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NASA says it's too risky to bring them back in Boeing's troubled new capsule



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In a nutshell

'Time for final assault on naxals'
RAIPUR: India will be free from Left Wing Extremism by March 2026 and a strong and ruthless strategy is required for the final assault against the menace, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted. He stated this during a press meet here after he along with Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai and senior Central and police officers reviewed the Maoist issue in the State and adjoining areas.

Madrasa inmate beaten to death
NEW DELHI: Three students, aged between 9 and 11, were apprehended for allegedly beating a five-year-old inmate to death in north-east Delhi's Dayalpur. Earlier in the day, police had said that the boy died under mysterious circumstances as there were blisters on the his neck, abdomen, and groin area. According to a police officer, after autopsy it was found that the boy had multiple internal injuries as well.

IAF brings back bodies of pilgrims
KATHMANDU: A military transport aircraft of the IAF brought to Maharashtra's Jalgaon the bodies of 25 Indian pilgrims who died in a bus accident in Nepal. The accident occurred in Nepal's Tanahun district, around 115 km from Kathmandu. The pilgrims were among a group of 110 people from several parts of Maharashtra who had gone to Nepal in two buses and one traveller van.

One terrorist killed in J&K encounter
SRINAGAR: One terrorist was killed on Saturday in an encounter with the security forces in J&K's Baramulla. Earlier, an exchange of firing took place between the security forces and the terrorists in the Watergam area of Baramulla district. "One terrorist was killed and his weapon was recovered from the encounter site. The identity of the slain terrorist is being ascertained," officials said.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 109
Retail live.....	Rs. 131
With skin.....	Rs. 190
Skinless.....	Rs. 216
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 64



Let's not go backwards: Nag Ashwin

Says Arshad Warsi should have 'chosen his words better'

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HYDRA puts Ministers in a spot

Sources say Congress leaders also spending uneasy nights with agency continuing demolition drive

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) agency, constituted by the Congress government with multiple objectives, including the demolition of illegal structures, has started giving the party's own Ministers and leaders the jitters.

Despite widespread criticism that the agency is being used to target political rivals of the Congress, party sources say a few Ministers and leaders, who own palatial buildings in the limits of the twin reservoirs of Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, are spending uneasy nights with HYDRA continuing its demolition drive.

In fact, they are said to have summoned HYDRA commissioner AV Ranganath and asked him to desist from taking up any further demolitions in the buffer zone of the twin reservoirs. However, with Ranganath reporting directly to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on any action to be taken up, the Congress Ministers and leaders are apprehensive whether Ranganath will listen to them. For them, and others who own buildings in the FTL or buffer zone, the most worrying factor is a memo issued in 2007, incidentally by the Congress govern-



HYDRA authorities demolishing Tollywood actor Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention Centre near Tammidikunta Cheruvu at Madhapur on Friday.

ment led by the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy. The memo clearly lists out regulatory measures and demarcations applicable for both Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar and says no development will be allowed up to 500 metres from the bund or FTL downstream and the same should be declared as a prohibited zone. This apart, beyond 500 m and up to 1,000 m downstream, only low-rise residential development (ground plus

two floors) was to be permitted. Beyond 1,000 m downstream, all developments such as residential, commercial, IT units, hotels, public and semi-public developments could be allowed except for 68 specific industries. Meanwhile, the nightmares for the Congress leaders got worse on Saturday when HYDRA demolished film actor Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention Centre in Madhapur.

(SEE PAGES 2, 5)

ORDINANCE SOON TO EXPAND HYDRA LIMITS?

HYDERABAD: With multiple quarters, including from within the Congress, questioning the jurisdictional powers of the HYDRA after its demolitions started to give nightmares to even Ministers, the State government is likely to soon issue an ordinance expanding jurisdictional limits of HYDRA.

Though Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy attempted to expand the jurisdiction of the GHMC beyond the Outer Ring Road, and thereby enable the HYDRA to stretch its arms beyond the ORR, the move was met with dissent, including from within the Congress. According to highly placed sources, Revanth Reddy is now opting for the ordinance route to expand HYDRA's limits not just be-

yond the ORR, but into GO 111 areas, apparently with specific targets. There are 84 villages in the GO 111 areas, where there were restrictions on the constructions. The earlier government decided to scrap the GO, but its repeal was put on hold.

Incidentally, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma prorogued the State Assembly on Friday. GO MS No 43, published in an extraordinary issue of the Telangana Gazette on August 23, has the Governor stating that he prorogued the third session of the Legislative Assembly. It is only after the Assembly is prorogued the government can bring in an ordinance, in this case, the one to allow HYDRA to operate beyond ORR and into GO 111 areas.

4 injured as Hyd-bound copter crashes near Pune



Wreckage of the helicopter that crashed at Mulshi tehsil, in Pune on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

PUNE

A private helicopter flying from Mumbai to Hyderabad crashed in Mulshi tehsil of Pune district on Saturday afternoon but all four persons on board survived, police said. While the pilot was hospitalised at Paud, about 30 to 35 km from Pune city, the three passengers suffered minor injuries, an official said.

