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WUT WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY SANKRANTI BIHU & PONGAL HOLIDAY NOTICE

### Brief Insights

#### Kashmiri Parents Urge Government for Immediate Evacuation of Students from Iran

Parents of Kashmiri students studying in Iran have issued an urgent and emotional appeal to the Government of India and the Indian Embassy in Tehran, seeking immediate evacuation measures as the situation in the country continues to deteriorate rapidly.

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#### Mass Killing of 600 Street Dogs Triggers Outrage in Kamareddy

Around 600 street dogs were allegedly killed in the villages of Fareedpet, Bandaram Eshwarpally, Bhavanipet and Wadi in Palvancha mandal of Kamareddy district, triggering widespread outrage among animal lovers and rights activists.

## India Ranks 80th in Passport Rankings

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

India has been ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026, marking an improvement of five places compared to last year, according to reports.



### KTR Condemns Journalists' Arrest, Calls Congress Rule 'Emergency-Like': P3

### Skies Alive with Sarkinite Kites: P8

### Congress govt treating journalists like terrorists, says Harish: P2



# Amrit Bharat Trains will Boost Trade, Tourism in WB, Assam Two Journalists Held in IAS Officer Case

## Nine new Amrit Bharat Express trains to link West Bengal, Assam with five states.

## Telangana police detain two journalists over controversial programme

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the new Amrit Bharat Express trains, which will be introduced soon from poll-bound West Bengal and Assam, mark a significant step towards improving passenger comfort and connectivity, while also boosting commerce and tourism.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the Pongal festival at the residence of Union Minister Thiru L. Murugan in Chennai on Wednesday.

senger convenience and rail connectivity, with additional benefits for trade and tourism. The Railways said the trains are equipped with modern amenities such as foldable snack tables, mobile phone and bottle holders, radium floor strips, comfortable seating and berths, modern toilets with electro-pneu-

matic flushing, fire-suppression systems and facilities for differently-abled passengers. Earlier, the railway minister announced that the nine new services would be introduced shortly. The trains will operate on routes including Guwahati (Kamakhya)-Rohtak,

Dibrugarh-Lucknow (Gomti Nagar), New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil, New Jalpaiguri-Tiruchirappalli, Alipurduar-SMVT Bengaluru, Alipurduar-Mumbai (Panvel), Santtragachi-Tambaram, Howrah-Anand Vihar Terminal and Sealdah-Banaras. Conceived as part of the Amrit Kaal initiative, the Amrit Bharat Express offers non-air-conditioned long-distance sleeper travel at affordable fares of around ₹500 per 1,000 km, with proportionately lower fares for short- and medium-distance journeys. Since its launch in December 2023, 30 Amrit Bharat Express trains have been operational. With the addition of the nine new services, rail connectivity from the eastern and sub-Hima-

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Two journalists of a Telugu television news channel were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the alleged telecast of defamatory and objectionable content against a woman IAS officer, police officials said. According to the police, the journalists were taken into custody for broadcasting "highly inappropriate and scandalous" material targeting the officer. The arrests were made following an FIR registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Telangana IAS Officers' Association, which accused certain news channels and media platforms of publishing and airing false, fabricated, and baseless content against the officer.



Earlier in the day, three journalists from the channel were detained for questioning. After inquiry, two were formally arrested, while the third was released, police said. One of the arrested journalists, while being escorted by police, termed the action an "illegal arrest" and stated that legal remedies would be pursued. The Telangana Police had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on January 12 to probe the matter. Hyderabad Police

Commissioner V C Sajjanar stated that all individuals summoned as part of the investigation must appear and cooperate with the authorities. "The police are proceeding strictly as per the law. Law will take its own course," he said. In a post on social media platform X, Sajjanar remarked that while criticism is part of public life, maligning women through personal and character attacks is unacceptable and must be condemned.

## Farmers Welcome Inauguration Of Long-Pending Barrages By CM On Jan. 16

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Farmers in Nirmal and Adilabad districts have welcomed the announcement that their long-pending demand for the Chanaka-Korata and Sadarmat barrages to become operational is finally set to be realised, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy scheduled to inaugurate the projects on January 16. According to official information, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the Korata-Chanaka pump house and release water into the main canal at Hatti ghat in Bhoraj mandal in the afternoon. Though nearly 90 per cent of the Chanaka-Korata barrage works were completed earlier, it has not been of-



ficially inaugurated so far. The project is aimed at providing irrigation to about 50,000 acres in the Adilabad and Boath Assembly constituencies. Later, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the Sadarmat barrage and release water for Yasangi crops under its ayacut at Ponkal in Mamada mandal of Nirmal district. He will also address a public meeting in Nirmal town. The Sadarmat barrage is designed to irrigate around 18,000 acres in

Nirmal and Jagtial districts. Irrigation officials have already inspected the pump house motors and conducted trial releases of water into the canals in view of the Chief Minister's visit. Paddy and cotton are the major crops cultivated under the Sadarmat ayacut, and officials expect the paddy area to increase once irrigation begins. However, there is uncertainty over water release through the existing main canal of the Chanaka-Korata project, as several branch canals remain incomplete and issues related to land acquisition for canals and the reservoir are still pending. Officials said additional funds are required to complete the remaining works.

## Sky Comes Alive at Secunderabad Parade Grounds



Colorful, uniquely shaped kites from across the world soar high at Secunderabad Parade Grounds as crowds gather in the evening to enjoy dazzling kite displays, LED kites, and a rich spread of traditional sweets during the International Kite and Sweet Festival.

## Sangh Parivar 'Most Dangerous,' Says Akhilesh

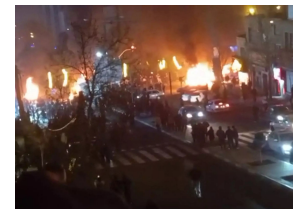
NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the Sangh Parivar was the "most dangerous family in the world" and asserted that removing the BJP from power was essential to protect democracy and the Constitution. Extending greetings on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister accused the BJP of misleading the public through false promises and propaganda, according to a party statement. Addressing SP workers and leaders from various districts at the party's state headquarters here, Yadav said, "Sangh Parivar is the most dan-

## India Strongly Advises Citizens Not to Travel to Iran

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Amid a deteriorating security situation in Iran, the Indian Embassy in Tehran on Wednesday issued an advisory urging Indian nationals to leave the country using available means of transport, including commercial flights. The advisory applies to all Indian nationals in Iran, including students, pilgrims, businesspersons and tourists. The embassy reiterated that Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) should exercise due caution, avoid areas of



protests or demonstrations, remain in contact with the Embassy, and closely monitor local media for updates. Indian nationals were also advised to keep their travel and immigration documents, including passports and identity cards, readily available, and to contact the embassy for assistance if required. In a fresh advisory, the ministry of external affairs

(MEA) said Indian nationals were strongly advised to avoid travel to Iran until further notice in view of the ongoing developments. Iran has witnessed widespread protests, with reports of hundreds of people killed by security forces. On Monday, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said India was closely monitoring the situation amid visible disturbances on the streets, adding that all Indian students in Iran were safe and doing well. He had also advised Indian nationals not to venture out.

ASTORIA HOTEL Hyderabad Laziz Biryani. ESTD 1960. ek baar khaage baar baar aage. 5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

## Bhogi Celebrated With Fervour Across Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The three-day harvest festival -- Sankranti began in Telangana on Wednesday with 'Bhogi'. Bonfires were lit early in the morning as part of the festival across the state. The three-day festival is celebrated as Bhogi, Makara Sankranti and Kanuma in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, and other leaders extended their greetings to the people.



Bhogi and Sankranti stand as timeless harvest festivals symbolising abundance, renewal, and unbridled joy, the Governor said, according to a press communique from the Lok Bhavan. Bhogi heralds the dawn with vibrant bonfires that purge

the old and welcome prosperity, while Sankranti unfolds in a spectacular kite-flying skies, rhythmic Kolatam dances, and communal feasts of freshly harvested paddy, sugarcane, and sesame sweets embodying the state's agrarian soul,

Jishnu Dev Varma said. "These celebrations hold profound significance in our heritage, igniting immense enthusiasm and jubilation across villages and towns. May Bhogi and Sankranti inspire noble thoughts of love, affection, amity, and prosperity, bringing happiness, good health, and enduring well-being to every household in Telangana," he said. The chief minister wished that Bhogi, Sankranti and Kanuma would bring prosperity in everyone's life and people celebrate the festivities full of joy and happiness, a release from the CMO said. "The Government re-

solved to reach the benefits of all welfare schemes to the needy", he said and exuded confidence that Telangana will register a remarkable growth in Agriculture, Industry, Manufacturing and Services sectors. Revanth Reddy affirmed that the state government will strive to achieve the goals set in the Telangana Rising 2047 vision document. Appealing to everyone to celebrate the Sankranti festival by upholding Telugu traditions, he advised people to take necessary safety precautions during flying kites, the release added.

## Traffic diversions announced for elevated corridor work in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad traffic police, in connection with the construction of the comprehensive development of elevated corridor works from Malakpet Fire Station to Yadagiri Theatre, will implement the traffic diversions and alternative routes on Thursday, January 15, for a period of approximately 60 days.

The road stretches between Saidabad Y Junction to IS Sadan Junction, on one side from Saidabad Y Junction to Dohighat, will be closed for the duration of the construction of the comprehensive development of elevated corridor.

The general public is advised to avoid the road stretch from Nalgonda X Road to Owaisi Hospital (DMRL Junction), as traffic congestion is expected

on surrounding roads and junctions.

Traffic coming from Nalgonda X Road towards Saidabad Y Junction, intending to proceed to Santosh Nagar and IS Sadan, will be diverted via Saidabad Y Junction - DCP South East Zone office, via Saidabad Law & Order PS - Saraswathi Nagar Kaman- Sankeshwar Bazar - Indian Petrol Bunk - Singareni Colony - Onus Robotic Hospital Champapet left turn - Champapet main road - Champapet X Road - IS Sadan (Only four wheelers, RTC buses also) and heavy goods vehicles. The two and three-wheeler traffic coming from Chanchalguda towards Saidabad Y Junction, intending to go towards IS Sadan and Champapet Main road. The RTC Buses which are coming from Chaderghat towards IS Sadan and Champapet will be diverted at Nalgonda X Road via Malakpet Gunj- Moosarambagh X Road -Gaddiannaram U-Turn - Gaddiannaram X Road -Shiva Ganga theatre- Hanifiya Mosque (Saroornagar Lake) - Indian Oil Petrol Bunk- Singareni Colony - Onus Hospital - Champapet Main Road.

