



Would you like to subscribe to WAKE UP TELANGANA ENGLISH DAILY? Please give a missed call to +91 8885610056 We will get back to you

### Brief Insights

#### Advocacy Group Protests Alleged Harassment of Bengali Voters During SIR

A prominent advocacy group 'Bangla Pokkho' on Wednesday staged a protest outside the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) here, alleging large-scale harassment of legitimate Bengali electors and an attempt to manipulate the voters' list. The organisation, which focuses on the rights of Bengalis, also submitted a deputation to the CEO. After the protest, Bangla Pokkho leaders held a meeting with Additional CEO Arindam Niyogi and claimed they have come to know that even 48 hours after a Supreme Court verdict, no directive had been issued from the office of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to implement the SC's order with regard to SIR. "During our meeting with the Deputy CEO, we pointed out that frequent changes in rules by the Election Commission of India have placed Bengalis under severe distress," organisation spokesperson Kaushik Maity told reporters.

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 4

#### Assets worth Rs 7.69 cr seized in ACB raid on Hanamkonda Additional Collector

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets case against Arramada Venkat Reddy, Additional Collector (Revenue), Hanamkonda, who is also the in-charge District Education Officer of Hanamkonda and is currently under suspension. Searches at his residence and seven other places unearthed assets worth Rs 7.69 crore, which were disproportionate to his known sources of income. According to an ACB press note issued on Tuesday, the case was registered after it was found that the officer allegedly acquired assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by indulging in corrupt practices and adopting dubious means during his service.

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 8



### Rashmi Group Inks ₹12,500 Cr Pact with T'gana: P8

### Smart Boards in All Govt Medical Colleges, Says Health Minister: P2

### KTR slams Kishan Reddy over Singareni tenders: P3



# Telangana Rising 2047 Wins Tata's Backing at Davos

## CM Revanth Reddy pitches plans to upgrade major Hyd stadiums with TATA support

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

The Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy-led delegation kicked off Day 2 of WEF 2026 with a highly constructive and outcome-driven meeting at the TCS Pavilion. The delegation made a detailed presentation of the key strategies, framework, and goal-driven 'Telangana Rising 2047' vision to Chandrasekharan, who was pleasantly surprised by the meticulous planning under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy. The TATA Chairman commended the state government's approach of not chasing investments at WEF 2026 and promote its policies, vision and ecosystem. Chief Minister



A. Revanth Reddy began the discussion by mentioning Telangana government's successful partnership with Tata Technologies in launching the major initiative to transform 65 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs). He added that the government is looking to upgrade the government polytechnic colleges into skill centres. On the skills front, the

delegation explained that the Young India Skills University (YISU) has been initiated with Anand Mahindra as the Chair of Board of Governors. The meeting also focused on the Young India Sports University and the state's ambitious vision to upgrade public sports infra so that India can win medals at the 2036 Olympics. CM Revanth Reddy pitched plans to upgrade major stadiums in Hyderabad,

with TATA support, to which Chandrasekharan readily agreed to engage in the proposal. The TATA Chairman agreed that there is a need for world-class infrastructure in sports, considering that there is immense talent in the country. The Chief Minister said there is a need to initiate sports training for children from a very young age, to be able to compete at the global level. Reacting to the delegation's pitch on the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, the \$3 Trillion economy goal, and the CURE, PURE, RARE framework, Chandrasekharan said Telangana is doing very well on all fronts, especially in the talent, innovation and infrastructure front.

### TATA expresses strong interest in Musi Riverfront project

Responding to this, the TATA Chair offered to help in the Musi project efforts, stating that the Group is already involved in water body rejuvenation in Rajasthan and Maharashtra. "We can partner and very happy to engage in river Rejuvenation with all our experience. The CM explained about plans to build a trumpet on Musi to resolve the traffic issue. He also explained about the transformation efforts to build the 'Gandhi Sarovar' on Musi. "Musi can be an economic growth engine for Telangana." The delegation also engaged in discussions around revival of heritage spots and water bodies. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, along with several senior officials, participated in the breakfast meeting.

# 'Will Have a Good Deal With India': Trump Hails Modi

DAVOS Wakeup telangana



Days ahead of India and the European Union announcing a trade deal, United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that his country is going to "do a good trade deal with India." Trump also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "fantastic" man, adding that he has "great respect" for him. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Trump said, "I have great respect for your Prime Minister. He's a fantastic man and a friend of mine. I have respect for your (India's) Prime Minister ... We are going to have a good deal."

right, title, and ownership," but said he would not use force to do so. He said the US had effectively saved Europe during World War II and even declared of NATO: "It's a very small ask compared to what we have given them for many, many decades." The European Union, however, suspended its trade deal with the US over American threats to annex Greenland. President Trump insisted he won't use force to acquire Greenland in a speech at the World Economic Forum, where he said that the U.S. is booming but Europe is "not heading in the right direction."

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 2

# More BRS Leaders To Get SIT Notices

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

A day after questioning BRS MLA and former minister T Harish Rao in connection with the sensational phone tapping case, Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials are preparing to serve notices to more than ten BRS leaders. Investigators suspect that the then BRS government influenced senior police officers to intercept the mobile phones of leaders closely associated with Harish Rao and other senior figures. SIT officials, however, have not revealed the names of those under scrutiny. Sources indi-



cated that Harish Rao may receive a fresh notice for further questioning, with SIT officials set to record his detailed statement. Based on the testimony of suspended police officer G. Praneeth Rao, investigators have identified several BRS leaders who allegedly influenced SIT officers P. Radha Kishan Rao, M Thirupatanna, and N. Bhujanga Rao during elections when the party was in power.

# Telangana Govt Must Act on Naini Coal Tender: Kishan

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

Amid controversy over alleged irregularities in Naini coal blocks tender of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Union minister coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy said he was keen to address the matter through a thorough probe. However, he put the rider that if the state government comes forward only then the Centre would consider the CBI investigation. Addressing a press conference in Delhi, the Union minister expressed serious concerns about the finances of SCCL and said

Kishan Reddy expressed serious concerns about the finances of SCCL and said that if the state government was ready to entrust responsibility of leading SCCL then the Union government was ready to take its responsibility and lead it towards profitability.



that if the state government was ready to entrust responsibility of leading SCCL then the Union government was ready to take its responsibility and lead it towards profitability. He alleged that the state government delayed the process even after the final permits for the Naini coal mines were received. He stated that canceling the tenders was a direct

injustice to Singareni. He further said that the Union government was considering the formation of a special committee regarding the tender process. "A tripartite agreement needs to be reached and future tenders and other important issues should be discussed extensively," he felt. Reacting to the letter by BRS leader T. Harish Rao

CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

# Confident of winning Bengal, Tamil Nadu: Nitin Nabin

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday, January 21, asserted that it will form its government in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu for the first time by defeating the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), respectively in the upcoming assembly polls.

ment in West Bengal and the M K Stalin government in Tamil Nadu in the upcoming polls.

In a statement, the saffron party said, based on the ground reports presented by the party's state units here at a meeting chaired by BJP national president Nitin Nabin, it is confident of dislodging the Mamata Banerjee govern-

At the meeting, Nabin reviewed the BJP's election preparations so far in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, party national general secretary Arun Singh said. Representatives from all these states presented their respective "preparedness reports" before the BJP president, he said.

CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

# HYDRAA to Restore Saroomagar Lake

## Saroomagar Lake to Be Restored for Flood Control, Says HYDRAA

HYDERABAD Wakeup telangana

As part of measures to strengthen flood control mechanisms in the city, HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Wednesday announced that Saroomagar Lake will be restored and developed, following an inspection of the area. He said development proposals would soon be submitted to the government and the works are expected to commence by March. Clarifying concerns raised by local residents, the commissioner assured that no action will be



taken against existing residential settlements that have come up over the years. He stated that developmental activities would be confined strictly to the remaining lake area of over 90 acres, ensuring protection for habitations

around the lake. Ranganath said the initiative is part of the state government's broader plan to restore major lakes in Hyderabad, as directed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Saroomagar Lake is one among sev-

eral water bodies identified for rejuvenation to improve flood resilience and environmental sustainability. The lake will be developed on the lines of Bathukamma Kunta, Bamrukud-Daula Lake and Kukatpally Nalla Cheruvu, he said. Planned works include removal of 10 to 15 feet of accumulated silt, enhancement of water storage capacity, and clearing of inlets and outlets to ensure free flow of water during heavy rains, making the lake more effective in flood mitigation.

# Gold Moves Up to Rs 1.6 Lakh, Silver Rs 3.35 Lakh

NEW DELHI Wakeup telangana

Gold and silver prices continued to rise on Tuesday with the yellow metal gaining Rs 7500 to touch Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 gm and silver by Rs 12,000 to jump at Rs 3.35 lakh per kg. In the international market gold crossed \$4800 as geo-political tensions heightened and investors stayed away from government bonds. In the New Delhi spot market, gold touched Rs 1,60,000 per 10 gm moving up from Rs 1,52,500 in the previous session. Silver was trading at Rs

3,35,000 per kg, up from Rs 3,23,000 on Monday. As the MCX bullion prices recorded a sharp premium expansion versus landing cost, gold surged more than 3.38 per cent in one session to Rs 1,58,339 per 10 gm and silver moved up to Rs 3,35,521 during the intraday trading. The movement was much higher than the gains in the COMEX. In the international market, gold crossed \$4800 per ounce and saw an intraday high of \$4885 per ounce. Silver was trading around record high levels of \$94.50 an

FULL REPORT ON | PAGE 6

ESTD-1960.

# ASTORIA HOTEL

## Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaage baar baar aage

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

## Smart Boards in All Government Medical Colleges: Health Minister

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In a bid to modernise medical education, Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials to introduce smart boards and advanced digital teaching tools across all 35 government medical colleges in the state. The move aims to elevate education standards to match international institutions. Speaking at a high-level review meeting at the Aarogyasri Trust office on Wednesday, the minister emphasized that traditional



classroom teaching must shift towards technology-driven learning. He instructed the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department to immediately implement digital education systems, prioritizing the installation of smart boards and LED screens in classrooms

statewide. Rajanarsimha highlighted that this initiative would ensure uniform quality of education for medical students, whether at established colleges like Osmania Medical College and Gandhi Medical College or at newer district colleges such as Asifabad. With

over 4,140 MBBS students enrolling annually, digital classrooms are seen as crucial to addressing disparities in teaching quality arising from the rapid expansion of colleges and seats. The minister said smart boards would enable faculty to explain complex subjects, clinical cases, and medical procedures more effectively. He also called for integrating smart boards with Learning Management Systems (LMS) to regularly track students' understanding and skill development. Additionally, Rajanarsimha pro-

posed the phased introduction of virtual laboratories, simulation tools, and digital content aligned with National Medical Commission guidelines. He noted that these technologies would particularly benefit subjects like anatomy and surgical procedures, where direct clinical exposure is often limited due to heavy patient loads. By embracing digital classrooms, Telangana aims to provide medical students with modern, interactive, and uniform learning experiences, preparing them for both national and global healthcare standards.

