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Rahul Gandhi to be Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha



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WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange freed from prison
 WikiLeaks founder to plead guilty to violating Espionage Act



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Afghanistan knock Australia out of T20 WC, enter semis

In a nutshell

Toddler falls into sump, dies
HYDERABAD: In a tragic incident, a two-year-old boy died after falling into a sump at Bandlaguda on Tuesday. According to the police, the incident occurred when the boy, Abdul Rahman, went near the sump and slipped into it, which was not covered. The family members, who noticed Rahman missing, searched for him and later found his slippers in the sump. They checked the sump and found the body. The body was retrieved and sent to the OGH mortuary for post-mortem. A case was registered.

AP native wins Rs 2.25 cr jackpot
DUBAI: A 46-year-old electrician from India has bagged an AED 1 million (approx Rs 2.25 cr) cash prize in Dubai, after years of saving and investing wisely, a local news report said on Tuesday. Nagendrum Borugadda, from Andhra Pradesh, has been saving AED 100 with National Bonds through direct debit since 2019. Borugadda, who has been living in the UAE since 2017 said: "I came to the UAE to build a better life for my family and provide good education to my children. This win feels surreal." PTI

Jeevan Reddy firm on quitting as MLC
HYDERABAD: Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy stuck to his decision to quit as MLC in protest against the party's move to induct Jagtial MLA Dr Sanjay Kumar from the BRS into the Congress. Jeevan Reddy said he would disclose his future plans after meeting Legislative Council chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy. This was even after the Congress attempted damage control by deputing Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu to dissuade from 'hasty decisions'. STATE PAGE 5

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 119
Retail live.....	Rs. 141
With skin.....	Rs. 204
Skinless.....	Rs. 233
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 69

Confusion prevails over 10.30 pm order

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Although the police 'backed off' from their plans to close commercial establishments by 10.30 pm in the city, confusion prevails among the traders' community over the deadline for closing their business establishments. On social media, videos of cops on a patrol vehicle ordering everyone not to come onto the roads late in the night and that they would be thrashed if they did so, created a scare among people. The police announcement also mentioned that there would be no more friendly policing. On Monday, all the shops were shut down by 10.30 pm, following a sense of fear among the citizens. A few shopkeepers had downed the shutters on the

Scrap commission on power deals, HC urged

KCR says its formation violates principles of natural justice

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao approached the High Court on Tuesday to annul the Justice L Narasimha Reddy Commission constituted by the State government to investigate power purchase agreements (PPAs) and the construction of new thermal power plants in Telangana during the BRS regime. He filed a writ petition, arguing that the Commission's formation violated principles of natural justice. In his petition, Chandrashekar Rao asserted that the power purchases were carried out as per the rules. He objected to Justice Narasimha Reddy's biased remarks by holding press conferences, all without conducting an in-depth probe into the allegations. The Commission, Justice Narasimha Reddy, and the Energy Department of Telangana have been named as respondents in the petition. The State government formed the single-member inquiry commission under

Rail roko case: Legal proceedings stayed

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court on Tuesday stayed all criminal proceedings against BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the case pertaining to the 'Rail Roko' call given during the Telangana Statehood movement in 2011. Justice Bollaram Vijaysen Reddy observed that prima facie, no case was made against Chandrashekar Rao. The judge also quizzed the public prosecutor, asking if a person was not present physically, how could he obstruct public authorities from performing their duties or be part of an unlawful assembly. (SEE PAGE 2)

Commission serves second notice to KCR

HYDERABAD: The Justice L Narasimha Reddy Commission, investigating the alleged irregularities in the power sector during the previous BRS regime, has reportedly issued a second notice to BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao seeking more details about power purchases and power plants. According to sources, the Commission issued a notice on June 19 asking Chandrashekar Rao to give more details about the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) made with Chhattisgarh and details of the Bhadradi and Yadadri power plants. (SEE PAGE 2)

the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952, on March 14 to scrutinise power purchase agreements and thermal power plant construction over the past decade during the BRS rule.

25 officials grilled
 The Commission has already questioned around 25 current and former officials from Telangana's electricity companies. In response to a notice issued to him, the

former Chief Minister earlier wrote a 12-page detailed letter to the Commission, questioning its validity. He also raised strong objections to Justice Narasimha Reddy's biased remarks before the media, without a comprehensive examination of the issues raised and urged him to recuse himself from the commission. He responded point-by-point to the government's mission terms and the comments

made by Justice Narasimha Reddy in a press conference. Chandrashekar Rao argued that it was illegal to establish an inquiry commission on decisions taken by the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), which is a judicial body. He expressed disappointment that Justice Narasimha Reddy accepted the commission's responsibilities without advising the government of its illegality.

Another weaver ends life in Sircilla

12 died by suicide in State since January

RAGHU PAITHARI
 Rajanna-Sircilla

The spree of weavers dying by suicide in the State is continuing, with one more weaver found hanging in Thangallapalli of Sircilla on Tuesday. This was the third such death this month, with the total number of weavers taking the extreme step since January reaching at least 12.

