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### Brief Insights



Special prayers mark Shab-e-Meraj in Hyderabad: **P8**

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## R-Day To Mark 150 Years Of Vande Mataram

The main theme of the Republic Day Parade this year will be "150 Years of Vande Mataram." For the first time, some Indian Army contingents will present a phased Battle Array Format, with live commentary explaining the roles of various formations and equipment. Newly raised Indian Army light commando Bhairav battalions, specialised Shaktimaan artillery units and the Ladakh Scouts will march on Kartavya Path. A total of 18 marching contingents, along with a small European Union naval contingent, will take part in the parade. The flypast will feature Rafale, Su-30, MiG-29 fighter jets and Apache helicopters. Indigenous weapon systems such as the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile and the Akash surface-to-air missile will also be showcased. The parade will last around 90 minutes and is expected to be witnessed by millions.

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## Govt Cooperating a Lot: Indian Nationals Return from Iran

Several Indian nationals arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi from Iran late Friday evening amid rising regional tensions. This comes after the Indian government advised its nationals in Iran to leave the country due to the volatile security situation. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it is closely monitoring developments and is committed to ensuring the well-being of Indian citizens. An Indian national who returned from Iran described the situation as grim and thanked the government for its support. "The conditions are bad there. The Government of India is cooperating a lot, and the Embassy provided us with information on leaving Iran as early as possible... 'Modi ji hai toh har cheez mumkin hai,'" he said. Another returnee said they had been in Iran for a month but faced problems over the past one to two weeks. "When we went outside, protesters would

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# BJP-Shinde Sena Sweep Maharashtra Civic Polls

Coupled with a decent performance by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP is now in the driver's seat to govern the cash-rich civic body

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

The BJP-led Mahayuti ended the Thackeray hegemony over Mumbai, results to the civic body election results showed on Friday. In the 227-member Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), of the 204 seats for which results had been declared at 10.30 pm, the BJP won 85 and its ally Shiv Sena (Shinde) 25. The half-way mark is 114. The Shiv Sena (UBT) of Uddhav Thackeray won 60 seats and his cousin Raj Thackeray's MNS five. The Congress, which fought separately, bagged 19 seats. The BJP also triumphed in Pune, where it made



mincemeat of the alliance of NCP factions led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar, Nagpur, Navi Mumbai and Thane. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is set to come to power in 25 of the 29 municipal corporations, including Mumbai, where elections were held on January 15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the people

of Mumbai for "blessing" the NDA and promised good governance and improved ease of living. In elections to 27 municipal bodies across the state, with 2,869 seats up for grabs, the BJP won close to 1,500, and the Sena-Shinde about 330, the second largest. when information was last available. The Congress,

which contested the polls in alliance with the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, won the Latur civic body, Bhivandi and Kolhapur, and about 300 seats statewide to take the third place. The Sharad Pawar NCP won about 30 seats overall. AIMIM Asaduddin Owaisi's door-to-door campaign saw the party winning 114 seats across the state, against about 80 in the previous election. The AIMIM won 33 seats in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, 21 in Malegaon, 15 in Amravati, 13 in Nanded, 10 in Dhule, eight in Solapur, six in Mumbai, five in Thane, two in Jalgaon and one in Chandrapur.

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## Vote For Development, CM Revanth Tells Urban Voters

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday appealed to the electorate to vote for development by electing the right candidates as ward councillors and chairpersons in the forthcoming municipal elections. The 'Prajalpana-Pragati Bhata' public meeting at Nirmal town, after launching several projects, provided an opportunity to the Chief Minister kickstart the party's campaign for the elections. Revanth Reddy said that the state's largest industrial hub would be developed over 10,000 acres in Adilabad district to generate employment for youth by attracting leading companies from across the country. Land would be acquired for the project, he said, noting that Adilabad has remained backward and requires focused



intervention. He said integrated development of the erstwhile Adilabad district would be accorded top priority, with funds to be earmarked in the next Budget. He asked in-charge minister Jupally Krishna Rao and government adviser Sudarshan Reddy to hold a review meeting with MLAs, the MP and district officials and submit a comprehensive development report. The Chief Minister said he had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah to seek funds and project sanctions for the state, stating that such meetings are essential irrespective of political affiliations. He clarified that

the meetings were not for personal lobbying and reiterated that cooperation with the Centre was necessary for Telangana's development. Revanth Reddy said the Prime Minister would inaugurate the Adilabad airport and added that he intended to meet the Prime Minister once every three months and Union ministers every 10 days to secure support for development projects. He said assistance from the Centre would be required for the Pranahita-Chevella barrage, particularly as the BJP was in power in Maharashtra. He accused the previous BRS government of neglecting irrigation and development in the erstwhile Adilabad district during its 10-year tenure and said the Congress government was preparing a DPR for the Chevella-Pranahita barrage to provide irrigation to about two lakh acres.

## AIMIM Bags 126 Seats in Maha Civic Polls

Despite internal dissent, AIMIM records major gains, winning 126 civic seats statewide.

MUMBAI Wakeup telangana

Defying internal dissent, ticket-related rebellions, and sharp criticism over candidate selection, the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) posted a strong performance in the civic elections, significantly improving its tally across Maharashtra. In the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal Corporation, AIMIM won 33 seats, up from 24 seats in 2015, marking a notable jump despite internal turmoil within the party. Statewide, the party secured a total of 126 seats in various urban local bodies. AIMIM registered major gains in several cities,

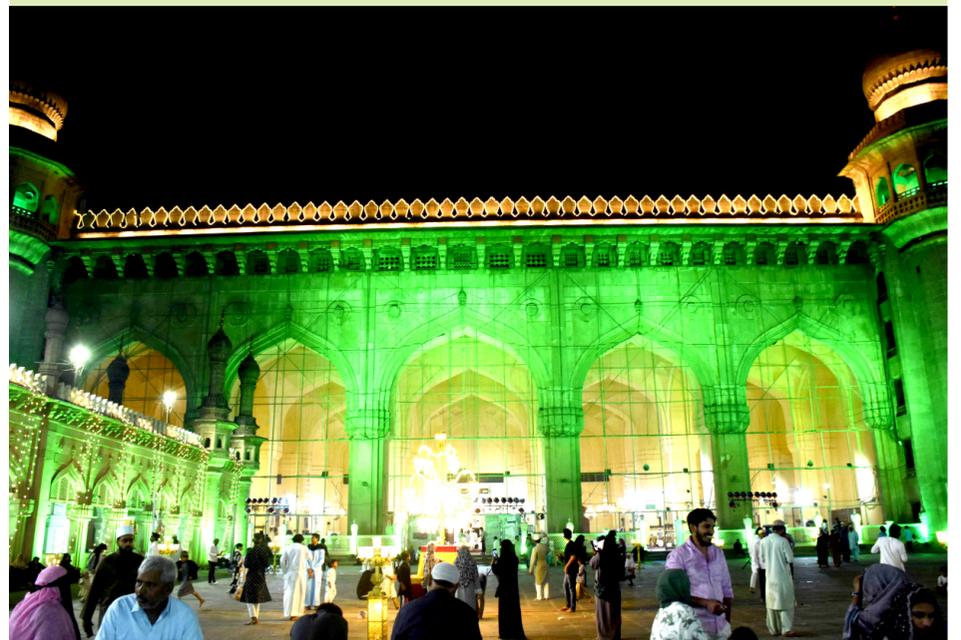


winning 21 seats in Malegaon, 14 in Nanded Waghala, 12 in Amravati, 10 in Dhule, and eight seats each in Solapur and Mumbai. The party also won six seats in Nagpur, five in Thane, three in Akola, and two seats each in Ahilyanagar and Jalna. Reacting to the results, AIMIM state president and former MP Syed Im-

tiaz Jaleel said the verdict shattered the perception that the party represented only one community. "These results disprove the false narrative that AIMIM is an 'only Muslim' party. Hindu, SC, and ST candidates have also been elected on AIMIM tickets," he said. Citing the Gulmandi ward in Sambhajnagar—traditionally a Shiv Sena-BJP stronghold—Jaleel noted that AIMIM won two of the four seats there. He added that the party would support BJP-led initiatives in civic bodies that benefit citizens, while opposing decisions that go against public interest. The party's performance as-

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## Mecca Masjid Illuminated for Shab-e-Meraj



On the occasion of the night of Shab-e-Meraj, the historic Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad shines in beautiful illumination.----Photo: Mir zulfequar ali

## CM Revanth to Launch State's AI Centre at Davos

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch Telangana AI Innovation Hub (TAIH) during the annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on January 20. This autonomous institution is designed to build and accelerate AI adoption, innovation and impact, and will serve as the world's first "Global AI Proving Ground" for enterprise and population-scale solutions. Announcing the government's plans for the AI space in a statement, Re-



vanth Reddy said, "Telangana has successfully evolved from India's technology hub to the world's innovation capital... At Davos, we are not just asking for investments; we are offering collaboration. We are inviting the world to build the future of AI in

Telangana, where innovation meets talent." TAIH will foster innovation, research, and deployment of Artificial Intelligence. It will serve as a bridge between government, industry, and academia to solve global challenges at population scale. TAIH operates across four strategic pillars - Talent Foundry, Innovation Engine, Capital Flywheel and Impact Labs ensuring a seamless journey from skills and research to startups, capital and real-world deployment.