## Revanth Reddy Courts Global Firms at WEF Summit

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Google's Asia-Pacific head on Tuesday assured full cooperation with the Telangana government in areas such as traffic management and cybersecurity in Hyderabad. During a meeting with Google APAC President Sanjay Gupta on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) summit, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy outlined Telangana's long-term development vision. He explained the state's CURE, PURE, and RARE framework aimed at regional economic growth and highlighted plans to make core areas of Hyderabad pollution-free. Sanjay Gupta stated that Google would be happy to extend full support to Te-

langana in key sectors including traffic control, cybersecurity, agriculture, startups, and climate change initiatives. Revanth Reddy thanked the Google team for establishing the country's first Google for Startups Hub in Hyderabad.

In a separate meeting, the Chief Minister held discussions with Willem Uijen, Chief Supply Chain and Operations Officer of global consumer goods major Unilever, and invited the company to set up its Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Telangana. Revanth Reddy highlighted Hyderabad's rapid emergence as a global hub for GCCs. Responding positively, Uijen said Unilever would explore the proposal.

Meanwhile, global health technology major Royal

Philips expressed keen interest in partnering with Telangana in the field of artificial intelligence. During a meeting, Jan Willem-Scheijgrond, Vice-President and Global Head (Government and Public Affairs), Royal Philips, invited the 'Telangana Rising' delegation to visit the company's headquarters in the Netherlands. Revanth Reddy said Telangana is developing a world-class, sustainable industrial cluster to transform pharmaceutical manufacturing and research and development. Appreciating the state's initiatives, Willem-Scheijgrond said, "Telangana's AI-led disruption in healthcare is impressive. We invite the 'Telangana Rising' delegation to visit our headquarters in the Netherlands."

## HMDA to Float Bonds for Infrastructure Push

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

For the first time, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will raise ₹2,144 crore through infrastructure bonds to fund major urban projects aimed at boosting connectivity and easing congestion. In addition, the state government has accorded administrative sanction of ₹136.5 crore for related works. Among the up-

coming projects are a trumpet interchange at Budvel, an elevated corridor from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Banjara Hills to Shilpa Layout Flyover, another elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) junction near Shamirpet on Rajiv Raha-dari (State Highway - 01), and a further elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to Dairy Farm Road along

NH - 44. The ICCC-Shilpa layout corridor, estimated at ₹1,656 crore, will provide direct, signal-free access to the ORR at Gachibowli. Planned in two phases, the project will cover 9 km and serve as a parallel route to the Mehdiptanam - Gachibowli radial road, reducing traffic conflicts and enhancing safety. It will feature a mix of four-lane and six-lane

stretches with six entry and exit points at Film Nagar, Narne Road, Road No. 52, ITC Kohenu Road, T-Hub Junction, and Auro Realty Junction. The Budvel trumpet interchange, connecting Radial Road-2 with the ORR, is estimated at ₹488 crore and will facilitate smoother traffic flow between Gachibowli, Shamshabad, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, and Budvel.

## Road Safety Awareness Drive Engages School Students

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

On the occasion of National Road Safety Month 2026, Hero Moto-Corp, in collaboration with the Hyderabad Traffic Police, organized a road safety awareness program for students of Government High School, Patigadda, and Dawn Buds High School, Begumpet. The event saw the participation of 300 students and included activities such as a drawing competition, road safety rally, and quiz, alongside sessions on road signs, markings, and



essential safety tips for school students.

Sub-Inspector Ashok Reddy of Begumpet Police and the traffic police

team were present to guide and motivate the students. From the schools, Mr. Venugopal, Physical Director, B.C.S. Sharma, Headmaster, and teachers of Government High School, and Mr. Nagraj, Principal, along with teachers of Dawn Buds High School, actively participated in the program. Representing Hero MotoCorp, Mr. Sadik Sagar, Manager - Road Safety, and Praveen Punna, Safety Instructor, led the sessions, emphasizing safe road behavior and the importance of following traffic rules to ensure student safety on the roads.

## Telangana Availed OD For 9 Days: RBI

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana government relied heavily on the Reserve Bank of India's short-term liquidity support mechanisms in November 2025, indicating mounting financial pressure due to its rising debt burden. According to the latest RBI report released on Wednesday, the state availed the Special Drawing Facility (SDF) on all 30 days of the month, drew Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for 24 days, and resorted to overdrafts (OD) for nine days.

Such sustained dependence on multiple borrowing windows within a single month underscores the severity of the cash-flow mismatch faced by the government in meeting its ex-



penditure commitments. Among these facilities, the SDF is considered the most economical option for managing temporary liquidity gaps. It is secured against a State's investments in Central government securities and other designated funds, and carries an interest rate one percentage point below the prevailing repo rate. Telangana availed SDF to the extent of Rs 5,143.64 crore throughout November, reflecting persistent stress on its treasury operations. When SDF limits are exhausted or prove inadequate, States turn to

WMA - short-term loans linked to the repo rate that must be repaid within 90 days to avoid penal interest. In November 2025, Telangana drew WMA amounting to Rs 1,710.49 crore for 24 days. After exhausting both SDF and WMA limits, the State accessed overdraft support, the costliest and last-resort option, to the extent of Rs 1,144.07 crore for nine days. Telangana's borrowing pattern stands out nationally. Only four major States - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand - availed SDF for all 30 days in November 2025. Among smaller States, Meghalaya was the only one to do so. The use of overdrafts was even more limited across the country, with just five states

- Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya - resorting to this facility. The inclusion of both Telugu states in these lists points to relatively sharper fiscal stress in the region. The pressure is further evident in Telangana's rising market borrowings. In 2025-26, the state's gross market borrowings had already touched Rs 60,000 crore by November, while net borrowings stood at Rs 47,650 crore. These figures exceed the borrowing levels recorded in entire financial years in the recent past. In 2023-24, gross and net borrowings were Rs 49,618 crore and Rs 39,385 crore respectively, while in 2024-25 they rose to Rs 56,209 crore and Rs 42,199 crore.

## Hyderabad to see early signs of summer season next week

Residents of Hyderabad are likely to start witnessing early signs of summer season next week as temperatures are likely to increase. Night temperatures are also likely to increase. A weather enthusiast, T. Balaji, who is known for accurate forecasts said that only 14 more days of winter season are left. According to him, the day temperature is likely to rise above 31-32 degrees Celsius by the end of January. He also said that the night temperatures are likely to be in the range of 14-16 degrees Celsius for the next 4-5 days and thereafter it will rise. Currently, the highest minimum and maximum temperatures recorded in the city are 19.5 and 29.5 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are recorded in Khairatabad. Though the weather enthusiast forecasted that Hyderabad is likely to witness the first sign of summer season soon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not issued any forecast related to the season.

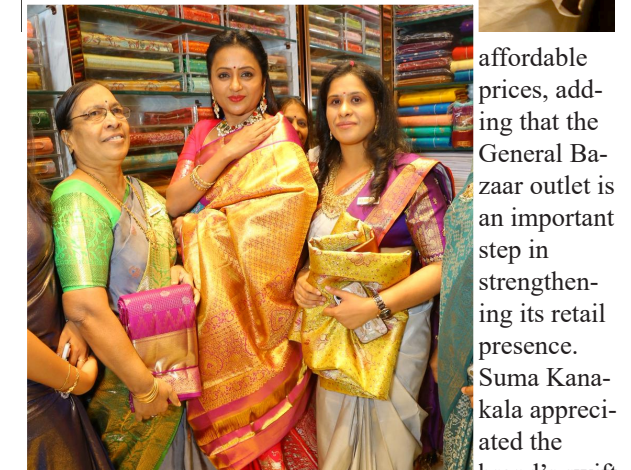
## Kubera Silks Opens New Showroom at General Bazaar, Secunderabad

**Actor and anchor Suma Kanakala inaugurates the brand's third showroom; special inaugural offers draw large crowds**

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Kubera Silks, a fast-growing name in the premium silk saree segment, inaugurated its new showroom at General Bazaar, Kalasiguda, Secunderabad, on Wednesday at 10:00 AM. The launch marks another milestone in the brand's rapid expansion across Hyderabad. The showroom was inaugurated by actor and anchor Suma Kanakala, who attended the event as the chief guest. The opening ceremony drew a large gathering of customers, well-wishers, and representatives from the textile industry, reflecting the brand's growing popularity.

Founders Shyamsunder and Shalini were present at the event and interacted with visitors. They thanked customers and supporters for the strong response the brand has received since its inception. Established on July 12, 2025, Kubera Silks has recorded significant growth within a short span. In just six months, the brand expanded to three outlets, earning recognition for its quality silk collections offered at competitive prices, par-



affordable prices, adding that the General Bazaar outlet is an important step in strengthening its retail presence. Suma Kanakala appreciated the brand's swift

growth and extended her best wishes for its continued success and future expansion. As part of the inaugural celebrations, special opening offers were introduced, which received an encouraging response from customers and resulted in strong footfall throughout the day. With existing outlets at Karmanghat and Saroonagar, Kubera Silks continues to expand its footprint in Hyderabad's textile retail market.

## 'Arrive Alive' Road Safety Drive Held at Kharkhana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In an effort to reduce road accidents and promote safer commuting, the Tirumalgiri Traffic Police organized a road safety awareness programme titled "Arrive Alive" at Kharkhana on Wednesday. The initiative focused on educating motorists and pedestrians about the importance of following traffic rules to save lives.



Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap, who attended the programme as the chief guest, stressed that road safety is a shared responsibility. Addressing

commuters and local residents, he said adherence to traffic regulations is not just a legal requirement but a moral obligation toward one's family and society. "Ignoring traffic

signals or not wearing a helmet puts lives at risk. Our goal is to ensure everyone returns home safely," he said. The programme was led by Traffic CI Sardar Naik, with active participation from SI Sridhar Reddy, SI Ravikumar, and other Tirumalgiri traffic police personnel. Officers interacted with the public, demonstrated safety measures, and addressed common traffic-related

concerns. As part of the awareness drive, informational pamphlets were distributed and motorists were sensitized about the dangers of speeding and the importance of wearing helmets and seatbelts. The programme concluded with participants taking a pledge to follow traffic discipline, reinforcing community commitment toward safer roads in Kharkhana.

**Close Shave For Techie As Car Overtakes On Begumpet Flyover**

An Information Technology (IT) professional had a lucky escape after the cab he was travelling in rammed a divider and overturned on the Begumpet flyover in the wee hours of Wednesday. Both the driver and passenger sustained minor injuries in the mishap. Traffic on the Begumpet stretch came to a standstill for nearly two hours, with police struggling to clear the snarls during the morning rush. Sub-inspector Shaik Shafee said that IT professional Balaji had booked an Uber cab to reach his office in Madhapur. The vehicle, bearing registration number TS 09 UA 1482, was hired from Secunderabad. As the cab reached the flyover, the driver-cum-owner attempted to retrieve a water bottle from the door compartment. "When the driver, Pilli Narsimulu, was taking a water bottle with one hand while operating the steering with the other, he lost control and rammed the divider. The vehicle overturned in the middle of the road. In the mishap, passenger Balaji and driver Narsimulu suffered minor injuries," the sub-inspector said. Passers-by alerted the police, who arrived promptly along with law-and-order personnel to remove the cab. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical assistance.

