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India created world record in Lok Sabha polls, says CEC



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South Korea suspends pact with North

Military agreement to be nullified until mutual trust is restored



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Norway Chess: Pragg, Vaishali suffer defeats in round six

In a nutshell

IAS officer couple's daughter kills self

MUMBAI: The 27-year-old daughter of IAS officer couple of Maharashtra cadre died by suicide. The woman, identified as Lipi, the daughter of Vikas Chandra Rastogi and Radhika Rastogi, allegedly jumped from the 10th floor of their government accommodation at Nariman Point, at around 4 am. Lipi was studying LLB at Sonapat Haryana and was anxious about her performance in academics. ANI

Ex-BrahMos staff gets lifer

NAGPUR: The Nagpur district court on Monday handed life imprisonment to former BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd engineer Nishant Agarwal under the Official Secrets Act for spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. Agarwal will also have to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 14 years and was also fined Rs 3,000. Agarwal was arrested in a joint operation by the military intelligence and ATS in 2018. PTI

'Plan was to use minors to kill actor'

MUMBAI: Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldie Brar gangs allegedly considered employing minors to carry out the killing of actor Salman Khan. Navi Mumbai Police uncovered a plot to kill the actor during their investigation disclosing a video call conversation between Lawrence Bishnoi gang member Ajay Kashyap and another accused. A man named John was tasked with providing the vehicle for the operation. PTI

NIA charge sheets 17 IS operatives

NEW DELHI: The NIA on Monday chargesheeted 17 hardcore agents of the proscribed global terrorist organisation ISIS for being part of a conspiracy involving radicalisation of youth and fabrication of improvised explosive devices. The NIA originally chargesheeted three persons in March 2023 and filed its supplementary chargesheet before the special court at Patiala House. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 147
Retail live.....	Rs. 169
With skin.....	Rs. 245
Skinless.....	Rs. 279
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67



Heeramandi renewed for season 2

Sanjay Leela Bhansali expresses gratitude for the show's success

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Body in drinking water tank sparks outrage

Comes 2 months after monkey carcasses found in Nalgonda tank

STATE BUREAU
NALGONDA

Discovery of a human body on Monday in a water tank that supplies drinking water to Hindupur area of Nalgonda municipality has triggered serious concerns over the safety of drinking water, particularly in the backdrop of carcasses of about 30 monkeys being found in a drinking water tank, also in Nalgonda barely two months ago.

The incident, especially after water was supplied from the tank to over 50 houses, has angered locals apart from eliciting sharp responses from various quarters over the apathy and lethargy on the part of the officials. The official machinery, however, denied that the body was in the tank when water was released on May 30 and June 1, claiming that they had cleaned the tank then.

However, according to initial investigations by the police, the body was identified as Avula Vamsikrishna,

“Congress government is putting the lives of people in danger by not maintaining drinking water tanks properly”

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president



a resident of Hanuman Nagar, who went missing on May 24. On Monday, it was during a routine check of the tank that the body was found. Even as the police registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident, locals are protesting against the negligence of officials, alleging that they were supplied water from the tank for the last 10 days.

Responding to the incident, BRS working president KT Rama Rao came down heavily on the State government for its negligence and said it was putting the lives of people in danger by not maintaining drinking water tanks properly. Reminding the Nagar-

juna Sagar incident in which carcasses of about 30 monkeys were found in a drinking water tank, he slammed the government stating that it had failed in providing safe drinking water to the people. Public health was thrown to the winds by the Congress regime, he said, adding that if the government did not mend its ways, people would throw it out of power.

“Through Mission Bhagiratha, the decades-old drinking water woes were addressed. But the current inefficient government cannot even ensure proper maintenance of drinking water tanks,” Rama Rao posted on X. Meanwhile, Nalgonda municipal author-

ities said the incident came to light after the Municipal AE and water lineman went to open the tank and check cleanliness on Monday before releasing water.

“Water was last checked and released on May 30 and June 1 and on those days no dead body was found in the water. The tank is regularly cleaned in 2-3 days and there is a regular cleaning scheduled every 3 days with scrounging,” they claimed, adding that during preliminary medical investigation, the body was found to be two to three days old.

“Detailed postmortem is ongoing. There are some injury marks on the body,” they said. Meanwhile, even after officials claimed that the contaminated water was not supplied to any houses, the District Medical and Health Officer visited 50 houses where drinking water was supplied from the particular water tank. The health officer said no health problems were noticed among the residents. (SEE PAGE 2)

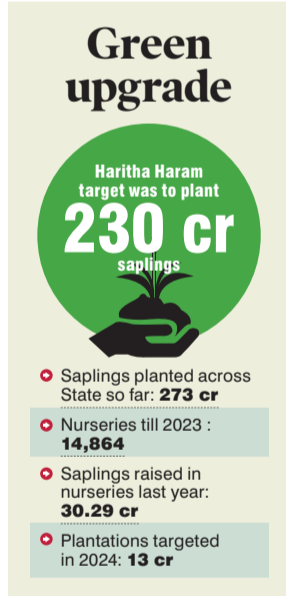
Govt to rename Haritha Haram

S SANDEEP KUMAR
Hyderabad

Telangana ku Haritha Haram, one of the flagship programmes of the previous BRS government, which won plaudits nationally and internationally, is also set to undergo changes, including a slash in the number of saplings being planted and more importantly, a name change as well.

According to official sources, the Congress government, which has been making design changes and effecting name changes apart from making cosmetic changes giving a Congress touch to multiple initiatives of the previous BRS government, is planning to change the name of the highly successful social afforestation programme.

The rechristening and formal launch of the Congress-tweaked version of Haritha Haram is likely to happen in a fortnight. Sources said the Forest Department had already suggested a few names for the new avatar of Haritha Haram after they were asked to do so, with the



State government expected to make a formal announcement shortly.

Meanwhile, deviating from the annual practice of planting 19 crore to 20 crore saplings under the programme, this year, the State government will be planting only 13 crore saplings, citing different reasons, including the availability of sites. (SEE PAGE 2)

Secretariat to undergo Vaastu changes?



The main entrance of BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat which was closed on Monday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Visitors to the BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday were in for a surprise after they found the towering main entrance gates locked.

The locks were not all. The two giant gates were closed using aluminium and copper binding wires, besides being locked with padlocks, indicating that they

were closed for good. Though officials are tight-lipped over the closure of the main entrance, speculations are rife that the gate was closed to make 'Vaastu' changes. “We have been orally instructed to close the main entrance from today,” a police constable said.

Meanwhile, the closure of the main gate a day after the Congress suffered a defeat in the Mahabubnagar Local Authorities constituency

Two children die in wall collapse

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The first significant spell of rains in Hyderabad during this year's monsoon claimed the lives of two children, who died in a wall collapse at Babul Reddy Nagar of Mailardevpally under Rajendra Nagar.

In a related development, due to the collapse of a retaining wall in the basement of an apartment complex at Quthbullapur, two construction workers were trapped under its debris, before being rescued by the relief teams.

At Mailardevpally, two children died and two others were injured when the wall in their small hutment collapsed due to heavy rain.

Seriously injured

The victims were identified as Noor Jahan Khatoun (10) and Afriya Parveen (5). Three more children, identified as Mohd Ali (9), Anbiya (4) and Afridi (3), were seriously injured and have been admitted to Osmania General Hospital for treatment. According to the police, the children belonged to migrant workers from Bihar who came to Babul Reddy Nagar to work as industrial labourers. (SEE PAGE 2)

Results today, parties keep fingers crossed

I.N.D.I.A hopes for rebound



Polling officials carry out preparations at a counting centre in Nagpur on Monday. — Photo:PTI

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi eyes a record-equalling third straight term in power amid the I.N.D.I.A bloc's hope of springing a surprise as the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha election is set for Tuesday, bringing an end to a marathon polling exercise stretching over 80 days.

While most experts have long seen the BJP-led NDA as the favourite in the polls, a lot is at stake for the ruling combine in terms of the scale of victory it can pull off and new territories it can conquer. The opposition's stakes are higher still amid its reducing national footprint.