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**Shab-e-Meraj Mubarak**

Happy Shab-e-Meraj to All Muslims. May ALLAH award us with all life success, value, bliss, and right path. (Aameen) Shab-e-Meraj-Mubarak to All.

**Fathe Affan**  
Congress Youth Leader

**ASTORIA HOTEL**  
Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ESTD-1960

ek baar khaage baar baar aage

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

## Congress Fails to Stop Communal Unrest in Telangana: Abdullah Sohail

Sohail Condemns Purana Pul Incident, Blames Congress for Failing Telangana's Peace

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) senior leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail has strongly condemned the recent incident at Purana Pul, expressing deep concern over the increasing frequency of communal disturbances in Telangana. Abdullah Sohail said the episode highlighted the Congress government's failure to maintain law and order and protect communal harmony in the state. "Since Congress as-

sumed power in December 2023, Telangana has witnessed recurring communal incidents, with reports emerging almost every week," he remarked. The BRS leader alleged that such incidents were instilling fear among citizens and tarnishing Telangana's image as a peaceful and progressive state. He questioned the ruling party's claims of effective governance, pointing out that the repeated flare-ups reflected administrative negligence and a lack



of seriousness. Abdullah Sohail contrasted the current scenario with the previous BRS administration, noting that Telangana had largely remained peaceful under firm policing and proactive measures. "Our government ensured sensitive areas were closely monitored to prevent unrest. The present

government's lax approach has emboldened anti-social elements," he added. He urged the Congress authorities to take full responsibility for the deteriorating situation and implement stronger preventive measures in sensitive localities. He emphasized the need for impartial action and strict accountability for those responsible, rather than merely responding after incidents occur. Appealing to citizens, Abdullah Sohail called on the people of Hyder-

abad and Telangana to remain calm and united. "Do not allow political or communal forces to disrupt the social fabric of the state," he said, urging collective vigilance to preserve peace and harmony. The BRS leader's statement underscores growing political tension over law and order in Telangana, with opposition parties attributing repeated communal flare-ups to perceived administrative failures of the current Congress government.

## Congress Filled 70,000 Govt Jobs In 2 Years: Revanth

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said that the Congress government had filled nearly 70,000 government jobs in the last two years and was committed to completing the process of filling all remaining vacancies soon. Along with recruitment in government departments, sustained efforts were being made to attract investments and companies to Telangana to create large-scale job opportunities in the private sector for the youth, he said. Addressing a gathering after distributing appointment letters to newly recruited 1,370 Group-3 candidates across 25 departments at Shilpakala

Vedika in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy said the previous BRS government had neglected recruitments for nearly a decade, which had resulted in frustration and uncertainty among students and unemployed youth. He alleged that the interests of the BRS and its founder's family interests were given priority over the welfare of Telangana's youth. Recalling the sacrifices made by students and young people in the Telangana movement, he said the Congress government was determined to honour their aspirations by ensuring transparent and timely recruitment. Highlighting the poor functioning of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) in

the past, he said it had failed to conduct examinations properly and had not filled Group-I posts for 14 years. He said that for 563 Group-I posts notified by the Congress government in 2024, nearly five lakh candidates had applied, and a similar number had applied for 731 Group-II posts, reflecting the magnitude of unemployment. He alleged that question papers were mishandled and that irregularities had become common during the previous regime, but the present government had undertaken a complete overhaul of the TSPSC by adopting practices similar to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and appointing committed and competent members.

## Arvind Blames Cong For Attacks On Hindu Shrines

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BJP Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind on Friday accused the Congress government of being responsible for a surge in attacks on temples since coming to power, blaming Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's "provocative statements." Addressing a press meet at the BJP state office in Nampally, Arvind slammed Revanth Reddy's alleged remark

— "Congress is Muslim, Muslim is Congress" — as "dangerously divisive," alleging it was designed to instil fear among Hindus and trigger communal tensions. He charged that a Congress-MIM nexus was targeting the Hindu community, particularly in Old City areas, in a manner reminiscent of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus of the 1980s-90s. Arvind listed alleged incidents of temple attacks since Revanth Reddy took office, and said: "These

are just reported cases; many go unreported. The CM bears moral responsibility for attacks on temples," he said. He criticised the police for alleged bias under political pressure, claiming Hindus were arrested instead of attackers, and drew parallels to Hyderabad riots in the 1980s-90s under Congress rule, when MIM MLAs allegedly incited violence and ASP Sattaiah was murdered for acting against rioters. Arvind also condemned Congress

leaders' jibes such as "Does BJP membership exist for Ram?" and defended BJP's welfare schemes for all, citing PMAY housing, Ayushman Bharat, and Covid-19 vaccines for Muslims. He reiterated his demand to rename Nizamabad as Induru, citing the 1909 Imperial Gazetteer, British maps, and the Telangana government's own website as evidence against the Nizam's "cruel legacy."

## Telangana Earmarks 40.66% Quota for BCs in GHMC

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Backward Classes (BCs) communities will get 28.21 per cent of the total wards in 121 municipalities and 35.24 per cent in 10 municipal corporations across Telangana in the reservation pattern fixed by the state government for the upcoming municipal elections. As per the notification issued by the government, Scheduled Castes (SCs) communities

have been allotted 14.79 per cent reservations in municipalities and 11.55 per cent in corporations, and likewise Scheduled Tribes (STs) 6.47 per cent and 3.21 per cent respectively. The reservations have been finalised for 2,704 wards in 121 municipalities and 840 wards in municipal corporations, including the GHMC. The exercise was carried out in accordance with GO 46 issued on November 22, 2025, which

mandates that the combined reservation for SCs, STs and BCs should not exceed 50 per cent. Census 2011 data was taken as the basis for determining SC and ST quotas, the notification said, while BC community reservations were fixed using the Caste Survey conducted by the state government in December 2024. The government stated that the allocation strictly adhered to population proportions and the

recommendations of the Dedicated BC Commission. In the 121 municipalities, BCs have been allotted 763 wards, followed by general women seats at 788. SCs communities were allotted 400 wards and STs 175, while 578 wards were left unreserved in the open category. In percentage terms, general women seats account for 29.14, BCs 28.21, SCs 14.79, STs 6.47.

## TGSRTC deploys over 1,000 special buses for Sankranti return traffic



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

To ensure a smooth return journey for passengers heading back to the city after celebrating Sankranti festival in their hometowns, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has arranged additional special bus services for the convenience of passengers. From Hyderabad, special

buses were operated to destinations including Kodad, Suryapet, Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Devarakonda, Mahabubnagar, Achampet and Narayanpet, as well as to Andhra Pradesh cities such as Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Kakinada and Eluru. In total, around 1,200 buses have been planned to be operated for the convenience of the re-

turn traffic. With schools and intermediate colleges scheduled to reopen from January 17, officials expect a surge in return travel over the weekend. While some passengers are likely to travel back on Saturday, the highest rush is anticipated on Sunday and passenger traffic is expected to continue until Monday. RTC authorities said re-

servations on buses from Khammam, Bhadrachalam and Kodad were nearly full. Similarly, most seats were already booked on ordinary buses scheduled to arrive on January 18 from Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Bhimavaram, Vijayawada and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, RTC officials from the Rangareddy region stated that while around 300 buses operate daily to destinations such as Vijayawada, Amalapuram, Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Ongole, Kandukur, Kanigiri and Kurnool, an additional 300 buses have been introduced specifically for the Sankranti season to manage the heavy demand. Depending on the passenger rush, additional bus services will also be arranged at various locations, officials added.

## 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.

## Weed infestation mars scenic beauty of Durgam Cheruvu

Durgam Cheruvu, once a popular tourist attraction in Hyderabad's IT corridor, is facing severe weed and algal infestation. Visitors have complained of foul smell and limited boating, blaming administrative inaction for the lake's deteriorating condition.



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An otherwise picturesque Durgam Cheruvu in the heart of the bustling IT corridor of Hyderabad these days appears unsightly, presenting a picture of administrative apathy and neglect.

The calm and placid waters of the lake, which has emerged as one of the top destinations for tourists with the cable bridge that passes close to it, have been invaded by what appear to be weeds and algal bloom. Such has been the unhealthy takeover that more than half of the water body is under a thick carpet of green growth, much to the dismay of scores of visitors along the lake shoreline and those trying to savour the sight from the cable bridge. Also, there is little left to enjoy for those seeking a boat ride here. A few tourists who came to Durgam Cheruvu to spend their Sankranti holidays expressed anguish, reporting discomfort during boat rides and alleging that the boat owners took them only a short distance. The stench too has been a major put-off for them. Failure on the part of the authorities concerned, including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), in ensuring

the lake retains its pristine quality has been irksome for many. Standing along the pedestrian space on the cable bridge, a young Rajeshwar Reddy, who came along with his friends, says the lake was not this way when he visited a few months ago. A resident of Kondapur, Hanumanthu, says he has been visiting Durgam Cheruvu since it was known as a 'secret lake', but never came across such bad conditions in the water body. "The weed started during the rains and continued to spread. Timely action and clearance would have helped in keeping the lake clean," he rues.

