraopet, which has 22 wards, there are 8,762 women, 8,084 men and four others.

## Senior Congress leader Ravinder Rao joins BRS in presence of KTR

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy suggested that the traffic police introduce an auto debit system for the payment of traffic challans, directly linking the amount to the vehicle owner's bank account. He said the vehicle owner's bank account should be synchronised with the department while registering a vehicle so that whenever a challan is issued, the amount is automatically deducted. Revanth Reddy made the suggestion while addressing a road safety programme here on Monday. "When an owner gets a vehicle registered, his bank account details should also be recorded. When a vehicle is involved in over-speeding or any other violation, the traffic challan amount should be debited from the owner's account," he said. The Chief Minister also found fault with the traffic police for offering discounts on traffic challans. He said many violators were confident that they would eventually



be given concessions and could clear pending challans later. "Not a single paisa should be reduced on the traffic challan," Revanth Reddy said. The State government has identified road accidents as one of the key areas requiring serious focus. He said more people were losing their lives in road accidents than soldiers on the borders. Referring to the recent deaths of children of Cabinet Ministers, film personalities and police personnel in road accidents, he said this was largely due to parents allowing minors to drive vehicles without awareness and because of drunk driving.

## Sankranti Rangoli Contest at Praja City

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of the Sankranti festival, grand rangoli (muggu) competitions were organized for residents at Praja City Apartments in the Hafeezpet Division. Balang Laxmi Goutham Goud attended the event as the chief guest and presented sarees as prizes to the winners. Women residents of the colony enthusiastically participated in the competitions, showcasing their creativity and artistic skills through vibrant and colorful rangoli designs. The rangolis, created in a traditional style reflecting Telugu



culture and customs, drew special appreciation from the guests and residents alike. After closely observing the entries, the chief guest awarded prizes to those who presented the best designs. Speaking on the occasion, Balang Laxmi Goutham Goud said that Sankranti symbolizes the rich traditions and cul-

tural heritage of the Telugu people. She noted that rangolis drawn in front of homes are considered an invitation to Goddess Lakshmi and represent prosperity and positivity. She added that organizing such competitions not only helps preserve age-old traditions for future generations but also strengthens unity and harmony

among colony residents. She congratulated all the women who took part in the competition for their active participation. The event was attended by members of the Praja City Association, senior residents of the colony, and a large number of women including Shiva Nagamani, Surekha, Ramya, Sharada, Shivakumari, Madhavi, Mounika, Shruthi, and Kumari. Residents expressed their gratitude to the organizers for successfully conducting the competitions and thanked the chief guest for encouraging cultural activities and honoring the participants with prizes.

## Youth Inspired by Vivekananda at 163rd Birth Anniversary

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap urged the youth to draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's resilience and timeless wisdom, emphasizing the metaphor of rising and falling ocean waves as guidance for navigating life's challenges. Speaking as the chief guest at the 163rd birth anniversary celebrations organized by the New Boyinapally Swami Vivekananda Welfare Association, Pratap highlighted



Vivekananda's global contributions, including his iconic Chicago speech that introduced Vedanta philosophy to the world. He encouraged young people to embrace self-reliance, service, and national pride, channeling the saint's energy into

practical action. The event drew a large gathering of community members who participated in garlanding Vivekananda's statue, cutting a commemorative cake, and attending cultural performances and inspirational talks. Members

including Shashiraj Yadav, Vishwanadham, Prakash Yadav, Muthyalu Mallesh Yadav, Marri Lakshman Reddy, Prabhukumar Goud, Jagadish Yadav, Stanley, and Satyanarayana actively took part, reciting Vivekananda's quotes and pledging to uphold his ideals in daily life. The celebration reflects ongoing efforts in Visakhapatnam to revive Vivekananda's teachings, fostering spiritual education and empowering the youth amid modern aspirations for purpose-driven lives.

## Yuva Shakti Leading Nation-Building: Modi

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Lauding India's Gen Z for their creativity and innovative ideas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Yuva Shakti is at the forefront of nation-building with its energy, purpose, and innovation. Addressing the concluding session of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) on National Youth Day, marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, in New Delhi, the Prime Minister said the initiative has, in a short span, emerged as a significant platform enabling young people to actively shape the nation's future. "Every year on January 12, we celebrate National Youth Day in honour of Swami Vivekananda, whose life



and teachings continue to inspire us. Drawing inspiration from him, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was launched," he said. Referring to presentations made during the event, the Prime Minister said they reflected the strong resolve of India's Amrit Peedhi to build a developed nation. He congratulated the young participants and members of Mera Yuva

Bharat for the successful conduct of the dialogue. Recalling the period before 2014, he described it as an era marked by policy paralysis, excessive red tape, and limited opportunities for youth. He said young people earlier faced cumbersome procedures for jobs, examinations, and entrepreneurship, with delayed decision-making and weak policy implementation. "What ap-

pears abnormal today was routine a decade ago," he said, adding that governance reforms have since transformed the experience of India's youth. Highlighting the growth of the startup ecosystem, the Prime Minister said there were fewer than 500 registered startups before 2014. "In the absence of a startup culture, government intervention dominated most sectors, and the talent and capabilities of our youth did not get the opportunity to fulfil their dreams," he said. He said his confidence in the abilities of young Indians led to a new development approach focused on empowering innovators. Initiatives such as Startup India, Digital India, Ease of Doing Business, and simplified tax and

compliance regimes, he said, opened up previously government-dominated sectors and accelerated the startup revolution. The Prime Minister added that reforms over the past decade have gained momentum with youth at their core. He cited next-generation GST reforms and tax relief up to ₹12 lakh as measures aimed at simplifying processes and boosting savings for young professionals and entrepreneurs. Noting the rising demand for energy driven by artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing, he said reforms in the civil nuclear energy sector, including the SHANTI Act, would ensure assured power supply, create large-scale employment, and generate positive spillover ef-

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Lauds Successful Test Of Indigenous MPATGM

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), its industry partners and the defence industry after the successful flight test of the Third Generation Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) with top attack capability, describing it as an important step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. In a post on X, RMO India said, "Third Generation Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) with top attack capability was flight tested successfully against moving target by the Defence Research and Development Labo-



ratory (DRDL), Hyderabad. Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh has complimented DRDO, DCCP Partners and Industry for the successful test of Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile with top attack capability and termed it an important step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat." According to a release from Ministry of Defence, Third Generation Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) with top attack capability was flight-tested successfully against a moving target in KK Ranges, Ahilya

Nagar, Maharashtra by DRDO's Defence Research & Development Laboratory, Hyderabad on January 11, 2026. The indigenously developed MPATGM consists of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies like Imaging Infrared (IIR) Homing Seeker, all electric Control Actuation System, Fire Control System, Tandem Warhead, propulsion system and high performance sighting system, which are developed by DRDO's sister laboratories namely Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune and Instruments Research & Development Establishment, Dehradun.

## Commercial LPG Cylinder Price Hiked By Rs 111, Domestic Rates Unchanged

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The price of commercial LPG cylinders has been increased with effect from Thursday, January 1, bringing some pressure on costs to hotels, restaurants and other commercial users at the start of the new year. Oil marketing companies have raised the price of the 19 kg commercial LPG gas cylinder by Rs 111 with immediate effect. Following this revision, the retail sale price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi now stands at Rs 1,691.50. Along with the increase in commercial LPG rates, the prices of 5 kg Free Trade



LPG (FTL) cylinders have also been raised. The cost of the 5 kg FTL cylinder has gone up by Rs 27, effective January 1. However, there is relief for household consumers as there has been no change in the prices of domestic LPG cylinders. The rates of the 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder remain unchanged, providing stability in cooking gas prices for families.