Biscuit factory - Dohighat Junction and IS Sadan Main Road. The two and three-wheeler traffic coming from Chanchalguda towards Saidabad Y Junction, intending to go towards Champapet, will be diverted via Saidabad Y Junction via Saidabad Law & Order PS - 105 Bus Stop - Ramalayam Kaman-Laxmi Nagar - Vinay Nagar left turn - Bharath Garden towards IS Sadan and Champapet Main road. The RTC Buses which are coming from Chaderghat towards IS Sadan and Champapet will be diverted at Nalgonda X Road via Malakpet Gunj- Moosarambagh X Road -Gaddiannaram U-Turn - Gaddiannaram X Road -Shiva Ganga theatre- Hanifiya Mosque (Saroornagar Lake) - Indian Oil Petrol Bunk- Singareni Colony - Onus Hospital - Champapet Main Road.

## MANUU launches AI-based audio-visual lessons in Urdu

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) on Tuesday launched artificial intelligence-based audio-visual lessons for its distance mode learners. With this, the MANUU has become the first Indian university to use AI for developing audio-visual lessons in Urdu. Towards this, a two-day



national workshop-cum-orientation programme was held on January 12 and 13. The programme attended by more than 100 participants from all over the country included coordinators of learner support centers

(LSCs), regional directors (RDs), assistant regional directors (ARDs) and other teaching and non-teaching staff of the university.

The main objective of the programme was to train and provide orientation to the coordinators of MANUU's learning support centers about various processes involving distance and online education. The workshop also aimed at

building a bridge between LSC coordinators, RDs, ARDs and MANUU teaching and non-teaching staff. MANUU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan addressed the participants. Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) Director Prof. Razaullah Khan and MANUU former professor Ramesh Ghanta also participated.

## TGDCA seizes fake 'Levipil 500' tablets in Hyderabad

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Drugs Control Administration (TGDCA) seized spurious drug (counterfeit version) 'Levipil 500' Tablets (Levetiracetam Tablets 500 mg) that falsely claimed to be manufactured by Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd.

Based on intelligence gathered by TGDCA officials, raids were conducted at several dealers



leading to the detection of the counterfeit version of Levipil 500 Tablets which are prescribed as an anti-epileptic medicine, a press release said.

These counterfeit stocks were detected at Durga Medical and General Stores, Sudharsan Reddy Nagar, Chintal, Quthbul-

lapur, Medchal-Malkajgiri and the seized tablets falsely claimed to be manufactured by Sun Pharma Laboratories Limited, Kamrup district, Assam.

Spurious drugs pose a significant threat to public health, endangering patients' well-being. These drugs not only fail to treat the intended disease but also can lead to health complications over time and efforts are on to ensure the remove spurious

drugs from the market, DG, TGDCA, Shah Nawaz Qasim said. General public can report complaints regarding illegal activities related to medicines, suspected manufacturing activities concerning drugs, including narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, through the TGDCA Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969, operational from 10.30 am to 5 pm in all working days.

## BBG Celebrates Sankranti with Free Plot Lucky Draw, New Buyer Offers

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Continuing its festive momentum during Makar Sankranti and its 19th anniversary celebrations, Building Blocks Group (BBG) successfully concluded its much-anticipated bumper lucky draw under the popular "From Free Registration to Free Plot" campaign. The initiative witnessed an overwhelming response from buyers and reaffirmed BBG's commitment to transparency, trust, and customer-centric celebrations. As part of the special Sankranti campaign, one fortunate customer was awarded a FREE plot worth ₹30 lakh, marking a major highlight of the festivities. The bumper lucky draw was conducted amid great enthusiasm in the presence of BBG leadership, customers, and associates, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere.

The lucky winner, V Kiran from Macharla, was selected from among the first 100 buyers who invested across BBG's three premium projects—Beverly Hills Kaza (Kaza),



Fortune Empire City (Chalivendrapalem), and Capital West (Kondapavuluru)—all strategically located in the rapidly developing Amaravati region. The first 100 plots under the offer were sold within just 13 days, reflecting the strong trust and confidence buyers place in the BBG brand.

The grand prize—a 133.33 square yards plot at Beverly Hills Kaza—

was formally presented by M.V. Mallikarjun Reddy, CMD, Building Blocks Group, amid applause and celebrations. Adding to the festive cheer, the remaining 99 customers who participated in the lucky draw were pleasantly surprised with ₹10,000 gift coupons each, further underscoring BBG's customer-first approach. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, BBG has decided to extend the festive celebrations with a new Sankranti Carnival Offer. Under this limited-period scheme, valid exclusively on January 14, 15, and 16, buyers will continue to enjoy FREE plot registration, along with an additional festive benefit—a complimentary 55-inch Smart LED TV with every plot purchase. The TV offer is available only for these three days, adding exclusivity and urgency to the celebration.

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## EAGLE Force busts ganja racket, seizes 21 kg in Hyderabad

The anti-narcotics agency of Telangana police, EAGLE Force, along with Kukatpally police, arrested two persons on Wednesday and seized 21 kilograms of ganja from them.

The arrested are Sachin Dilip Ranvare (37) and Kaukik Ganesh Raut (21), both residents of Pune, Maharashtra. On a tip-off, the police nabbed Dilip, who was previously arrested in a ganja case in July last year. After release from jail in December, Dilip teamed up with Ganesh and started a ganja business. "On January 12, Dilip and Ganesh went to Berhampur, Odisha and procured ganja from some persons. They packed the ganja in travel bags and came to the city. While they were waiting to catch a bus for Pune at Kukatpally, the duo was caught," said an official of EAGLE Force. A case is registered.

## Congress government treating journalists like terrorists, says Harish Rao

Former Minister T Harish Rao condemned the midnight arrest of journalists in Hyderabad, accusing the Congress government of abusing police power and suppressing the media. He alleged double standards in registering cases and vowed to stand by the journalist fraternity

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Condemning the arrest of three senior journalists in Hyderabad, former Minister T Harish Rao accused the Congress government of treating journalists like terrorists by arresting them at midnight. Speaking to news reporters in Zaheerabad on Wednesday, Rao said the police treated journalists like anti-social elements by arresting them on Sankranti day.

He accused the government of trying to threaten media houses and keep them under its control through such actions. Instead, he said, the police should have summoned the journalists to their offices for questioning if they had done anything wrong.

Harish Rao further accused Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar of acting like a Congress worker by merely following the directions of the government. He recalled that when the Congress was in the



Opposition, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy spoke about media freedom but was now acting against the media. The former minister said he was shocked that the police were attempting to register an SC ST Atrocities case against Dalit journalist Sudheer. He questioned the ethics of the police and the Congress government, pointing out that no case was registered against a Congress Minister despite his objectionable remarks against BRS Working President KT Rama Rao.

Accusing the police of maintaining double standards, Rao said no case was filed against AICC Secretary Sampath Kumar even though an NH 44 contractor had lodged a

complaint accusing him of issuing threats. He said Congress leaders in Siddipet also made baseless comments against him but the police took no action. The police, he added, also did not register any cases against Rohin Reddy, a close associate of the Chief Minister, even though he allegedly threatened a contractor at gunpoint. Accusing the Chief Minister of using the police as his private army, Rao said A Revanth Reddy remained silent even when the police entered the residence of Minister Konda Surekha at midnight. He vowed to stand by the journalist fraternity and fight until they were freed from the cases.

## NCB seizes 813 kg of ganja on Hyderabad outskirts, three arrested

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Narcotics Control Bureau, in a major operation, seized 813 kg of ganja in the city outskirts and arrested three persons who are allegedly involved in smuggling of the contraband.

On specific information, the NCB Hyderabad teams intercepted a specially modified lorry transporting ganja from Malkangiri district,

Odisha, to Latur, Maharashtra, in the city outskirts.

"Upon detailed search conducted in accordance with the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, the lorry was found to have an expired registration certificate. It was modified and contained a cylindrical cavity resembling a tank to conceal contraband. The cavity was camouflaged using grass and covered with a tarpaulin sheet, in-



side which 813 kilograms of Ganja were concealed and recovered," said the NCB officials.

Three persons who were carrying the contraband have been arrested. "All are residents of Bidar

district. Investigation revealed that one accused is a habitual narco offender. Earlier, he was involved in two ganja cases, one in Karnataka and the other in Maharashtra," officials maintained.

The NCB is actively investigating the source, destination network, forward and backward linkages, and the involvement of other members of the drug trafficking syndicate, in-

cluding financial trails, the officials added. Further investigation is in progress.

The NCB appeals to the public, having information related to the sale or trafficking of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, may share the same by calling the MANAS - National Narcotics Helpline, Toll-Free Number 1933. The identity of the caller will be kept strictly confidential.

### Centre Increases Telangana's IAS Cadre Strength to 218

The Centre has enhanced the cadre strength of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in Telangana from the existing 208 to 218, bringing relief to the state government which has been grappling with an acute shortage of IAS officers since its formation in June 2014. The government received a communication to this effect from the Centre's department of personnel and training (DoPT). Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in June 2014, it took almost two years for the Centre to complete the distribution of IAS officers between the two successor states. In January 2016, Telangana's cadre strength was fixed at 163 officers. This number proved inadequate and, responding to repeated appeals from the state government, the Centre increased the cadre strength to 208 in April 2016. After nearly ten years, the latest enhancement raises the sanctioned strength to 218.

Despite the cadre strength being fixed at 218, only 171 IAS officers are working in the Telangana cadre, leaving 47 posts vacant. This has forced the state government to make alternative arrangements. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has been consistently urging the Centre to address the shortfall in IAS officers. In March 2024, during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi, the Chief Minister submitted a representation seeking the allotment of 29 IAS officers to Telangana to bridge the growing administrative gap. While the Centre has now approved an increase of 10 posts, the State continues to face a considerable deficit between sanctioned and working strength.