## Gautam Goud Brings Festival Cheer to Kids

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a festive celebration of Sankranti, senior Congress leader Bowling Gautam Goud organized a grand kite and turmeric distribution event for children in Hafeezpet Division, covering Youth Colony and Sai Nagar Colony. The program, held today at Sai Nagar Colony, saw Gautam Goud personally distributing kites to excited chil-



dren, spreading joy and festive cheer. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of introducing children to

cultural traditions and encouraging them to actively participate in festivals. "Sankranti is a festival that reflects our

rich heritage, and it is important for our younger generation to celebrate it with enthusiasm and joy," he said. The event was attended by a host of local leaders and volunteers, including Sanju Sagar, Venkatesh Goud, Srinivas Goud, Ranjit Kamaji, Reddy, Ishapp, Mallesh, Shantana, Mahesh, and Balraj, who helped organize and manage the celebrations. Children and families actively participated in the

festivities, enjoying the distribution of kites and turmeric as symbolic tokens of prosperity and happiness. The initiative was widely appreciated by residents, who lauded the efforts to engage children in cultural activities and foster community spirit. The event highlighted the commitment of local leaders to preserve traditions while bringing joy to the community, making this Sankranti memorable for young participants.

**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.

**Veerabhadra Rath Yatra  
Celebrated with Devotion  
and Tradition in Vangara**

**Century-Old Veerabhadra Rath Yatra Turns Vangara into a Spectacle of Faith and Festivity; P.V. Prabhakar Rao Leads Sacred Procession**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The historic Veerabhadra Rath Yatra, a cherished spiritual and cultural tradition of Vangara village, was celebrated on Wednesday with grand devotion, vibrant colours, and overwhelming community participation. The sacred procession was led by P.V. Prabhakar Rao, third son of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao, along with P.V. Sharath Babu and P.V. Madan Mohan, reaffirming a legacy deeply rooted in faith, gratitude, and family history. The nearly century-old Rath Yatra, which journeys from Vangara to the revered Kothakonda Veerabhadra Swamy Temple, traces its origins to around 1925. Village lore recalls that Rathamma, widow of late P.V. Ranga Rao, prayed fervently to Lord Veerabhadra Swamy for a male heir to continue the Pamulaparthi family lineage after the untimely loss of her husband. Believed to be divinely



answered, her prayers culminated in the adoption of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the eldest son of her neighbours P.V. Seetharama Rao and Rukminamma, around 1930. Following the adoption, Narasimha Rao became the legal son of P.V. Ranga Rao and Rathamma, and later married Satyamma, a close relative arranged by Rathamma—further strengthening family bonds. In gratitude to the deity, Rathamma is believed to have instituted the tradition of offering the ceremonial Rath to Lord Veerabhadra Swamy. Since then, the Rath Yatra

has endured as a powerful symbol of devotion, fulfilled faith, and cultural continuity. This year's celebrations came alive with energetic Shiva Shakti dances by the Yadava community, pulsating Dappu and Dolak rhythms, and an eye-catching Kolatam performed by village women. The air resonated with temple bells, devotional chants, and traditional offerings of jaggery and rice, as more than 2,000 devotees gathered—coinciding joyfully with Sankranti festivities. Even after Rathamma's passing, the tradition was meticulously upheld by

P.V. Narasimha Rao, who never missed the ritual despite his responsibilities as Union Minister and later Prime Minister. The mantle was briefly carried by P.V. Rajeshwar Rao and his family, and for the past six to seven years, the sacred duty has been steadfastly continued by P.V. Prabhakar Rao. Several members of the P.V. family, including P.V. Sharath Babu and P.V. Madan Mohan, participated in the Yatra, with coordination and guidance from P.V. Manohar Rao of Hyderabad. The event was seamlessly organised by Mondaiah, Venkat Reddy, Satish Reddy, Laxmikanth Rao, and Vishnu Vardhan, with active support from the P.V. Global Foundation, which has sponsored the Rath Yatra for several years. Marked by unity, devotion, and cultural splendour, the Veerabhadra Rath Yatra once again stood as a living testament to Vangara's rich heritage—bringing together generations in a shared celebration of faith, history, and tradition.

**Traffic Diverted  
on NH-65 to Ease  
Congestion**



**NALGONDA**  
Wakeup telangana

The Nalgonda district police on Friday ordered diversion of vehicles to prevent traffic jams on National Highway No. 65 when people return to Hyderabad on Saturday and Sunday after celebrating Sankranti from their native places. With the expectation of the large volume of traffic and considering the flyover construction work at Chityal and Peddakaparthi on National Highway-65, motorists travelling from AP towards Hyderabad were requested to use alternative routes. Vehicles to Hyderabad from Guntur would be diverted through Miryalaguda, Haliya, Kondamalipally, Chintapally and Mall. Vehicles from Macherla would be diverted through Nagarjunasagar, Peddavura, Kon-

damalipally, Chintapally and Mall. Vehicles to Hyderabad from Nalgonda would be diverted through Marriguda bypass, Munugodu, Narayanapur, Choutuppal (NH 65). Heavy vehicles travelling from Vijayawada to Hyderabad would be diverted through Kodad, Huzurnagar, Miryalaguda, Haliya, Chintapalli-Mall. Due to the ongoing flyover work at Chityal and Peddakaparthi, traffic on need bases will be diverted from Chityal through Bhongir to Hyderabad. Nalgonda superintendent of police Sharat Chandra traffic diversion would be implemented at selected points on NH 65 to prevent traffic congestion. Police would be deployed at key junctions on the highway to continuously monitor the traffic, assisted by drone cameras.

**Former Cantonment Vice-Chairman  
Jampana Pratap Greets CEO on Sankranti**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Jampana Pratap Reddy paid a courtesy visit to CEO Arvind Kumar Dwivedi at the Cantonment Board office today, extending warm Sankranti greetings. The afternoon meeting highlighted camaraderie and continuity in local governance. Pratap Reddy, a well-known figure in Telangana's civic administration, wished CEO Dwivedi and the board team prosperity and success for the year ahead. The visit underscored his continued commitment to public welfare and development in the cantonment area,



where he had previously served with distinction. Joining the meeting was local leader and social activist Butt, contributing to discussions on ongoing community initiatives. While the details of their conversation were private, sources said the interaction focused on festive greetings and collaborative efforts to advance regional development. The visit comes as Te-

langana celebrates Sankranti, with communities engaging in kite flying, bonfires, and traditional feasts. Pratap Reddy's outreach reflects his active involvement in both civic and cultural activities, resonating with the festive spirit across the cantonment area. Cantonment Board officials confirmed the positive exchange, noting that such visits strengthen administrative ties and promote goodwill. The meeting also reinforced the shared goal of fostering civic development and supporting community programs, maintaining the spirit of cooperation between past and current leadership.

**Don't Erase Secunderabad,  
BJP Slams GHMC Split**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

BJP senior leader P.L. Srinivas on Friday urged the government to retain Secunderabad in the proposed division of the GHMC into three bodies, demanding municipal status for the cantonment town. He decried plans to merge it with Malkajgiri or Rachakonda as "an assault on history and identity." In a statement, Srinivas cited Secunderabad's legacy as a British cantonment founded in 1806, with its own civic ethos, tree-lined avenues, and landmarks such as the railway station (1874) and Rashtrapati Nilayam. "Cities aren't Lego

blocks; Secunderabad is a living organism shaped by culture and geography," he said. He opposed the government's proposal for Greater Hyderabad, Greater Malkajgiri, and Greater Cyberabad corporations, warning that merging Secunderabad would dilute its identity, greenery, and cosmopolitan character. He recalled its pre-1960 autonomy and role in military history and trade, urging decentralised governance to preserve heritage amid growth. "Don't commit historical vandalism, let Secunderabad remain distinct and dignified," he appealed.

**Revanth Seeks Special Officers  
to Take Army Civilian Issues**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday requested Army authorities to appoint special officers to take up unresolved issues, including defence land allotment for state development works, pending administrative clearances and proposals linked to defence establishments. He stressed that regular deliberations were needed to prevent matters from remaining unresolved for years. Revanth Reddy also raised the issue of Sainik Schools, pointing out that Telangana had not received any such schools over the past decade while several other states had been sanctioned two to four each. He urged Army officials to consider sanctioning Sainik Schools for Telangana



and sought the shifting of the Southern Command Centre headquarters to Hyderabad. He was speaking at the civil military liaison conference here, organised by Headquarters, Telangana and Andhra Sub Area of the Indian Army, in coordination with the state government. The meeting focused on clearing administrative bottlenecks and improving coordination on issues where civil and military responsibilities overlap.