The revision in commercial LPG prices is significant for sectors that rely heavily on such cylinders, including eateries, catering services and small businesses, as fuel forms a major component of their operating costs. The unchanged domestic LPG prices, meanwhile, ensure that household budgets are not impacted by the latest revision. In August, Union Pe-

troleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri hailed the Centre's recent decision to pay Rs 30,000 crores to oil companies in 12 parts, which has kept prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas stable in the country. The Union Cabinet, on August 8, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a compensation of Rs 30,000 crore to be paid in twelve parts to oil companies that have kept LPG prices stable despite global uncertainty. The new rates of commercial cylinder are applicable from January 1 and will remain in force until further revision by oil marketing companies.

## Germany Drops Transit Visa Requirement for Indian Travellers

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Germany announced that Indian nationals no longer need an airport transit visa for layovers in its international transit areas. The announcement came during German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's first visit to India on Monday. Previously, Indians needed a Schengen transit visa even for secure connections. Addressing a joint press conference with German Chancellor Merz, PM Modi expressed his gratitude to Merz for announcing visa-free transit for Indian citizens, calling it a step that would further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two nations. "The comprehensive roadmap on higher education that we have developed today will give a new direction to our partnership in the field of education. I invite Ger-



man universities to open their campuses in India. I express my gratitude to Chancellor Merz for announcing visa-free transit for Indian citizens," the Prime Minister said. PM Modi said the two leaders also held wide-ranging discussions on global and regional issues, including the situation in Ukraine and Gaza, adding that both countries are united in their view that terrorism poses a grave threat to humanity and remain committed to combating it together. The Prime Minister also stressed the need to reform global institutions to address global challenges, citing joint efforts by India and Germany

through the G4 group to reform the UN Security Council. "India has consistently advocated the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and disputes and supports all initiatives aimed at achieving this goal. We are united in our belief that terrorism poses a grave threat to humanity as a whole. India and Germany remain committed to combating this menace together, with unwavering determination," he said. "The Memorandums of Understanding being signed today will provide fresh momentum and strength to our collaboration across all these areas. India and Germany agree that reforming global institutions is crucial for addressing global challenges. Our joint efforts through the G4 group to reform the UN Security Council are a testament to this shared belief," the PM added.

Highlighting cooperation in climate and energy, PM Modi said India and Germany are advancing new projects in climate action, energy, urban development and urban mobility, noting that upcoming green hydrogen mega projects involving companies from both countries could be game changers for the future of energy. "India and Germany are committed to developing a secure, trustworthy and resilient supply chain," he said. On technology, defence and security, PM Modi said cooperation between the two countries has strengthened year after year, while thanking Chancellor Merz for simplifying processes related to defence trade, adding that both sides would work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between their defence industries.

## SC seeks EC reply on TMC MPs' plea over West Bengal electoral rolls

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Election Commission on fresh interim pleas of Trinamool Congress MPs alleging arbitrariness and procedural irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagechi took note of applications filed by lawmakers Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen in their pending petitions challenging procedural actions in the ongoing SIR in the state. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Derek O'Brien, said the EC's instructions on the SIR are being issued through social media platforms like WhatsApp and made booth-level officers (BLOs) act without formal orders. Sibal also said the poll panel has introduced a 'logical discrepancy' category of voters, who may be issued notice for a quasi-judicial hearing on their eligibility



over errors or anomalies in voter details. The counsel representing the poll panel sought two weeks to file replies to the pleas. The CJ-led bench granted one week to the poll panel to file a common reply to the pleas of the two TMC lawmakers and listed the plea for hearing on January 19. Derek O'Brien, in his plea, alleged arbitrariness and procedural irregularities in the SIR of electoral rolls in the state. The application said that since the inception of the SIR process, the EC has issued instructions to officers at the ground level through "informal and extra-statutory channels", such as WhatsApp messages and oral directions during video conferences, instead of issuing formal written instruc-

tions. "The ECI cannot act arbitrarily, capriciously or de hors law, nor can it replace legally prescribed procedures with ad hoc or informal mechanisms," it said. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee recently announced she would move court against the SIR, alleging the exercise has triggered fear, harassment and administrative arbitrariness, leading to deaths, hospitalisations and suicide attempts. O'Brien said the draft electoral poll for West Bengal was published on December 16, 2025, "which has substantially aggravated the difficulties faced by eligible and bona fide electors, owing to a continuing series of arbitrary and procedurally irregular actions attributable principally to respondent no.1 (EC)". It said that on November 30 last year, the poll panel granted only a limited extension of time in relation to the revision schedule and fixed January 15, 2026, as the last date for submission of claims and objections.

### India, Germany.....

Both sides noted that India-Germany trade has surpassed \$50 billion – about a quarter of India's total trade with the EU bloc – and pointed to the scope to do more, especially with the speedy conclusion of the India-EU trade deal, which is expected to be finalised during the visit of the bloc's top leadership to New Delhi later this month. Modi noted that the presence of more than 2,000 German companies in India reflects their "unwavering confidence" in the country and said the two sides are working to build secure and trusted supply chains. Technology cooperation too has grown stronger and the two sides will establish a centre of excellence to drive cooperation in renewable energy. "We're jointly advancing new projects in areas such as climate, energy, urban development, and urban mobility. The new mega project in green hydrogen involving companies from both countries will prove to be a game-changer for the energy of the future," Modi said, adding that there is special emphasis on enhancing migration, mobility and skilling.

With Germany already home to 300,000 Indian expatriates and 60,000 students, an agreement on a Global Skills Partnership will facilitate the mobility of health-care professionals. Merz said the number of skilled workers, including care-givers and nurses, needed from India is increasing rapidly. Indians are among the most successful group of immigrants in Germany, which wants to promote this trend in future, he said. Merz also highlighted the need to intensify economic relations with India, the fastest growing economy in the G20 and a pivotal partner in the Indo-Pacific, against the backdrop of the "resurgence of protectionism directed against free trade and open markets" – an apparent reference to the socioeconomic churn caused by US trade policies. "We are experiencing that great powers use supply chains and raw materials increasingly as instruments of power. Together we want to oppose this. We reduce unilateral dependencies of our supply chains and that makes both our economies more resilient," he said, speaking in German.

### India-US Trade.....

On the proposed bilateral trade deal with India that his country is still negotiating, Gor said: "Many of you have asked me for an update on the ongoing trade deal negotiations. Both sides continue to actively engage. In fact, the next call on trade will occur tomorrow. Remember, India is the world's largest nation, so it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there. And while trade is very important for our relationship, we will continue to work closely together on other very important areas, such as security, counter-terrorism, energy, technology, education and health." Speaking in the backdrop of strained ties between the two nations after the US imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India in August last year, Gor remarked: "Real friends can disagree but always resolve their differences in the end." He also hinted at a visit to India by President Donald Trump "hopefully in the next year or two". The US ambassador-designate revealed: "I also want to share with you today a new initiative that the United States launched just last month, called Pax Silica. Pax Silica is a US-led strategic initiative

to build a secure, prosperous and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals and energy inputs to advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, AI development and logistics.

### RSS Remains.....

Bhagwat made these remarks at the Sangh Office, Keshav Kunj, in Delhi, during the launch of two songs for the upcoming film 100 Years of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh – Shatak. He equated RSS directly with its founder Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, whose psychology he described as a profound subject for research due to extraordinary resilience. Hedgewar lost both parents within an hour at the age of 11, yet displayed no emotional scars or disruption, embodying "Bharat first" through deep patriotism, unity-building, and composure amid life's challenges, Bhagwat said. Two songs from the film — Bharat Maa Ke Bachche and Bhagwa Hai Meri Pehchaan — sung by Sukhwinder Singh, were released at the event. The film, which explores untold stories and roots of the RSS, is being released in the context of the organisation's centenary celebrations. RSS Akhil Bharatiya Karyakarini member Bhaiyyaji Joshi.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Prisons See 18% Rise in Murder Accused in 2025

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The number of people imprisoned in Telangana for murder cases rose by 18.3 per cent year-on-year in 2025, while those booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act increased by 11.6 per cent, according to a report released by DG prisons Dr Soumya Mishra. Property offences and crimes against women also recorded moderate growth during the year. Overall prison admissions in the state rose by 11.8 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024. A total of 42,566 prisoners were admitted in 2025

against 38,079 the previous year. Undertrial prisoners continued to form the bulk, registering a 5.21 per cent increase, while admissions of convicts rose sharply by 81 per cent. Repeat offenders nearly doubled, increasing from 1,468 in 2024 to 2,496 in 2025. The report noted that the sharpest surge in admissions was seen in cyber-crime and drunk driving cases, while the number of foreign nationals admitted to prisons declined during the year. Prisoners in the 18-30 age group increased by 13.31 per cent, followed by those in the 31-50 age group at 11.27 per cent.

### Man Loses Rs 27 Lakh In Online Trading Fraud

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A 38-year-old man from Asifnagar lost ₹27 lakh in an online trading fraud orchestrated through a fake mobile application and a WhatsApp group, cyber-crime police said. The victim came across an online trading page on Facebook and was later added to a WhatsApp group by its administrators. The scammers lured him into investing by promising high returns and sharing fabricated screenshots showing hefty profits. Acting on their instructions, the victim downloaded a trading application named

ADVPMA and initially invested ₹10,000. Encouraged by the fake profits displayed on the app, he continued to invest and eventually transferred a total of ₹27.05 lakh. The application showed his balance as ₹81.69 lakh, including profits. When he attempted to withdraw the amount, the fraudsters blocked the transaction and demanded an additional ₹50 lakh, citing various charges. Realising that he had been duped, the victim approached the police and lodged a complaint on Monday. Cybercrime police have registered a case and are investigating.

### Dismissed SI Challenges HC Order Upholding Removal Over Sexual Assault Charges

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A sub-inspector has approached the Telangana High Court, challenging the order of a single judge who had upheld his dismissal from service on allegations that the police officer had sexually assaulted women staff at the police station and had pointed his service revolver at them. Former sub-inspector Padala Venkata Sadananda Bhavanani Sen, then with the

Rebbana and Kaleshwaram police stations, had been suspended in the year 2022 by the Jayashankar Bhupalpally district superintendent of police. Sen was dismissed in 2024 as his continuation would be detrimental to the department. The inspector-general of police and the Director-General of Police later affirmed the order. Sen contended that the authorities invoked Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution and Rule 25(ii) of the Telangana Civil Services

(CCA) Rules, 1991, to remove him from service, while not issuing a charge memo or conducting a departmental enquiry. He argued that the mere registration of a crime (No. 42 of 2024) for offences under Sections 449, 376(2), 324 and 506 of the IPC did not justify dispensing with the inquiry process. He alleged that the dismissal order was passed by an authority not competent to do so. Opposing the appeal, the

state asserted that the appellant was repeatedly involved in grave misconduct, including allegations of sexual offences against women personnel, and that a departmental enquiry was impracticable as witnesses would be reluctant to testify against a serving police officer. A single judge had earlier upheld the dismissal, citing the seriousness of the allegations and the need to preserve public confidence in the police force.

### HC Refuses to Stay Release of Rahul Sipligunj's Web Series 'Cult'

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court declined to grant interim relief staying the release of Rahul Sipligunj's upcoming web series 'Cult' on OTT platforms on January 17, holding that without hearing the other side no case was made out for immediate restraint. The writ petition was filed by Uttam Valluri Chaudhary against the producer and director of the web series and social media intermediaries, including Meta Platforms, Instagram and Google Play, alleging that the web series contained circulation and promotion of objectionable content

based on a pending criminal case in relating to the 'Madanapally murders'. The petitioner contended that the series, earlier titled 'Madanapally Murders' now renamed 'Cult', which amounted to a distorted dramatisation of sub justice proceedings, violated the Digital Media Code of Ethics and Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, and interfered with the administration of justice. After hearing preliminary submissions, Justice Nagesh Bheemappa issued notices to Sipligunj and the production team and adjourned the matter to January 20, while declining to stay the release.

### Debt, Grudge Led to Auto Driver's Murder

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kothur police arrested four persons in connection with the murder of 27-year-old autorickshaw driver Madhav Biradar, whose body was found at Shivanagar Colony on Sunday. SHO G. Narasaiah said the murder stemmed from personal disputes and financial issues. The accused — Mohammed Owaiz, Mohd Irfan, Naseer Pasha alias Syed Naseer Pasha, and

Shaik Sohail — are all autorickshaw drivers. Police said Owaiz had lent Biradar ₹1.5 lakh, which he failed to repay, while Irfan bore a grudge over Biradar's frequent phone conversations with his sister. The accused allegedly lured Biradar to an open place, got him drunk, and attacked him with beer bottles, knives, and a granite stone. A case was registered based on a complaint by the victim's mother, and mobile phones of the accused were seized.

## Breather For Telangana University

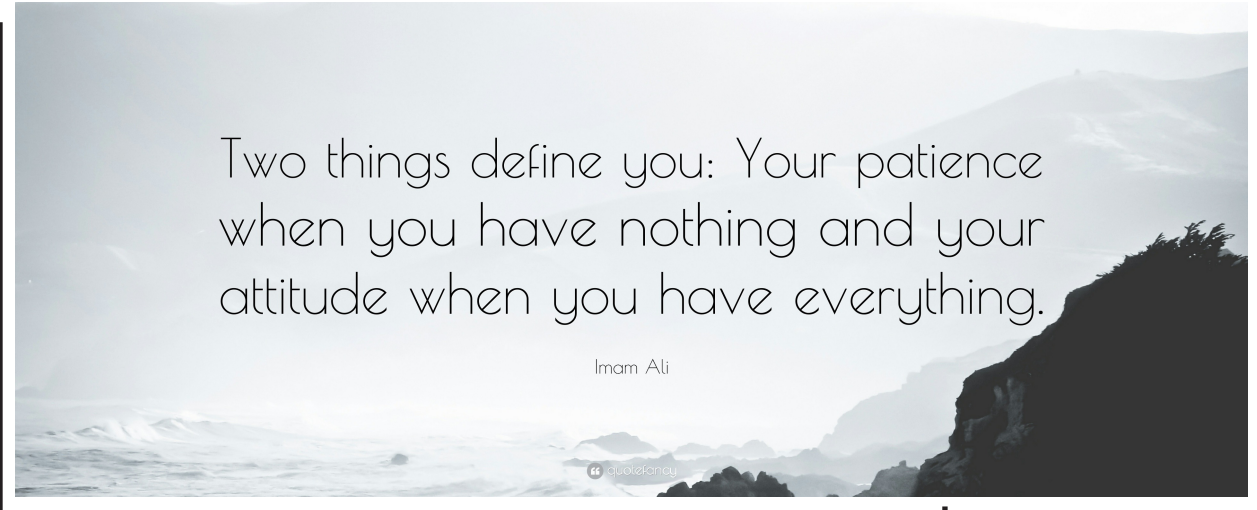
**Wakeup telangana**

Telangana University got a breather from the Telangana High Court. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin admitted a writ appeal filed by affected lecturers and other teaching personnel earlier. A single judge of the High Court set aside the selection of various teaching personnel in a writ plea that challenged their selection on the ground that roster points were not followed in the selection process. The division bench took note of the fact that the appellants are employed and granted interim suspension on the order of the single judge. The earlier writ plea had been filed by the Telan-