# KTR Condemns Journalists' Arrest, Calls Congress Rule 'Emergency-Like'

■ **KT Rama Rao Condemns Arrest of Three Journalists, Compares Congress Rule in Telangana to Emergency**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao has strongly condemned the arrest of three journalists during the recent festival, drawing parallels between the conduct of the Congress government in Telangana and the authoritarian measures of the Emergency era. Addressing the media, KT Rama Rao described the midnight raids on journalists' homes as "extremely regrettable" and a direct attack on press freedom and democratic values. He pointed out that if the police had required the journalists' cooperation for any investigation, legal notices could have been is-



sued, and they could have been summoned for questioning during regular hours. "Arresting journalists in the middle of the night is not only unnecessary but a blatant violation of constitutional rights," he said. Highlighting the misuse of power, KT Rama Rao demanded the immediate release of all journalists detained, noting that the provisions under which they were arrested are non-bailable. He emphasized that harassing journalists and their families through midnight raids is an unjust and dispro-

portionate exercise of authority, and a reflection of political vendetta rather than law enforcement. The BRS leader also appealed to the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana to perform duties strictly within the legal framework and refrain from becoming a tool in the alleged political machinations of the Congress party. He criticized the police action as indicative of a larger trend of intimidation against media professionals critical of the government. In a pointed remark, KT Rama Rao questioned the source of the leak that led to widespread media coverage of the arrests. He alleged that the broadcast could not have occurred without active cooperation from certain media channels and hinted at po-

litical collusion, referring to an individual he termed "Mr. 30 Percent." Rama Rao's statement comes amid growing concerns over press freedom in the state, with opposition leaders and journalist bodies increasingly vocal about the alleged harassment of media personnel. The BRS leader's comments underscore the ongoing tension between the state administration and journalists, with calls for adherence to democratic norms and protection of constitutional rights gaining momentum. He concluded by urging authorities to uphold the law impartially, stressing that the role of the police is to enforce justice, not to serve partisan political interests, and that safeguarding press freedom is essential to democracy.

### YSRCP chief slams arrest of NTV journalists, calls it attack on democracy

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday condemned the arrest of TV journalists by Telangana, terming it an attack on freedom of press and democratic values. The YSR Congress Party president took to 'X' to condemn the arrest of journalists of Telugu news channel NTV in a case for telecasting alleged defamatory content about a Telangana minister and a woman IAS officer. "I strongly condemn the arrests of NTV journalists, which amount to a direct attack on the freedom of the press and democratic values. Forcefully entering journalists' homes by breaking doors at midnight during this festival and arresting them without following due legal procedure or issuing notices is highly deplorable and reflects an authoritarian mindset," wrote Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Journalists are neither criminals nor terrorists, yet they are being treated with unwarranted harshness. Such actions inflict severe mental trauma on their families and create fear among the media fraternity. I demand the immediate release of the arrested journalists and urge the government to respect the Constitution, uphold the rule of law, and protect the freedom of the press," he said.

## Telangana Bears Cost Of Repatriating Body Of Worker Who Died In Oman

**NIZAMABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a rare humanitarian gesture, the Telangana government stepped in to bear the entire cost of repatriating the mortal remains of a migrant worker who died in a Gulf country, at a time when both the company management and the Indian Embassy expressed their inability to do so. Golla Abbulu, also known as Togari Abbayya, 40, a resident of Yamcha village in Navipet mandal of Nizamabad district, had gone to Salalah in Oman four months ago to work for a cleaning company. After leaving the company due to



dissatisfaction with the management, he died on December 14 in the Ibra region. Under local laws, workers who leave their employer without permission are treated as illegal residents and lose certain rights and facilities.

Citing this, the company management stated that it bore no responsibility for repatriating the body. While such cases are usually supported through the Indian Community Welfare Fund, an official from the Indian

Embassy in Muscat informed the family that due to a shortage of funds, ₹1.50 lakh would have to be paid to transport the body, failing which the last rites would have to be performed in Oman.

The issue was brought to the notice of CM Prajavani in-charge and vice-chairman of the state planning board, G. Chinna Reddy, by members of the NRI advisory committee and Pravasi Prajavani volunteers. CM Prajavani nodal officer Divya Devarajan responded immediately after understanding the gravity of the situation.

## Hero MotoCorp Conducts Road Safety Awareness Program



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In observance of National Road Safety Month, Hero MotoCorp organized a road safety awareness program today for students of Gitanjali Primary School, Begumpet. A total of 50 students participated in the interactive session. The program was attended by the school's principal and teachers, along with Hero MotoCorp

representatives Mr. Sadik Sagar (Manager - Road Safety) and Safety Instructor Praveen Punna. **Key topics covered included:** Road signs and markings Road safety tips for school students Good Samaritan Law The initiative aimed to instill safe road habits among children and raise awareness about traffic rules and safety measures.

## Kavitha Enough to Criticize BRS, KCR: Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday said that his daughter Kavitha was enough to criticize the BRS party and its president K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR). "They (BRS leaders) do not need anyone to criticize them," he said after laying the foundation stone for various development works in Devarakadra town of Mahabubnagar district. Animal Husbandry Minister Vakiti Srihari was also present.

He said the State government would focus on the development of Telangana on all fronts. Komatireddy said that if Congress wins everywhere in the upcoming municipal elections, then it will have the opportunity to



work with even greater strength. Stating that the municipal elections will be held with party symbols, he said the BRS would not win more than 10 percent of the 138 municipalities in the State. BRS working president KT Rama Rao claimed that the party would win 40 percent of the seats in the panchayat elections, which are not related to party symbols. The Minister challenged him to show his strength in the municipal elections.

## Sankranti Joy Lights Up New Bowenpally

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

New Bowenpally came alive with traditional Sankranti spirit on Wednesday, as communities across neighborhoods organized bonfires, kite distributions, and joyous gatherings, fostering unity and cultural pride.

In New Bowenpally and Bapuji Nagar, the Nalla Pochamma Temple Committee hosted a grand bonfire event under the starry evening sky. Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap attended as the chief guest, highlighting the festival's role in strengthening community bonds. Participants, including Ajith Kalyan, Ramara,



Puttinrasimha, Prem Mudiraj, Pawan, and several locals, gathered around the flames, sharing sweets and folk songs that resonated with the harvest season's cheer.

Echoing the festive fervor, a special kite distribution drive brought smiles to children in Chinnathokatta slum, led by local

leader Mukesh Yadav. Jampana Pratap once again attended as chief guest, personally handing out colorful kites to excited kids, symbolizing hope and aspiration. Residents like Narsimha joined in, turning the area into a lively playground of soaring kites against the Sankranti backdrop.

The celebrations extended further with kite programs in Kadakpura, organized under Chotu's guidance, and in Pension Line, coordinated by the JP Youth Association and led by Azam. These events highlighted New Bowenpally's vibrant community spirit, blending age-old traditions with modern enthusiasm amid the January chill. Jampana Pratap lauded the initiatives for promoting social harmony and encouraged continued participation in such cultural activities. As kites dotted the skies and bonfires warmed hearts, New Bowenpally truly embodied the essence of Sankranti—unity, joy, and cultural revival.

## Telugu Actress Approaches Cyberabad Police Over AI-Based Online Harassment

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A prominent Telugu film actress has approached the Cyberabad Police, filing a formal complaint over organized online harassment involving AI-generated obscene content. Authorities confirmed that a case has been registered, and a detailed investigation is underway. Digital evidence, social media activity, and technical expertise are being used to identify and apprehend the culprits.

According to the actress, the harassment began on December 23, when of-

fensive and explicit material using her images and name started circulating across social media platforms. She alleged that certain individuals deliberately misused artificial intelligence (AI) tools to create and distribute this content, aiming to tarnish her reputation and cause psychological distress. In her complaint, the actress emphasized that these actions are not only personal attacks but also indicative of a rising trend of cybercrimes targeting women. She urged the police to take stringent legal action against the perpetrators and to implement

stronger safeguards to prevent such incidents in the future. Cyberabad Police officials confirmed receipt of the complaint and assured that the actress will be provided full protection while the investigation proceeds. Authorities said they are coordinating with technical experts and cybercrime specialists to trace the origins of the AI-generated material and bring the offenders to justice. Recent reports indicate that Telangana has seen a growing number of cybercrime incidents involving the misuse of AI, prompt-

ing police and cyber cell officials to advise the public to remain vigilant online. Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activity immediately and exercise caution on social media platforms. Officials reiterated that all legal measures will be strictly applied and that ongoing efforts are being strengthened to combat cyber harassment and online abuse. The incident highlights the urgent need for robust mechanisms to prevent AI-enabled crimes and protect the rights and dignity of individuals, particularly women, in the digital space.

## Nearly 3 Crore Devotees Expected at Medaram Jathara: Seethakka



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) on Wednesday said nearly three crore devotees are expected to attend the 'Sammakka Saralamma Jathara', also known as the 'Medaram Jathara', this year. The biennial tribal festival will be held from January 28 to 31 in Mulugu district, she said. She chaired a high-level review meeting to assess arrangements for the festival along with Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, senior officials from various departments, and the Mulugu district collector. "As nearly three crore devotees are expected to attend the Jathara this time, officials have been instructed to make arrangements accordingly. Every officer has been directed to take responsibility and work with commitment to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the festival," the Panchayat Raj and

Rural Development Minister said on 'X'. She said special emphasis has been laid on increasing the number of toilets, ensuring adequate drinking water, strengthening transport facilities, and maintaining robust security arrangements. The state government has also launched a dedicated mobile application and QR code for Jathara-related information, along with a special logo and videos, she added. More than 42,000 officials and staff from 21 departments, along with 2,000 tribal youth volunteers, have been deployed for the festival. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, on January 11, directed officials to ensure quality in the development works at Medaram, the abode of goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. The 'Medaram Jathara' is considered one of the largest religious congregations in the country and is believed to attract the highest number of devotees after the Kumbh Mela.

## Actively Integrating Veterans Into National Security Framework: Army Chief

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said the Army was actively integrating its veterans into the country's security framework and nation-building efforts, while expanding welfare, healthcare and resettlement initiatives for ex-servicemen and their families.

Addressing an event to mark Armed Forces Veterans Day, he said ex-servicemen contributed to India's security, governance, industry and social development well beyond active service. "Whenever the nation has called, our veterans have stood firmly with the country under all circumstances," General



Dwivedi said and described it as a reflection of their "deeply ingrained sense of national duty and responsibility".

Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated on January 14 every year to recognise the service rendered by the first Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal K M Cariappa, who retired on this day in 1953.

Highlighting the Army's

expanding welfare ecosystem, General Dwivedi said that Project NAMAN, launched in August 2024 to provide a dedicated support system for defence pensioners and their families, has reached a major milestone.

"On the occasion of this Army Day, the 100th NAMAN centre is being inaugurated," he said, adding that the aim is to establish nearly 200 such

centres by January next year, including in remote locations.

The Chief of Army Staff said the Army views its personnel, veterans and families as one large unit. "I consider the armed forces to be a strong family of nearly 1.25 crore members," he said, referring to serving soldiers, veterans and dependents.

Stressing the growing contribution of ex-servicemen in strategic planning, he said veterans were being systematically engaged through initiatives such as Shaurya Sampark.

"Whether it is strategic brainstorming, wargaming, red-teaming or operational planning, your contributions exceeded expectations," he said, re-

ferring to veterans' involvement during Operation Sindoor.

The Army chief also highlighted resettlement and employment efforts, noting that more than 17,000 veterans were provided jobs this year alone through the Army Welfare Placement Organisation, taking the cumulative figure to over 1.5 lakh.