**Quota Order May End GHMC Split Talk**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The government's notification finalising reservation for the 131 urban local bodies, including the GHMC, has raised speculation that the extended GHMC may not be split into three corporations. According to the order issued by the municipal administration and urban development department, the reservation has been finalised for the wards i.e for the corporators/councillors, chairpersons or mayors. This notification includes the GHMC, and it is



considered as a single unit. If 300 wards of the GHMC are split into three, Hyderabad will have 150 wards, Cyberabad 76 and Malkajgiri 74. In such a scenario, the Hyderabad corporation will become a

stronghold of the AIMIM with its candidate getting elected as the mayor from their party. Out of 150 wards in the erstwhile GHMC, the MIM won 44 wards. After delimitation, the MIM is considered to be strong in

70 out of the 150 wards, which could be a part of Hyderabad Corporation. The MIM's strength increased after the splitting of some of its strongholds and inclusion of Jalpally. As a result, the conversion of existing buildings into offices for Malkajgiri Corporation and Cyberabad Corporation was put on hold. When questioned about the reservation order's implication on the GHMC, the MAUD officials said that even if the corporation is split into three, norms will be followed."

**Low TGSRTC bus frequency troubles  
commuters in Hyderabad's Old City**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Low frequency of TGSRTC bus services in the city suburbs is causing immense hardship for commuters, particularly students and office-goers, during the morning hours. The problem is severe in the new growth areas in the south of the city such as Pahadishareef, Shahehnagar, Thukkuguda and other areas on the route. Consider the case of an intermediate student of a government college in Maheshwaram, whose classes commence at 9.30 am. Waiting at the Sky-

root Aerospace Infinity Campus bus stop, the student said, "The bus for Keshampet arrives around 9.30 am and we reach the college around 10 am. There is no other option as other services are overcrowded and not regular. We do not want to stand on the stairs of the bus." She is not alone in this hardship. There are several other students from nearby localities who share a similar plight and adopt the same strategy to reach their college, located around 13 kilometres away from the Aerospace Infinity Campus bus stop. An SSC student from Sa-

dathnagar on Pahadishareef Road, who is pursuing her studies at a government school in Barkas, faces a similar problem. "Although we arrive at the bus stop early, we have to wait for a bus for a long time, sometimes more than half an hour. We are 15 to 20 minutes late to school regularly," said the girl. Passengers complain that buses do not arrive on time and there are no supervisors at the stops. "Sometimes, three to four buses come in a row, while at other times we keep waiting. At times, the drivers do not stop the buses and speed away,

and sometimes they stop at a distance from the designated bus stop, forcing us to run on the road," complained Samreen Begum, a woman working at a private office. Another problem affecting people who use RTC buses is the lack of bus shelters at Shahehnagar, Errakunta, Sadathnagar, Jalpally and Chandrayangutta. "With no proper bus shelter, we have to stand on the road. Shopkeepers shout at us for standing in front of their shops as they feel our presence affects their business," complained Najma Begum, who takes a bus from the Highway Hotel bus stop.

## AIMIM Bags 126 Seats in Maha Civic Polls

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Defying internal dissent, ticket-related rebellions, and sharp criticism over candidate selection, the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) posted a strong performance in the civic elections, significantly improving its tally across Maharashtra. In the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal Corporation, AIMIM won 33 seats, up from 24 seats in 2015, marking a notable jump despite internal turmoil within the party. Statewide, the party secured a total of 126 seats in various urban local bodies. AIMIM registered major gains in several cities, winning 21 seats in Malegaon, 14 in Nanded Waghala, 12 in Amravati, 10 in Dhule, and eight seats each in Solapur and



Mumbai. The party also won six seats in Nagpur, five in Thane, three in Akola, and two seats each in Ahilyanagar and Jalna. Reacting to the results, AIMIM state president and former MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel said the verdict shattered the perception that the party

represented only one community. "These results disprove the false narrative that AIMIM is an 'only Muslim' party. Hindu, SC, and ST candidates have also been elected on AIMIM tickets," he said. Citing the Gulmandi ward in Sambhajnagar—traditionally a

Shiv Sena-BJP stronghold—Jaleel noted that AIMIM won two of the four seats there. He added that the party would support BJP-led initiatives in civic bodies that benefit citizens, while opposing decisions that go against public interest. The party's performance

assumes significance amid internal unrest following Jaleel's decision to deny tickets to 21 of the 24 councillors elected in 2015 from Sambhajnagar. The move triggered protests and resignations, prompting AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi and MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi to intervene. Meanwhile, the Congress suffered a near-total wipe-out in Sambhajnagar, losing 70 of the 71 seats it contested. The lone Congress winner, Maleka Habib Qureshi, retained her seat after a tough contest against an AIMIM candidate. Congress had won 11 seats in 2015, and the poor showing is being attributed to weak planning and failure to project itself as a viable alternative amid rising communal polarisation.

## 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.

## Fadnavis Emerges as BJP's Power Centre in Maharashtra

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The results of the municipal corporation elections have re-inforced Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's position as a key strategist and power centre within the BJP and the ruling Mahayuti alliance. The party's performance across several urban local bodies is being viewed as an endorsement of the BJP's organisational strength and campaign planning under Mr. Fadnavis's leadership, particularly in urban Maharashtra. The BJP has won more than 15 corporations on its own, while the BJP-led Mahayuti is set to form councils in 23 to 25 municipal corporations. Party insiders said Mr. Fadnavis was per-



sonally involved in campaign planning and voter outreach. Mr. Fadnavis led an extensive campaign, participating in 77 events across the State. These included 37 public meetings and roadshows, with major rallies in Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune, along with outreach programmes in Nashik, Solapur, Thane, Kalyan, Vasai-Virar and Navi Mumbai. Roadshows were also held in Ichalkaranji, Chandra-pur, Amravati, Jalgaon and Pimpri-Chinchwad. "Mr. Fadnavis did not make allegations in any

of the 28 corporations except the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which is ruled by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT). He remained focused on the development agenda and his vision for the respective civic bodies," a party insider said. Maharashtra BJP's election campaign in-charge and MLC Shrikant Bhartiya told this newspaper that the party fought the municipal elections on a development plank. "Mr. Fadnavis ensured the party stayed focused on development. Even when Opposition parties attempted to derail the narrative, we remained committed and compelled them to present their own development plans," he

said. Mr. Bhartiya said the BJP contested the civic elections projecting Mr. Fadnavis's leadership. "We showcased the development carried out under Mr. Fadnavis in the State. We have successfully conveyed to voters that he is synonymous with development—a leader with vision backed by action," he said. He also said the party altered its traditional communication strategy. "Instead of relying only on rallies, we conducted interviews of Mr. Fadnavis with well-known personalities in Thane, Pune, Navi Mumbai, Nagpur and other cities. These were live-telecast at the ward level through our internal network by installing LED screens," Mr. Bhartiya said.

## R-Day To Mark 150 Years Of Vande Mataram

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The main theme of the Republic Day Parade this year will be "150 Years of Vande Mataram." For the first time, some Indian Army contingents will present a phased Battle Array Format, with live commentary explaining the roles of various formations and equipment. Newly raised Indian Army light commando Bhairav battalions, specialised Shaktibaan artillery units and the Ladakh Scouts will march on Kartavya Path. A total of 18 marching contingents, along with a small European Union naval contingent, will take part in the parade. The flypast will feature Rafale, Su-30, MiG-29 fighter jets and Apache helicopters. Indigenous weapon systems such as



the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile and the Akash surface-to-air missile will also be showcased. The parade will last around 90 minutes and is expected to be witnessed by nearly 77,000 people. In a move aimed at ending VIP culture, guest enclosures this year will be named after Indian rivers instead of the earlier V1, V2 format, which often led to confusion and preferential demand, official sources said. As many as 30 tableaux will roll down

Kartavya Path, including 17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from Union ministries, reflecting themes of Vande Mataram and self-reliance. For the first time, the Indian Army's animal contingent will march during the Republic Day Parade 2026. The contingent will include two Bactrian camels, four Zanskar ponies, four raptors, ten Indian-breed Army dogs and six conventional military dogs currently in service. Defence secretary Ra-

jesh Kumar Singh, addressing a press briefing at South Block, said the 77th Republic Day celebrations would feature several firsts. Invitation cards will carry the sesquicentenary logo of Vande Mataram, and a cluster of balloons bearing the theme will be released at the conclusion of the parade. Band performances by the armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces will be held from January 19 to 26 at about 235 locations across more than 120 cities on the theme of Vande Mataram. Enclosure backdrops along Kartavya Path will also display reproductions of artist Tejendra Kumar Mitra's paintings illustrating the opening lines of Vande Mataram, first published in 1923, officials said.

## 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 bedrock 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.

### BJP-Shinde Sena.....

The State Election Commission is yet to release an official statement on all the results. An official said the final results may be announced late in the night. The undivided Sena, in alliance with the BJP, had been ruling the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the country's richest civic body with a budget of ₹75,000 crore, since 1985, barring a five-year period in 1992-97. In 2017, the Shiv Sena held on to power by two seats. Fadnavis has emerged as the man of the moment, with the BJP under his leadership surpassing its previous high of 82 seats in the 2017 BMC elections. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the next BMC mayor will be Hindu as well as Marathi. He taunted the Shiv Sena (UBT) saying had they not betrayed Balasaheb Thackeray's principles, this situation would have arisen. "The result showed that the real Thackeray brand belonged to only Balasaheb," he said. Going by the results declared, the Shiv Sena (UBT) has managed to maintain its hold on Marathi-dominated areas in Central and Eastern Mumbai. However, in island city and western suburbs,

where the non-Maharashtrians are in majority, the BJP surged ahead decisively. The Congress' decision to contest independently also played in the hands of the saffron party, creating a divide in opposition votes. While the Shiv Sena won 84 seats, BJP had come perilously close with 82 seats. Since then, the saffron party had been desperately trying to wrest power from the Shiv Sena in the BMC.

### CM Revanth to.....

The launch event will showcase Telangana's innovation-first approach to shaping the future of deep-tech through a real-world governance model designed to evolve with rapidly advancing technologies. TAIH is designed as a catalyst for innovation across deep tech domains like AI, quantum computing, chip design, and other frontier technologies. It functions as a unified execution engine - it is the first in the country to bring together talent, infrastructure, datasets, acceleration, startups, enterprise innovation, capital, applied research, product design and testing and other capacity-building initiatives within a single, unified platform. "The world does not need

another incubator; it needs an innovation sandbox," explained D. Sridhar Babu, IT minister. "With the launch of TAIH, we are providing a live, cutting-edge innovation platform across deep-tech domains, supported by world-class infrastructure. With the launch of TAIH, we are positioning Telangana as a global innovation engine where the world's safest, enterprise-grade products are engineered for the world," he added.

### Govt Cooperating.....

Another returnee said they had been in Iran for a month but faced problems over the past one to two weeks. "When we went outside, protesters would come in front of the car and cause trouble. The internet was shut down, so we couldn't inform our families. We were very worried and couldn't even contact the embassy," he said. An Indian national from Jammu and Kashmir highlighted the danger posed by the protests. "The protests there were dangerous. The Indian government has made a very good effort and brought the students back," he said. Meanwhile, several family members gathered at Indira Gandhi International Airport to re-

ceive their loved ones. One family waiting for a relative returning from a pilgrimage expressed gratitude to the government. "Iran has always been a good friend of India. We were confident in the Modi government and thank them for making this possible," a family member said. Another person waiting for his sister-in-law said communication had been impossible due to internet shutdowns. "There was a war-like situation. We were very worried, but we are happy she is returning safely," he said. Similarly, relatives of other returnees said they had been unable to contact their family members for days and expressed relief and gratitude upon their safe return. Earlier, the Indian Embassy in Tehran issued an advisory urging Indian nationals, including students, businesspeople, pilgrims and tourists, to leave Iran through available means, including commercial flights, citing the evolving security situation. The MEA also advised Indians to avoid travel to Iran until further notice and reiterated its January 5 advisory urging those in Iran to remain cautious and avoid protests or demonstrations.

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 Zajgikhana. "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 Sctarampuram 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

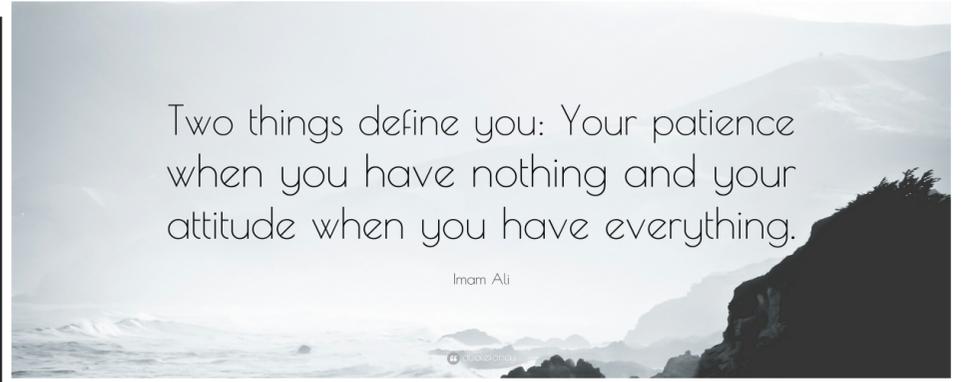
**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

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 Enterprises of Secunderabad after following the prescribed procedure. The case relates to an e-

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 officer proposed reopening the tender process on April 26, 2025, the deci-

sion 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, 2025.



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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# TBZ-The Original Celebrates Silver Jubilee in Hyderabad

Largest city showroom opens with month-long offers, showcasing bridal, antique, and contemporary jewellery collections

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

TBZ-The Original, one of India's most trusted and iconic jewellery brands, marked a landmark moment with the inauguration of its new showroom at Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, celebrating 25 years of its strong presence in the city and 161 years of an illustrious legacy across the country. The launch reinforces the brand's enduring relationship with Hyderabad, a city renowned for its rich cultural heritage and deep appreciation for fine jewellery.

Strategically located on the bustling Himayat Nagar Main Road, the new showroom further strengthens TBZ-The Original's deep-rooted

connection with the city's discerning customers. With this addition, the brand now operates three prominent showrooms in Hyderabad—Punjagutta, Kondapur, and Himayatnagar—continuing to play a vital role in the jewellery-buying traditions of the region. Over the past two and a half decades, TBZ-The Original has earned the trust of Hyderabad's families through its commitment to quality, transparency, and timeless craftsmanship.

To commemorate its Silver Jubilee celebrations in Hyderabad, TBZ-The Original announced a host of attractive month-long celebratory offers across all three city showrooms. Customers can enjoy assured gifts on every purchase, up to ₹500 per



gram off on gold rates, up to 100% off on jewellery making charges, assured gold coins on diamond jewellery purchases, and 100% value on the exchange of old gold without any deductions, subject to terms and conditions. These special

offers are designed to thank customers for their continued trust and patronage over the years.

Spread across an expansive 5,775 square feet and housed over two elegantly designed floors, the Himayatnagar showroom is the largest TBZ-The

Original store in Hyderabad to date. Crafted to deliver a superior and immersive shopping experience, the showroom features an extensive range of contemporary, traditional, antique, temple, and bridal jewellery collections. Every piece

on display reflects the brand's hallmark of excellence, with all jewellery being BIS hallmarked and TBZ-The Original certified, assuring customers of purity, authenticity, and superior quality.

One of the major attractions at the new showroom is the much-acclaimed Dohra Collection, a unique detachable bridal jewellery concept that has received widespread appreciation. Designed for versatility, the collection allows customers to repurpose jewellery for multiple occasions, offering both elegance and practicality. The store also showcases TBZ-The Original's exclusive bridal collection, a harmonious blend of opulent Indian heritage and modern

craftsmanship. From engagement rings and intricately designed necklaces to bangles, kangans, and statement bridal sets, the collection is curated to cater to the evolving tastes of today's brides.

The showroom was inaugurated by acclaimed actress Raashii Khanna, adding glamour to the celebratory occasion. She admired the brand's wide range of gold and diamond jewellery, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship, intricate detailing, and the use of stunning gemstones across collections.

Chairman and Managing Director Shrikant Zaveri expressed his pride and gratitude, stating, "Celebrating our Silver

Jubilee in the City of Pearls is deeply meaningful for us. Hyderabad was the first city we chose beyond our roots in Mumbai, and over the past 25 years, the unwavering trust shown by its families has been truly extraordinary. With the opening of our Himayatnagar showroom, we are further strengthening our lifelong bond with this city."

Sharing her excitement, Raashii Khanna said, "It is an honour to inaugurate this beautiful showroom and be part of the celebration marking 25 years of TBZ-The Original in Hyderabad.

The Himayatnagar store is absolutely stunning, and the jewellery collections are breathtaking. It is truly a must-visit destination for jewellery lovers."

## Chinese Imports Touch \$96 Bn This Fiscal

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Amidst China's extraordinary trade performance of reporting record surplus in 2025, India's imports from the country went up to touch \$96 billion during April-December period. Despite US sanctions, imports from Russia recorded a marginal dip of 2.7 per cent in December, while lower gold imports helped imports from Switzerland fall 62 per cent last month. India's imports from China grew 20 per cent to \$11.69 billion in December and the total imports were up 13.46 per cent between April and December to \$95.95 billion. With \$14.247 billion worth of exports from India to China during the period, the trade deficit with the country went up to \$81 billion. As for the calendar year 2025, China reported a record surplus of over one trillion dollars with all its trade partners despite the tariff pressure from the



US, underscoring the strength of China's manufacturing and export model. This is the first time China's full-year trade surplus crossed \$1 trillion, surpassing the previous record of \$993 billion set in 2024, according to a report by BBC. While imports from China kept surging, exports from India too improved 67 per cent to \$2 billion in December. Imports from Russia, which was under US sanctions in December, marginally declined by 2.77 per cent. Crude oil being the largest commodity imported from Russia continued despite most of the oil companies cutting their shipments.