**KTR slams Kishan Reddy over Singareni tenders, calls out BJP-Congress tacit understanding**

**BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused Union Coal Minister Kishan Reddy of abdicating responsibility by saying a CBI probe into SCCL irregularities would proceed only if the Telangana government requested it. Rama Rao alleged the site visit certificate rule facilitates backdoor tender allotments and warned of historic accountability**

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday criticised Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy over his response to the irregularities exposed by BRS in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) tenders under the Congress government. He said Reddy was abdicating his constitutional and moral responsibility. Reacting to Kishan Reddy's statement that the Centre would consider a CBI probe only if the Telangana government itself sought such an inquiry, Rama Rao termed the stand illogical and bankrupt. He questioned whether a government accused of wrongdoing could be expected to seek an investigation against itself. "Can a robber walk into a police station and ask for an inquiry against himself?" he asked, calling the argument contrary to common sense. The BRS working



president felt that it was absurd to suggest that a Chief Minister accused of facilitating illegal tender allotments to his own brother-in-law would seek a CBI inquiry into the same issue. He argued that such expectations only raised doubts about the seriousness of both the Centre and the State government in addressing corruption. Questioning the intent of the BJP leadership, Rama Rao asked whether the Union Minister's stand stemmed from ignorance or a tacit understanding between the BJP and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He sought clarity on whether political con-

siderations were being placed above the interests of Telangana. Rama Rao also flagged the controversial 'site visit certificate' rule, describing it as unprecedented elsewhere in the country and alleging that it was introduced to facilitate backdoor allotment of tenders to favoured entities. Despite widespread criticism, he said the Union Coal Minister's silence was unacceptable, particularly when the Centre holds a 49 per cent stake in SCCL. He stated that the Centre's inaction in the face of large-scale irregularities amounted to throttling the public sector company. "History will

not forgive the Union government for remaining a mute spectator to such corruption," he warned. Drawing a contrast with the previous BRS regime, Rama Rao said tenders under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao were finalised at up to 20 per cent below estimates, ensuring savings and efficiency. He said in contrast, the Congress government cancelled those tenders and was now awarding contracts nearly 10 per cent above estimates, causing financial damage to SCCL. Stating that Singareni had been turned from a profitable enterprise into a den of scams within two years of Congress rule, he said unrest among workers reflected deep anger over attempts to push the company into losses, paving the way for privatisation. He asserted that the BRS would stand with Singareni workers until accountability was fixed and justice delivered.

**JEE Main: First Shift Easy, Second Moderate**

Students who appeared for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main session 1 paper 1 (BE/BTech) on Wednesday described the first shift questions as easy to moderate, while the second shift was rated moderate in difficulty. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mahesh Kumar, an IIT aspirant, said: "Questions were moderate and many included topics I had prepared, such as 3D vectors and the Binomial theorem. Practising previous years' questions helped me perform well." Another student, R. Vishnuvardhan, said: "Physics was easy as I focused more on that subject during my preparation and started with the physics questions and mathematics in the end. Barring ray optics and physical chemistry questions, the remaining questions were easy." Students said most physics questions were formula-based and those strong in formulas could score well. P. Vinod Kumar noted: "Mathematics was easy for me and the overall exam went well." Aspirant Siril Harsha remarked: "I attempted the exam well overall but found it lengthy. I expected Chemistry to be easy, but it turned out to be moderate, while Mathematics was a little difficult with multi-concept questions and Physics was moderate with some higher-level.

**Cisco Supports Telangana's Skill University**

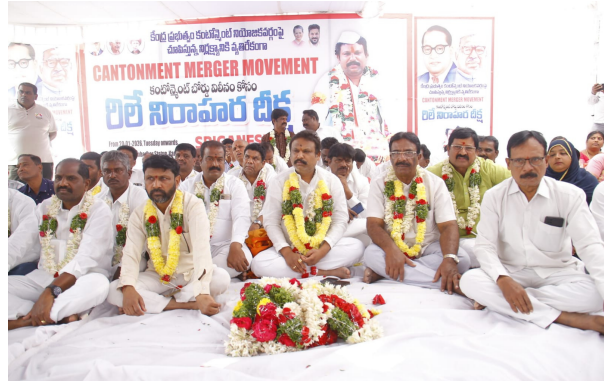


**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led 'Telangana Rising' delegation engaged in forward-looking discussions with Cisco's global leadership during WEF 2026. The delegation assured full cooperation in Cisco's future plans for Telangana, emphasising that the state has earned its reputation as an economic powerhouse and a dynamic hub for industrial growth. Guy Diedrich, Senior Vice President and Global Innovation Officer at Cisco, met the delegation during WEF 2026 in Davos on Wednesday. Diedrich expressed delight over the progress made since the signing of the MoU between TASK and YISU in March 2025. "TASK is a very forward-thinking and aggressive

initiative. The talent in Telangana is unmatched," he said. In March 2025, Cisco signed multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Telangana government's Young India Skills University (YISU) and the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK). The MoUs were aimed at strengthening digital skilling and workforce development in areas such as networking, cybersecurity and emerging technologies. Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said, "Telangana is positioning itself as a globally competitive, future-ready hub for investment, innovation and talent." He added that the state stands at the forefront of progressive policies and visionary initiatives.

**MLA Sreenagesh Continues Relay Hunger Strike on Day 2 for Cantonment Merger**



**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Cantonment MLA Sreenagesh began a relay hunger strike, now in its second day, demanding the immediate merger of the Cantonment area with the state municipal corporation. He criticized the central

nathnagar, and Kukatpally, along with leaders from TPCC, INTUC, MRPS, and various local associations, joined the protest to show solidarity. Speaking at the event, Sreenagesh highlighted that central government restrictions have delayed the area's growth by 30 years. He warned that if the merger is not implemented before the upcoming corporation elections, the fight against the BJP government would continue up to Delhi, emphasizing that Cantonment residents' demand for democracy and development is just and legitimate.

**Water Connection Cut In Banjara Hills For Repeat Wastage**

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) officials disconnected a domestic water connection in Banjara Hills after the house owner was found wasting drinking water for the second time. The owner was also fined ₹10,000 for the violation. HMWS&SB managing director Ashok Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against anyone misusing or wasting potable water supplied by the Board. Officials said the same house owner had earlier been fined ₹10,000 for water wastage. The incident occurred on Road No. 12, Banjara Hills,

where a drinking water sump overflowed on September 3 last year, causing water to flow along the road for nearly a kilometre. Following complaints, the local operations and maintenance division inspected the premises, issued a notice and imposed a fine as per the managing director's instructions. The owner was also warned that the water connection would be disconnected if the violation was repeated. On Wednesday, while travelling along the Banjara Hills main road, Reddy noticed water leakage on Road No. 12. After verifying records, officials confirmed that the same premises had earlier been penalised for negligence leading to water wastage.

**'Arrive Alive' Road Safety Drive Launched at Secunderabad Clock Tower**

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

As part of the ongoing 'Arrive Alive' Road Safety Month, the Secunderabad administrative and traffic police jointly conducted a large-scale road safety awareness drive at the busy Clock Tower junction on Wednesday, aiming to reduce traffic violations and promote responsible driving habits. The initiative brought together senior administrative and traffic officials who interacted directly with commuters, stressing the importance of helmets, seatbelts, and adherence to speed limits to prevent road accidents. The program was led by SHO (Admin) SI Ch. Ravi and SI Srinivas, along with Traffic Inspector Mahankali and his team of Sub-Inspectors. ASIs Balaraj and Ramdhan coordinated the on-ground arrangements, while PVI staff and Blue Colts personnel supported



crowd management and outreach activities. Police officials said the focus of the 'Arrive Alive' campaign is not only enforcement but also education. By conducting awareness programs at high-traffic locations like Clock Tower, they aim to instill a culture of road safety among daily commuters. The Road Safety Month will continue across the division with similar awareness camps, checkpoints, and public interactions to reinforce safe driving practices and reduce accident rates.

**New Chariot Donated for Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavams in Bowenpally**

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

The Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Bowenpally New City Colony is gearing up for the upcoming Brahmotsavams with the inauguration of a newly constructed chariot for the annual Rath Yatra. The chariot was formally handed over to the temple committee on Wednesday amid special religious ceremonies. The new chariot, built at a cost of ₹12 lakh, was donated by Dampur Sumanth Reddy and Sirisha, residents of Bowenpally. As part of the inauguration, special pujas were



performed at the Rathasthala in Bowenpally Syndicate Bank Colony, followed by ceremonial prayers to mark the commencement of its use during the festival. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap and former Old Bowenpally corporator Mudam Narasimha

Yadav attended the event as chief guests. Special pujas were conducted by Falguni, who inaugurated the chariot with chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Namo Venkatesaya." Speaking on the occasion, Jampana Pratap congratulated the Sumanth Reddy-Sirisha family for their generous contribu-

tion and appealed to devotees to support the conservation and development of temples. He said temple festivals and utsavams reflect the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of Hinduism and stressed the importance of educating children about the Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita to strengthen their connection with temples. Devotees believe that participating in Rath Yatra and pulling the chariot carrying the Utsava idols brings spiritual merit and salvation, symbolizing a harmonious blend of devotion, tradition, and culture.

**Mallu Ravi Draws Flak Over Alleged Assault On BRS MLA**

**HYDERABAD**  
**Wakeup telangana**

The Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi drew flak for his alleged assault on BRS MLA Vijayudu, following a protocol dispute during an event at Jogulamba Gadwal district. The video-clip purportedly of the event on Tuesday was widely circulated on social media platforms. Tensions flared during a CC road foundation stone laying event at Paipad village in Vaddepally mandal of Jogulamba Gadwal district over coconut breaking ceremony. The MP who lost his cool allegedly abused and



assaulted the Alampur MLA, following an argument. A scuffle broke out when the MLA was asked to stay away from the ceremonial coconut breaking. When the MLA questioned about this, the MP got agitated and allegedly slapped the MLA. This has invited widespread criticism particularly from BRS leaders. "This is a glaring

example of the degraded politics that Congress leaders have stooped to for intimidating the opposition and silencing their voices. Humiliating an elected MLA in front of the people and resorting to physical assault makes it clear just how low the Congress culture has fallen," KTR posted on X. Another BRS leader and former IPS officer R. S. Praveen Kumar described the attack as a glaring example of the Congress' escalating 'goonda politics'. "In the coming days, they will have to pay a very heavy price," he said in a post.

Ravi, however, clarified that the social media posts by the opposition were twisting the facts, as there was no scuffle. "If a fight had occurred between the two groups, there would have been bloodshed. To prevent that, I called the police and spoke to them rather sternly. I had to speak that way to quell the disturbance there. To prevent a fight from happening, I took the MLA aside. I didn't abuse him, neither did I hit him. I only tried to prevent a fight from happening. I had no other intention beyond that," he said to media persons in Delhi.

# Trump-Zelenskyy Meeting Set as Ukraine Braces for Harsh Winter

**KYIV**  
Wakeup telangana

About 4,000 buildings in Kyiv remained without heating Wednesday, and nearly 60% of the Ukrainian capital was without power, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, after days of Russian bombardment of Ukraine's power grid and as U.S. President Donald Trump prepared to hold talks with the Ukrainian leader. With temperatures falling as low as minus 20 C (minus 4 F) in Kyiv, Ukraine is seeing one of the coldest winters in years, deepening the hardship of Ukrainians almost four years after Russia



launched a full-scale invasion. A yearlong push by the Trump administration to stop the fighting hasn't yielded any breakthrough, despite the American president issuing a series of deadlines, though efforts were set to continue. Trump said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland that he would meet Thursday with Zelenskyy. "I want to stop

it," Trump said of the fighting Wednesday. "It's a horrible war." U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he plans to discuss peace proposals with Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as hold talks with a Ukrainian delegation. "We need a peace," Witkoff said at Davos. But with a dispute over Greenland's future largely eclipsing other transatlantic issues at Davos, discussions about Ukraine's defense looked likely to be sidelined. Zelenskyy said last week his envoys would try to finalize with U.S.

officials documents for a proposed peace settlement that relate to post-war security guarantees and economic recovery. He added that the U.S. and Ukraine could sign the documents in Davos this week, but on Tuesday he said he wouldn't be traveling to Switzerland and would focus on restoring power in Ukraine. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers is allocating 2.56 billion hryvnias (almost \$60 million) from a reserve fund to purchase generators, Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko said Wednesday. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Wednesday urged the 32-nation alli-

ance's military chiefs to press their national governments to supply desperately needed air defense systems to Ukraine, helping it fend off Russia's aerial attacks. "Please use your influence to help your political masters to do even more," Rutte said in a video message to top brass as they met at NATO's Brussels headquarters. "Look deep into your stockpiles to see what more you can give to Ukraine, particularly air defense interceptors. The time really is now," he said. Russia launched 97 drones and a ballistic missile at Ukraine overnight, the Ukrainian air force said.