Calling on the veterans to remain actively engaged with society, the Army chief said, "Your experience, skill and dedication will continue to benefit the country in the years ahead." While economic strength shapes a nation's growth, "military strength ultimately forms the foundation of its outcomes", he said.

## India Plans to Buy 114 Rafale Jets

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Defence Ministry is likely to take up for consideration this week a massive Rs. 3.25 lakh-crore proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets from France, a move that could mark India's largest-ever defence acquisition. The final approval, if cleared, will rest with the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under the proposed deal, the majority of the Rafale aircraft will be manufactured in India as part of the government's push for indigenous defence production. The jets are expected to have around 30 per cent indigenous content, while 12 to 18 aircraft will be delivered in a fly-away condition from France to meet immediate opera-



tional requirements. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has stressed the urgency of the procurement, with its fighter squadron strength having fallen to a record low of 29 squadrons against the sanctioned strength of 42. The depletion has raised serious concerns over India's air combat readiness, especially amid evolving regional security challenges.

Although the United States and Russia have offered their fifth-generation fighter jets—the F-35 and Su-57 respectively—India is inclined to proceed with the proven 4.5-generation Rafale platform. Of-

ficials believe the Rafale best meets the IAF's operational requirements, especially in terms of multi-role capability and combat performance.

India is also keen on integrating indigenous weapons systems into the Rafale fleet to enhance self-reliance and operational flexibility. However, the source code of the aircraft is expected to remain with France, a long-standing issue in advanced defence procurements.

The proposed Rafale induction gains further significance as the delivery of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A, intended to replace the ageing MiG-21 fleet, has been delayed. With these delays impacting force levels, the Rafale deal is seen as a critical step to bridge the IAF's capability gap and strengthen national.

## Delhi Sets Barapullah Project Phase 3 Completion Deadline To 2027

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The wait for high-speed connectivity between East and South Delhi is set to get longer as government sets Barapullah phase-3 completion deadline to 2027, officials said on Wednesday.

The Public Works Department (PWD) has also informed the Delhi government that the delay in completion and the increase in construction costs of the project -- connecting Sarai Kale Khan to Mayur Vihar -- were due to factors "beyond its control".

The project has been under construction since 2015, has had several cost escalations and missed deadlines. The initial deadline was 2017.

According to the officials, 95 per cent of the work at the site has been



completed and now 15 more months would be required to complete the final portion.

In its latest Expenditure and Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held, the government was informed that the overall construction cost of the project has also increased by Rs 374.40 crore.

Initially estimated at Rs 1,260.63 crore, now the construction cost has escalated to Rs 1,635.03 crore.

"Hindrances such as land acquisition and the shifting of high-tension (HT) lines have caused an inordinate delay in the project's scheduled completion. These delays

were beyond the control of the department and ultimately led to an arbitration award in favour of the agency and escalation of cost," the minutes of the EFC meeting state.

In July last year, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta ordered an inquiry into alleged "irregularities" in the construction of the project, seeking the opinion of the law department on arbitration awards and other details of the project.

The Delhi government has also directed the PWD to prepare a fresh, comprehensive proposal for cabinet approval to accommodate cost overruns in the long-delayed project.

"The project, sanctioned in 2015 and initially estimated at Rs 1,260.63 crore, now costs Rs 1,635.03 crore after taking into account all the

pending liabilities and other expenditures," the officials said. According to the Delhi government, the elevated road was scheduled for completion in October 2017 but was repeatedly delayed, and eventually the matter went into arbitration. "The ruling favoured the contractor with an award of Rs 120 crore. When the payment was withheld, the company approached the High Court, which in May 2023 ordered the PWD to pay Rs 175 crore, including interest and GST. The sum was subsequently paid during the tenure of then-PWD Minister Atishi," the government had said earlier.

The Delhi government emphasised that all necessary preventive and corrective measures will be taken by the PWD to ensure strict adherence to project timelines.

## 169 Out Of 328 Missing 'Saroops' Recovered: Bhagwant Mann

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

On the sacred occasion of Maghi, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann paid obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Tuti Gandhi Sahib here and addressed a gathering, reiterating the government's position on the recovery of 169 of the 328 missing 'saroops' (sacred copies of Sri Guru Granth Sahib).

On a day deeply rooted in Sikh history and sacrifice, the Chief Minister said the recovery of the 'saroops' was a matter of duty rather than achievement. The Chief Minister also announced the government would make budgetary provisions for Rs 1,000 monthly assistance scheme for women in the upcoming budget and maintained that his government has fulfilled every commitment made



to the people of Punjab. Addressing a political conference here, CM Mann said his government has so far fulfilled every promise made to the people of Punjab. "We have honoured every commitment made to the people, and now we will start a scheme to give Rs 1,000 to every woman of the state. The required budgetary provision will be ensured in the coming budget. This government is fully committed to the welfare of

all, and every promise made to the people of Punjab will be fulfilled by all means," he said.

Recalling the historical significance of the sacred site, the Chief Minister said the land had witnessed the supreme sacrifice of Sikh warriors led by Bhai Maha Singh and that the entire Sikh 'sangat' was paying tribute to their martyrdom. "People have converged here from across the state and are fortunate to be part of this gathering.

This pious land and the sacrifices made here live in the heart of every Sikh across the world, inspiring them to stand against tyranny, injustice, and oppression," he said.

Taking a dig at Opposition parties, CM Mann said previous governments suffer from weak memory and are

merely waiting for their turn to plunder Punjab after elections. "The 'jhaadu' (broom), which is the symbol of AAP, has cleaned the political system, and that is why traditional parties are baffled. These leaders are attacking me only because I come from a common family, something they are unable to digest," he said.

Stressing that people are supreme in a democracy, he said the masses have made up their mind to teach opportunist leaders a lesson.

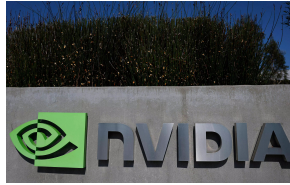
"The massive turnout at this rally reflects the love and affection people have for the government and its policies. Other parties are also holding rallies, but Sukhbir Badal's rally must have ended by now because hardly anyone would have gone there," he remarked.

## US Allows Nvidia To Send Advanced AI Chips To China With Restrictions

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The US Commerce Department on Tuesday opened the door for Nvidia to sell advanced artificial intelligence chips in China with restrictions, following through on a policy shift announced last month by President Donald Trump. The change would permit Nvidia to sell its powerful H200 chip to Chinese buyers if certain conditions are met -- including proof of "sufficient" US supply -- while sales of its most advanced processors would still be blocked.

However, uncertainty has grown over how much demand there will be from Chinese companies, as Beijing has reportedly been encouraging tech companies to use homegrown chips. Chinese officials have informed some tech companies they would only approve buying H200 chips under special circumstances, such as development labs or university research, news website The Information reported on Tuesday, citing people with knowledge of the



situation. The Information had previously reported that Chinese officials were calling on companies there to pause H200 purchases while they deliberated requiring them to buy a certain ratio of AI chips made by Nvidia rivals in China. In its official update on Tuesday, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) said it had changed the licensing review policy for H200 and similar chips from a presumption of denial to handling applications case by case.

Trump announced on December 9, 2025 that he had reached an agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping to allow Nvidia to export its H200 chips to China, with the US government getting a 25-percent cut of sales. The move marked a significant shift in US export policy for advanced AI

chips, which Joe Biden's administration had heavily restricted over national security concerns about Chinese military applications. Democrats in Congress have criticized the shift as a huge mistake that will help the Chinese military and economy. Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang has advocated for the company to be allowed to sell some of its more advanced chips in China, arguing the importance of AI systems around the world being built on US technology. The chips -- graphic processing units or GPUs -- are used to train the AI models that are the backbone of the generative AI revolution launched with the release of ChatGPT in 2022. The GPU sector is dominated by Nvidia, now the world's most valuable company thanks to frenzied global demand and optimism for AI. China and the United States are competing for dominance in AI. H200s are roughly 18 months behind the US company's most state-of-the-art offerings, which will still be off-limits to China.

## Trump: 25% US.....

In Srinagar, a group of distressed parents gathered at the Mushtaq Press Enclave, a media hub, to voice their anxiety over the suspension of internet services in several parts of Iran. They said the communication blackout has deepened uncertainty and revived painful memories of previous evacuation crises, during which many Kashmiri families struggled to stay in touch with their children. The sudden loss of connectivity, they said, has left them fearing the worst.

Syed Muzzamil Qadri, one of the parents, told local news agency KNC that the abrupt communication breakdown has pushed families into a state of helplessness. According to him, the snapping of internet services without warning feels like a repeat of last year's ordeal, when similar unrest forced emergency evacuations. He urged the Indian Embassy and the Government of India to intervene swiftly and arrange the safe return of students, just as they had done during earlier crises.

Another parent, Muhammad Yaseen, echoed these concerns, saying that the inability of students to contact their families regularly has created widespread panic in

Kashmir. He described the uncertainty as unbearable and appealed to authorities to ensure the safety of the students through timely evacuation before the situation worsens further. Many parents said they spend sleepless nights waiting for even the briefest message from their children, who are themselves struggling with restricted movement and limited access to communication.

## India Ranks 80th.....

Singapore passport holders enjoy visa-free access to 192 of the 227 countries and territories tracked by the index. Japan and South Korea follow closely, with access to 188 destinations each. Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain and Luxembourg jointly occupy the third rank, offering visa-free access to 186 destinations. The index evaluates 199 passports across 227 destinations and is based on exclusive data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), measuring the number of countries a passport holder can enter without a prior visa. European countries dominate the top 10 rankings. The United States is ranked 10th, while Russia stands at 46th and China at 59th. In South Asia, the Maldives is

ranked 52nd. Bhutan is placed at 85th, Sri Lanka at 93rd, Bangladesh at 95th, Nepal at 96th and Pakistan at 98th. Afghanistan is ranked at the bottom of the list.

## Sangh Parivar.....

Addressing SP workers and leaders from various districts at the party's state headquarters here, Yadav said, "Sangh Parivar is the most dangerous 'parivar' (family) in the world. You all should remain alert with the RSS and the BJP. Removing the BJP from power was essential to protect democracy and the Constitution." He said the BJP had created a "false narrative" on infiltrators, claiming that not a single infiltrator was found during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"The BJP is adept at lying, misleading the public, indulging in corruption and looting government funds," Yadav said, further alleging that the people of the state were deeply distressed due to the party's policies.