Meanwhile, imports from Switzerland fell by 62.5 per cent to \$592 million in December while purchase of gold, the largest import category from Switzerland, was down by only 6.8 per cent. Silver imports into India were up 90 per cent as prices lifted the import value up. Among other categories, import of raw and waste cotton was 212 per cent up to \$446 million while it was 80 per cent up between April and December. Export of iron ore was 59 per cent up while export of iron and steel was down by 4.48 per cent, indicating lesser value addition by the industry.

## Rupee Crashes 63 Paise to 90.84 as NDF Maturities Hurt

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.37, touched an intraday low of 90.88, and a high of 90.36

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

The Indian rupee on Friday slipped 63 paise against the dollar to 90.86, pressured by nearly \$3 billion maturing non-deliverable forward (NDF) positions. This was the rupee's biggest one-day fall in nearly two months. However, dollar sales from state-run banks on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India helped limit the currency's fall. Traders said that the RBI had kept the rupee within the 90.30 level for almost a month but now with this level crossed, the rupee looks headed towards 91 and could even beat the all-time high of 91.08 as there are a number of NDF expiries in the coming days.

While the central bank usually intervenes in the spot over-the-counter (OTC) market to curb the rupee's volatility, more recently, it has changed its strategy and has



been actively intervening in the NDF market to curb volatility and speculation. Taking positions in the NDF market has the benefit of not spending foreign exchange from the reserves. On the contrary, in the spot market, the central bank has to spend dollars to reduce volatility, leading to a reduction in forex reserves.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 90.37, touched an intraday low of 90.88, and a high of 90.36. It finally closed at 90.8650 per dollar, down 63 paise from Wednesday's close of 90.29. Friday's

close was the rupee's worst drop since mid-November last year, inching closer to its all-time low of 91.14 hit in December. The currency was down about 70 paise week on week. The domestic foreign exchange market was closed on Thursday due to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation elections.

Says Anil Kumar Bhansali, head of treasury at Finrex Trading Advisors, "The rupee is expected between 90.50 to 91.20 on Monday. As RBI bought dollars, the market would have got themselves short and more buying is expected on Monday and Tuesday while RBI would have the ammunition to keep selling at higher levels. Foreign portfolio investors have continued to sell in Indian equities leading to capital outflows which have been increasing as days pass. The India-US trade deal, despite being very close to being done since June 25, has not

been finalized, keeping FPIs in a sell mode in debt and recently equities too. The deferment of Indian bonds into the Bloomberg Index to June has not been helpful as good inflows could have come through that route."

The rupee also faced pressure after data released on Thursday showed that India's merchandise trade deficit for December stood at \$25.04 billion. The data also pointed to resilience in exports to the U.S. despite steep tariffs. The rupee had recorded its lowest closing level at 90.93 on December 16 when it had also touched an intraday historic low of 91.14. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent lower at 99.26. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.14 per cent higher at \$64.49 per barrel in futures trade.

## Maruti Starts Victoris Export Badged As 'Across'



**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car exporter, on Friday said it has started to export its mid-size SUV, Victoris, to global markets, with over 450 vehicles already shipped. The maker of popular models Swift and Baleno said over 450 vehicles have set sail from Mundra and Pipavav ports for global markets. The SUV Victoris will be globally sold as 'Across' and is expected to be sold in around 100 countries and regions, including Latin America, Middle East and Africa, the company said. "In the calendar year 2025, with exports of over

3.9 lakh vehicles, we emerged as India's number one passenger vehicle exporter for the fifth year in a row," said Hisashi Takeuchi, MD and CEO at Maruti Suzuki India, said, adding that the company's export journey is guided by the vision of Make in India, Make for the World. "The year also marked our re-entry into Europe with the start of exports of our first battery electric vehicle, e VITARA," he noted. Takeuchi said while India's passenger vehicle exports from CY2020 to CY2025 grew 1.43 times, Maruti Suzuki exports jumped 4.67 times. The addition of Victoris will further expand its export ambitions, he noted.

## South Indian Bank Posts Record Q3 Profit of Rs 374 Cr

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

South Indian Bank has delivered a landmark financial performance in the third quarter of FY 2025-26, registering its highest-ever quarterly net profit of Rs 374.32 crore. This represents a 9 per cent year-on-year growth compared to Rs 341.87 crore reported in Q3 of FY 2024-25, underlining the Bank's sustained turnaround and steady growth momentum. For the nine months ended December 2025, the Bank's net profit rose to Rs 1,047.64 crore, up 9 per cent from Rs 960.69 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. Pre-Provisioning Operating Profit for the quarter increased by 10 per cent to Rs 584.33 crore from Rs 528.84 crore, reflecting improved operational efficiency and income growth.

Non-interest income recorded a strong 19 per cent year-on-year rise, increasing from Rs 409.22

crore to Rs 485.93 crore. The Bank continued to maintain positive operating leverage during the nine-month period ended December 2025, with net total income growing by 7.44 per cent, significantly outpacing the 3.61 per cent increase in operating expenses.

Asset quality showed marked improvement during the quarter. Gross Non-Performing Assets declined by 163 basis points year-on-year to 2.67 per cent, while Net NPA dropped sharply by 80 basis points to 0.45 per cent. The Provision Coverage Ratio strengthened further, with PCR excluding write-offs rising to 83.5 per cent and PCR including write-offs improving to 91.57 per cent. Return on Assets remained above 1 per cent, and the slippage ratio reduced to 0.16 per cent, highlighting improved credit discipline.

On the liabilities side, retail deposits grew by 13 per cent year-on-year to

Rs 1,15,563 crore, while NRI deposits increased by 9 per cent to Rs 33,965 crore. CASA deposits expanded by 15 per cent, driven by growth in both savings and current accounts. Gross advances rose by 11 per cent to Rs 96,764 crore, supported by healthy growth across corporate, business, gold and vehicle loan segments. The gold loan portfolio alone expanded by 26 per cent year-on-year.

Commenting on the results, MD and CEO P. R. Seshadri said the Bank's strategy of profitability through quality credit growth continues to yield strong results. The capital adequacy ratio stood at a healthy 17.84 per cent as of December 2025, positioning the Bank well for future growth, and their weaponisation can undermine trust in democratic institutions, contribute to political polarisation and lead to the incitement of political violence or social upheaval.

## Pernod Ricard India Launches Seagram's Xclamat!on in Telangana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Pernod Ricard India on Thursday announced the launch of Seagram's Xclamat!on in Telangana, unveiling what it calls its most ambitious innovation in the Indian market in over three decades. Positioned in the premium admix segment, Xclamat!on is India's first multi-category branded house, bringing together five spirits—whisky, vodka, gin, rum and brandy—under a single brand at a uniform price point.

Targeted at young adult consumers aged 26 to 30, the brand aims to tap into a fast-growing segment that values variety, distinctiveness and shared social experiences. With mixed-gender social gatherings becoming increasingly common, demand for spirits beyond traditional whisky—such as



gin, vodka, rum and brandy—has seen steady growth. With over 20 million consumers entering the legal drinking age every year, Pernod Ricard India said Xclamat!on addresses a significant market gap by offering quality spirits at accessible premium pricing. The brand's proposition, "It's time for Xclamat!on," positions it as a catalyst that elevates everyday social moments.

Jean Touboul, CEO of Pernod Ricard India, said the launch marks the company's first unified brand across five spirits categories. He noted that Xclamat!on blends Indian craftsmanship with global expertise and is designed to meet the evolving preferences of India's next-

generation consumers. Each category under Xclamat!on has a distinct identity and taste profile. The whisky blends Speyside Scotch malts with Indian grain spirits, the brandy combines Indian and French grapes matured in Limousin casks, while the rum fuses Indian jaggery rum with aged Jamaican spirit. The vodka uses Russian moonstone filtration for purity, and the gin features German juniper berries infused with Indian botanicals. The brand's bold exclamation mark symbol is designed to create strong shelf impact, reinforcing Xclamat!on's positioning as a statement of innovation and celebration.

## Arundhati Roy's 1989 Film 'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones' To Screen at Berlin Film Fest

A 4K restored version of "In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones", author and activist Arundhati Roy's cult 1989 movie about student angst and ambitions, will be screened at the 2026 Berlin Film Festival as part of the Berlinale Classics segment. The Booker Prize-winning author penned the screenplay and also played a major role in the TV movie, which is among the line-up of 10 films for the film gala's coveted segment.

The film, which featured a very young Shah Rukh Khan and Manoj Bajpayee as part of the cast, was directed by her then husband Pradip Krishen, who will attend the festival with Roy. Set in an architecture school in Delhi in the mid-1970s, "In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones" is a whimsical campus comedy originally made for Doordarshan and later acquired cult status among film enthusiasts. It was a rare film that captured the spirit and anxieties of the student life of the time.

The movie's story combined humour with sharp social observation and followed Anand Grover, nicknamed Annie by his friends, a misguided visionary who gets into trouble for making fun of the principal Y D Billimoria known as Yamdoot. The film was partly inspired by Roy's experiences of studying at the leading architecture institute, School of Planning and Architecture, in Delhi. This was



the first screenplay by Roy, who also worked with Krishen for his first film, the 1985 colonial-period drama "Massey Sahib".