# Cong., Left Spar as WB Polls Near

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

As the West Bengal Assembly elections draw closer, sharp differences within the Opposition, particularly between the Congress and the Left, have once again come to the fore, underscoring the uncertainty over any possible alliance in the state. While the CPM has signalled its readiness to continue cooperation with the Congress, the latter is deeply divided, with its state unit firmly opposed to any tie-up with the Left Front. The CPM, at its recently concluded central committee meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, cleared the decks for an alliance

with the Congress as part of a broader strategy to strengthen Opposition unity against the ruling Trinamul Congress (TMC) and the BJP. Party leaders indicated that tactical alliances are necessary in states where the Left's organisational strength has waned, and where a united Opposition could prevent further consolidation of power by the ruling party. However, the Congress' West Bengal unit has taken a sharply different view. State leaders have conveyed to the party's central leadership they are "thoroughly against" any electoral understanding with the CPM and have pressed for discontinuing the decade-old alliance with the Left

Front. According to senior leaders in the state unit, the alliance has yielded diminishing returns and has failed to arrest the Congress' steady electoral decline in West Bengal. The state leadership argues that the Congress' traditional voter base has been eroded partly due to its association with the Left, which governed the state for over three decades before being voted out in 2011. Several leaders believe that continuing the alliance prevents the party from rebuilding its independent political identity and organisational structure in a highly polarised political landscape dominated by the TMC and the BJP.

# Advocacy Group Protests Alleged Harassment of Bengali Voters During SIR

**KOLKATA**  
Wakeup telangana

A prominent advocacy group 'Bangla Pokkho' on Wednesday staged a protest outside the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) here, alleging large-scale harassment of legitimate Bengali electors and an attempt to manipulate the voters' list. The organisation, which focuses on the rights of Bengalis, also submitted a deputation to the CEO. After the protest, Bangla Pokkho leaders held a meeting with Additional CEO Arindam Niyogi and claimed they have come to know that even 48 hours after a Supreme Court verdict, no directive had been issued from the office of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to implement the SC's order with regard to SIR. "During our meeting



with the Deputy CEO, we pointed out that frequent changes in rules by the Election Commission of India have placed Bengalis under severe distress," organisation spokesperson Kaushik Maity told reporters. "Under the pretext of logical discrepancy, hearing notices have reportedly been issued to more than one crore Bengali voters. Irrespective of religion, Bengalis are allegedly being

forced to stand in queues to prove their legitimacy as voters and citizens," Maity claimed. Bangla Pokkho said that the impact spans all sections of society - from impoverished rural families to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, legendary poet Joy Goswami, and even members of the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - and protests have erupted across various parts of Bengal as a result. Bangla

Pokkho General Secretary Garg Chatterjee said the deputation raised six key demands - end of harassment in the name of 'logical discrepancy' as ordinary working Bengalis, both Hindus and Muslims, are being forced daily to abandon their livelihoods to attend hearings. Alleging misuse of Form 6, the organisation alleged that attempts are being made to include voters from other states into Bengal's electoral rolls and demanded an immediate halt. Chatterjee further said conspiracies are underway across districts to delete the names of legitimate voters through Form 7 applications and demanded that the identities of those submitting such forms be made public and that FIRs be lodged against them if the complaints are found to be false.

# Congress Questions Maharashtra's Davos investment Claims

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Mumbai Congress on Tuesday questioned the Maharashtra government's claims of securing massive investment commitments at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, alleging that the BJP-led Mahayuti government was indulging in "event management" rather than delivering real economic outcomes. Mumbai Congress president and Lok Sabha member Varsha Gaikwad raised doubts over the necessity of signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in Switzerland with companies headquartered in Mumbai. Ms Gaikwad pointed out that several MoUs announced at Davos were signed with Mumbai-based real estate and investment firms, asking



why such agreements could not have been executed within Maharashtra itself. Her remarks came even as Maharashtra Industry Minister Uday Samant said the State had signed 89 MoUs worth Rs 37 lakh crore at Davos. A delegation of senior officials led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, along with Mr. Samant, is on a seven-day visit to Davos for the WEF. According to the government, in the first two days of the meet alone, MoUs worth Rs 37 lakh crore were signed. If materialised, these investments are expected to

generate lakhs of jobs across sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, renewable energy, digital services, food processing and automobiles. Questioning the government's claims, Ms. Gaikwad said the Chief Minister had announced on the very first day of the WEF that MoUs worth Rs 14.50 lakh crore had been signed, purportedly creating 15 lakh jobs. Among the companies named were Lodha Developers — owned by family members of State Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha — with a proposed investment of Rs one lakh crore; the K. Raheja Group with Rs 80,000 crore; and Alta Capital-Panchshil with Rs two lakh crore. "All three companies have their offices in Mumbai, some of them near Mantralaya. When companies are Maharash-

tra-based and headquartered in Mumbai, why was there a need to go to Davos to sign these MoUs?" Ms. Gaikwad asked. Responding to a query on the share of foreign direct investment (FDI), Mr. Samant told this newspaper from Davos that 30-60 per cent of the proposed investments involved FDI. He added that nearly 80 per cent of the investment committed by the Lodha Group was foreign direct investment. Ms. Gaikwad said the Congress was not opposed to investment coming into the State, but the public must be informed about the gap between the government's claims and ground reality. She pointed out that similar claims were made last year, when the Chief Minister said MoUs worth Rs 16 lakh crore had been signed at Davos.

# Former South Korean PM Han Jailed for 23 Years in Martial Law Case

**SEOUL**  
Wakeup telangana

A South Korean court jailed former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo for 23 years on Wednesday, on charges that included insurrection relating to ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law in December 2024. Han, 76, is the first former cabinet minister to be handed a ruling by a court on criminal charges directly related to martial law, which legal experts have said could prove a bellwether for other trials. The Seoul Central District Court found Han guilty because he was instrumental in setting up the outward appearance of a cabinet meeting that facilitated the declaration, a judge said, a move he described as a "top-down insurrection". Han also discussed plans to block the function of major institutions such as parliament as part of the insurrection, the judge added. "The defendant was a prime minister who



had been indirectly given democratic legitimacy and responsibility ... Nevertheless, the defendant chose to turn a blind eye ... and participate as a member of the December 3 insurrection," the judge said. "As a result, South Korea was in danger of returning to the dark past when the basic rights and liberal democratic order of the people were violated, potentially preventing them from escaping ... dictatorship for a long time." The court found Han guilty of "engaging in (the) key action of insurrection", as well as on related charges of perjury and forging an official document. "I will humbly

follow the judge's decision," Han, clad in a suit and green tie, said after the ruling. He had denied wrongdoing on all charges except perjury, saying in November that while he regretted not being able to stop Yoon from declaring martial law, he "never agreed to it or tried to help". In an unusual instance in South Korean court proceedings, the 23-year term exceeded a sentence of 15 years sought by prosecutors in November. Han was detained by the court immediately after the ruling, which can be appealed. Han's lawyer said it would be taken to the Supreme Court.

## Telangana Rising.....

Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the state organised a highly successful Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 just a weeks ago, attracting a huge investment of Rs 5.75 lakh crore. "This year at Davos, our aim is to pitch and promote the vision 2047 and our regional economic growth framework." The Chief Minister mentioned about the proposal to name the greenfield expressway, a major infrastructure project by the Telangana government, connecting the Bharat Future City to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Regional Ring Road (RRR). The Ratan Tata Road will help in connectivity for IT hubs, industries, and supporting development in southern Hyderabad. The delegation also informed about the plans to erect a statue of Ratan Tata in Hyderabad. Hon'ble Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the focus in Davos 2026 for Telangana is not targeting investments but to promote policy and vision. "We had just launched the Life Sciences Policy and the Telangana AI Innovation Hub, which is a focused effort towards AI-first research, startups and innovation. Responding to the Chief Minister's idea of exploring

the hospitality sector, the TATA Chairman said the Group is planning to establish lot of hotels across the state, especially in temple towns like Medaram, Vemulawada, and Bhadrachalam. The meeting also explored setting up of a world-class resort along the Srisailem highway, which is undergoing the controlled highway expansion. The CM mentioned that the region has a tiger reserve forest, the Srisailem project and the temple. Chandrasekharan welcomed the idea of building a resort, where business conferences can be held, considering the existing infra support. "We are ready to go ahead and happy to work together on the resort proposal." Speaking about potential plans around AI Data-centers, semiconductor, EV manufacturing, the TATA Chairman said the Group is very positive about future investments in these areas in Telangana. "

## Telangana Govt.....

Reacting to the letter by BRS leader T. Harish Rao demanding CBI inquiry, Kishan Reddy said that investigation requires the state government's permission. "Some people are speaking without understanding the facts. What did the BRS do when they were

in power? Have they forgotten that the central government had a 49 per cent stake back then? Isn't it true that they acted in a way that benefited certain companies and individuals?" he asked. The Union minister noted that the profit making company like SCCL was now facing an estimated debt of `47,000 crore. He lamented that no other coal mining company in the country was facing this level of difficulty. "One must understand the sincerity of the BRS then and the Congress party now towards Singareni and the welfare of its workers. The situation has come to a point where they have to borrow money from banks to pay salaries. Because the state government is exploiting Singareni, the company has no alternative but to increase prices to run the organisation," Kishan Reddy pointed out.

## Confident of.....

At the meeting, Nabin reviewed the BJP's election preparations so far in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, party national general secretary Arun Singh said. Representatives from all these states presented their respective "preparedness reports" before the BJP president,

he said. "The national president expressed satisfaction over the party's preparations," Singh said. "Based on the reports submitted by the state BJP presidents and state in-charges, it can be confidently said that in West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party is all set to form the government for the first time with a full majority with the blessings of the people," he added. Singh said that based on the reports presented by the state units at the meeting, the BJP is also confident of forming its government for a "third consecutive" term in Assam. "In Tamil Nadu also, the BJP-NDA will form the government this time," he said. "While the NDA is set to return to power in Puducherry, the Bharatiya Janata Party is also expected to deliver a very strong performance in Kerala in the upcoming assembly elections," the BJP leader added. A day after taking over as the BJP chief, Nabin on Wednesday hit the ground running when he held his first strategy meeting with all key office-bearers of the party and reviewed preparations for the upcoming assembly elections in the five states, including West Bengal.

FROM FRONT PAGE

## CRIME

### 8-year-old Falls Under Army School

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

An eight-year-old Army Public School student was killed in a road accident at Officers' Colony, RK Puram, on Tuesday morning after falling from a scooter and being run over by an Army school vehicle. His mother, who was riding the scooter, sustained fracture injuries and is undergoing treatment. The incident occurred around 7.30 am when the woman was on her way to drop her son at school. Video footage shows the scooter moving along a narrow, uneven stretch of road. As the vehicle negotiated the surface, it lost balance and the woman

fell, directly in the driver's blind spot on the left side. The child, seated as a pillion rider, fell moments later. Neither was wearing a helmet. The Army school bus halted within a short distance, but its front tyre had already run over the boy. He sustained fatal injuries and died on the spot. The woman was shifted to the Army Hospital with fractures and is reported to be stable. Police said they are relying on her statement to establish the sequence of events. The child's body was sent for postmortem examination. His father, serving in Jammu and Kashmir, has been informed and is travelling to Hyderabad.

### Joint Raids Net Rs 9 Lakh in Penalties for Vehicle Violations

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Vigilance and enforcement department officials, along with teams from the transport, mines and state tax departments, conducted joint raids at various locations and collected penalties amounting to about Rs 9 lakh from vehicle owners for violations. Vigilance and enforcement director general Shikha Goel said the Warangal unit, in coordination with officials from the transport, state tax and mines departments, carried out route inspec-

tions on the outskirts of Jangaon district. During the drive, 120 vehicles were checked and penalties were imposed on 21 vehicles for violating statutory norms. According to officials, the transport department imposed penalties of about Rs 1.77 lakh for non-payment of tax and overloading, while the mines department levied penalties of around Rs 20,000 for vehicles operating without valid transit permits. The state tax department imposed penalties of approximately Rs 7.24 lakh for GST evasion.

### Motorists Say Cops Defying Telangana HC Fiat on Challans

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A day after the Telangana High Court ordered that traffic police should not resort to coercive measures to recover pending challans, motorists across Hyderabad continued to report being stopped and asked to clear dues. Justice N.V. Shravan Kumar, in an interim order earlier this week, ruled that police cannot snatch vehicle keys or force on-the-spot payment of old fines. While motorists are legally required to stop and show documents when asked by

a uniformed officer, the court clarified that confiscation of keys or restraint of vehicles to recover dues is illegal. Telangana High Court advocate Yashasri Vasudeva Tadiboina explained: "The court was crystal clear that traffic police have no authority to snatch vehicle keys or hold motorists hostage for recovery of old fines. Your keys are your property. Snatching them is a coercive tactic that violates both dignity and the right to property." He added that a traffic stop cannot turn into punishment without trial. "If you

don't agree to pay a challan on the spot, the law gives you the right to contest it without being harassed. For years, motorists had no real choice at traffic stops. This order restores that choice by reminding the state that compliance must come through law, not coercion." The court further ruled that roadside payment of pending challans can only be voluntary. "You may choose to pay if you want, but compulsion is illegal. Police should not restrain one to force payment of earlier dues," Vasudeva

said. If a motorist refuses to pay, police must follow due process. "The High Court reminded the department that police are not collection agents. The correct procedure is to issue a notice, file a case in a competent court, and allow a magistrate to decide the penalty. The police cannot act as both accuser and judge on the roadside," he added. Traffic officials said clarity on implementation is awaited. "We have not yet received a copy of the High Court order. Procedures should be explained to field staff once the written order is received.

### Son Kills Mother Accidentally While Trying to Murder Her Partner

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A woman succumbed to injuries after being accidentally stabbed during an attempt by her son and four associates to murder her live-in partner in Balajinagar, Jawaharnagar police said. The attack was reportedly linked to the intended target, Jameel. The attack was reportedly in retaliation for Jameel having handed Raj Karan over to police in a theft case. The victim, P. Rajani, 40, was residing in Vigneshwara Colony with Jameel, 38. She had three children from her earlier marriage, including Karan. Police said Karan and his gang

invited Rajani and Jameel to his residence for Sankranti. After a drinking session, as Jameel was leaving, Karan and his associates attacked him. Rajani intervened and suffered grievous injuries. She was rushed to a private hospital, declared critical, and later shifted to Gandhi Hospital, where she succumbed late on Monday. Based on the investigation, police registered a murder case against Karan and detained him along with one accomplice from Balajinagar. They allegedly confessed and were produced before a magistrate for remand.

### Fire Breaks Out at Open Area in Kondapur

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A fire broke out in an open area at Kondapur on Saturday where large quantities of garbage, construction waste, discarded furniture and combustible material had accumulated. Fire officials said the blaze may have been triggered by a carelessly lit cigarette thrown into the dump. Upon receiving information, the Madhapur fire station rushed a fire tender carrying 4,500 litres of water to the spot. Fire personnel

began dousing the flames immediately and were assisted by a couple of local water tankers arranged from nearby areas, officials said. The fire spread quickly due to the highly combustible nature of the material dumped in the open plot, sending thick smoke into the air. The blaze was brought under control before it could spread to adjoining properties. The Madhapur fire station said there were no reports of injuries or loss of life. Cooling operations were carried out to prevent any flare-up at the site.

### Kerala YouTuber Shimjitha Arrested over Suicide of Kozhikode Man She Accused of Sexual Misconduct on Bus

**KERALA**  
Wakeup telangana

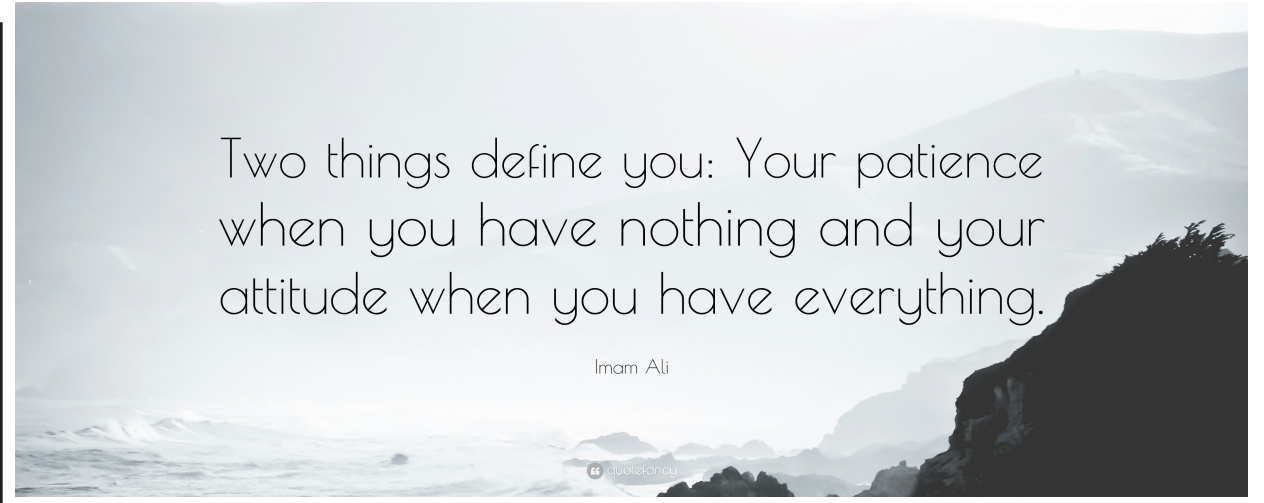
Kerala Police arrested Shimjitha Musthafa, the main accused in the suicide of 42-year-old Deepak U C, from a relative's home in Vadakara on Wednesday. She was presented before a court in Kunnamangalam and remanded to 14 days in custody, with plans to transfer her to Manjeri jail. The arrest followed an extensive manhunt across the state, along with a lookout notice to stop her from leaving the country. Deepak was found dead at his home on Sunday after a video allegedly showing him misbehaving with Shimjitha, a fe-



male co-passenger on a Kerala State Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus, went viral online. Struggling to handle the public humiliation, the young man, who worked at a textile company, took the extreme step. Police later located Shimjitha in Vadakara, where she had moved to a relative's home from her residence in Chorrode. She was taken to

the Kozhikode Medical College police station after undergoing a medical examination at Koyilandy Taluk Hospital. Police are now working to obtain her mobile phone to check if the video clip was edited or altered. Meanwhile, a crowd gathered outside the station, demanding strict action, including filing a murder case against Shimjitha. The chain of events began when Deepak travelled to Kannur on a KSRTC bus on January 16, the same day the alleged incident happened in Payannur. The woman travelling with him posted a video on social media accusing him of sexual harassment, alle-

ging he touched her intentionally. Shimjitha, 35, a social media content creator and former member of the Areekode panchayat, shared a video online that quickly went viral on Instagram and Facebook, racking up over two million views and sparking a hate campaign against Deepak. The Kerala State Human Rights Commission stepped in, directing the North Zone DIG to submit a detailed probe report within a week. Meanwhile, the All Kerala Men's Association has petitioned the High Court for a CBI or Crime Branch investigation into the case.



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

Imam Ali

## EDITORIAL

### TIME TO REVIEW ROLE, DUTIES OF GOVERNORS?

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin's proposal for a Constitutional amendment seeking to scrap the customary speech by the governor in the first session of a state Assembly every calendar year is an expression of desperation which has its genesis in the theatrical show the governor in his state assiduously performs every year of late. It's a worthy proposition to which even BJP may agree as it seeks to correct an anomaly which the Constitution-makers would not have imagined when they introduced it.

One of the lengthy discussions in the Constituent Assembly was about the role of the governors in states. A substantial number among them were opposed to the remnant of the British Raj being retained in an independent India as it could undermine the federal principles and create another

power centre in the states, some others wanted the service of elderly statesmen made available to the state governments, especially when the country was putting in place systems for democratic governance. The Assembly finally went with the opinion of the chairman of the drafting committee Dr B.R. Ambedkar who suggested that the governor would be a link between the Union government and the states. Even those who advocated the retention of the gubernatorial position would not have, in their wildest imagination, foreseen governors acting as agents of the Union, undermining popular governments in the states and putting the will of the people, expressed through the Bills passed by the state legislatures, to certain death.

Article 176 (1) of the Constitution says the governor shall address the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the

first session after each general election to the Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year and inform the legislature of the causes of its summons. However, some governors throw all propriety to the wind and insult the state legislatures while performing the constitutional obligation of reading out a text approved by the state council of ministers.

While the governors of late in Kerala have skipped some parts, ostensibly the critical references to the Union government, the man in the Lok Bhavan in Chennai would create consternation and stage a show in the Assembly on the appointed day. In the end, the Chief Minister would move a resolution calling for the records to attach the governor's speech as read. Mr Stalin has a point in that it can be done away with if the governor can be spared of that duty.



**Dear Reader**  
If you are facing any problem in your neighborhood or strongly feel about any issue, you can write to us. We will publish your complaint in our columns. Please send your complaint to editor. wtonlinedaily@gmail.com Or whatsapp us @8885610056 Please mention your name, addresses and email id. You can also share photographs or videos about the issue.



# India's Growth Momentum Remains Resilient: RBI Bulletin

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

The current state of the economy provides ground for optimism going forward and India will remain the fastest growing major economy, notwithstanding elevated geopolitical risks and policy uncertainty ahead, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its January Bulletin released on Wednesday. In an article titled 'State of the Economy' published in the Bulletin, the central bank said that the year 2026 began with an escalation of geopolitical tensions, marked by developments such as the US intervention in Venezuela, the simmering con-



flict in the Middle East, ambiguity surrounding the Russia-Ukraine peace deal, and escalation of the row over Greenland, all of which point to still-elevated geo-economic risks and policy uncertainty ahead.

"Even amidst these global uncertainties, the current state of the economy provides ground for optimism going forward. The GDP growth estimates for 2025-26 indicate that India will remain the fastest growing major

economy in the world," said the article. The article noted that India has made significant efforts to diversify and strengthen its exports, aiming to mitigate external sector risks. The country is currently engaged in trade negotiations with 14 countries or groups, representing nearly 50 nations, including the European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the United States.

The month of December saw India concluding trade negotiations with New Zealand and Oman. The year 2025 also witnessed major economic reforms, including the rationalisation of tax structures, implementation of

labour codes for labour market reforms, and financial sector deregulation, all of which are expected to strengthen the growth prospects, said the RBI. It said that the first advance estimates of GDP for 2025-26 reflected the resilience of the Indian economy, driven by domestic factors amidst a challenging external environment. The economy is projected to grow 7.4 per cent in the current financial year, supported by strong manufacturing and services activity, healthy household consumption, and robust fixed-asset investment. This follows a growth of 6.5 per cent in FY25 and 9.2 per cent in FY24.

High frequency indicators for December suggest continued buoyancy in growth impulses with demand conditions remaining upbeat. Headline CPI inflation edged up in December but remained below the lower tolerance level. The RBI said that there has been a significant improvement in the flow of financial resources to the commercial sector over the past year, driven by contributions from both bank and non-bank sources. During 2025-26 so far, up to December 31, total financial flows to the commercial sector rose to ₹30.8 lakh crore, compared with ₹21.3 lakh crore in the same period a year earlier.

# Blenders Pride Launches Zenith Black Edition

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Blenders Pride, a category leader in India's premium whisky segment, has announced the launch of Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition, a limited-edition release capped at one million bottles nationwide. Designed to elevate the brand's iconic legacy, the Zenith Black Edition features a bold all-black aesthetic, symbolising luxury, sophistication, and power. The limited release brings together Blenders Pride's signature blend with a striking new design language, aimed at discerning whisky connoisseurs. The Zenith Black



Edition is positioned as a premium expression for "the One in a Million," reflecting rarity, refinement, and individuality. According to the company, the black design is not merely a packaging update but a statement of attitude and distinction for consumers who define trends rather than follow them.

Speaking on the launch, Debashree Dasgupta,

Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India, said the Zenith Black Edition represents the brand's most refined expression to date. She noted that the new edition translates Blenders Pride's enduring legacy into a bold contemporary identity that celebrates aspiration, craftsmanship, and excellence.

"With only one million bottles available, the Zenith Black Edition is crafted for individuals who don't just admire excellence—they embody it," she added. Planned as a pan-India launch, Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition is currently available at select exclusive retail outlets, reinforcing its limited and premium positioning.

# India's FDI Inflows Surged 73 pc to \$47 bn in 2025

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

India's FDI inflows were led by large investments in services including finance, IT, and R&D, as well as manufacturing, supported by policies aimed at integrating India into global supply chains. India's FDI inflows were led by large investments in services including finance, IT, and R&D, as well as manufacturing, supported by policies aimed at integrating India into global supply chains. In 2024, India's FDI inflows were around \$28 billion and it had ranked 15th in the global list.

India received \$7 billion as data centre investments. India stood in the 7th position in data centre investments, which was led by France with \$69 billion and the US

with \$29 billion. Data centres drove much of the FDI trend in 2025, recording an increase of \$125 billion in greenfield announcements and of \$30 billion in international project finance. Emerging markets such as Brazil, Thailand, India, and Malaysia also ranked among the top ten hosts of data centre projects.

The UNCTAD report found that project finance activity declined in India and Egypt, while it increased in Syria, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Uzbekistan. Globally, FDI flows rose by 14 per cent in 2025, reaching an estimated \$1.6 trillion with an increase in flows of more than \$140 billion through several global financial centres. FDI flows to developed economies increased by 43 per cent to \$728 billion,

while flows to developing economies declined by 2 per cent to an estimated \$877 billion. Three quarters of the least developed countries (LDCs) saw stagnant or declining inflows. Going by industry trends, in 2025 data centres shaped the FDI landscape as they accounted for one-fifth of global greenfield project values. The value of newly announced projects in semiconductor increased by 35 per cent.

In contrast, project numbers fell sharply by 25 per cent in tariff-exposed global value chain (GVC) intensive sectors, particularly in textiles, electronics, and machinery. International infrastructure projects also declined by 10 per cent, largely due to fewer investments in renewable energy.

# Rupee hits all-time low of 91.28 amid global uncertainty

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The rupee depreciated 31 paise to an all-time low of 91.28 against the American currency in early trade on Wednesday, weighed down by steady dollar demand and a cautious global mood.

Forex traders said rising geopolitical uncertainty, including renewed US expansionary signals, has increased risk aversion and kept emerging market currencies under pressure. Moreover, a sluggish domestic stock market triggered by an exodus of foreign capital dented



investors' sentiment further, they said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.05 and lost ground to trade at 91.28 against the greenback, down 31 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at a record low of 90.97 against the US dollar.

"Markets were already uneasy when US President Donald Trump revived trade war rhetoric and renewed his push for Greenland. US Treasury yields jumped to four-month highs, while the dollar slipped for a second day — a sign that investors are questioning not just risk, but direction," CR Forex Advisors MD

Amit Pabari said. Pabari further noted that "persistent global unease, coupled with a sustained break above 91.07, could gradually open the door toward the 91.70, 92.00 zone, unless restrained by active intervention from the RBI.

"On the downside, any corrective pullback is likely to find its first line of support in the 90.30-90.50 range." On December 16, 2025, the rupee reached its previous lowest intraday level of 91.14 and its lowest closing level of 90.93 against the American currency. Meanwhile, the dollar

index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 98.59. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.11 per cent lower at USD 64.20 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex dropped 385.82 points to 81,794.65 in opening trade, while Nifty declined 91.5 points to 25,141.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 2,938.33 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

# Blenders Pride Launches Zenith Black Edition

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Walmart backed digital payments and financial services major PhonePe has secured a nod from the capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to go ahead with its initial public offering (IPO). The clearance follows the company's confidential filing for an initial public offering (IPO) aiming to raise Rs 12000 crore in September. According to Reuters, as part of the IPO, existing investors including Walmart, Microsoft and Tiger Global are expected to pare a portion of their holdings.

PhonePe's IPO plan comes against the backdrop of buoyant Indian primary markets, with fundraising reaching a record high in 2025. In-

dian primary market witnessed a blockbuster year in 2025, raising Rs1.95 lakh crore through more than 365 Initial Public Offer (IPOs) to date, an all-time high. This achievement follows an impressive 2024, when the Indian IPO market flourished with issuances totaling Rs 1.90 lakh crore across 336 IPOs.

PhonePe, founded in 2015, is the top payments platform on India's popular unified payments interface (UPI), with over 45 per cent market share by volume as of December 2025. It processed 9.8 billion of the 21.6 billion transactions on UPI in August, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India. It has more than 600 million registered users and offers payment solutions for nearly 50 million merchants.

# Sensex, Nifty slip in early trade amid global sell-off

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Wednesday as heightened geopolitical tensions, weak global markets and persistent foreign fund outflows rattled investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 385.82 points to 81,794.65 in opening trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 91.5 points to 25,141.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, ICICI Bank, Trent, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Tech and Infosys were among the laggards.

However, Eternal, Sun Pharma, InterGlobe Aviation and Tata Steel were among the gainers.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 2,938.33 crore

on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 3,665.69 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index marginally higher.

US markets ended sharply lower on Tuesday. The Nasdaq Composite index tumbled 2.39 per cent, S&P 500 dropped by 2.06 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average tanked 1.76 per cent.

"US equity markets closed sharply lower overnight, with the S&P 500 slipping 2 per cent and the Nasdaq plunging close to 2.5 per cent, marking the worst single-day fall since October. The global sell-off was triggered by re-

newed trade-war concerns after President Trump escalated tariff threats on select European nations opposing US control over Greenland, with proposed duties rising from 10 per cent in February to 25 per cent by June," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. Renewed US tariff threats, coupled with persistent foreign investor selling, continue to weigh heavily on market sentiment, he added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.11 per cent to USD 64.19 per barrel.

On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,065.71 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 82,180.47. The Nifty tanked 353 points or 1.38 per cent to end at 25,232.50.

# Deepinder Goyal Steps Down as MD, CEO of Eternal

**NEW DELHI**  
Wakeup telangana

Deepinder Goyal will step down from his role as Managing Director and Group CEO of food delivery company Eternal Limited, formerly Zomato. He will continue on the board as Vice Chairman, while Al-binder Dhindsa will take over the role. The disclosure was made through a letter addressed to shareholders and filed with stock exchanges.

Dhindsa became part of Eternal in 2022 following the acquisition of Blinkit in a \$568 million deal. In the letter, Goyal said the move would allow Eternal to remain focused as a public company, while giving him space to explore ideas that fall outside the company's risk profile. He added that if such ideas were aligned with Eternal's



strategy, they would have been pursued within the company.

In the letter, Goyal said the move would allow Eternal to remain focused as a public company, while giving him space to explore ideas that fall outside the company's risk profile. He added that if such ideas were aligned with Eternal's strategy, they would have been pursued within the company. Goyal said his involvement in long term strategy, culture, leadership development, and governance will continue, and that he will keep working closely with Dhindsa and the leadership team. As part

of the transition, Goyal said all his unvested ESOPs will revert to Eternal's ESOP pool, aimed at supporting wealth creation for future leaders without incremental shareholder dilution. As per the company, the day to day execution and operating decisions will now be led by Dhindsa as Group CEO, while its decentralized structure, where each business is run by its own CEO, will remain unchanged. "Blinkit's journey from acquisition to break even happened under his leadership. He built the team, the culture, the supply chain, the operating rhythm. He has the DNA of a battle-hardened founder and his ability to execute far exceeds mine. He is more than capable of leading Eternal as Group CEO," Goyal said in the letter.

# 'AR Rahman is the nicest human being I ever met': RGV

Calling A R Rahman the nicest human being, Ram Gopal Varma on Wednesday clarified that he is being quoted out of context in an old interview where he talks about how the composer came up with the Oscar-winning "Slumdog Millionaire" track "Jai Ho".

Rahman has faced criticism for saying in an interview with BBC Asian Network that the volume of work coming his way in Hindi cinema has declined over the past eight years. He attributed it to a "power shift" within the industry and suggesting that it might be a "communal thing".

A clip of Varma's old interview resurfaced on social media in which he appears to suggest that Rahman did not compose "Jai Ho", and that singer Sukhwinder Singh was responsible for the music in addition to lending his voice to the track.

As the video trended on X, Varma shared a post, say-



ing he has been misquoted. "To all concerned.. I am being misquoted and misread out of context in the matter of the Jai ho song... in my view @arrahman is the greatest composer and the nicest human being I ever met and he's the last person to take away anybody's credit... I hope this puts an end to the negativity surrounding the issue," wrote the filmmaker, who had famously collaborated with Rahman for his film "Rangeela". In the short clip, RGV narrated an incident when Rahman worked on filmmaker Subhash Ghai's 2008 movie "Yuvvraaj", starring Salman

Khan and Katrina Kaif. "Rahman is notorious for delays. Subhash Ghai messaged Rahman. He said, 'I have dates for Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif. I have a set. If you don't give me songs, what will happen?' He sent a very harsh mail to Rahman, he was in London at that time. So Rahman called and said, 'I'll come to Bombay. Come to Sukhwinder Singh Studio in Bombay. I'll come there and sing your song,'" Varma said.

The director said the trio then met at Singh's studio two days later.

"Rahman came and asked Sukhwinder right in front of Subhash Ghai, 'Did you compose?' Sukhwinder said yes and played a song. Rahman said he liked it and asked if Subhash liked it. Subhash got angry and started shouting at Rahman, saying, 'I'm paying Rs 3 crores for you to do it... I also can get Sukhwinder to do it, why do I need you?'" Rahman replied to

him, 'Mind your tongue. You're paying for my name, not for my work. Don't get confused... Rahman said this and then left for Chennai.'" According to Varma, Rahman later called Singh and asked him to complete the song.

"That was it, then one year later Rahman's manager sent a cheque for 5 lakhs to Sukhwinder and then Sukhwinder asked why? The manager said, 'You made a song for Rahman and he sold it to a party and this Rs 5 lakhs is your share.' Who did Rahman sell the song to? 'Slumdog Millionaire' and the song 'Jai Ho,'" Varma said in the interview.

Rahman went on to win the Academy Award for best song for "Jai Ho", sharing it with veteran lyricist Gulzar. He also bagged the Oscar for best original score for his work on the Danny Boyle-directed film.

## Telugu film industry Wants Revision of Movie Ticket Prices

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Members of Telugu film industry plan to meet CM Revanth Reddy after his return from Davos, seeking a Government Order (GO) to hike movie ticket prices in general. Producer-distributor Dil Raju said, "Our appeal is for a fixed, revised ticket rate for both big and small films on a long-term basis, instead of producers having to approach officials before the release of every film and rushing through approvals." The move comes after the Telangana High Court mandated that applications for ticket hikes and other permissions must be submitted 90 days before release—a restriction not present in Andhra Pradesh. Industry insiders say this is challenging, as release dates often change at short notice, making compliance difficult.



Upcoming films likely affected include Peddi, Chiranjeevi's Vishwambara, Pawan Kalyan's Ustaad Bhagat Singh, Nani's The Paradise, Naga Chaitanya's Vrushakarma, Adivi Sesh's Dacoit, Nikhil's Swayambhu, Sharwanand's Biker, Ravi Teja's next, and Bellamkonda Sreenivas' Tyson Naidu. "Big-ticket releases between March and May will definitely be hit," Dil Raju noted. Discussions with the CM are expected by month-end, with the industry hopeful for a favourable outcome.

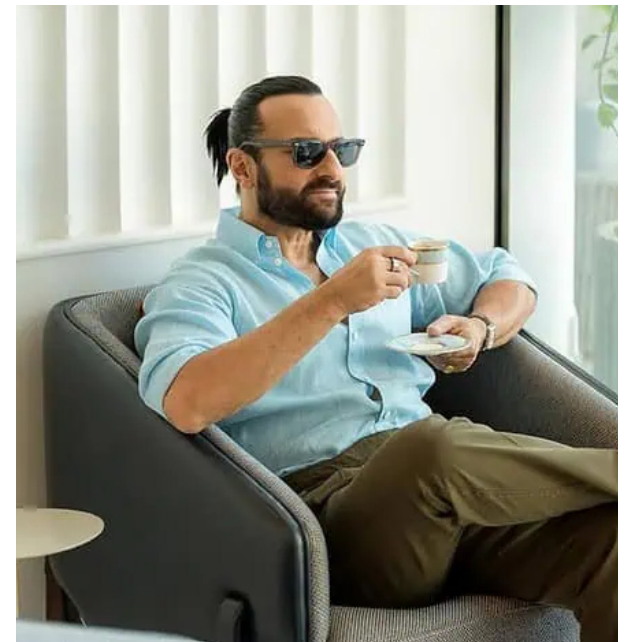
## Walkthrough Saif Ali Khan's lavish home in Qatar: Video, price

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

Bollywood superstar Saif Ali Khan, also known as the Nawab of Pataudi, is known for his royal lifestyle and love for luxury. From the iconic Pataudi Palace to high-end cars and premium real estate, his possessions reflect elegance and class. Adding to his impressive property list is his stunning new home in Qatar, a place the actor has often described as close to his heart and one of his favourite destinations.

Saif Ali Khan recently offered a glimpse into his elegant "home away from home" in Qatar. Located at St Regis Marsa Arabia at The Pearl Island, the Rs 15-crore property is a modern two-bedroom apartment with a maid's room, designed for comfort, privacy, and relaxation.

Speaking about the home, Saif described it as peace-



ful, luxurious, and familiar, calling it the perfect place to unwind. The interiors feature a clean, minimal aesthetic with dark wood and soft cream tones, high ceilings, marble floors in common areas, plush carpets in bedrooms, subtle lighting, linen curtains, and curated artworks.

The living and dining areas blend modern and

vintage elements seamlessly, while the standout feature is the expansive balcony offering stunning sea and marina views. Saif, who also owns multiple properties in Mumbai and other cities, calls the balcony his favourite corner, where he enjoys sunsets and the calming lights of the marina each evening.

## Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 date: Here's when 2026 season will begin

**MUMBAI**  
Wakeup telangana

After the successful conclusion of Bigg Boss 19, 2026 has begun on a busy note for reality TV fans, with updates pouring in about upcoming shows like Bigg Boss OTT, The 50, and Khatron Ke Khiladi 15. Among these, the new season of Rohit Shetty's stunt-based reality show is already creating strong buzz.

According to the latest update from BBTak, Khatron Ke Khiladi season 15 is expected to premiere around June 2026 on Colors TV and JioHotstar, with shooting likely to begin in May. The casting process is currently underway, and the makers are conducting a recce to finalise the shooting location. The pre-



vious season was filmed in Romania. Meanwhile, speculation around the show's first probable contestant has gained momentum. While there were rumours about Farrhana Bhatt joining The 50, she recently clarified during a live session that she will not be part of that show but is open to other reality TV op-

portunities. Reports now suggest that Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 could be her next big project.

Interestingly, during his visit to Bigg Boss 19, Rohit Shetty had directly asked Farrhana if she would be interested in participating in Khatron Ke Khiladi, to which she responded with an enthusiastic yes. Reaffirming

the same in a recent interview with TOI, Farrhana said, "Yes, of course I would love to do Khatron Ke Khiladi. I was asked by Rohit Shetty sir during Weekend ka Vaar and I was so excited, I said yes. Khatron Ke Khiladi is my thing."

It is worth noting that Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 was reportedly put on hold in 2025 due to budget disagreements between producer Banijay and Colors TV. Industry reports claimed that Banijay had demanded a higher budget, which the channel was unwilling to approve at the time.

With those issues seemingly resolved, all eyes are now on the 2026 season of Khatron Ke Khiladi, which promises fresh stunts, new faces, and high-octane drama once again.

## Abhishek's Fireworks Help India Beat New Zealand in T20 Opener

**NAGPUR**  
Wakeup telangana

Opener Abhishek Sharma struck 84 off 35 balls to set up a convincing 48-run win for India in the first of five T20 internationals against New Zealand on Wednesday. Abhishek smashed eight sixes to get India off to a flying start before a late unbeaten cameo of 44 by Rinku Singh helped the hosts reach 238-7 after being invited to bat first in Nagpur. New Zealand could only muster 190-7 in response as regular wickets helped India take a 1-0 lead in the warm-up series ahead of the T20 World Cup starting February 7 in India and Sri Lanka. "It's not just how he bats in the games, but the way he prepares himself, the way he



carries himself -- I think all those things, small, small things, it reflects on the ground," said India captain Suryakumar Yadav of Abhishek. "And he is enjoying the fruits of that." Glenn Phillips hit a valiant 78 off 40 balls and briefly threatened a fightback in his 79-run partnership with Mark Chap-

man, who made 39. But Phillips' exit in the 14th over off left-arm spinner Axar Patel ended New Zealand's hopes despite a sloppy fielding display by the hosts. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy took two key wickets including Tim Robinson, for 21, and Chapman. Shivam Dube also took two

wickets in two balls with his medium pace in the final over. Abhishek was in fine flow despite India losing two early wickets -- his fellow opener Sanju Samson for 10 and Ishan Kishan, back in the side for the first time since 2023, for eight.

Suryakumar put on 99 runs for the third wicket with Abhishek, making a 22-ball 32. Suryakumar, 35, started slowly but gained some momentum as he attempts to end his recent slump in form ahead of the World Cup. Suryakumar, formerly the ICC's top-ranked T20I batsman, has failed to score a fifty in his 23 innings in the format dating back to October 2024. He holed out off the left-arm spin of his opposite number Mitchell Santner.

## Aryna Sabalenka Reaches Third Round at Australian Open

**MELBOURNE**  
Wakeup telangana

op-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated a tenacious Bai Zhouxuan of China 6-3, 6-1 Wednesday to reach the third round of the Australian Open. Sabalenka raced to a 5-0 lead in the first set but then needed seven set points at Rod Laver Arena to take the set against the defensive-minded Chinese player, who used clever drop shots to help her stay in the match. "I was happy to get this win, a tricky opponent," Sabalenka said. "She really stepped in in the first set."

Sabalenka led 4-0 in the second set and overpowered the smaller Bai. Sabalenka even tried a bit of serve-and-volley in the match, trying to diversify her game. "You



saw serve-and-volley today," Sabalenka said. "It didn't really work well, but I did one." Sabalenka won the 2023 and 2024 Australian Open titles but was the runner-up a year ago to Madison Keys. Sabalenka is after her fifth Grand Slam singles title, having also won the U.S.

Open twice. Bai was making her second appearance in the Australian Open and reached the second round for the first time. In another women's match, 12th-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine defeated Linda Klimovicova of Poland 7-5, 6-1. Gael Monfils, a popular 39-

year-old Frenchman and Svitolina's husband, said goodbye at Melbourne Park in his retirement year, losing on Tuesday in a first-round match to qualifier Dane Sweeny.

In another women's match, Zeynep Sönmez of Turkey, who was highly praised during her first-round match Sunday for assisting an ill ballkid, advanced to the third round after beating Anna Bondar 6-2, 6-4. In early men's results, 18th-seeded Francisco Cerundolo beat Damir Dzumhur 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 and 19th-seeded Tommy Paul defeated Thiago Agustín Tirante 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. In later matches, No. 1 seeded Carlos Alcaraz faced Yannick Hanfmann, and No. 3 Coco Gauff was set to play Olga Danilovic.

## Telangana CEO calls for citizen-friendly access to voter registers

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy, on Wednesday, January 21, emphasised that easy and secure access to voter registers is crucial for electoral transparency. Speaking at the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (ICDEM-2026) in Delhi, he said voters, political parties and civil society organisations depend on accurate and timely voter information to verify personal details and plan electoral activities. The Telangana CEO said that several mechanisms adopted by election authorities, including online voter-lookup services, controlled-access kiosks and limited-detail voter lists, are designed to provide secure and user-friendly access to electoral data. He also noted that technology-enabled voter services have improved accuracy of electoral rolls and confidence.