Urging party workers to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots, Yadav said protecting votes and winning booths was the responsibility of SP workers. He asked them to ensure that the left-out voters were added to the elec-

toral rolls through Form-6 and to remain vigilant against what he termed the BJP's "cunning tactics".

"There should be no lapse in 2027," he said, in an apparent reference to the next Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. Yadav claimed that the public trusted the SP and called upon workers to connect more people with the party and win their confidence through conduct. He said the SP had carried out development work in the state, while alleging that the BJP has "ruined" UP. The SP chief further alleged that corruption was rampant across departments and that the state was in the grip of criminals, with incidents of crimes against women and cybercrime being the highest in the state.

He also claimed that criminals were carrying out murders openly and institutions had been weakened under the BJP government. Criticising the state of healthcare, Yadav alleged that quality treatment was not available even in major hospitals and medical colleges in the capital due to inadequate budgetary support from the government.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### Police Seize 21 Kg Ganja Worth ₹7 L; 2 Held

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana



Two persons were arrested after they were found in possession of about 21 kg of ganja, during a joint operation by the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) and the Kukatpally police, on Tuesday night. Based on a tip-off, the police teams arrested the two accused identified as Sachin, 38, and Laukhik, 21, both residents of Pune, were planning to transport the contraband from Odisha to Pune via Hyderabad. Police seized 21.35 kg of ganja, estimated to be worth about Rs 7 lakh. During questioning, the

accused allegedly disclosed that the contraband had been procured from Berhampur in Odisha and was being transported to Pune for sale. A mobile phone used by the accused was also seized as part of the investigation. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and further investigation is underway to identify the source of supply. The accused are expected to be produced before a court.

### 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

ADVPMMA 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.

### Probe On Into Sale of 2-Month-Old Girl

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Shadnagar police are probing an alleged attempt by a tribal woman to sell her two-month-old daughter to her uncle at Lal Singh Tanda in Shadnagar. The woman was caught red-handed following the timely intervention of officials from the Women's Department and Child Welfare (WD & CW) department, as well as local police, on Tuesday. Vartywat Chintu, a

local Anganwadi teacher whose alertness led to the rescue of the infant and who is the complainant in the case, said she first noticed suspicious behaviour at a local government Zanjikhana.

"I spotted Renawat Renuka (28), who appeared to be planning to hand over her two-month-old daughter to her uncle Lavadi Govind," Chintu said. Her suspicions grew when Renuka initially claimed that the child was dead. "On further question-

ing, she admitted that the baby was alive and showed me a letter stating that she was unable to bear the expenses of raising the child and had decided to give her away to Govind," Chintu said.

Chintu immediately alerted her supervisor, following which officials from WD & CW department and the Shadnagar police intervened and rescued the infant, who was later shifted to Sishu Vihar. Renuka, wife of farmer Renawat Vinod, al-

ready has two daughters apart from the rescued child. During the preliminary investigation, police found that Govind is suspected to have links with human trafficking networks. Based on Chintu's complaint, the Shadnagar police have constituted special teams to probe human trafficking. A case under Section 81 of the Juvenile Justice Act, pertaining to the sale and procurement of children, has been registered and further investigation is under way.

### Handloom Worker Killed in Accident on NH-65

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A 55-year-old handloom worker died in a road accident under Hayathnagar police station limits on Wednesday afternoon. According to police, the deceased was identified as Ganji Ashok, a resident of Sansthan Narayanapur village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The accident occurred around 12.30 pm when Ashok was travelling along with his son, Umakanth, on a motorcycle. The duo were travelling from Munuganoor to their native village via the NH-65 service road and moving towards Pedda

Amberpet. When they reached near Sektarampuram Kaman, a scooter reportedly moving at a high speed, collided with their motorcycle. Due to the impact of the collision, Ashok sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. Police said the deceased was associated with handloom trade. Umakanth also got injured and was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Hayathnagar police registered a case and are probing the cause of the accident. Further details about scooter rider and what led to the collision are being examined, police added.

### 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.

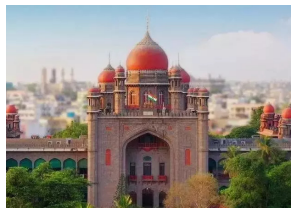
The accused — Mohammed Owaiz, Mohd Irfan, Naseer Pasha alias Syed Naseer Pasha, and

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.

### HC Dismisses Appeal Against Tender Process of Hair Collection at Vemulawada

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana



The Telangana High Court has dismissed a writ appeal filed by Durai Enterprises, represented by its proprietor P. Muthumohandas, challenging the tender process for the collection and distribution of human hair at the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam in Vemulawada, Rajanna Sircilla district. A division bench of the High Court, comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice Gadi Praveen Kumar, observed that the writ petition was filed on July 23, 2025, well after the tender had been awarded and approved. Affirming the single

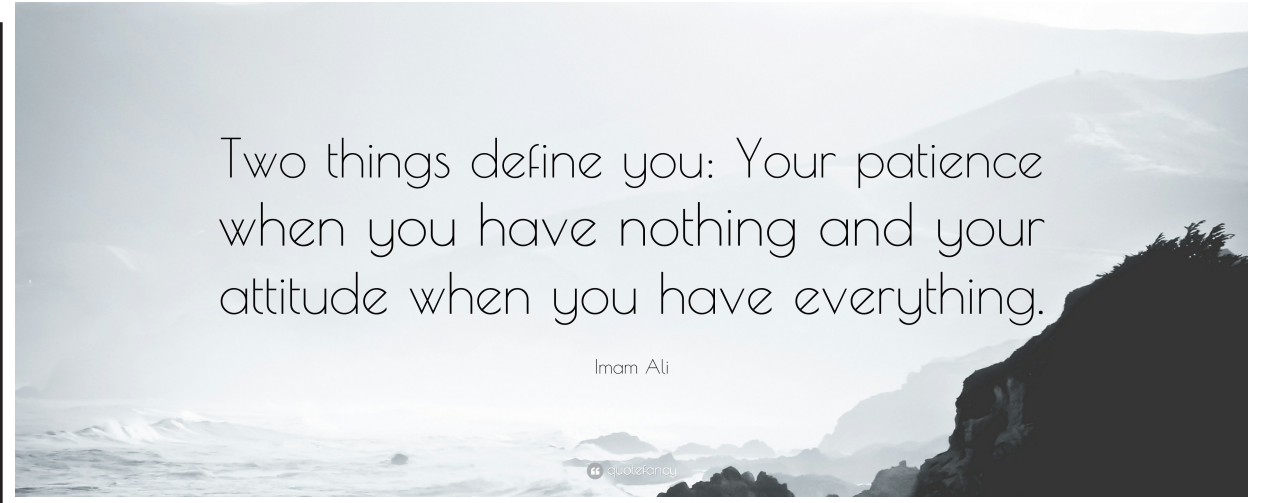
judge's decision, the division bench held that Durai Enterprises lacked locus standi, as it had not participated in the tender process. The bench also said that the reliefs sought in the petition had already become infructuous and the prayers made in the writ petition were internally inconsistent. The petitioners appealed against an earlier order of a single judge, who declined to entertain the writ petition on the ground that the tender in question had already been finalised and awarded to Kalawati En-

terprises of Secunderabad after following the prescribed procedure.

The case relates to an tender issued by the commissioner of the endowments department and the executive officer of the temple, inviting bids for granting licence rights to collect human hair offered by devotees. Although Durai Enterprises claimed experience in the business and participation in earlier tenders, it was undisputed that the firm did not take part in the sixth tender, which formed the subject of the litigation. Kalawati Enterprises, on the other hand, participated and emerged as the highest bidder.

While the executive of-

ficer proposed reopening the tender process on April 26, 2025, the decision was revisited after Kalawati Enterprises made a representation to the government. Acting on the complaint, the principal secretary to the government, revenue (endowments) department, instructed the officials to reconsider the matter in accordance with procurement norms. Taking note of the potential legal consequences of cancelling the tender, the authorities decided to proceed with the existing process through a memo dated June 28, 2025, and granted a licence to Kalawati Enterprises for two years. The final approval was issued on July 10,



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### TIME TO REVISIT ANTI-GRAFT LAW

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

The Supreme Court's split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2018, gives Parliament an opportunity to correct its own action of practically killing the anti-graft law and restore its effectiveness in fighting governmental corruption in this country. The PCA in its original form invested in the investigation agency the power to register a crime and launch an investigation against a public servant; the agency needed to get the government's approval only before filing a chargesheet. The 2018 amendment and the introduction of Section 17A turned the very logic of this piece of legislation on its head by stripping the agency of this critical power — as the law stands today, it

can launch an investigation only after it gets the approval of the government.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna said the law is unconstitutional and needs to be struck down saying requirement of prior sanction by the government is contrary to its purpose as it forecloses inquiry and protects the corrupt. She opined that there should have been an independent body which is not controlled by the government to consider a case for grant of prior approval to conduct an inquiry/enquiry/investigation by a police officer. Meanwhile, despite endorsing the constitutionality of the Act saying it gave honest public servants a basic assurance that decisions taken by them will not be subjected to frivolous complaints, Justice K.V. Viswanathan called for an independent authority, such as the Lokpal or the

Lokayukta, to give the go-ahead to launch an investigation.

The meeting point of the opinions of the two judgments is that the government should not be the authority to sanction an investigation into an allegation of corruption against a public servant; it should be obtained from an independent agency. Such an independent authority will offer protection to bona fide actions against frivolous investigations as well. Now, the court may have resorted to the existing provisions in the law that allows a judicial scrutiny before an investigation is launched, but it has chosen not to. Instead of letting the Supreme Court decide the matter, the government may expunge/amend the villainous section to reinstitute an independent mechanism and make the law powerful again.



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# India WPI Inflation Rebounds to 0.83% in December 2025

India's Wholesale Inflation Turns Positive at 0.83% in December 2025, Signalling Recovery After Two Months of Deflation Driven by Manufacturing and Food Prices

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rose to 0.83 per cent in December 2025, marking a clear turnaround after two consecutive months of deflation, according to official data released on Wednesday. The uptick signals improving price momentum at the wholesale level, driven mainly by higher prices in manufacturing, minerals and select food items.

The December reading compares with a deflation of 0.32 per cent in November 2025 and 1.21 per cent in October, making it the

second straight month of upward movement after a brief deflationary phase. However, inflation remains significantly lower than the 2.57 per cent recorded in December 2024, indicating subdued pricing pressures compared to last year.