The duo later collaborated for 1992's "Electric Moon" with Roy once again writing the screenplay and Krishen taking on directing duties. Besides Roy, "In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones" also featured Arjun Raina and Roshan Seth in lead roles. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee, who were both struggling in the Delhi theatre circuit at the time, appeared in small but significant roles.

In her memoir "Mother Mary Comes To Me" published last year, Roy recalled how the movie was greenlit by Doordarshan. "My script was about life in the School of Architecture: the wacky anarchy of that cam-

pus, the stoned, bombed-out students and the dialect of English that we spoke - an inventive mix of Hindi and English. It was set in 1974. We called it 'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones'. In Delhi University slang, 'giving it those ones' meant 'doing one's usual sh\*t', she wrote. She also wrote about the film's first screening at Max Mueller Bhavan that received a request for an encore from the audience. "Students jammed into the hall and crowded on to the floor. I was squashed among them in the dark. Within a few minutes the audience began to yell, roar with laughter and wolf-whistle through the film. They recognized themselves, their language, their clothes, their jokes, their silliness, and were delighted to have been deemed worthy of cinema. I was dazed. Thrilled. Word got out

somehow - even in that pre-cell phone era - and before the screening ended, hundreds of other students had arrived at the gate demanding to see the film. Whoever was in charge at Max Mueller Bhavan that day sportingly allowed us to screen a second time," she wrote. In a statement, Krishen said he is looking forward to present the movie at the Berlinale with Roy and Shivendra Singh Dungarpur of Film Heritage Foundation, which spearheaded its restoration process. "When we made 'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones' almost four decades ago, it was unique in the sense that no one was making films about people like us, about the English-speaking student subculture where the characters spoke their own patois. But the film went out of circulation after a single screening on television. "When I donated my film material to Film Heritage Foundation, I didn't imagine that 'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones' would be restored and have a second innings. I am delighted that the restoration has been selected for a world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival where a film that virtually went underground will be presented to the world on such a major platform," he said. The film, which won two National Awards for best screenplay for Roy and best feature film in English, was restored in 4K by the Film Heritage Foundation.

## Akshaye Khanna's Character To Feature in 'Dhurandhar' Sequel Too



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

For all those who have seen and loved Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar, it will come as a pleasant surprise to learn that Akshaye Khanna's character is being brought back in the sequel, which opens on March 19. Confirming the plan to revive Akshaye's character, a source in the know says, "We know Rehman Dakaat died in the first film. But such is the popularity of and demand for Akshaye's character that it is being revived. He will

feature in a flashback of around 15 minutes."

The extra footage with Akshaye Khanna will be shot in February. And the change in plan will not affect the March 19 release date, adds the source. "Akshaye has already agreed to shoot in February. His scenes will be added to Dhurandhar 2 in time for the release." Interestingly, while Akshaye has hiked his fee astronomically after Dhurandhar, it is learnt that he won't charge anything to shoot for the sequel.

## 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.

## Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma Buy 21K Sq Metre Land Parcels for Rs 38 Cr at Alibag, Near Mumbai

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Cricketer Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma have bought 1.36 hectare land at Alibag near Mumbai for Rs 37.86 crore, according to CRE Matrix. Real estate data analytic firm CRE Matrix, which has reviewed the property registration document, said that the former Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma have



bought two land parcels totalling 21,010 sq metres at Alibag, Raigad.

The registration was done on January 13, 2026. The size of the first plot is 14,740 square metres, while the size of the second plot is 6,270 square

metres. The total deal value is Rs 37.86 crore and around Rs 2.27 crore was paid towards stamp duty. As per the CRE Matrix, the seller is Sonali Amit Rajput. Samira Land Assets is the confirming party. Post-Covid pandemic, there has been a surge in real estate transactions by film stars, cricketers, big corporates and other ultra high net worth individuals (ultra HNIs) in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

## Nikhat Zareen Meets Telangana Advisor Shabbir Ali After National Boxing Gold

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Reigning national boxing champion Nikhat Zareen met Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Advisor to the Telangana Government, at his residence on Friday, days after winning gold at the 2026 National Boxing Championships. Nikhat clinched the title with a commanding 5-0 victory in the finals, once again underlining her dominance in Indian women's boxing. Congratulating her on the achievement, Shabbir Ali described the win as an inspiring start to the year and praised her dedication and discipline. "Nikhat Zareen has once again brought pride to Telangana and the nation. Her commitment and hard work serve as a motivation to young athletes," Shabbir Ali said, extending his best wishes for her upcoming international



assignments, including the Asian Games, World Championships, and her pursuit of an Olympic medal.

As a mark of appreciation, Nikhat Zareen presented Shabbir Ali with a jacket from the 2025 World Boxing Championships held in Liverpool. She expressed gratitude for his continued encour-

agement and support throughout her career. During the interaction, Nikhat also thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Shabbir Ali for facilitating her appointment as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Telangana Police. She termed the appointment a proud and memorable moment for herself and her

family. "I am thankful to the Telangana Government for recognising my efforts and giving me the opportunity to serve the State as a DSP. This support motivates me to strive harder for my country in the boxing ring," Nikhat said. Highlighting the State's focus on sports promotion, Shabbir Ali said the Telangana Government remains committed to encouraging sportspersons who bring national and international recognition. He noted that Nikhat Zareen and Indian cricketer Mohammed Siraj were nominated for DSP posts as part of this initiative. He added that the government is strengthening sports infrastructure, training facilities, and athlete welfare schemes to ensure the overall development of sports in Telangana.

## RCB Proposes AI-Enabled Cameras for Crowd Management at the Chinnaswamy Stadium

**BENGALURU**  
Wakeup telangana

In a formal communication to the KSCA, RCB has proposed the installation of 300 to 350 AI-enabled cameras at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, according to a release. The advanced surveillance technology will empower the KSCA and law enforcement agencies to efficiently manage crowd movement, ensure disciplined queueing, monitor unauthorised access through real-time tracking of entries and exits, and significantly enhance overall fan safety.

The solution leverages advanced analysis of video, audio and text data to accelerate investigations and enable



faster, more accurate decision-making. Its real-time AI video analytics capability enables early detection of incidents such as violence, unauthorised access and intrusion, facilitating swift and effective law-enforcement response. RCB has further committed to bearing the entire one-time cost of this

initiative, estimated at approximately ₹4.5 crore. RCB has partnered with Staqu, a technology company with a proven track record in enhancing public safety through automation and data-driven intelligence. Staqu's state-of-the-art facial recognition technology and intelligent monitoring of objects,

crowd, perimeters and vehicles have assisted many State Police forces in their regular monitoring and investigations. The solution leverages advanced analysis of video, audio and text data to accelerate investigations and enable faster, more accurate decision-making. Its real-time AI video analytics capability enables early detection of incidents such as violence, unauthorised access and intrusion, facilitating swift and effective law-enforcement response. The integration of this advanced technology will elevate crowd management standards and reinforce a safe, secure and seamless matchday experience for all fans.

## One held in Puranapul Darwaza Maisamma Temple vandalism incident

The Hyderabad police have arrested a suspect in the vandalism incident at the Puranapul Darwaza Maisamma temple on Thursday night. The suspect, whose identity was not revealed by the police, had allegedly damaged a flexi banner and a POP idol placed in the temple verandah.

Police said the suspect was identified and nabbed within 24 hours of the incident by the Kamatipura police. He is being interrogated as part of the ongoing investigation to collect more evidence. Officials said the situation at Puranapul Darwaza was fully under control and urged citizens not to panic or believe rumours circulating on social media. Officials clarified that false claims about damage to the main idol at the Maisamma Temple were baseless and warned of strict legal action against those spreading fake news or attempting to disturb public order. According to police, only a flex banner and a Plaster of Paris idol placed in the temple veranda were partially damaged, while the idols inside the sanctum sanctorum remained intact. The unidentified offender did not enter the main temple, officials said.

The incident occurred around 11.30 pm on Wednesday when the unidentified person entered the temple premises and caused damage to the banner and POP idol. The Kamatipura police registered a case and collected CCTV footage and other evidence from the spot.

## Expedite Hyderabad Metro takeover, Kishan Reddy urges Revanth Reddy

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy on Friday, January 16, urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to complete the takeover of Hyderabad Metro Rail's first phase from Larsen and Tourbo to pave the way for the second phase of the project, which the Centre is ready to undertake along with the state government. He requested the state government to take over Phase-I as soon as possible and send the necessary proposals for the construction of Phase-II to the central government.

Kishan Reddy wrote a letter to the Chief Minister raising concerns over delays in moving forward with Hyderabad Metro Phase-II.

The Union minister stated that the Centre has already agreed in principle to Phase-II, with the understanding that the takeover of Phase-I is completed first, and coordination begins through the joint committee, as agreed earlier. He urged the Telangana Chief Minister to nominate state officials to the joint committee, so that coordination can commence without delay and Metro expansion can progress in the larger interest of the people of Hyderabad.

Kishan Reddy wrote that he met Union Minister for Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar and discussed the construction of the second phase of the Metro. Manohar Lal Khattar also reminded that the Centre has already agreed to the construction of Phase-II. "Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also told me that the state Government has decided to take over the first phase of the Metro and to form a joint committee with the central government and the state government for the preparation of the second phase," wrote Kishan Reddy.

## Two peddlers held with drugs worth Rs 1 lakh in Hyderabad's Attapur

Police arrested two people on Wednesday, January 14, for peddling drugs and seized. The accused have been identified as Anwar Hussain, 33, a resident of Rajendranagar working as an I-T recruiter, and Burra Sampath, 31, a resident of Bandlaguda Jagir who works as a car driver.

According to the police, the accused were not satisfied with their income and, in order to earn easy money, they contacted a drug peddler named Charan from Bengaluru. They transferred Rs 38,000 to the Bengaluru peddler on January 8 who assured them of supplying the contraband. The planned to sell the drugs to other customers. However, on Wednesday, they were arrested by the West Zone Task Force officials and subsequently handed over to the Attapur Police for further action. Eight grams of MDMA and 0.8 grams of "OG" (potent strains of cannabis) were seized from the duo. According to the annual crime report of the Hyderabad Police, there was a 14 per cent increase in cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2025, compared to the previous year.

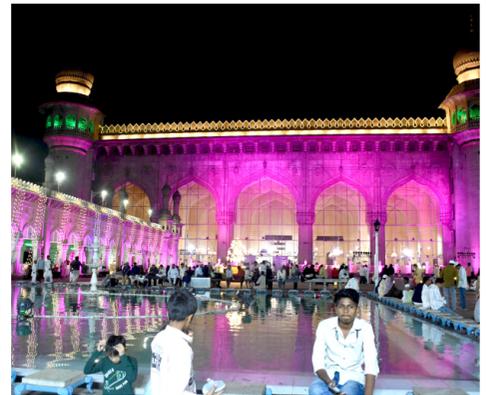
Among the 6,000 kg of drugs seized, ganja accounted for 3,243 kg, while opium made up 3,311 kg. The city police also seized 36 Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) and Lysergic Acid Amide (LSA) tablets, 1,771 grams of MDMA, 6,723 ml of hash oil, 100 grams of heroin and 452 grams of cocaine. A total of 1,334 Indian nationals and 11 foreign nationals were arrested under the NDPS Act in 2025.

# Special prayers mark Shab-e-Meraj in Hyderabad

City Mosques Witness Heavy Turnout as Devotees Observe Shab-e-Meraj Night Prayers



On the occasion of the night of Shab-e-Meraj, devotees offer prayers at the historic Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad.— Photo: Mir Zulfquear ali



Darwaza, Shahi Masjid at Bagh-e-Aam, and Jamia Masjid in Musheerabad, where heavy footfall was reported till late hours. Devotees spent the night in prayers, recitation of the Holy Quran, and remembrance of Allah, seeking blessings and forgiveness.

In addition to mosques, large religious gatherings were held at venues such as Quli Qutb Shah Stadium and Khilwat Playground, where scholars addressed devotees on the message of faith, discipline, and obedience associated with Shab-e-Meraj. The programmes concluded

peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday. Many mosques and streets in the old city and other localities were illuminated to mark the occasion, adding to the spiritual ambience. Volunteers and mosque committees made arrangements to manage crowds and facilitate smooth conduct of prayers.

With the observance of Shab-e-Meraj, the countdown to the holy month of Ramzan has officially begun. The sacred fasting month is expected to commence in the third week of February, subject to the sighting of the moon.

## HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Muslims across the city observed Shab-e-Meraj, the sacred Night of Ascension, with deep devotion and fervour on Friday night. The religious occasion, which falls on the

27th day of the Islamic month of Rajab, marks the miraculous journey of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to the heavens. To commemorate the occasion, special prayers, religious discourses, and

night-long programmes were organised at mosques across Hyderabad. A large congregation gathered at the historic Mecca Masjid, where a few thousand devotees offered special prayers and listened to sermons highlighting the spiritual significance of

Shab-e-Meraj. The grand mosque wore a festive look as it was beautifully illuminated, drawing worshippers throughout the night. Similar scenes were witnessed at several prominent mosques, including Vazir Ali Masjid at Fateh

## Hot Air Balloon Festival kicks off near Golconda Fort

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

It felt like Turkey's world-famous Cappadocia, as the three-day Hot Air Balloon Festival began near Hyderabad's Golconda Fort early on Friday, January 16, with at least 18 balloons taking off from the Golf Club.

Concluding on January 18, the festival was inaugurated by Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who took a hot air balloon ride as part



of the opening ceremony. He covered a distance of 13 kilometres in nearly 1.5 hours in the hot air balloon. At least 50

people, including those who booked tickets and VIPs, participated in the festival. Tickets for the festival

are priced at Rs 2,000, even as the event is fully booked. As part of the festival, shorter distance rides are arranged at the Parade Ground in Secunderabad on Friday evening. According to local reports, the ride began from the Hyderabad Golf Club and ended at Appajiguda, providing an aerial view of Hyderabad. After completing the ride, Rao said, "Such festivals must be conducted frequently to promote Telangana and its historic culture."

## Crack down on banned Chinese manja trade, 12 held

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

In an enforcement drive against the sale of banned Chinese manja, the Secunderabad Zone Police have arrested 12 suppliers and sellers from across the city and seized 162 bobbins of the hazardous nylon thread, valued at about Rs 1.88 lakh on Thursday. The special drive was conducted at various loca-

tions in Chikkadpally, Gandhinagar and Osmania University areas and cases registered at Kacheguda, Domalguda and Amberpet police stations. At Kacheguda, police arrested five persons involved in illegal stocking and sale of Chinese manja and seized 106 bobbins. Officials said that the stock was sourced from Old Delhi.

## 25 Held in Nationwide Cyber Crime Crackdown

### HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Cyber Crime Police, Cyberabad, carried out a major enforcement drive between December 31, 2025, and January 15, 2026, resulting in the detection of 13 cyber crime cases and the arrest of 25 individuals from various states across India. Investigations revealed that cyber crime networks operate nationwide, with offenders involved in online trading fraud, job fraud, smishing scams, part-time job fraud, and business-related cyber crimes.

Among those arrested, 12 were linked to online trading frauds. The Cyberabad Police also successfully implemented 182 court-directed refund orders in 50 cases, helping victims recover a total of ₹78,77,130. In

one significant case, two accused, Kareem G Srinivas and Gandriti Ashok, were arrested for running a fake trading app called "NUVA PRO" and a fraudulent WhatsApp investment group, resulting in a loss of ₹1.34 crore. In another major fraud, D. Boina Anil Sunder Kumar and B. Sai Krishna allegedly facilitated a fake trading and crypto investment scam, causing a loss of ₹2.13 crore by luring victims through Facebook and WhatsApp. The Cyberabad Police have advised the public to be cautious of social media investment schemes, join only SEBI-authorized platforms, avoid upfront commissions, and report suspicious activities at 1930 or cybercrime.gov.in.

## Cyberabad Police Stress Safe Driving in 'Arrive Alive' Campaign

### HYDERABAD Choice News

Cyberabad Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS, emphasized that the primary aim of the "Arrive Alive" campaign is to ensure that every individual reaches home safely. He spoke at the "Arrive Alive" Road Safety Campaign organized by the Telangana State Police at the Kondapur RTA Office, as part of National Road Safety Month. Addressing attendees, Dr. Bhupal highlighted that human errors—such as speeding, drunk driving, driving in the wrong direction, and using mobile phones while driving—are the leading causes of road accidents. "Road accidents are claiming more lives than heart disease, tuber-



culosis, AIDS, and COVID," he said, stressing that most victims are aged 18-40 years. The loss of a family breadwinner or prominent figures in sports and arts due to accidents is an irreparable loss to society. Dr. Bhupal advised drivers to avoid mobile phone use while driving, and if an urgent call arises, to stop safely before attending it. He also cautioned against wrong-way driving and drowsy driving on high-

ways, urging adherence to traffic rules such as wearing helmets, seat belts, and following speed limits to reduce accidents. Madhapur Traffic DCP Sai Manohar stated the campaign runs from January 13 to 24 across Telangana, aiming to prevent accidents and raise awareness about traffic rules. He highlighted that speeding, including driving 40 kmph in 20 kmph zones or exceeding 100 kmph, is a major accident cause. Madhapur Traffic

ACP Chandrashekhar Reddy stressed that safe arrival should be everyone's top priority, warning that rash driving endangers all road users. Kondapur RTO Inspector Krishnaveni urged drivers to maintain valid permits, licenses, and helmets, and emphasized teaching children road safety from an early age. Gachibowli Traffic Inspector Suresh administered the Road Safety Pledge, committing participants to follow traffic rules, respect other road users, and contribute to safe travel. The event was attended by around 200 driving license aspirants, RTA staff, and senior police officials including Dr. Bhupal, DCP Sai Manohar, ACP Chandrashekhar Reddy, and RTO inspectors.

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