Mudigonda Naresh, 53, was found hanging early on Tuesday in his residence at Indiramma Colony, not far from the Sircilla Textile Park at Thangallapalli. Naresh is said to have resorted to the extreme step due to financial distress since he was out of work for the last six months. He is survived by his wife and ageing parents, with his mother suffering from serious health issues.

It is not just lack of work that is causing despair among Sircilla weavers. Apart from the State government discontinuing several of the previous BRS government's initiatives that had propped up the weaving sector, another fatal blow to the sector was the current Congress gov-

Will probe suicides: Minister

HYDERABAD: Handlooms and Textiles Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday said an inquiry would be conducted into the suicides of six handloom weavers in Rajanna-Sircilla since January this year and said measures would be taken to pay ex gratia to eligible weavers. Steps were being taken to design schemes for long-term benefit of weavers and powerloom workers and ensure their self-sufficiency. (REPORT PAGE 4)

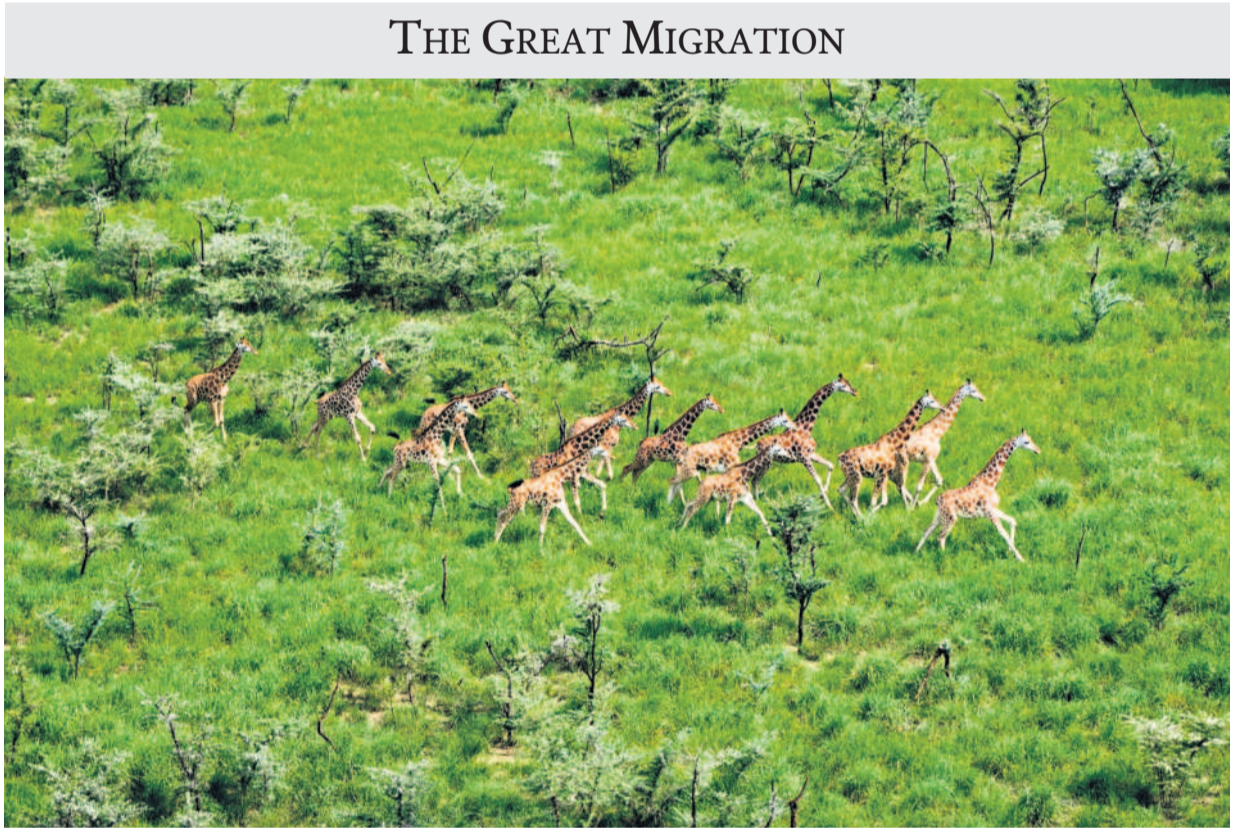
unit has 60-70 looms) (up to 10 HP). However, this restriction of 10 power looms was not implemented by the previous government in the wake of suicides among the weaving community in Sircilla.

The Congress government, however, in its May 20 order, asked officials to implement the 10 HP limit rule without fail, after which Cooperative Electric Supply Society (CESS) officials are now collecting full power bills of Rs 7.80 per unit from weaving units that have more than 10 power looms. Owner of a weaving unit, Nalla Pradeep, said the survival of the Sircilla textile industry was possible only with the power subsidy. It was not feasible to weave cloth on looms by paying 100 per cent power bills.

The charges of all workers depending on the weaving industry were hiked after the sector began getting the Bathukamma saree orders from the previous government. With the order being stopped by Congress and the strict implementation of the power subsidy restrictions, the sector was pushed into further despair, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

ernment's decision on May 20 to impose restrictions on the 50 per cent subsidy to power looms, which was in place for over a decade.

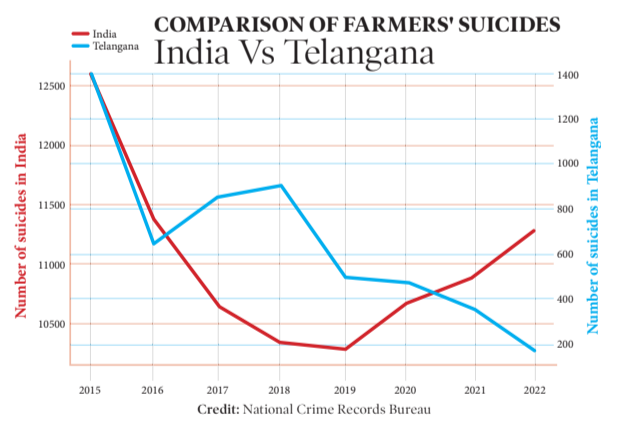
Under Category IV, each unit of power was charged Rs 4. Of this, the weaver had to pay only Rs 2, and the remaining amount was paid by the government. According to the government order issued in 2001, the subsidy was applicable only for 10 power looms per unit (each



THE GREAT MIGRATION

Giraffes migrate in national parks and the surrounding areas, in South Sudan, home to the largest known migration of land mammals on Earth. — Photo: AP

Farmer suicides in State drop 686.5% from 2015 to 2022



PS DILEEP
 Hyderabad

The number of farmer suicides in Telangana has seen a dramatic decline of nearly 686.5 per cent between 2015 and 2022. This significant drop is coupled with a reduction in Telangana's share of farmer suicides in India, from 11.1 per cent in 2015 to just 1.57 per cent in 2022.

A study of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data from 2015 to 2022 reveals that suicides among those in the farming sector, including farmers and tenant farmers, were alarmingly high in 2015. Nationwide, farmer suicides surged by 42 per cent be-

tween 2014 and 2015, largely due to severe drought conditions. In Telangana, the number of farming-related suicides increased from around 990 in 2014 to 1,400 in 2015.

According to the 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' reports by the NCRB, 12,602 individuals in the farming sector, including 8,007 farmers and tenant farmers, died by suicide in India in 2015. Telangana accounted for approximately 1,400 of these deaths, with 1,358 being farmers and tenant farmers. By 2022, the number of farming-related suicides in India decreased to 11,290, with 5,207 being farmers and tenant farmers. (SEE PAGE 2)

Girl drugged, gang raped in Neredmet

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A group of persons allegedly raped a girl at Neredmet after kidnapping her from Kachiguda. The victim, a resident of Kachiguda, met one of her friends, who along with four others, took her to a place at Neredmet. The gang offered some ganja-laced drink to the girl and sexually assaulted her.

Zero FIR
 The victim returned to her house and informed her mother about the incident, following which she approached the Kachiguda police station. Based on a complaint, the police registered a zero FIR and transferred the case to Neredmet police station. The police are investigating.

Lok Sabha Speaker election today

NEW DELHI

The ruling BJP-led NDA on Tuesday maintained its streak of continuity in its third term by fielding previous Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for the crucial parliamentary position again, but its bid for a consensus was thwarted by the opposition

which forced an election by nominating Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate.

The opposition's last-minute decision to go for a rare election, to be held on Wednesday, came after senior BJP leaders did not agree to its precondition that the I.N.D.I.A bloc must be offered Deputy Speaker post in lieu

of supporting Birla. A brief interaction involving Congress leader KC Venugopal and DMK's T R Baalu from the opposition side and Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and JP Nadda at Singh's office in Parliament to evolve a consensus ended in acrimony as both sides stuck to their position. PTI

Visually impaired TS girl makes it to IIM-Indore

T KARNAKAR REDDY
 Sangareddy

Overcoming all the obstacles that come with being visually challenged, Kothakapu Shivani Reddy of Zaheerabad cracked the Common Admission Test (CAT) and got the cut-off marks to secure admission offers from 16 Indian Institutes of Management of the 21 IIMs in the country. She has decided to join IIM-Indore, which is among the top management colleges in the country. Shivani



Reddy, a resident of Zaheerabad town, has a brilliant academic record since childhood. Though she was completely blind by birth, her parents — Kothakapu Venugopal Reddy and Vijayalakshmi — farmers by profession, supported Shivani in pursuing her studies. Reddy got Shivani admitted to the Devnar Schol for the Blind in Begumpet. Shivani was very active in her studies and also ex-

tracurricular activities during her childhood. After getting an 8.3 GPA in her Class 10 board examinations, she rose in confidence that she could study with regular students and compete with them. She joined Master Minds Junior College in Zaheerabad and secured 921 marks for 1000, and stood as the topper in the batch. Speaking to 'Telangana Today' over the phone from Indore, Shivani

said she always wanted to work in an environment where she could meet different sections of people when she decided to join BBA at Satyabhama University in Chennai. Shivani passed the graduation course with flying colours by scoring 90 per cent in graduation. However, she started dreaming of pursuing her Master's while doing graduation. (SEE PAGE 2)