gana University Academic Consultants Association (TUACA), questioning the recruitment process adopted by the University. The appellants contended that the university acted contrary to a GO dated November 18, 1995, by including certain posts that ought not to have been notified and by excluding posts that should have been included, thereby disturbing the reservation roster. The university maintained that the five-year integrated courses in question were never discontinued and were subsequently reintroduced based on student demand, justifying the inclusion of posts in the recruitment notification. It maintained that all appointments were made in accordance with sanctioned faculty strength and applicable

roster norms and that roster points were correctly applied by pooling vacancies subject-wise within each group (Arts and Sciences), arranging them in alphabetical order, and applying a running roster, as mandated. The division bench overruled the order passed by the single judge and held that notifying vacancies for courses that were not operational at the relevant time was legally unsustainable. Gudimalkapur mart told to stick to rules Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court directed the Gudimalkapur agriculture market committee to strictly adhere to the rules while issuing commission agent licences at the flower market in Hyderabad. The Hyderabad Wholesale Flowers Merchants Asso-

ciation in a writ challenged the action of the Gudimalkapur MAC in granting commission agent licences without allotting shops, sheds, or any space for carrying on business within the market yard. The association contended that the issuance of licences in the absence of physical space was contrary to the Agricultural Market Committee Rules and in violation of the Constitution. After hearing the submissions, the judge ordered notice to the authorities. Recording the contention of the petitioner, the judge directed the commissioner and director of agricultural marketing to consider the representation submitted by the petitioner association, conduct a necessary enquiry into the matter, and submit a report.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### MUCH TO ADMIRE ABOUT AMERICA, BUT THERE'S ALSO LOT TO DISLIKE TOO

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

There is much to admire about America, and quite a lot to dislike. The thing to admire most is how it is both able to attract many of the world's most talented people, and is open to having them over. Some 15 per cent of the American population is foreign born, including around five million Indians, and this is actually a great asset. A nation, say India, spends critical resources in raising and educating a child, feeding them, sheltering them, clothing them. The child goes to the best state institutions, subsidised by Indians, only to then in their 20s move permanently to the United States. American corporations like Microsoft, Google and Tesla and its universities benefit from the value added by

such individuals from abroad to their workforce. The investment was all made here; the return on investment is fulfilled there. This ability of America's is to some extent replicated in Europe, but it does not exist in nations like China or India. We neither attract external talent nor do we want it. If we are honest, almost all of us who can move abroad do so and the numbers prove it. Today, America is putting an end to this and is so intent that it is okay with the murdering of its own citizens by the ICE militia hunting immigrants. This was not expected by those who admired the United States. On the other hand, those who are aware of the United States' conduct in the world, particularly after the Second World War, have always found much to dislike. Its end-

less interventions in Asia, Africa, Latin America and even Europe have harmed hundreds of millions of people. This has always been the case right from the Korean war in the 1950s to Serbia in the 1990s and then of course the post-9/11 adventurism. To my mind, this is the first time that America is pursuing a course where it is undoing the thing that is to be admired, and doubling down on that which is disliked. By closing America off to immigration, the US is harming itself. India is the nation with the maximum number of H-1B visa beneficiaries, some two-thirds of the total. It is true that these individuals do not want to live in India and want to move to the US if allowed, but they add a quality to the workforce that is not easy to replicate.



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# Go Colors Opens New Flagship Store in Hyderabad

Go Colors strengthens its southern India footprint with the launch of a new flagship store at A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad, inaugurated by actress Niharika Konidela

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Go Colors, India's leading women's bottomwear brand, has further reinforced its presence in Southern India with the launch of a new flagship store at A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad. Spread across an expansive 4,430 square feet, the newly opened store marks a significant milestone in the brand's retail growth journey and was inaugurated by popular actress Niharika Konidela.

Strategically located in Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar, one of Hyderabad's well-established residential and commercial hubs, the flagship store enjoys excellent connectivity, strong high-street visibility, and a vibrant neigh-

bourhood ecosystem. The location has been carefully chosen based on customer insights and footfall patterns, making it an ideal destination for showcasing Go Colors' extensive product portfolio. The store also serves as a testing ground for expansion into similar residential-led markets across the city.

Designed as a one-stop fashion destination, the A.S. Rao Nagar outlet presents Go Colors' complete range, including women's Indian and western wear, men's wear, and the brand's signature bottomwear collections. The assortment is curated to cater to a wide demographic, spanning multiple age groups, sizes, and body types. From everyday essentials and work-



wear to leisure and occasion wear, the store offers versatile silhouettes that balance comfort, functionality, and style.

The flagship store has been thoughtfully de-

signed to enhance the overall shopping experience. Featuring modern aesthetics, a spacious and airy layout, and clearly defined category zones, the store allows for easy

navigation and intuitive product discovery. Enhanced mannequin styling, well-planned visual merchandising, and structured planograms further elevate the in-store ap-

peal. Comfortable trial rooms and dedicated seat-

enables Go Colors to display its entire portfolio in



ing areas ensure a relaxed and seamless shopping experience for customers.

Speaking at the launch, Gautam Saraogi, Founder and CEO of Go Colors, said Hyderabad continues to be a key growth market for the brand. He noted that the new flagship store

a customer-centric and engaging environment, reinforcing the brand's commitment to offering convenience, quality, and memorable retail experiences.

Actress Niharika Konidela's presence at the inauguration added to the

excitement around the launch and highlighted Go Colors' strong connect with contemporary consumers who value self-expression, inclusivity, and comfort-driven fashion. Her association further reinforces the brand's relevance among style-conscious shoppers.

Currently, Go Colors operates over 825 stores across India, including more than 65 stores in Hyderabad and over 60 stores in Chennai. With a continued focus on expanding large-format flagship stores, the brand remains committed to strengthening its presence in high-potential markets while building deeper, long-term engagement with its growing customer base.

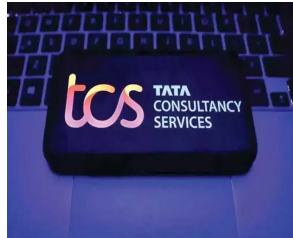
## TCS Q3 FY26 profit falls 14% to Rs 10,657 cr; headcount down by over 11,000

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The country's largest IT services company TCS on Monday reported 13.91 per cent decline in December quarter net profit at Rs 10,657 crore, hit by one-time impact of the implementation of new labour codes.

The Tata Group company's net profit was Rs 12,380 crore in the October-December period of FY25 and Rs 12,075 crore in the preceding September quarter, a statement said.

Implementation of the new labour codes during the quarter led to a "statutory impact" of Rs 2,128 crore, the company said, adding that but for all the one-time impact, its profit would have grown 8.5 per cent to Rs 13,438 crore. The company, one of the largest private sector employers in the country, disclosed that the overall headcount was down by 11,151 in the three months to December 31, 2025 to 5,82,163 employees.



TCS had announced to lay off around 12,000 people earlier in the year as part of a restructuring exercise. It reported a reduction of 19,755 in the overall staff in September quarter, but hinted that only 6,000 of these were involuntary actions because of the restructuring exercise.

Revenue from operations during the quarter under review increased 4.86 per cent to Rs 67,087 crore from Rs 63,973 crore. Operating profit margin during the quarter was stable at 25.2 per cent when compared with September quarter but higher than 24.5 per cent in the year-ago period, the company statement said.

Its chief executive and managing director K. Rithivasan said the growth momentum witnessed in

September quarter continued into the next three months as well. He added that the annualised revenues from artificial intelligence have jumped by over 17 per cent to USD 1.8 billion.

The company's overall new deal wins, captured through the total contract value number, stood at USD 9.3 billion in the December quarter of FY26. Contributions from India to the topline declined by over 34 per cent on-year, leading to the domestic contribution to the overall pie dipping to 6.1 per cent from 9.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

Amid the geopolitical changes, TCS reported North America revenue rising 1.3 per cent on-year, and revenue from the UK declining 3.2 per cent in constant currency terms. The company board recommended a dividend of Rs 57 per share, including a special dividend of Rs 46, at its board meeting on Monday, it said.

## Mahindra Unveils XUV 7XO with Five Segment-First Tech Innovations; Prices Start at ₹13.66 Lakh

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. on January 12, 2026, unveiled the all-new XUV 7XO, its latest premium SUV, with introductory prices starting at ₹13.66 lakh (ex-showroom), positioning it as the next big leap after the highly successful XUV700. Building on Mahindra's strategy of democratizing advanced automotive technology, the XUV 7XO brings five segment-first and global innovations aimed at redefining the high-end SUV experience in India. Key highlights include the global debut of the DAVINCI suspension system, India's first ICE software-defined vehicle platform powered by ADRE-NOX+, coast-to-coast 31.24 cm triple HD displays, and a class-leading 16-speaker Harman Kardon audio system featuring Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos for an immersive in-cabin experience.

The SUV is engineered for superior ride comfort and handling



(Left to Right): Manjari Upadhye, Chief Marketing Officer – Automotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.; R Velusamy, President – Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and Joint Managing Director, Mahindra Electric Automobile Ltd.; Pratap Bose, Chief Design & Creative Officer – Auto & Farm Sectors; Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director and CEO – Auto and Farm Sector; and Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO – Automotive Division and Executive Director, Mahindra Electric Automobile Ltd.

through advanced damping technology and is offered with best-in-segment 2.0L mStallion TGD petrol and 2.2L mHawk turbo-diesel engines, including a first-in-segment diesel

all-wheel-drive option. Safety remains a core focus, with over 120 safety features on offer, including 75 standard features across all variants, Level-2 ADAS with dy-

amic visualisation, a 540-degree surround view camera, and advanced driver

assistance systems designed to deliver world-class protection. Mahindra has ensured strong value by offering several premium and connected features starting from the base

AX variant, making cutting-edge technology more accessible to a wider audience.

Expressive exterior styling, highlighted by a bold grille, Bi-LED projector headlamps, diamond-cut alloy wheels and a premium piano-black finish, complements a luxurious interior that includes powered and ventilated seats,

high-density foam upholstery, multi-zone ambient lighting and dual-zone climate control.

Phased deliveries of the XUV 7XO will begin from January 14, 2026, with Mahindra aiming to set new benchmarks in design, technology, comfort, performance and safety while strengthening its leadership in India's rapidly evolving SUV segment.

## Apple Leads Global Smartphone Market With 20% Share in 2025, Says Counterpoint



**AHMEDABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Global smartphone shipments rose 2% year-on-year in 2025, lifted by stronger demand and economic momentum in emerging markets, Counterpoint Research said on Monday. Apple led the market with a 20% share, the largest among the top five brands, supported by solid demand in emerging and mid-sized markets and strong sales of the iPhone 17 series, said Counterpoint analyst Varun Mishra. Manufacturers pulled shipments forward

early in the year to get ahead of tariffs, but the effect eased as 2025 progressed, leaving second-half volumes largely unaffected, the firm said.

Samsung ranked second with a 19% share on modest shipment growth, while Xiaomi placed third with a 13% share, backed by steady demand in emerging markets. The global smartphone market is expected to soften in 2026 amid chip shortages and rising component costs, as chipmakers prioritise AI data centres over handsets, Counterpoint research di-

## Hero MotoCorp Launches 'Ride Safe India' Road Safety Campaign

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

To mark National Road Safety Month, Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has rolled out an inclusive road safety campaign titled Ride Safe India, reinforcing its long-term commitment to safer mobility across the country. Aligned with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways' (MoRTH) 4Es of Road Safety — Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Care — the campaign aims to move road safety beyond compliance and position it as a shared social responsibility. The initiative will be implemented through on-ground interventions, community engagement and technology-led awareness programmes across Delhi, Gurugram, Lucknow, Hyderabad and



Jaipur. The campaign builds on Hero MotoCorp's decade-long road safety efforts, which have positively impacted over 1.6 million people nationwide through sustained awareness drives, rider training programmes and traffic park interventions. The company said these initiatives have played a key role in embedding safer riding practices and strengthening its vision of making road safety an integral part of everyday mobility in India. Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Kasbekar, Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer, Hero MotoCorp, said road safety requires sustained, multi-stakeholder collaboration. He noted that safety is

deeply embedded in the company's purpose, products and partnerships, adding that Ride Safe India seeks to prioritise safety for riders, families and communities alike, while also expanding access to intelligent and preventive safety features in its vehicles. The campaign focuses on creating measurable impact among key groups including students, gig workers and women riders. In collaboration with traffic police, regional transport authorities and educational institutions, the initiative emphasises capacity building and behavioural change to foster a long-term culture of road safety. As part of its child-focused interventions, the campaign will establish 10 Safe School Zones with speed-calming measures, road markings and 200 signages at critical intersections.

## Actor Siddu Jonnalagadda Promotes Healthy Living with Freedom Sunflower Oil

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil, one of India's leading edible oil brands, has roped in popular Telugu film actor Siddu Jonnalagadda as its brand ambassador to promote healthy eating and conscious cooking among Telugu households.

Known for his blockbuster performances in films like DJ Tillu and Tillu Square, Siddu Jonnalagadda enjoys immense popularity, especially among the youth. His association with Freedom Sunflower Oil aims to encourage families to adopt healthier lifestyles by making mindful cooking choices without compromising on taste.

With strong credibility and admiration in the Telugu market, Siddu's partnership is expected to help Freedom strengthen its connect with con-



sumers and reinforce the brand's commitment to delivering pure and healthy cooking oil solutions. As part of the collaboration, the actor will feature in Freedom's integrated marketing campaigns across television, digital platforms, and other media channels across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the association, P Chandra Shekhara Reddy, Vice President – Sales & Marketing, Gemini Edibles and Fats India Ltd, said, "We are delighted to welcome Siddu Jonnalagadda to the Freedom Sunflower

Oil family. Freedom helps consumers cook more with less oil, offering the perfect balance of health and great taste. We believe this partnership will spark conversations around guilt-free eating and help the brand connect with the next generation, further strengthening our presence in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh."