## HYDRAA chief takes action after Durgam Cheruvu ridden with sewage



Following repeated complaints about a foul smell emanating from Durgam Cheruvu, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath visited the site and noted that the lake's surface was covered with water hyacinth, and untreated sewage was being released into the water body. Upon inquiry, the irrigation engineers explained that the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) were already at full capacity and hence the sewage was released directly into the lake. Ranganath took a strong objection and made it clear that excess sewage must be directed to the sewer system instead. The Commissioner also held a meeting with all concerned authorities, including the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Irrigation and Electricity departments, instructing them to take steps to prevent the sewage issue. He spoke with representatives of the Raheja Group, been tasked with the development of Durgam Cheruvu and asked them to look beyond "superficial beautification." The Commissioner directed them to excavate a channel on the western side of the lake so that sewage coming from companies located in the upper areas, such as Inorbit Mall, Nectar Gardens, etc., does not pollute it.

# Concern Grows Over Shrine Vandalism in Hyderabad

## Muslim Scholars Seek Action Over Purana Pool Shrine Attack

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

A delegation of eminent scholars and Sufi leaders on Tuesday met Telangana Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy, urging swift and stringent action against those responsible for the attack on Chilla Mehboob Subhani and the adjoining graves at Purana Pool Darwaza on January 15. The incident has raised serious concerns over threats to Hyderabad's long-standing communal harmony and peace.

The delegation stressed that acts of vandalism targeting religious sites strike at the core of the city's pluralistic ethos and warned that such incidents could fuel unrest if not dealt with firmly. They appealed to the police leadership to ensure enhanced security at all



places of worship, particularly the 400-year-old Dargah Hazrath Moosa Qadri, which holds deep spiritual and cultural significance. Assuring full cooperation, the scholars and Sufi leaders expressed their willingness to actively participate in interfaith dialogue initiatives and community outreach programmes aimed at strengthening mutual respect, understanding, and social cohesion among different communities. They emphasized that collective efforts by civil society and

law-enforcement agencies are essential to preserve peace and harmony in the city. "We trust the state leadership and police machinery to uphold law and order and to take decisive action against those attempting to disturb societal unity," the delegation stated, calling for exemplary punishment for the perpetrators to deter future incidents. Prominent members of the delegation included Syed Mahmood Badshah Qadri, Dr Syed Mahmood Safiullah Viqar Pasha, Syed Shah Fazlullah

Qadri Al Moosavi, Mohammed Husamuddin Sani Jafer Pasha, Syed Shah Naymatullah Qadri, Syed Mohammad Ali Qadri Al Hashmi Mumshad Pasha, Syed Ahmed ul Hussaini Sayeed Qadri, Syed Aale Mustafa Qadri Al Moosavi Al Jeelani Ali Pasha, Syed Saifullah Hussaini Al Baqri Saif Pasha, Qazi Syed Noor ul Asfia Ruhi Azmi, Dr Khaja Shuja Uddin Iftiqari Haqqani Pasha, Mohammed Fareeduddin Zahed Kareemi, Mohammed Mohiuddin Ahmed Husami, Syed Wasif Alam Qadri Al Moosavi, among others. The meeting reflects growing public concern over safeguarding Hyderabad's inclusive character and preventing any further disturbance to communal peace.

## Rashmi Group Inks ₹12,500 Cr Pact with TG



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led Telangana Rising delegation entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rashmi Group, a major Indian industrial conglomerate. The company, renowned globally for its ductile iron (DI) pipes used in water and sanitation projects, has agreed to set up a steel production unit in Telangana with an investment of ₹12,500 crore, creating the potential for 12,000 direct and indirect jobs. Rashmi Group promoter Sajjan Kumar Patwari and director Sanjib Kumar Patwari met the Telangana Rising delegation at WEF 2026 in Davos on Wednesday and expressed readiness to establish a steel plant in the state. Established in 1966, the company exports products to more than 40 countries across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and North and South America. Revanth Reddy congratulated Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu for securing the invest-

ment, which will support the state's aggressive growth trajectory in the years ahead. The minister explained that Telangana's commitment to driving economic development is evident in its diverse industrial landscape, with a special focus on manufacturing. Highlighting that Telangana has transformed into an industrial powerhouse with progressive policies, the minister promised all possible support to establish the unit in the state, including coal supply linkages. Sanjib Kumar stated that the steel plant would involve labour-intensive manufacturing and has the potential to generate large-scale employment. The delegation also exchanged views on potential partnerships, particularly in areas such as green manufacturing and the circular economy. The company expressed interest in collaborating with the Telangana government on energy-efficient steelmaking, waste heat recovery, and slag utilisation.

## 47 municipal commissioners, staff transferred in T'gana

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Municipal Administration Department of the Telangana government on Wednesday, January 21, transferred 47 Municipal Commissioners and staff to ensure free and fair elections slated to begin in a few weeks. According to the order, these of-

ficers had been working in their native districts and/or had completed long tenure in the same local body/district. Some of the officers appointed include CVN Raju, currently working as Municipal Commissioner of Adilabad. K Sampath Kumar, working as Municipal Commissioner of Mancherla Corporation, has been posted as Secretary of the Ramagundam Municipal Corpora-

tion. In his place, G Raju, who was working as Municipal Commissioner of Kyathanpally, has been posted as the Municipal Commissioner of Adilabad. K Sampath Kumar, working as Municipal Commissioner of Mancherla Corporation, has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Vemula-

wada. T Ramesh, the Municipal Commissioner of Bellampally, has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Mulugu, while J Sampath, currently working as the Municipal Commissioner of Mulugu, has been appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of Bellampally. Mohd Jakeer Ahmed,

the Municipal Commissioner of Vikrabad, has been appointed as Municipal Commissioner of Moinabad. Meanwhile, G Vikramsharma Reddy, the Sanitary Inspector of Zaheerabad Municipality, has been appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of Vikrabad.

## Telangana HC transfers PIL on culling of 40 dogs in Hyderabad to SC

With nearly 500 stray dogs reportedly culled across the state and 40 more allegedly killed near Symbiosis International University on the outskirts of Hyderabad, the Telangana High Court, on Tuesday, January 20, transferred a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking registration of a criminal case to the Supreme Court. The apex court has been hearing the stray dog menace case since last year, following a series of dog bite incidents reported in the national capital of Delhi. The PIL, filed by advocate and former Symbiosis student V Rishihars Reddy, stated that 40 dogs inside the campus were reportedly trapped and killed on the orders of Nandigama Mandal tahsildar, the local sarpanch and university officials. He argued that the case was about the illegal killing of dogs rather than dog bite incidents, the Times of India reported. A division bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin observed that Reddy had produced much of his evidence through social media. At this, Reddy's counsel said that his client was informed about the deaths through university students and later confirmed by gram panchayat officials. "There is a clear air of suspicion and something grossly horrible has happened here. The university and the officials have to come clean about that," Reddy's counsel argued. He sought an independent probe by a commission headed by a retired High Court judge.

## 100 stray dogs 'poisoned' to death near Hyderabad, case booked

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

In yet another incident of stray dog killings, nearly 100 canines were allegedly "poisoned to death" in Yacharam village near here following which a case was registered against a sarpanch and two others for their alleged involvement in the act, police said on Wednesday, January 21. The fresh incident fol-

lows killing of nearly 500 stray dogs in different districts of Telangana since January 6. An animal welfare activist, associated with Stray Animal Foundation of India, in a complaint filed with Yacharam Police Station alleged that the dogs were injected with some poisonous substances on January 19. A case was registered under relevant sections of BNS and Prevention of

Cruelty of Animals Act against the sarpanch, secretary and ward member of Yacharam gram panchayat on Tuesday, a police official said. As per the complainant, 100 dogs were killed, but based on preliminary investigation and after verifying with villagers around 50 dogs were found to be killed, though further probe is on in this regard, the official said.

## Travellers Association ask MMTS extension to Hyderabad Airport

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

With the Telangana government proposing a Rs 345-crore flyover alongside the Metro Rail corridor to Hyderabad Airport, there is renewed demand for extending Hyderabad's Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) local rail service to the Shamshabad airport as a more economical option. The Travellers Association has called on the



Congress government and GMR Group to make at least six kilometres of land available so Indian Railways can extend the MMTS line to the airport. The association said the project could be completed within six months and would provide a

low-cost alternative, with fares ranging from Rs 5 to Rs 30 from various parts of the city. The association said a dedicated MMTS connection would offer a faster and more reliable public transport option for passengers, airport employees, and the general public. Currently, air travellers mostly rely on buses and private vehicles, resulting in higher travel and parking expenses as well as increased traffic

## World's First-Ever 'Swiss Mall' to Be a Reality in Hyderabad Soon



**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

Christelle Luisier Brodard, Chief Minister of Council of Vaud, Switzerland and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy discussed the prospects of collaboration and partnership between the two states in the larger context of the free-trade agreement between India and Switzerland. Collaboration in areas include from culture and education, skilling & training - especially in hospitality management and sports. Leaders of the two states

deliberated on mutual cooperation in sharing best practices in retail and life sciences sectors. The CM Revanth Reddy, promoting the Telangana Rising 2047 vision and explaining the various opportunities, also proposed the idea of building a 'Swiss Mall' in Hyderabad - a first of its kind in the world, to which the Swiss delegation showed immediate positive response. Both the Chief Ministers are football players and therefore discussed at length possibilities of partnership in sports.

## Assets worth Rs 7.69 cr seized in ACB raid on Hanamkonda Additional Collector

**HYDERABAD**  
Wakeup telangana

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets case against Arramada Venkat Reddy, Additional Collector (Revenue), Hanamkonda, who is also the in-charge District Education Officer of Hanamkonda and is currently under suspension. Searches at his residence and seven other places unearthed assets worth Rs 7.69 crore, which were disproportionate to his known sources of income. According to an ACB press note issued on Tuesday, the case was registered after it was found that the officer allegedly acquired assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by indulging in corrupt practices and adopting dubious means during his service.



Preliminary searches were conducted after he was trapped in an earlier ACB raid, followed by fresh searches on Tuesday at his residence and seven other places belonging to him and his relatives. During the searches, documents revealed ownership of immovable assets comprising two residential houses, one villa and one flat, valued at Rs 4.65 crore, one commercial shop valued at Rs 60 lakh, eight open plots

valued at Rs 65 lakh and agricultural land admeasuring 14.25 acres valued at Rs 50 lakh. The ACB said the market value of the properties was expected to be much higher than the official value. In addition to the immovable assets, movable assets were also found and seized. These included cash amounting to Rs.30,00,300, bank balances totalling Rs.44,03,032, household

articles valued at Rs 11 lakh, three four-wheeler vehicles valued at Rs 40 lakh and gold ornaments weighing 297 grams valued at Rs 4,35,000.

The total value of assets identified so far has been estimated at Rs 7,69,38,332, the press release said, adding that further investigation was under way to trace additional assets and to determine the exact extent of disproportionate assets, if any. The ACB has urged the public to report any demand for bribes by public servants by contacting the toll-free number 1064. Complaints can also be lodged through WhatsApp at 9440446106, Facebook page Telangana ACB and X handle @TelanganaACB. The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential.

9966806010 whole sale & retail 9966228274

# AL BUSHRA

## PERFUME CENTER

ONLY CENTRE FOR FAMOUS AND PURE SANDAL AND ATTAR IN HYDERABAD

**PROPRIETOR: MD AKRAM ALI**

📍 MACHLI KAMAN, CHARMINAR ROAD HYDERABAD