According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the positive inflation rate in December was "primarily due to an increase in prices of other manufacturing, minerals, manufacture of machinery and equipment, manufacture of food products, and textiles." The rebound reflects stabilising demand conditions and cost



pressures in key industrial segments. Food articles continued to remain in deflationary territory, though the intensity eased sharply. Food inflation stood at (-) 0.43 per cent in December, compared with

(-) 4.16 per cent in November. Within this category, vegetables showed a significant moderation in deflation, contracting 3.50 per cent in December against a steep 20.23 per cent decline in No-

vember, indicating a recovery in prices. Manufactured products, which carry the highest weight in the WPI basket, saw inflation inch up to 1.82 per cent in December, compared with 1.33 per

cent in November. The rise suggests firming cost structures across industrial goods, a development closely tracked by investors as it often feeds into corporate margins and pricing power. Non-food articles recorded an inflation of 2.95 per cent in December, up from 2.27 per cent in November, driven by higher prices of minerals and raw materials. Meanwhile, the fuel and power category continued to witness deflation at (-) 2.31 per cent, broadly unchanged from (-) 2.27 per cent in the previous month, reflecting relatively stable energy prices.

The wholesale inflation data comes days after official figures showed retail inflation rising to 1.33 per cent in December, from 0.71 per cent in November, largely due to higher food prices. With inflation remaining well within comfort levels, the Reserve Bank of India has reduced policy interest rates by 1.25 percentage points during the current financial year to support economic growth.

Commenting on the data, Rahul Agrawal, Senior Economist at ICRA Ltd, said the WPI inflation reading of around 0.8 per cent was slightly higher

than the agency's expectation of 0.4 per cent. He noted that the sequential rise was largely driven by the food index, which stabilised after contracting 2.6 per cent in November.

Looking ahead, ICRA expects food inflation to harden further in January 2026 due to an unfavourable base effect. Additionally, global commodity prices have shown a sequential rise in January, led by gains in precious metals and select industrial metals, although crude oil prices have softened. These trends could influence wholesale inflation in the coming months.

## Mercedes Prioritises Value Over Volume, Expects 3% Sales Dip in 2025

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana



Mercedes-Benz, the German luxury carmaker, which retained market leadership, has decided to focus on value over volume for profitable growth and concentrate on top-end luxury vehicles priced Rs 1.5 crore and above where margins are better. "Our strategy this year will be on value over volume for profitable growth," Santosh Iyer, MD and CEO at Mercedes-Benz India told Financial Chronicle. He said the focus would be on top-end luxury vehicles with a ticket price of Rs 1.5 crore and above, where sales are growing and bringing better margins.

With intense competition in the entry-level luxury car market in India, even from non-luxury brands in the sub Rs 50 lakh segment, Mercedes in CY2025 de-grew 20 per cent, but the top-end luxury car segment soared by 11 per cent earning more

revenues. In CY2025, the Pune-based automaker's sales volume dropped 3 per cent to 19,007 units as compared with 19,565 units sold in CY2024. The company's "best ever year in revenues for CY2025" was backed by 11 per cent growth in the Top End Vehicle (TEV) segment and 12 per cent growth in Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs).

The AMG portfolio also jumped 34 per cent, powered by demand for AMG G63, AMG CLE53 and AMG GLC43 cars. Mercedes BEVs now comprise 20 per cent of all top-end Mercedes-Benz sold in India. Over 70 per cent of all Mercedes-BEVs sold in 2025 were priced between Rs 1.25 crore to Rs 3.10 crore, establishing a strong customer preference for

top-end BEVs in the luxury segment, the company said. "We have delivered another best-ever year in terms of revenue growth, buoyed by high affinity amongst discerning customers, reflected in the strong growth in the TEV segment as well in top-end BEVs," Iyer noted.

He said 2026 would be an action-packed year with 12 new product offensives, expansion of our local production portfolio, the launch of the MB.Charge Public, expansion into new markets and investment in upgrading our entire network. Mercedes kick-started 2026 with the launch of the Mercedes-Maybach GLS 'Celebration Edition' priced at Rs 4.10 crore and the made-in-India Maybach GLS at Rs 2.75 crore, making it cheaper by Rs 42 lakh compared with the imported model's price tag of Rs 3.17 crore. It has also launched the EQS SUV 'Celebration Edition' starting at Rs. 1.34 crore (5-seater) and Rs 1.48 crore (7-seater).

## Maharashtra Tops Export Preparedness

The index looks at the export infrastructure, business ecosystem, policy and governance, and export performance of states while rating them.

**LUCKNOW**  
Wakeup telangana



Maharashtra is the top state in terms of export preparedness, followed by Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, as per the Export Preparedness Index 2024 by Niti Aayog. The index looks at the export infrastructure, business ecosystem, policy and governance, and export performance of states while rating them. With merchandise exports worth Rs 5.3 lakh crore, Maharashtra's export performance is anchored by key sectors such as gems & jewellery, engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. It topped in the previous edition of the survey.

Despite its strong position, Maharashtra's export performance saw a year-on-year decline of 7.3 per cent in FY24 dropping from Rs 6.1 lakh

crore in FY23 to Rs 5.6 lakh crore with gems and jewellery sector witnessing a reduction of around Rs 30,962 crore. To counter recent export declines and enhance global trade competitiveness, the Maharashtra Vision 2030 outlines a clear strategy to double the state's exports by 2030 and increase its share in national exports to over 20 per cent. The plan emphasizes strengthening logistics infrastructure through multi-modal parks, port connectivity, and industrial corridors like the DMIC and Samruddhi Mahamarg, while promoting SEZs and Export-Oriented Units. It aims to di-

versify the export basket by boosting high-growth sectors such as electronics, biotech, and defence manufacturing. Tamil Nadu's export numbers have shown growth and in FY24 it crossed Rs 3.6 lakh crore. A blend of skilled labour, matured infrastructure and forward-thinking policies ensures Tamil Nadu's place among India's leading export contributors. Automobiles and auto components, engineering, pharmaceuticals, garments, and textile products are key sectors.

Its robust IT industry accounts for a prominent share of India's service exports.

Despite positive year-on-year export growth, Tamil Nadu's export sector is facing a slowdown, with the rate of increase diminishing, potentially raising concerns with the formation of a slump. Products like automotive components are susceptible to price fluctuations and demand shifts. Tex-

tile exports too saw a slight decline in FY24. Gujarat's export profile is heavily skewed towards petroleum and petrochemical products, which make up over half of the state's total export value, exposing it to global oil price volatility and environmental policy shifts. Despite a strong manufacturing base, the state's export basket remains heavily dependent on traditional sectors such as petroleum, gems and jewellery, and textiles, limiting diversification into emerging high-growth industries. Export activity concentrated in cities like Ahmedabad, Surat, and Jamnagar are creating disparities in industrial development and infrastructure access. Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu continue to be India's top exporting states, collectively accounting for approximately 56 per cent of the country's total exports.

## India, EU Officials In Constant Touch To Resolve FTA Hurdles Ahead Of January Summit

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Indian and European Union (EU) teams are in constant touch with each other to resolve the remaining contentious issues in the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) ahead of the visit of the top EU leadership to India later this month, an official source said on Wednesday. The India-EU Summit will be held on January 27 here, and the top EU leadership will grace the Republic Day parade as the chief guest on January 26. Recently, India's trade minister Piyush Goyal held a two-day meeting with EU commissioner for trade and economic security Maros Sefcovic in Brussels to review the progress of negotiations. These continuous engagements are important,

as both sides are looking to conclude the negotiations at the earliest.

"Both sides are in constant engagement to resolve the remaining contentious issues," the official said. These issues include the EU's carbon tax and duty cuts on certain goods. Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal will also meet his EU counterpart, Director General for Trade of the European Commission Sabine Weyand, in Brussels on January 6-7. So far, 16 rounds of negotiations have been held. India is pushing for zero-duty access for its labour-intensive sectors, such as textiles and leather. On the other hand, the EU is demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles, medical devices, wine, spirits, meat, poultry, and a strong intellectual property regime.

## Geoeconomic conflict biggest global risk in 2026: WEF

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana



Geoeconomic conflict has become the topmost risk facing the world in 2026, while cyber insecurity is the biggest risk for India, a new study showed on Wednesday.

Releasing its annual Global Risks Report ahead of the Davos annual meeting, the World Economic Forum said that geoeconomic confrontation has climbed eight positions to become the topmost risk globally for a two-year period, followed by misinformation and disinformation, societal polarisation, extreme weather and interstate conflict.

On a longer-term 10-year horizon, extreme weather events remain the biggest risk, followed by biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, critical change to Earth systems, misinformation and dis-

information and adverse outcomes of AI technologies.

In the case of India, the study identified the top five risks as cyber insecurity, income inequality, insufficient public services and social protections, economic downturn and state-based armed conflict.

Highlighting critical infrastructure as a new front for warfare globally, the WEF said governments with upstream control over rivers and reservoirs could be tempted to divert water to their own populations at the expense of neighbouring countries, as water security concerns are likely to continue rising worldwide.

"Potential flashpoints

over the next decade could include the Indus River Basin between India and Pakistan, or Afghanistan's construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal, which could diminish the flow of the Amu Darya River into Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan," it said.

At the same time, the WEF cited India's Unified Payments Interface as "a good example" for governments to take measures to make their banking systems more attractive and, by extension, more resilient in the face of potential future global debt or broader financial crises.

On risks emanating from misinformation and disinformation, it said a particular problem area is the proliferation of deepfakes or digitally altered videos, images and audio recordings. It said deepfakes have started to proliferate and have a greater influence on politics and electoral processes.

## Samsung Trains 1,750 Students in Uttar Pradesh

**LUCKNOW**  
Wakeup telangana

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has certified 1,750 students in Uttar Pradesh under its flagship Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) programme, reinforcing its commitment to youth skilling and future-ready education. The announcement was made on the occasion of National Youth Day.

The certification ceremony was held at the City Group of Institutions in Lucknow and was attended by Rajni Tiwari, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, along with academic leaders and programme partners. With the latest cohort, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as one of the fastest-growing states under Samsung Innova-

tion Campus, with a total of 3,900 students certified so far. Samsung has set a target to train 5,000 youth in the state, contributing to its national goal of upskilling 20,000 students across 10 states—six times more than the previous year.

Under the Lucknow initiative, students received industry-aligned training in emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (950 students), Coding and Programming (550), Big Data (150), and Internet of Things (100). The programme also integrates soft-skills development and placement support to enhance employability. Shubham Mukherjee, Head of CSR and Corporate Communications at Samsung Southwest Asia, said the initiative aims to bridge the gap between education and industry by equipping

young learners with hands-on experience in future technologies, making them job-ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Minister Rajni Tiwari praised the initiative, stating that such industry-academia collaborations play a vital role in aligning higher education with evolving technological and economic needs, while strengthening Uttar Pradesh's skilled workforce. Launched in India in 2022, Samsung Innovation Campus is implemented in partnership with the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India through accredited training partners. At the national level, the programme has recorded 44 per cent participation by women, highlighting Samsung's focus on inclusive and equitable skilling.