Echoing similar sentiments, Chetan Pimpalkhute, Head – Marketing, Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils, said, "We are thrilled to have Siddu Jonnalagadda on board."

# 'Juiphool' Wins Top Prize as 3rd Niri9 Film Fest

The third edition of the Niri9 International Film Festival concluded on a high note after two days of cinematic celebration on January 10 and 11 at Prasad Film Labs and Raj Bhavan Samskruti Auditorium. The festival showcased a diverse array of films, including feature films, short films, shorter films, and documentaries, bringing together filmmakers, artists, and cinema enthusiasts from across India and abroad.

The Assamese feature film Juiphool received the prestigious Dr Zubeen Garg Memorial Best Feature Film Award, while Rajesh Touchriver was honoured as Best Director for Dahini – The Witch. Other notable winners included Ghar (Second Best Feature Film), Khipath (Jury Special Award), Bishnu Khargoria (Best Actor – Male), Akanksha Yadav (Best Actor – Female), and Nandini Sharma Dutta (Best Costume Design for Juiphool). In the short film category, Charac-



ter won Best Short Film, and Himjyoti Talukdar received Best Director for Ilish. That Ugly Green Planet and Golden Thread took home Best Shorter Film and Best Documentary Film awards, respectively.

M Dana Kishore, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to the Governor, graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest, with C Priyanka, MD of Telangana Film Development Corporation, attending as Special Guest. Other dignitaries included VN Aditya (Senior Director & Chairman, National Film Awards), actor-director Ashok Kumar, and Ajitah Surabhi, Principal

of SVFFA. A major highlight was the Day 2 panel discussion on cinema as a tool for social change, independent filmmaking, and the evolving digital landscape. The session featured Seema Biswas, Carlyta Mouhini, Manoj Nandwana, Jadumoni Dutta, Dr Padmini Nagulapalli, Satish, Y Ravi Shankar, and festival director Dr Junmoni Devi Khaund, moderated by Sunitha Krishnan. Topics included representation, co-production, distribution, and global collaborations.

Festival Director Dr Junmoni Devi Khaund thanked participants, jury members,

partners, and audiences, saying, "Niri9 stands for fearless storytelling and meaningful cinema. These two days reaffirmed that films can connect cultures, challenge perspectives, and create lasting impact." An initiative of Niri 9, an OTT platform under Niri Media (OPC) Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati, the Niri9 International Film Festival continues to strengthen its position as a prominent platform for independent, socially conscious, and globally resonant cinema, fostering inclusivity and celebrating regional voices.

## Yash's Old Video Resurfaces Amid Toxic Teaser Debate

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The first look of Toxic has sent shockwaves across social media, leaving fans stunned by Yash's never-before-seen avatar. The teaser hints at intense violence and heightened sensuality, leading many to believe that the film is set to deliver a darker and more provocative cinematic experience. One particular moment — an intimate scene featuring Yash inside a car while activating a detonator — quickly grabbed attention online. Several viewers felt the sequence pushed boundaries in the name



of high-end cinema, sparking widespread discussion and trolling.

As the debate intensified, an old video of Yash resurfaced

on social media. In the clip, recorded during a television talk show, the actor is seen stating that he consciously avoids scenes he would feel uncomfortable watching with his parents. The resurfaced video was widely shared, with users questioning whether his current choices contradict his earlier views. The stark contrast between Yash's past statements and the present teaser fuelled the controversy further. While some netizens trolled the KGF star for the perceived contradiction, others came out in his defence, arguing that actors evolve with time and that changing narra-

tives demand bolder portrayals. Supporters maintained that Yash merely did justice to the demands of the role.

However, critics continued to question whether the actor would still feel comfortable watching such scenes with his family, keeping the discussion alive. The portrayal of intimacy in Toxic has clearly divided audiences, with strong reactions emerging on both sides. Ultimately, the debate is likely to persist until the film's release, when audience reception and box-office performance may offer a clearer verdict on the creative choices behind Toxic.

## 'Xtreme Reality' Draws Crowds at Nexus Mall

*Nexus Hyderabad Mall's 'XTREME REALITY' Continues to Thrill Visitors Till 18 January 2026*



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Nexus Hyderabad Mall is drawing crowds with XTREME REALITY, a high-energy immersive tech-play experience that will continue till 18 January 2026. Launched on 12 December 2025, the festive attraction features seven interactive gaming zones imported from China, offering cutting-edge entertainment for visitors of all age groups. Blending digital art, motion sensors, and virtual reality, XTREME REALITY delivers a futuristic experi-

ence through games like Hyper Grid, Paragliding Simulation, Hole in the Wall, Immersive Room, Dunescape, Tunnel Walk-through, and Beat Saber VR. The ticketed event aims to boost festive footfall while providing a visually stunning and engaging entertainment option. Mall officials said the initiative was curated especially for families, youth, and tech enthusiasts, making it a standout festive attraction in the city. Event Details: What: XTREME REALITY Where: Nexus Hyderabad Mall, Kukatpally Till: 18 January 2026

## Aamir Khan Drops 18 Kilos

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Aamir Khan, who will next be seen in a comic avatar in Happy Patel, has undergone a dramatic physical transformation, shedding 18 kilos. "Eighteen kilos, actually," Aamir says with a laugh. "It happened by default. The new diet I'm following for health reasons is working like magic for me." The dietary shift came after Aamir began experiencing recurring migraine headaches. "I undertook the diet specifically for the migraines.



It's an anti-inflammatory diet. I not only lost eighteen kilos, my migraines have also reduced considerably," he explains. The actor will appear this Friday alongside his nephew Imran Khan in Happy Patel.

## Kohli Walks The Talk: Shreyas Iyer

**VADODARA**  
Wakeup telangana

India vice-captain Shreyas Iyer lavished praise on Virat Kohli, saying the batting great has been "walking the talk" for years, the latest being his masterclass in a successful run chase against New Zealand in the ODI series opener. Kohli struck a fluent 93 off 91 balls as India chased down a target of 301 to register a four-wicket win and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match rubber here on Sunday.

During the innings, Kohli also became the fastest player to reach 28,000 international runs across formats and the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket, behind Sachin Tendulkar. "Whatever we talk about his innings, it would be less. We have been seeing it



for so many years now he's been doing it consistently. The way he rotates the strike and he takes on the bowlers, he basically walks the talk," Iyer said in a video posted by BCCI. Iyer, who returned to international action after a long injury lay-off following a spleen laceration with internal bleeding sustained during the third ODI against Australia in Sydney in October last year, said he was de-

lighted to begin the series on a winning note. "Great start to the series. Coming back after a while into the team, it feels great to be a part of this squad. More than that, it was a great feeling to share the dressing room with each and every one. I was missing it for quite a while, but I am happy to be back," Iyer said. Fast bowler Harshit Rana made an impact with the ball, dismissing openers Devon

Conway and Henry Nicholls, before chipping in with a handy 29 off 23 balls down the order. "The first wicket I took was of Nicholls. While I was planning to bowl wide to him but I hadn't thought of a wide yorker but it landed right. The other wicket was of Devon Conway and it felt great to scalp two wickets in two back-to-back overs," said Rana. The 24-year-old added that he is working on his batting to contribute more at No. 8. "The credit for my batting goes to my father because he always used to think that all-rounders get early chances for playing in the Indian team. I am developing my game in such a manner that I can contribute with 30-40 runs for the team, coming at number 8," Rana added.