A team of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

reached the site for conducting an initial inquiry. Bad weather was suspected to have caused the crash as the area is receiving heavy rains, said inspector Manoj Yadav of Paud police station. The chopper, belonging to Global Vectra aviation company, crashed at Kondhale village past 2 pm, he said. Locals rushed to the rescue of the occupants as it came down. "When they took off from Mumbai, the weather was fine, but

when the chopper reached Paud area, which has been receiving rains since last night, it encountered difficulties. The pilot tried to land but it hit a babul tree and then crashed to the ground," said inspector Yadav. As the fall was broken by the tree, the impact of the final crash appeared to have been mitigated, he said. There were no reports of the chopper experiencing any technical problems, the official said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Seasonal ailments rise

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana State is witnessing a significant surge in seasonal ailments, including dengue, viral fevers, chikungunya and malaria, said Director of Public Health (DPH) Dr B Ravinder Naik.

While there are no deaths related to dengue, the senior official on Saturday said that positive cases have surged compared to last year. Be-

tween January and August, 4,648 positive dengue cases have been reported across Telangana.

Almost all the major urban centres in Telangana are witnessing a rise in dengue infections. Hyderabad and its surrounding districts, including Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri lead the way in reporting the maximum number of dengue-positive cases followed by Suryapet,

Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Warangal. While maintaining that so far no dengue-related deaths have been reported, the DPH said that the ideal response aimed at limiting the spread of fresh infections should be a combination of public participation and the precautionary measures taken by various departments, including Municipal Administration and Health Department.

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Assam rape accused drowns in pond

GUWAHATI

The prime accused in the rape of a minor girl allegedly escaped from police custody, jumped into a pond and died on Saturday morning at Dhing in Assam's Nagaon district, police said. The villagers of Borbheti, the family home of the accused, have taken a decision not to participate in his funeral prayers and not allow his burial in the village graveyard.

Nagaon Superintendent of Police Swapneel Deka said that the accused, who was arrested on Friday, was taken handcuffed to the location where the crime was allegedly committed for a re-creation of the crime scene around 3.30 am. "The accused hit out at a policeman, escaped from police custody and jumped into the

ZERO-TOLERANCE IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN: HIMANTA

SILCHAR: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday asserted that his government has a policy of zero-tolerance in dealing with crimes against women and "drastic action" is taken against the culprits in such cases. He also said the state's police force is "setting an example" with its prompt action in cases of crimes against women. "When an incident (like rape) happens in Assam, police take quick action. No compromise is made. When it comes to matters of crimes against women, we have a zero-tolerance policy," Sarma told reporters.

pond," Deka said. The SDRF was immediately informed, a search operation was launched and his body was recovered after nearly two hours, he added. The policeman was also injured and admitted to a hospital, the SP said. The other two accused are still absconding and search was continuing with raids conducted at several places on Friday night. The 14-year-old girl was al-

legedly raped by three persons who came on a motorcycle and surrounded her while she was returning home from tuition on her bicycle at Dhing on Thursday evening. She was left injured and unconscious on the roadside near a pond, before being rescued by locals who informed police.

Meanwhile, the villagers of Borbheti held a meeting on Saturday morning and

took three decisions regarding the crime committed by the youth. "We have decided not to allow his burial in the village graveyard, not participate in his 'janaza' (burial prayers) and social boycott of his family," a village elder Md Shahjahan Ali Choudhury said.

No burial in village

"The village youth's crime has shamed us and we cannot allow his burial in the community graveyard," he added. Meanwhile, a march was also taken out from the village mosque to protest against the incident. Meanwhile, a Minister was also sent who enquired about the health condition of the victim who is currently recovering in a hospital. Police had arrested one and detained another while search was on to nab the third.

Centre approves assured pension for govt employees

NEW DELHI

In a bonanza to 23 lakh Central government employees, the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved an assured pension of 50 per cent of salary for those who joined the service after January 1, 2004, under the National Pension System (NPS).

Fulfilling long pending demands of government employees ahead of Assembly elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, the Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which assures guaranteed pension. Employees opting for UPS would be eligible for an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before the superan-

They will now be eligible to get 50% of average basic pay drawn over last 12 months before retirement as pension

adding that the number would rise to 90 lakh if State governments want to join the scheme. Announcing other features of UPS, Vaishnav said an assured family pension will be provided to the spouse of a deceased employee.

The announcement came against the backdrop of several non-BJP States deciding to revert to the DA-linked Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and employee organisations in some other States raising demand for the same. NPS has been implemented for all government employees except those in the armed forces joining the Central government on or after January 1, 2004. Most State/Union Territory governments have also notified NPS of their new employees.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Ryot dies while standing in queue for bank loan

STATE BUREAU
Narayanapet

A farmer from Bommanpad village died, reportedly due to a cardiac arrest while standing in the queue for a loan at the SBI branch in Maddur mandal centre on Saturday.

This is the second incident of a farmer suffering a cardiac arrest in a bank and dying in the last 24 hours.

On Friday, a farmer from Iskilla village suffered a cardiac arrest as the bank authorities allegedly refused to sanction a fresh loan to him. According to reports, Nolla Katalappa, who was standing in queue to seek a loan from the bank, suddenly collapsed. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead.