

HYDERABAD

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Prabhas set for new avatar

Collaborates with Maruthi for his next film



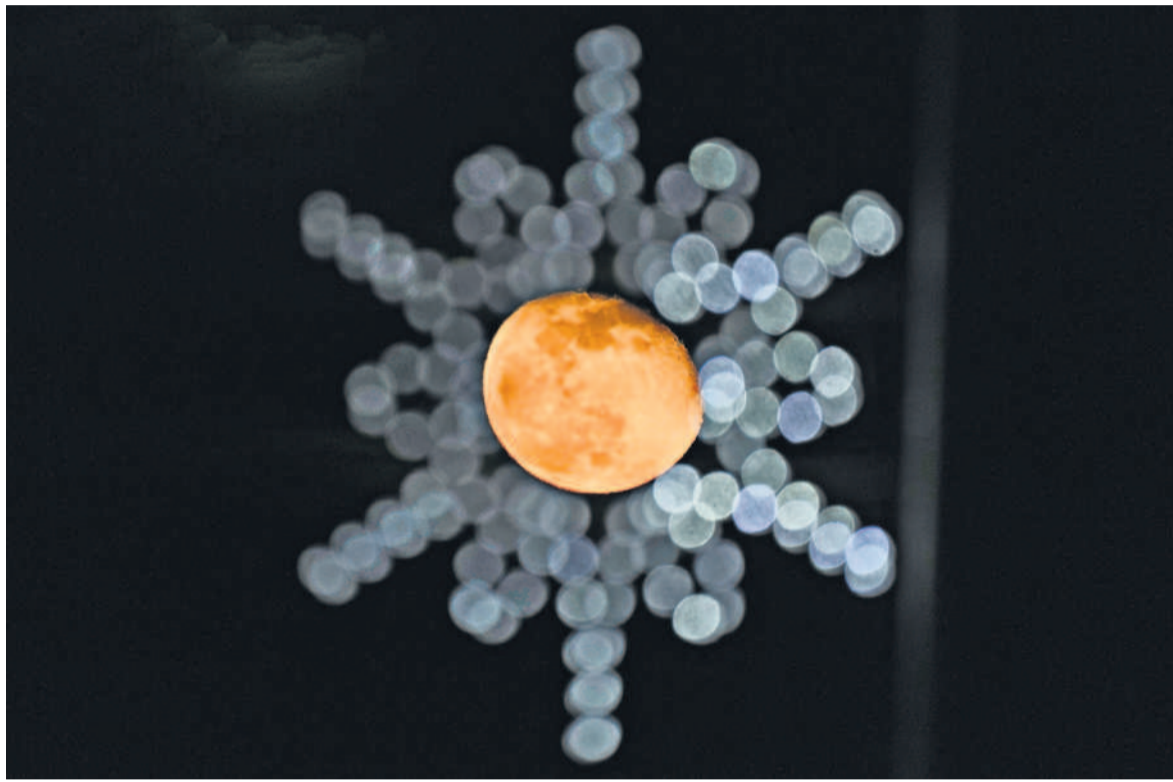
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In new light



COSMIC WONDER: The waning moon rises beyond a snowflake decoration on a lamppost at Merriam city of Kansas in the USA. — Photo: AP

'Stop sale of Praja Palana forms'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Expressing serious displeasure over Praja Palana forms being sold by different people, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy instructed officials to arrange as many applications as possible for distribution among people.

The Chief Minister also said Rythu Bandhu assistance and pensions to existing beneficiaries would be continued. People need not have any apprehensions in this regard, he said.

People, who could not enrol in the past and those

Rs 5L accident cover for gig workers

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has extended accident insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh to gig and platform workers. The GO Ms 31 was issued to this effect on Saturday. It also issued orders for the implementation of a social security scheme for transport and non-transport auto drivers. (SEE PAGE 2)

CM gives Rs 2L to kin of deceased delivery agent

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy extended financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the family of a Swiggy delivery executive, who died after being chased by a dog while delivering a food parcel at a building. Revanth Reddy presented a cheque of Rs 2 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. (SEE PAGE 2)

who wish to enrol afresh, have to submit their applications, he said.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari and

other senior officials on the Praja Palana programme here on Saturday.

During the meeting, he sought all details of the Grama Sabhas conducted to

date, the number of applications filed by people and the procedure being followed for accepting the applications from officials. (SEE PAGE 2)

SSC examinations from March 18

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The SSC Public Examinations 2024 will be conducted from March 18 to April 2.

As per the schedule released by the Directorate of Government Examinations on Saturday, the exams will begin with the First Language on March 18. While major exams conclude with the Social Studies paper on March 30, the OSSC Main Language Paper-I and Vocational Course (theory) exam is on April 1 and the OSSC Main Language Paper-II on April 2.

The government has decided to hold the Science exam on two days as against on a single day previously with Physical and Biological Science papers scheduled for March 26 and 28. The examinations will be held

Schools told to complete syllabus by January 10; exams will begin with First Language paper

from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, except for Physical and Biological Science papers, which will be conducted from 9.30 am to 11 am. So far, 5.08 lakh students have registered for the exams.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department has come out with an action plan and launched a special programme, 'Lakshya', aimed at achieving the best results in the Class X examinations in government schools. As part of the action plan, the syllabus must be completed by January 10 next year. (SEE PAGE 2)

Power demand soars in State

ANIL KUMAR
Hyderabad

Telangana's power demand has remained elevated over the last one week even during the winter chill, keeping it above 220 million units. On Friday, it stood at 230.592 MU and the peak demand went up to 12,165 MW.

In the last one week, the power demand has been increasing gradually. The power demand on December 25 stood at 220.326 MU, whereas it was 224.71 MU on December 26. Similarly, it was 227.137 MU on December 27 and 227.466 MU on December 28. Last year during the same period, it

was below 215 MU. According to power officials, the power demand has gone up mainly due to uninterrupted power supply being given to all categories of consumers, free 24x7 power being given to the agriculture sector and lift irrigation schemes. Apart from this, the officials said the demand has increased due to the use of heating appliances and geysers. "Almost 50 per cent of the load that we see in winter is due to geysers in the domestic sector," an official said.

Already, power consumption has started to go up due to agricultural operations picking up in the State. Since there is water short-

age for irrigation purposes due to less water available in various reservoirs, especially those on the Krishna river, farmers are using borewells to supply water to crops, increasing power demand.

With possibilities of the demand further picking up in March-April, the government has taken several steps to ensure that the growing demand was met, the officials said, adding that the power utilities successfully met the power demand of the season without any network constraints or power outages. "The government is taking steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all consumers," they said.

Police commandos ambushed in Manipur

CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL

A Manipur Police commando was injured in a heavy gunfire exchange between unidentified gunmen and security forces in Moreh, Tengnoupal district, around 3.50 pm on Saturday, officials said.

Eyewitnesses said the commando was injured when the gunmen targeted

police vehicles as they were heading towards the Key Location Point (KLP) from the border town of Moreh.

An officer confirmed, "One commando sustained shrapnel injuries when they came under attack while crossing the M Chahnou village section of Imphal-Moreh road." The commando has been identified as Ponkhalung of 5 IRB. PTI

Youth smokes weed in front of police station for Insta reel, jailed

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Smoking marijuana on the road in front of the Ramgopalpet police station and shooting a video of the act landed a youth in prison.

B Vamshi Krishna (25) had recorded the video, with a rap song in the background, for an Instagram reel. He posted the video on his social media account, which instantly became viral, with many citizens criticising him for the unmindful act and tagging Chief Minister

A Revanth Reddy and the city police on X.

The Ramgopalpet police booked a case and arrested Krishna on Friday. He was produced before a court, which sentenced him to simple imprisonment for eight days. He was shifted to the Central Prison in Chanchalguda.

