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Formula E pulls out of Hyderabad

E-Prix cancelled as State government fails to fulfil agreement

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

In a major disappointment to Formula E race enthusiasts in the country, Formula E on Saturday announced the cancellation of the Hyderabad race (Round 4) scheduled for February 10 as part of its Season 10 race calendar. This is in the wake of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department's decision not to fulfil the Host City Agreement signed on October 30 this year.

The race organisers said Formula E Operations (FEO) was left with no choice other than to formally give notice to the MA&UD that it was in breach of contract. FEO was considering its position and what steps it could take under the Host City Agreement and applicable laws, it said, pointing out that the Hyderabad E-Prix would have been the only official FIA World Championship event in India in 2024 and was part of a multi-year

“Events like Hyd E-Prix enhance the brand image of our city and country across the world”

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS leader



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agreement between Formula E and the Government of Telangana.

Other host cities confirmed on the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship calendar for Season 10 include Tokyo, Shanghai, Berlin, Monaco and London. The season is scheduled to begin next Saturday, January 13, with the Hankook Mexico City E-Prix. (SEE PAGE 2)

CONGRESS CITES TRAFFIC ISSUES

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Congress unit on Saturday defended the cancellation of the Hyderabad E-Prix, claiming that road users had faced “a lot of traffic issues” in the past when the race was held in the city. In fact, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee senior vice president G Niranjana went to the extent of claiming that people appreciated the State government's decision not to permit the race this year. Niranjana said the past government had neglected the people's woes and conducted the Formula E race. (SEE PAGE 2)

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KCR will be back in action soon, says Harish

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao will be in the midst of people very soon, former Minister T Harish Rao said on Saturday.

Addressing the party functionaries at a preparatory meeting of the Peddapalli Lok Sabha constituency for the ensuing parliamentary polls at Telangana Bhavan, he said Chandrashekhar Rao was recuperating after his surgery and would be back in action in good health very soon.

He informed that Chandrashekhar Rao would make himself available to the people in Telangana Bhavan from February. He would be interacting with party activists and the general public on a day-to-day basis. He will tour in the districts as



T Harish Rao

well, Harish Rao said. Stating that the Congress government was out to do away with the image of K Chandrashekhar Rao on KCR Kits, Harish Rao said though the new government might be successful in removing his picture from the kits, it was beyond its scope to wipe out his impression from the hearts of the people wherein he had left an indelible imprint.

The Congress government was firm on annulling

The former Minister says the BRS chief will be available to the people in Telangana Bhavan from February

the programmes and welfare schemes introduced by the BRS chief. Cancellations and postponement of benefits due to beneficiaries of various welfare schemes were the hallmarks of the Congress government. Ever since the Congress came to power, BRS workers and leaders were being targeted at different places.

The party is gearing up to oppose and fight back the Congress on such excesses. BRS MLAs, if needed, will hire a bus and reach out to party men targeted by the Congress cadres, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Frosty Splendour



BITING COLD: Tourists click pictures at a partially frozen waterfall in Drang village, northwest of Srinagar, Kashmir is currently reeling under 'Chillai Kalan,' a phrase which defines the harshest 40 days of cold. — Photo: AP

ED lookout notice to nab TMC leader

KOLKATA

A day after a mob assaulted ED officers during a raid at the residence of TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh in West Bengal, the central agency issued a lookout notice for him, an official said.

There are apprehensions that he might flee the country following the incident in which three ED officers were injured and several vehicles damaged by a mob in North 24 Parganas district, which is close to the Bangladesh border.

“We have issued a lookout notice for the TMC leader and necessary instructions have been sent to the Airports Authority of India,” the ED officer said. Shahjahan Sheikh is considered a close aide of State Minister Jyotipriyo Mallick,

who was arrested last year in connection with the multi-crore ration distribution scam. The ED officer said that the agency has already alerted the IB and the BSF in this connection.

He claimed that the TMC leader's mobile tower location showed that he was inside his Sandeshkhali home on Friday when the agency team reached there. “Since then, his mobile phone has been switched off and he is not there in Sandeshkhali. Going by some initial probe, it seems that he may be trying to cross the border to Bangladesh,” the officer said. On Saturday, Shahjahan in a pre-recorded voice message alleged that the central probe agencies were hatching a political conspiracy and he was not linked to any criminal activities. PTI

Plane's window blows out mid-air

PORTLAND

An Alaska Airlines flight made an emergency landing in Oregon on Friday after a window and chunk of its fuselage blew out in mid-air, media reports said. A passenger sent KATU-TV a photo showing a gaping hole in the side of the airplane next to passenger seats. It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured. The airline said it was investigating what happened.

“Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 from Portland, Oregon, to Ontario, California, experienced an incident this evening soon after departure,” the company said in an emailed statement. The aircraft landed safely back at Portland International Airport. PTI

Interplanetary Research Centre at JNTU-H soon

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

Soon, Kukatapally will have another geographical significance on the country's map as it is going to be a centre for planetary research. Students, researchers and faculty of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU)-Hyderabad will shortly be engaged in unravelling mysteries of the cosmos in the proposed Interplanetary Research Centre.

The JNTU-Hyderabad and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are drawing up plans to set up a state-of-the-art Interplanetary Research

Centre on the varsity's Kukatapally campus. The multidisciplinary facility is likely to bring together experts in planetary science, astrophysics and astronomy for research on planets and stars. Preliminary rounds of talks have already been held between the ISRO and JNTU-Hyderabad officials.

As per initial discussions, according to officials, the ISRO is expected to extend its technology besides human resources for training in the technology for undertaking the research. The project is likely to come up at an estimated cost of Rs 60 crore, which the univer-

sity is planning to raise from the State government, and Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Space. According to university officials, a proposal seeking Rs 50 crore will shortly be sent to the State government and the remaining will be sought from the Departments of Space, and Science and Technology. A tripartite agreement between the university, ISRO and the State government is likely to be executed for establishing the centre.

Not just undertaking space research, the university intends to launch BTech and MTech programmes in Space Technology. (SEE PAGE 2)

PUBG addict ends life

HYDERABAD: A degree student, allegedly addicted to the PUBG game, died by suicide at his house in Yellareddyguda in Punjagutta on Wednesday. P Akhil stayed with his mother S Jaya, after his father passed away five years ago. On Wednesday, Akhil went out after informing his mother, who was out on work, that he would come back after meeting a friend. However, around 8 pm, he sent a text message to his mother that read “Bye Mummy Love You Jagaratha.” His mother rushed to the house and found the main door latched from inside. Neighbours broke open the door and found Akhil hanging from the ceiling fan. In her complaint, Jaya stated that Akhil had not attended college for the last three months and was addicted to PUBG.

Woman dies after son's death

MEDAK: In a tragic incident, a woman died of cardiac arrest barely hours after her son's death at Kuchanpally village of Havelighanpur mandal on Saturday morning. According to Havelighanpur police, Veerappagari Narsa Goud (39), who was eking out a livelihood by driving an auto-rickshaw, had complained of chest pain on Saturday morning. After a few minutes, he fell unconscious in his bed after which his family members rushed him to the Government Hospital in Medak where doctors declared him brought dead due to a cardiac arrest. His mother Lakshmi, who arrived at the hospital in another vehicle, collapsed on seeing his body. She died on the spot of cardiac arrest. Narsa Goud was looking after the family after the demise of his father.