## Priyanka Chopra Jonas Unveils Fierce Warrior Avatar in 'The Bluff' Trailer

Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas has unveiled the first official trailer of her upcoming action drama *The Bluff*, in which she delivers a striking performance as a fierce warrior pirate mother determined to protect her child at any cost. The film is set to premiere on Prime Video on February 25, 2026.

The trailer presents Priyanka in a raw and intense avatar, portraying a wounded yet unbreakable woman who fights through pain, bloodshed, and danger. Packed with gripping action sequences, the visuals showcase her engaging in brutal hand-to-hand combat and large-scale confrontations, underscoring both her physical prowess and emotional resilience.

Her portrayal adds depth to the role of a mother battling overwhelming odds. Sharing the trailer on social media, Priyanka wrote, "This only ends



with the sand soaked in blood. *The Bluff* is coming to Prime Video February 25." The post quickly garnered widespread attention from fans and industry peers alike. In *The Bluff*, Priyanka essays the role of Ercell Bodden, a former pirate infamously known as "Bloody Mary."

The film marks a significant departure for the actress as she explores a rugged and action-heavy character set in the late 1800s.

From intense battlefield encounters to moments of vulnerability as a pro-

ductive mother, the role is both physically demanding and emotionally layered. A few days prior to the trailer launch, Priyanka treated fans to first-look stills from the film, revealing her blood-soaked, battle-ready appearance. Captioning the images, she wrote, "Mother. Protector. Pirate. Meet Bloody Mary #TheBluff | Feb. 25, 2026 Only on Prime Video."

The images hinted at the gritty tone and high-stakes drama of the film. Reacting to her first look, singer and actor Nick Jonas expressed his

admiration, calling Priyanka "absolutely incredible" and sharing his excitement for audiences to witness her performance on screen. *The Bluff* follows the journey of Ercell Bodden as she attempts to leave behind her violent past and build a peaceful life as a mother in the Cayman Islands. However, her former pirate crew tracks her down, forcing her to confront the brutal world she once ruled. The narrative explores themes of survival, redemption, and motherhood against a backdrop of danger and betrayal. The film is produced by the Russo Brothers' AGBO Studios in association with Amazon MGM Studios. The ensemble cast includes Temuera Morrison as Quartermaster Lee, Captain Connor's gold-hungry confidant, along with Ismael Cruz Córdova, Safia Oakley-Green, Zach Morris, David Field, and Vedanten Naidoo in pivotal roles.

## Trouble Deepens for Yash's 'Toxic'



HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Kannada superstar Yash and Geetu Mohandas who directs the actor's *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grownups* have fallen foul of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for streaming the film's trailer without the regulatory body's nod. The trailer started streaming on Yash's birthday, and a source at the CBFC confirmed the flouting of rules. And that's not the only trouble the trailer is facing. It has been called

out for its "grown-up" mix of mayhem and eroticism.

Yash, who has a 'clean' image, had asserted in an earlier interview: "I would never do anything on screen that I can't watch with my family. Call it my self-censorship. But I know where to draw the line." The actor's image seems to have taken a beating, but not everyone agrees. A Sandalwood colleague, speaking anonymously, said, "Yash has done nothing wrong. Films like *Animal* and *Dhurandhar* have far worse content."

## Films Held to Ransom by Nuisance Litigations

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

A legal notice has been sent to Sajid Nadiadwala and Vishal Bharadwaj, producer and director respectively of Shahid Kapoor-starrer *O Romeo*, by Sanobar Shaikh, who identifies herself as the daughter of gangster Husain Ustara. She alleges that the film is based on her father's life, portraying him negatively, seeking Rs 2 crore in compensation to be paid within seven days. It's unclear how Shaikh links the film to her father from an unnamed trailer, or how money can fix reputational harm, but such nuisance litigations are becoming increasingly



common. Such nuisance litigations, filed just weeks or days before the scheduled release, are typically aimed at extorting money from producers: 'Pay up some lakhs or face a loss of crores when the film gets blocked.' In reverse chronological order, in 2022, Gangubai's adopted son sought a stay on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, claiming it depicted her as a sex worker. In 2021, the Tamil actioner *Chakra* headlined

by Vishal Krishna successfully warded off a similar stay order threat. But "it was a traumatic time for me and my team," says Vishal. "Until a day before release we didn't know if it would happen. Thankfully, the Court ruled in our favour." Earlier, in 2017, producer Pahlaj Nihalani risked huge losses when N R Pachisia filed an eleventh-hour copyright case against *Julie 2*, forcing three postponements despite Nihalani's protests. Both Vishal and Nihalani call for a stop to the practice of filing last-minute cases. If anyone has a problem with a film, they must come forward with it earlier, not when the film is on release.

## Yami and the Politics of Praise

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

Bollywood can't seem to get enough of Yami Gautam. Over the past few days, the industry has witnessed a gush-fest celebrating her power-packed performance in *Haq. Alia* called her the "queen of her craft." Karan admitted he had "never been moved by a performance like this before," Samantha Ruth Prabhu described the film as deeply human and rare, noting that such stories are "even rarer when brought alive by an actor of this calibre." And Saba Pataudi echoed the sentiment, calling



Yami a terrific performer. "Everyone salutes the rising sun," observes trade analyst Sumi Kadel. He adds that an industry known for its factions

rarely swims against the current, especially when the spotlight is firmly on Haq and her husband Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar*. Yet, the irony is hard to ignore. Yami, an outsider who carved her own path, has often spoke about feeling overlooked and struggling for acceptance despite a strong body of work.

An industry source points out that in 2025, no female actor delivered a clear box-office hit, and Yami's performance stood out as the strongest, regardless of whether *Haq* qualified as a conventional blockbuster. In an ecosystem where awards and invitations

are often negotiated, this moment of recognition feels unusually organic. Not long ago, the actor had also spoken about how access to Bollywood's inner circles remains a privilege for a select few. In an interview with *Deccan Chronicle*, she said "We all know how casting works and how perceptions are formed. At the end of the day, it's for me to know what I'm looking for and chase that." Today, as Bollywood applauds in unison, Yami's moment feels less like overnight success and more like delayed acknowledgment-long earned, quietly awaited.

## India Open: PV Sindhu Out; Srikanth, Prannoy Advance To Second Round

NEW DELHI  
Wakeup telangana

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu was knocked out of India Open but Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy progressed to the second round on a mixed day for the hosts at the USD 950,000 Super 750 badminton tournament, here Wednesday. Sindhu, who reached the semifinals of Malaysia Super 1000 last week, couldn't maintain the pressure after narrowly pocketing the opening game to eventually go down 22-20 12-21 15-21 to Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen in 68 minutes.

"I don't think it was my day, she isn't an easy opponent. At this level, everyone plays well and you can't expect easy points or easy wins. She has good strokes, you had to keep the tempo and keep the shuttle in play. Small mis-



takes in those moments become decisive," Sindhu said after her exit. "I definitely need to be more consistent. Giving away easy or consecutive points is something I have to stop. After losing one point, I need to reset immediately and be ready for the next rally. That's the main takeaway for me."

Earlier, former world No. 1 Srikanth had to dig deep to outlast fellow Indian Tharun Manneppalli 15-21, 21-6, 21-19, while Malvika Bansod, returning from an injury layoff, displayed patience and de-

fensive solidity to beat Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-18, 21-19. Prannoy, who received a last-minute entry in the tournament, made it count as he outwitted last year's runner-up Lee Cheuk Yiu 22-20 21-18 to advance to the second round. He will next face eighth seed and former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Tanvi Sharma, silver medalist at the BWF World Junior Championship, then played her heart out before going down fighting 20-22 21-18 13-21 to world number 2

Wang Zhi Yi. Indian women's doubles campaign also got off to a positive note with Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand cruising past Thailand's Ornicha Jongsathapornpan and Sukitta Suwachai 21-15, 21-11. The Indian pair, fresh from defending their Syed Modi International title, will next face seventh seeds Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min of China. However, it was a disappointing day for India in mixed doubles, with three Indian pairs exiting the tournament at an early stage. Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto went down 15-21, 14-21 to Thailand's Pakkapon Teeratsakul and Sapsiree Taerattanachai, while Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde lost 19-21, 14-21 to Germany's Marvin Seidel and Thuc Phuong Nguyen.

## Formulated Roadmap After Studying Best Practices of Some Top Leagues: AIFF

HYDERABAD  
Wakeup telangana

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has "taken references" from the world's top leagues in Spain, Germany, England, Australia and Japan before drawing a roadmap for next 21 years, including establishing an all-powerful governing council and a management committee. As part of a new governance structure for the Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League, the AIFF has put in place the governing council and the management committee to oversee the league's regulatory and operational functioning.

The AIFF shared the governing and management council policies with the 14 ISL clubs, including the 2025-26 season on Tuesday. According to the charter, the league will be governed and managed by the two committees, with the po-



tential commercial rights partner having three seats in each of the bodies. "It's a roadmap for the next 21 years about how the country's top two leagues are going to be managed, administrated, promoted and developed by these two bodies.

"We have taken references from some of the of top leagues of the world and proposed to implement the global best practices into India's top two football leagues," AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey told PTI. As per a proposal by stakeholders, the 22-member governing council is likely to be headed by either the president of the AIFF, and it will be

the highest supervisor body for the ISL. The management committee, which will be in charge of ensuring smooth function of the league, will be led by the AIFF's secretary-general.

The governing council will comprise 14 clubs owners, three office bearers of the AIFF, three nominated members from commercial partners, and two independent partners who does not have any conflict of interest. The body will meet once in a year, preferably three months prior to the league, and can decide on matters relating to finance and other important things. "We have done a thorough study on

how some of the best football leagues are run, we have followed their structures before framing these policies," Chaubey said.

The managing committee will include chief executive officers of five ISL clubs, including two from previous season's winners and runners-up and three elected by the clubs. The managing committee will also feature three members from the commercial partners and three office bearers from the AIFF. The management committee will meet once every meet and as and when required when the league is in progress. The managing council will decide on the routine operational matters, including running the day-to-day operations of the league. Below them there will be six other committees to run the league in a professional manner including regulatory oversight to formulate.

## HYDRA Commissioner Flies Kites at Kukatpally Nalla Cheruvu, Celebrates Lake Revival



**H**YDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath joined children and residents at Kukatpally Nalla Cheruvu today, flying kites and marking the lake's transformation into a vibrant public space.