As a counter, the police recorded a video of Krishna by collaging the moments of him smoking marijuana and later being shifted to jail, and posted it on their official social media account.



Accused B Vamshi Krishna

Ayodhya gets a makeover

PM unveils airport, revamped train station

PTI
AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in a festooned, festive Ayodhya on Saturday to unveil a 'new look old' city with an airport, a revamped train station and projects worth Rs 15,700 crore ahead of the consecration of the Ram temple next month, his day an artful blend of heritage, culture and development.

The flower-bedecked temple town, associated with the Ramayana for centuries and at the centre stage of modern-day politics since the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, was the cynosure of attention as Modi said the strength of 'vikas' (development) and 'virasat' (heritage) would take India forward. "The whole world is waiting for the historic moment of the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22," Modi said at a rally here while appealing to people to not come on the day itself.

Stressing that the business of people from across the country and the world coming to Ayodhya had started and would go on till eternity, he also appealed for a resolve to make the town the cleanest in the country. Addressing the meeting after inaugurating the Maharshi Valmiki airport and the revamped station named Ayodhya Dham from where he



People during a roadshow of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ayodhya on Saturday. — Photo: PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)

flagged off two Amrit Bharat and six Vande Bharat trains, some virtually, he appealed to citizens to light diyas in their houses on January 22 so the whole country basks in the glory of the temple.

Marking January 22 as a special day, he also asked people to launch cleanliness drives at pilgrimage sites and temples across the country from Makar Sankranti on January 14 till the temple consecration day. There was a time Lord Ram was "living under a tent", but now he will get a concrete house like the four crore poor who got pucca houses, he said.

The Ujjwala scheme, he said, had transformed the lives of crores of mothers and sisters. Only 14 crore gas connections were given in five decades, but his government in a decade gave 18

crore, including 10 crore free of cost under the scheme, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Earlier in the day, he stopped by at the home of a Ujjwala beneficiary, Meera Majhi. He met the family in her humble home and was also seen drinking a cup of tea. Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 15,700 crore. These comprise projects worth Rs 11,100 crore for the development of the city and its surrounding areas, and those worth Rs 4,600 crore related to other works in Uttar Pradesh.

After he arrived in Ayodhya, Modi held a roadshow from the airport to the railway station and was greeted by hundreds of people lining the route. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Will ensure SC, ST quota in pvt varsities'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Taking serious objection to private universities failing to extend reservations to SC/ST students and functioning arbitrarily, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government was prepared to bring a law in the Assembly to ensure that reservations were implemented in private universities for such students.

Reservation was the constitutional right of SC/ST students. A comprehensive inquiry should be conducted into the guidelines of private universities, he said here on Saturday.

Officials were directed to submit a report on the permissions accorded to private universities, guidelines, facilities provided by the government, number of students, fees charged, fees reimbursement, teaching staff and non-teaching staff in the State. The Chief Minister specifically directed officials to incorporate the details in the report on how private universities were imparting education without basic facilities and qualified staff.

He further pointed out that permissions were given to private universities in land registered as house plots on the Dharani portal. A separate report should be submitted on the quality of education being offered to students in such universities, he directed officials.

Districts to get skill varities

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said skill universities will be established in all erstwhile districts for creating skilled manpower to meet industrial requirements. The skill universities will offer employment-oriented short- and long-term courses. (REPORT PAGE 4)

"Many people are facing difficulties as permissions were given to set up universities on disputed land and those registered under house plots. A comprehensive report should be submitted in this regard," Revanth Reddy said. He reminded the officials as to how many students had suffered during the last academic year due to a college management's decision to offer admissions without obtaining university permission.

The Chief Minister also ordered the officials to conduct a thorough inquiry into the funds spent for taking up Mana Ooru-Mana Badi utilising the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). A detailed report should be submitted on the utilisation of funds for Mana Ooru-Mana Badi to date, he told the officials.