## Vijay Hazare Trophy: Padikkal, Nair Power Karnataka into Fourth Straight Semis

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Defending champions Karnataka stormed into their fourth successive Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinals with a thumping 54-run victory over Mumbai via the VJD method here on Monday. With the tournament's leading run-getter Devdutt Padikkal (81 not out; 95 balls, 11x4) and veteran India batter Karun Nair (74 not out; 80 balls, 11x4) unbeaten, Karnataka were cruising at 187 for 1 in 33 overs while chasing a modest 255 when rain stopped play.

The VJD par score at that stage was 132, and with Karnataka 55 runs ahead they were declared winners. Earlier, heavyweights Mumbai, already without pacer Tushar Deshpande due to personal reasons, suffered a major blow when top batter Sarfaraz Khan (303 runs at 75.75) was



ruled out after being struck on the finger during net practice. In his absence, Mumbai managed only 254 for 8 after Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal opted to bowl at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1. In a largely one-man show, Shams Mulani struck an impressive 86 to hold the Mumbai innings together after a top-order collapse. Mumbai were tottering at 60/4 in 17.2 overs before Mulani and skipper Siddhesh Lad (38 off 58 balls; 4x4) added 76 runs for the sixth wicket. After Lad's dismissal,

Shedje and Kotian fell in quick succession, but Mulani held firm, scoring 86 from 91 balls with eight boundaries. Mulani took 68 balls to reach his fifty, but stepped up in the death after getting support from Sairaj Patil (33 not out off 25 balls; 5x4, 1x6), as Mumbai smashed 59 runs in the last five overs. Patil's late assault gave the Mumbai bowlers something to defend. Mulani was trapped lbw by Abhilash Shetty in the final over, ending his determined knock. For Karnataka, Vidyadhar Patil returned 3/42,

while Abhilash Shetty and Vidwath Kaverappa picked up two wickets each.

In reply, Agarwal and Padikkal began cautiously before Karnataka lost their skipper inside the powerplay. Agarwal, Karnataka's second-highest run-getter this season with two centuries and two fifties, edged Mohit Avasthi to slip for 12 off 24 balls. Mumbai's cause was further hurt by sloppy fielding, as the in-form Padikkal was given two reprieves. Avasthi induced a thick outside edge from Padikkal that flew to Raghuvanshi at first slip, but the chance was wasted. Earlier, on 24, Onkar Tarmale spilled a straightforward chance running in from deep fine leg. Padikkal made Mumbai pay for those mistakes on the field. The tall left-hander, who now has 715 runs from eight innings with four hundreds and two fifties at an average.

## Insurance, loans and legal aid extended to Telangana prisoners

**E**ighteen prisoners from economically challenged backgrounds were released in 2025, with help from the Centre-funded Support to Poor Prisoners scheme, according to the annual report of the Telangana Prisons Department released on Monday, January 12. Headed by Director General Dr Soumya Mishra, the Telangana Prisons Department topped in India in the implementation of this scheme, the report said.

Under the Support to Poor Prisoners scheme, inmates from underprivileged backgrounds are eligible to receive financial support from the government for security bonds and bail release. Moreover, under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Scheme, which provides accident insurance, a total of 364 prisoners were enrolled, and 210 inmates have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, which offers life insurance. Additionally, 23 prisoners were enrolled in a health insurance scheme called Ayushman Vaya Vandana. The annual report notes that Telangana Prison is the only prison department in the country to lend out interest-free loans to its inmates. An amount of Rs 18.66 lakh was sanctioned as loans during 2025, with 58 inmates availing the facility. According to the report, 17 pregnant women prisoners were assisted in safe deliveries at various government maternity hospitals across Telangana. Each inmate undergoes a mandatory medical screening and health check-up at the time of their admission to ensure early diagnosis and treatment.

## Excise Department arrest two from Rajasthan, seize 2.22 kg opium



**T**he Telangana Prohibition and Excise Department apprehended two individuals from Rajasthan and seized 2.220 kilograms of opium on Sunday, January 11. The department first arrested Sunil in Begumpet with 20 grams of opium in his possession. During questioning, he revealed details about the co-accused, Ashok Kumar, police said.

Kumar had brought opium for Rs 1.50 per kg in Rajasthan and sold it in Hyderabad at a higher price through a network of drug peddlers. He was arrested near Narayanguda with 2.200 kilo grams of opium, which he was carrying in a bag. A bike was also seized. Lumar and Sunil have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Further investigations are on.

# Revanth Plans Reorganisation of Districts, Mandals

Revanth said the commission in Telangana would function in the manner of the Delimitation Commission constituted by the Centre for the reorganisation of Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies.

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday announced that the state government would constitute a judicial commission, headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, to undertake a comprehensive reorganisation of districts, revenue divisions and mandals in Telangana. He said the exercise would be carried out in a scientific, transparent and consultative manner, unlike the process adopted by the previous BRS government, which, according to him, had



reorganised administrative units between 2016 and 2022 in an unscientific and irrational way. Addressing an event after launching the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association 2026 Diary at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the Congress government was

committed to rectifying the flaws in the existing administrative structure by involving all stakeholders and ensuring uniform standards across the state. Revanth Reddy described the exercise as "rationalisation" rather than reorganisation. He said the commission

in Telangana would function in the manner of the Delimitation Commission constituted by the Centre for the reorganisation of Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies. The commission would tour all districts, conduct public hearings, and invite opinions, suggestions and objections from citizens, public representatives and officials before making recommendations to the government. Revanth Reddy made it clear that the process would not be unilateral and would be based on data, ground realities and administrative convenience, ensuring that

people's voices were central to the decision-making process. He clarified that the government's intention was not to reduce the number of districts, revenue divisions or mandals, but to rationalise them in a balanced and scientific manner. He said the existing administrative setup reflected several inconsistencies that affected governance and service delivery. In some cases, mandals had disproportionately large populations, while others had very small populations, leading to an uneven administrative burden. He also pointed out that certain Assembly and Par-

liamentary constituencies were spread across two or more districts, creating confusion and logistical challenges in coordination. In addition, there were instances where one mandal had only five villages while another had more than a dozen. The government's view, he said, was that there should be standard parameters for population and geographical spread while constituting districts, revenue divisions and mandals. Revanth Reddy said that the government would hold a debate in the Assembly during the upcoming Budget Session on the issue.

## Woman murdered by partner over relationship issues in Borabanda

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A man allegedly murdered a woman in Hyderabad's Borabanda area on Sunday, January 11 over relationship issues. The victim was identified as Fathima, who was employed at a bar in Banjara Hills. She met the accused, identified as Zaheer, at the bar. The police suspect that differences arose between the two after Fathima changed her work place, leading to a communication gap between the two. Enraged over the issue, Zaheer reportedly called

Fathima to have a discussion at Borabanda. He later attacked the victim with a knife and stone, and dumped the body near house. The police arrested Zaheer and further investigation is underway. In December 2025, a woman who was with her boyfriend in a flat near Hyderabad died after falling from a balcony in a bid to escape following the arrival of her father. The victim was identified as 22-year-old Sakina Begum. The incident took place last week in an area that falls under the jurisdiction of the Kollur police station.