The lake, expanded from 16 to 30 acres and desilted up to 10 feet, now offers walking tracks, sports facilities, and recreation zones. The rejuvenation aims to prevent urban flooding and improve groundwater levels. Ranganath announced plans to develop 14 additional lakes, highlighting that large-scale lake restoration can help manage city flooding effectively. He also recalled the protests during the lake's expansion in September 2024, contrasting them with the current festive atmosphere.

## Telangana DGP Warns of Strict Action Against Character Assassination on Social Media

**T**elangana director general of police B. Shivdhar Reddy on Wednesday expressed strong displeasure over incidents of character assassination and defamation being carried out on social media platforms. Recalling his October 1 press conference after assuming charge, the DGP said he had made it clear that strict action would be taken against those operating beyond the limits of the law while using social media.

He said it was the policy of the police department to initiate legal proceedings against anyone indulging in defaming individuals, disturbing public morals or engaging in character assassination under the guise of online activity. Spreading false news, making baseless allegations, circulating fake content and intruding into private lives would not be tolerated, he warned. At the same time, Shivdhar Reddy clarified that there was no objection to constructive criticism or expression of opinions, as long as they remained within the framework of the law. He cautioned that stringent action would be taken against those who cross permissible limits and misuse social media to spread falsehoods.

## Hyderabad Police Bust Inter-State Gang, ₹26L Jewellery Recovered



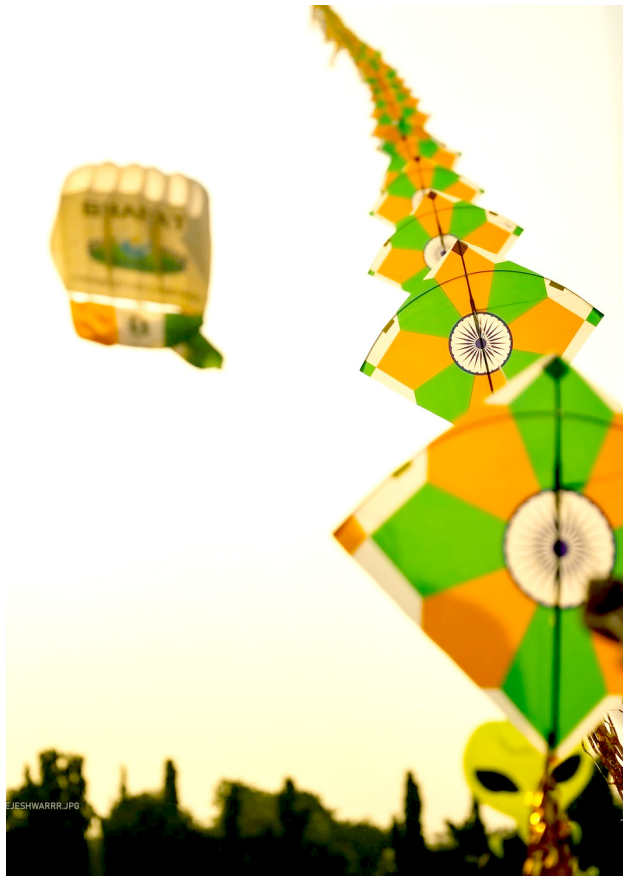
**H**yderabad Police have arrested five members of an inter-state robbery gang involved in a theft at Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Sardar Patel Nagar, recovering gold and silver jewellery worth ₹26 lakh. Two other suspects remain at large, and efforts are on to apprehend them. KPHB ACP Ravi Kiran Reddy said police also seized a two-wheeler and five mobile phones from the accused during the investigation. Dedicated teams are working round the clock to ensure all involved are brought to justice.

The operation highlights the Hyderabad Police's commitment to maintaining law and order and safeguarding citizens. Authorities have urged the public to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station immediately. Hyderabad Police have arrested five members of an inter-state robbery gang involved in a theft at Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Sardar Patel Nagar, recovering gold and silver jewellery worth ₹26 lakh.

Two other suspects remain at large, and efforts are on to apprehend them. KPHB ACP Ravi Kiran Reddy said police also seized a two-wheeler and five mobile phones from the accused during the investigation. Dedicated teams are working round the clock to ensure all involved are brought to justice. The operation highlights the Hyderabad Police's commitment to maintaining law and order and safeguarding citizens. Authorities have urged the public to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station immediately.

# Skies Alive with Sarkinite Kites

Sky Filled with Colorful Kites as Hyderabad Celebrates Makar Sankranti; International Kite Festival Sees Grand Participation Amid Minor Incidents



## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Hyderabad and Secunderabad witnessed a spectacular display of colorful kites today as the city celebrated Makar Sankranti, with thousands participating in kite flying, cultural events, and traditional festivities.

The Telangana government hosted a three-day International Kite and Sweet Festival at Secunderabad Parade Grounds, drawing professional kite flyers from across India

and several countries. Large, innovative kites, combined with cultural performances and stalls offering sweets, handicrafts, and handloom products, transformed the venue into a vibrant hub of family entertainment and international celebration.

The festival attracted thousands of citizens and tourists, who enjoyed live music, public entertainment, and the visual spectacle of the sky filled with kites of every shape and size. Rooftops across Hi-

Tech City, Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, Mehdi Petnam, Malakpet, Dil-sukhnagar, Begum Bazaar, and other areas became lively centers of kite flying, with families, children, and youth enthusiastically participating. Evening celebrations saw kites lit with candles and lights, adding to the mesmerizing atmosphere.

However, minor incidents occurred amid the festivities. Several pedestrians and two-wheeler riders sustained injuries from Chinese manjha (abrasive

kite strings), and some birds were also harmed. Authorities provided immediate medical assistance and reinforced the ban on Chinese manjha, urging citizens to use safe and eco-friendly strings, supervise children, and avoid flying kites near roads or power lines.

City administration implemented special arrangements for traffic control, crowd management, and security, ensuring the celebrations remained largely safe and orderly. Despite minor



mishaps, the day was marked by cultural harmony, family joy, and public merriment, making Hyderabad's Makar Sank-

ranti celebrations a memorable blend of tradition, international participation, and festive cheer.

## Rein Bazar Police Bust Illegal Chinese Manja Racket, Two Arrested

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In a major operation, Rein Bazar Police arrested two persons and seized a large quantity of banned Chinese manja during a pre-dawn raid in Yakutpura on Tuesday. The police recovered 191 spools of prohibited synthetic kite thread, valued at nearly ₹1 lakh, from the possession of the accused. The operation was carried out at around 3:30 am on January 14 following credible information received by Sub-Inspector G. Linga Raju regarding the illegal storage and sale of Chinese



manja at a residence in Murthaza Nagar, Yakutpura. Acting swiftly and under the guidance of senior officers, a special police team raided the premises. On spotting the police, the suspects attempted to escape but were quickly apprehended. The arrested individuals were identified as Hussain Agha (37), a businessman from Yakutpura, and Syed Sadiq

Hussain Jafri (35), a Zomato delivery executive residing in Eidi Bazaar.

During the search, police seized four carton boxes containing the banned manja. A case has been registered under Crime No. 08/2026, invoking Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 15 of the Environment Protection Act. Inspector of Police, Rein Bazar, cautioned the public against using or selling banned Chinese manja, citing serious risks to human life and birds, and urged citizens to report such illegal activities to the police immediately.

## 47 metric tonnes of e-waste collected as GHMC launches drive

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Monday, January 12, launched an e-sanitation drive to collect e-waste in the city. On day 1, the corporation collected 47 metric tonnes of electronic waste. In order to review the collection and scientific disposal of electronic waste, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan visited

a collection camp located at Baghlingampally, Musheerabad circle. The waste was collected at 271 locations across the city. For this purpose, 94 vehicles were deployed. The drive is scheduled to continue on Tuesday, January 13 too. On the other hand, as part of GHMC's special sanitation drive, the civic body has removed 4445 metric tonnes of other waste in 12 days.

## Fake Karachi Mehendi Unit Busted; ₹8 Lakh Goods Seized

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Commissioner's Task Force, South East Zone, Hyderabad, in coordination with Balapur and Afzalgunj Police, busted an illegal unit manufacturing counterfeit "Karachi Mehendi" cones, arresting two accused and seizing machinery and fake products worth around ₹8 lakh.

Simultaneous raids were conducted at Minar Colony, Balapur, and SKS Travels & Cargo, Afzalgunj. Mohammad Asif (48), a carpenter from Minar Colony, operated the production unit, while Deepak Kumar (25), a businessman from Gowliguda Chaman, supplied the fake mehendi through wholesale channels. Police recovered 8,400 duplicate cones, a mehendi filling machine, mixer, heating stoves, weighing machine, 10 drums of prepared fake



material, 100 kg of dry mehendi powder, 5 kg of radiant oxalic acid, 2 kg of colour, packing material including 200 boxes printed "Karachi," 500 empty cones, and two mobile phones. Investigators said Asif initially made unbranded mehendi cones but switched to counterfeiting the popular Karachi brand due to low demand. The fake products were distributed via Deepak Kumar to shops across the twin cities, cheating consumers and earning illegal profits. The operation was supervised by Inspector S. Saida Babu with support from Sub-Inspectors K. Swamy, M. Madhu, and the task force teams.

## NCB seizes 813 kg ganja in Hyderabad, arrests 3 from Bidar

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Acting on reliable intelligence, officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Hyderabad Zone, arrested three individuals and seized 813 kilograms of ganja in a major operation carried out in the early hours of Tuesday. All the arrested are residents of Bidar district in Karnataka. According to NCB officials, the operation involved deploying two teams to intercept a specially modified lorry suspected of transporting narcotic drugs from Malkangiri district in Odisha to Latur in Maharashtra. The vehicle was intercepted on the outskirts of Hyderabad.



During a detailed search conducted under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the lorry was found to have an expired registration certificate and was specially altered to facilitate the crime. "The vehicle contained a cylindrical cavity resembling a tank, designed to conceal contraband. The cavity was camouflaged using grass and covered with a tarpaulin sheet, inside

which 813 kilograms of ganja were hidden and successfully recovered," NCB officials said. Further investigation revealed that one of the accused is a habitual narcotics offender. He has previously been involved in two ganja cases, one in Karnataka and the other in Maharashtra. The remaining two accused are also residents of Bidar district. The NCB is actively probing the source and

destination networks of the seized consignment, including forward and backward linkages, financial trails, and the possible involvement of other members of the drug trafficking syndicate. The names of the arrested individuals have been withheld to prevent hampering the ongoing investigation. Officials confirmed that the probe is continuing to uncover the broader network behind this large-scale narcotics operation. The seizure highlights the NCB's continued vigilance and coordinated efforts in tackling inter-state drug trafficking and preventing the illegal circulation of narcotics across the region.

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