Exit polls have been, however, unanimous in their prediction that the NDA is closer to realising Modi's ambitious target of '400 paar' for his alliance than the I.N.D.I.A bloc is to crossing even the 180 mark, one-third of the total number of seats. Though electoral verdicts have historically been accepted, even though grudgingly, by all parties, there has been a

TS SET FOR BIG DAY

HYDERABAD: As the clock ticks down to the counting of votes for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday, all three major political parties in Telangana are pinning their hopes on the voters seeking to outperform each other. With 525 candidates vying for victory from 17 parliamentary constituencies, the stakes are high and all eyes are on the voters' decision. The Secunderabad Cantonment constituency bypoll results will also be announced on Tuesday. (REPORT PAGE 5)

sharper edge to the questions being raised by opposition parties this time over the polling process, including the EC. The EC dismissed the opposition's attack, with CEC Rajiv Kumar daring it to share evidence of attempts to influence the polling process. (SEE PAGE 2)

55-year-old killed in Mulugu landmine blast

STATE BUREAU
Mulugu

A 55-year-old man was killed in a landmine explosion, suspected to have been planted by Maoists, in the Kongala hills forest under Wajedu mandal of Mulugu on Monday. The deceased was identified as Yellandula Yesu.

According to reports, Yesu, along with three other from Jagannadhapuram village, ventured into the forest to collect firewood. As they were busy collecting

firewood, Yesu stepped on a landmine, resulting in an explosion. He died on the spot. However, the other three persons escaped unhurt. The police reached the spot and shifted the body to the government hospital for postmortem.

The police suspect that landmines might have been planted by Maoists in the forest area to target police personnel conducting combing operations. They have warned villagers to avoid entering the forest for their safety. A case was registered.

Monsoon makes early entry into State

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a clear case of the rainy season advancing into Telangana sooner than expected, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, on Monday acknowledged that the southwest monsoon entered several regions of Telangana State.

While the advent of southwest monsoon in Telangana is usually associated with second-half of June, the Indian Meteorological Department said: “Southwest Monsoon advanced into some parts of Central Arabian sea, some parts of Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Coastal AP, some parts of Telangana and



People take a boat ride at Durgam Cheruvu on a cloudy afternoon in Hyderabad on Monday. — Photo: Anand Dharamna

some parts of West-central and Northwest Bay of Bengal today, the 3rd of June.” Thanks to the swift change in weather patterns, under its influence, the max-

imum daytime temperatures changed drastically in Hyderabad and districts in Telangana. Till Sunday, the maximum temperature in Hyderabad hovered close to

41 degrees Celsius and by Monday, the maximum daytime temperatures plummeted to 32 degrees Celsius, a 9 degrees Celsius drop in just a day.

The IMD-Hyderabad, in its 5-day forecast on Monday, said that a majority of districts in Telangana will receive a significant amount of rain in the coming days. It issued a yellow alert, which means widespread thunder-showers accompanied by rain, lightning and gusty winds in almost all the districts of Telangana.

Experts in Hyderabad involved in tracking the movement of rain-bearing clouds said that they were expecting southwest monsoon to hit Telangana between June 8 and June 10. (SEE PAGE 2)

La Nina likely to set in by year-end

NEW DELHI

The 2023-24 El-Nino event, which drove record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather around the world, is predicted to transition to La-Nina conditions later this year, according to a new update from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The world experienced the warmest April ever and the 11th consecutive month of record-high temperatures this year. Sea-surface temperatures have been record-high for the last 13 months, according to WMO.

The WMO said this is happening due to the naturally-occurring El Nino —

Actor arrested in rave party case

BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch probing the Bengaluru rave party case arrested actress Hema following interrogation on Monday. The rave party was organised on May 19 at a farmhouse near Electronic City. The Central Crime Branch had summoned Hema to its office on Monday.

Sources said she deposed before her interrogators wearing a burqa to hide her identity. As her replies were not satisfactory, she was arrested. According to sources, a total of 103 people participated in the rave party. PTI



Hema