## Hyderabad Police continue Mission Chabutra, warn against jaywalking

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad Police conducted "Mission Chabutra" - where people found "loitering" on the streets late in the night are rounded off - in the city's Tappachabutra area on Sunday, January 11, to curb jaywalking. Videos shared on social media showed policemen chasing people who were seen outside their houses after midnight. Some of the people who were caught said they were returning



from work, while others said they came home after attending parties. Speaking to Media, Tappachabutra Police said, "Operation Chabutra is a regular exercise. We counselled five people at the police station. There were no cases registered and no arrests were made."

## Hyderabad police seizes Chinese Manja worth Rs 43 lakh

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar on Monday, January 12 announced that ahead of Sankranti, the city police seized 2,150 bobbins of Chinese Manja worth Rs 43 lakh from in a special operation from January 8-11. During this period 29 cases were registered and 57 people were arrested for selling the "Chinese Manja". "Additionally, in 132 cases registered over the

past month, they have taken possession of 8,376 bobbins worth Rs 1.68 crore, arresting a total of 200 people," Sajjanar said in a post on X. He warned that sale and purchase of the "Chinese Manja" would lead to imprisonment. Sajjanar urged people to buy safe threads for kite flying to celebrate Sankranti in Hyderabad. Earlier in January, the Hyderabad police had arrested 143 people for selling Chinese Manja and seized material worth Rs 1.24 crore.

## Two-day mega e-waste collection drive in Hyderabad



**T**he Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Monday, January 12, initiated a two-day e-waste collection drive, aiming to collect e-waste directly from the people and ensure safe disposal and a cleaner city. GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan inspected the mega e-waste collection drive at Baghlingampally in Musheerabad and reviewed the arrangements made for the collection and scientific disposal of electronic waste.

As part of the investigation, Karnan examined the e-waste collection camps and facilities set up at the site. He interacted with field staff and enquired about the functioning of special vehicles and dedicated counters deployed for the drive. Stressing the significance of safe e-waste disposal, Karnan urged the public to actively participate by handing over obsolete and unused electronic items at designated collection centres. He cautioned that improper disposal of electronic waste leads to environmental pollution and poses serious health hazards, and stressed the need for public cooperation to ensure the success of the initiative.

# Cops Book Fraud Case Against US Tech Firm

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Cyberabad cybercrime police have registered a criminal case against Avande Technologies, a US-based IT services firm headquartered in Denver, Colorado, over alleged non-payment of contractual dues amounting to Rs 1.45 crore. According to the FIR, the case pertains to the hiring of staff on a contract

basis involving foreign entities, including Avande Technologies, LBA Global Partners (USA) Inc., and Fifth Third Bank, a US-based financial institution. The complaint was lodged by Hanker Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., a Hyderabad-based staffing and recruitment firm with operations in India and the United States. According to officials, Avande Technologies shared a requirement for

a senior software developer for a US-based client and accepted a candidate under agreed commercial terms. The engagement began in July 2025, with contracts between the Indian and US firms under specified payment timelines. As per the complaint, the staffing firm fulfilled its obligations, including onboarding the hired consultant and making payments to the consultant through the des-

igned US vendor, namely LBA Global Partners Inc. However, after completion of the agreed billing cycle, Avande allegedly failed to release payments against multiple invoices raised between July and October 2025, despite repeated follow-ups and submission of supporting documents. The unpaid amount is stated to be \$161,120, which in Indian currency amounts to ₹1.45 crore.

## Homes Safe, HYDRAA Tells Miyapur Residents

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

After reclaiming 15 acres of government land in Maktha Mahboobpet, Serilingampally mandal, HYDRAA reassured residents that their homes will not be touched. The land, worth over ₹3,000 crore, was fenced and marked as government property following the January 10 operation. Officials clarified that houses built before HYDRAA's formation in July

2024 will not be demolished. They warned that some encroachers were spreading fear to protect illegal businesses. Earlier, HYDRAA cleared five acres in the same survey number on December 8, removing 18 shops. A field inquiry revealed attempts to grab nearly 43 acres through fake registrations. One individual, Imran, was booked for illegally occupying 1.5 acres using false documents.

## Engineers Warn New Electricity Bill Will Hurt Discoms, Consumers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Power engineers from across the country, led by the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPF) and Telangana Power Engineers Association, opposed the Electricity Amendment Bill 2025 during a video conference with Union power secretary Pankaj Agarwal. The National State Electricity Employees & Engineers Federation, Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI), and All India Federation of Electricity Employees (AIFEE) also raised objections. Demanding immediate withdrawal of the Bill, engineers warned it would devastate state Discoms, burden poor and middle-class consumers, and favour private players. Telangana Power Engineers Association secretary general P. Sada-

nandam said their objections included opposition to allowing private companies multiple licences and use of existing state assets such as substations, lines, and transformers. He argued this would force Discoms to serve only remaining consumers after private firms prioritised commercial and industrial users, deepening losses. Other concerns included enabling private firms to exploit state infrastructure for profit, complicating power purchase agreements and energy accounting, disrupting maintenance, empowering easy removal of State Regulatory Commission members, scrapping free power subsidies for poor and rural users after five years, hiking tariffs, and creating an electricity council under the Union power minister for policy dominance.

# Idea to cancel new districts will spur protests: KTR

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BRS working president KT Rama Rao mounted a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, charging him with running a stagnant and directionless government in Telangana, while inaugurating projects built under the previous BRS regime. He also warned the government against any attempts to abolish existing districts. "If the government touches Wanaparthy, Narayanpet or Gadwal, the BRS will ignite a fire the Congress cannot contain," he said. Addressing newly elected Sarpanches and ward members from Mahbubnagar and Narayanpet districts here on Monday, Rama Rao said the Congress administration had neither advanced development nor protected the



State's crucial irrigation interests, particularly the long-pending Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, which was stalled under the current dispensation. Revanth Reddy had deliberately delayed the project to deny credit to BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, he said. "Revanth Reddy failed to utilise available water in Krishna River due to his political insecurity. His only worry is that completion of the project would anger his old boss, while KCR will get credit for its

completion," he remarked, adding that the Chief Minister had no concern for farmers. The BRS working president said while the BRS had brought 14 IT firms to Mahbubnagar through its T-Hub initiative, the Congress government was now driving them away instead of nurturing growth. He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of hurting farmers in Palamuru and failing even on basic inputs like urea supply. "A man who cannot ensure fertiliser is now talking of making Palamuru region prosperous," he ridiculed. Pointing to financial distress at the grassroots, Rama Rao said Congress MLAs themselves had admitted that there were no funds for development works. "If bundles of money are being sent to Delhi, how will Telangana get any work done?" he

asked, stating that Andhra contractors were being prioritised over local firms. He said growing public dissatisfaction against the Congress was evident in the recent Panchayat elections, where BRS secured 40 per cent of the seats. "This is just a sample. People are ready to deliver the full verdict in the municipal, ZPTC and MPTC elections, where party symbols are also visible," he said. The former Minister said the Congress won power on lies and wild promises including double pensions, Rythu Bharosa, Dalit Bandhu, two lakh jobs and pay revision commission, none of which was realised in last two years. Instead, existing schemes such as KCR Kits, festival gifts and rural infrastructure support were dismantled.

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