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Need to uproot drug trade menace, says Amit Shah



WORLD | PAGE 09
40 killed in two bus accidents in Pakistan
 29 killed and three others injured when a coaster bus carrying 30 people fell into a ditch



SPORT | PAGE 10
Indian contingent ready for Paralympics

In a nutshell

Another weaver dies by suicide

SIRCILLA: Unable to overcome financial problems, a weaver, Govind Sadanandam (38), died by suicide by consuming pesticide in Sircilla. According to the police, Sadanandam, breathed his last while undergoing treatment on Sunday. He is survived by his wife Bhagya and two children. Bhagya, in her complaint, said that her husband died due to financial problems. Based on her complaint, police registered a case.

2 killed in explosion at fireworks unit

CHENNAI: Two people were killed in an explosion at a firecracker unit in Avichipatti in Natham Taluk of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu. According to local residents, they heard a deafening sound from the cracker unit in the early morning. Locals informed the police and a team of police personnel arrived to find that two persons were found dead inside the factory. The bodies had borne severe injuries on the head, neck and arm. **IANIS**

Bihar: Jan Suraj to contest all seats

NEW DELHI: Political strategist Prashant Kishor made a significant announcement regarding his political campaign, Jan Suraj, revealing that the party will contest all 243 seats in 2025 Bihar Assembly elections. In 2025, Jan Suraj will contest on 243 seats, and at least 40 women candidates will be nominated. We have also pledged that by 2030, 70-80 women leaders will emerge from our party. **IANIS**

Woman tonsured, ostracised

BHUBANESWAR: A woman was allegedly ostracised and tonsured following the order of a kangaroo court for hitting her husband during a quarrel in Odisha's Jharsuguda. The incident took place at Routbahal and four people including the husband of the woman were arrested. According to police, the woman had a quarrel with her husband over some issue, during which she hit him. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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



Kalki makes waves in Moscow

Telugu film producers also grace International Film Week

Is HYDRAA even legal?

Provisions of GHMC Act being made applicable to areas beyond corporation limits

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

As the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) continues to crack the whip on structures allegedly constructed in the full tank level areas or buffer zones of lakes and on government lands, questions are being raised over the very legal sanctity of the agency.

To begin with, the Telangana Core Urban Region (TCUR) has to be notified for entrusting the task of disaster management in TCUR limits to a single agency like HYDRAA.

As per GO 99, the State government has referred to the area comprising the entire GHMC and those of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajigiri and Sangareddy districts up to the Outer Ring Road.

The legal hurdle in this context, according to legal experts, is that, without notifying the TCUR jurisdiction through proper legislation, the State government's reference and declaring the entire GHMC area and those within the ORR as TCUR is indefensible.

More so, with just the one reason that a disaster management mechanism was



As per GO 99, the State government declared HYDRAA as a single and unified agency for disaster management in TCUR.

Revanth says demolition drive inspired by Bhagavad Gita

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday claimed that the demolitions by HYDRAA were inspired by the Bhagavad Gita, and that none would be spared, even if they were part of his government. Speaking at the Anantha Shesha Sthapana of Hare Krishna Heritage Tower at Kokapet here on Sunday, Revanth Reddy donned a slightly philosophical garb, extensively quoting from the Bhagavad Gita to justify his actions using HYDRAA. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

lacking within the ORR region, the government's efforts to implement provisions of GHMC to areas beyond the municipal corporation through HYDRAA is unjustified.

Another striking aspect here is that provisions of the

GHMC Act are being made applicable to areas beyond the corporation limits. This violates the provisions listed in the Gram Panchayat Act and Municipal Act, they point out.

There is another conflict as well. As per GO 99, the

'Agency lacks statutory backing'

HYDERABAD: Coming down heavily on the Congress government over constituting HYDRAA and conferring powers to demolish structures, Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said the agency lacked any statutory backing. AIMIM corporators approached Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi and explained to her that HYDRAA lacked any legislative or legal backing. It was under the public domain. This apart, AIMIM MLA Kousar Mohiuddin also met Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari and raised the same issue, the AIMIM chief said at a press conference here on Sunday. Recalling his childhood days, he said there used to be a waterfall at current GHMC office location. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

State government declared HYDRAA as a single and unified agency for disaster management in TCUR. However, HYDRAA has taken over the powers of different authorities under various legislations, including the Telangana Municipali-

ties Act, 2019, The Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2008, and The Telangana Urban Areas (Development) Act, 1975.

In this case, HYDRAA's Asset Protection Wing mandate is contradictory to the agency's objectives. Also, the order does not specify and does not source any promulgated legislation or the Acts mentioned above. Generally, any agency or organisation is entrusted with powers through legislation. In HYDRAA's case, there is no such statutory or legislative backing, making things evident about 'use', or 'abuse', of power.

Interestingly, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955, has its own provisions. With regard to the Enforcement Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVDM), functions were listed out by providing powers to act according to its mandate. Renaming or replacing EVDM with HYDRAA without providing any source to the legislation, notifying the same through a Government Order is null and void, legal experts say. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

PM calls crimes against women 'unpardonable'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with 'Lakshpati Didi's', in Jalgaon, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

JALGAON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed crimes against women an unpardonable sin, adding the guilty should not be spared. Modi's strong remarks follow protests against the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital and the sexual abuse of two four-year-old school girls in Badlapur near Mumbai.

Speaking at the 'Lakshpati Didi Sammelan' in north Maharashtra's Jalgaon, Modi said the safety of women should be a priority. "The safety of mothers, sisters, and daughters is the

country's priority. I have repeatedly raised this issue from the Red Fort. Be it any State of the country, I understand the pain and anger of my sisters and daughters," he said. Modi said that he would tell every political party and State government that crime against women is an unpardonable sin.

Whoever is guilty should not be spared, he added. "Those behind the perpetrators of crimes against women should not be spared. Be it a hospital, school, government or police station, at whatever level negligence occurs, everyone should be held accountable," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

BRS had limited control to act on illegal structures

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The launch of a demolition drive by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has sparked questions on why the previous BRS government did not launch a similar drive to remove illegal constructions and encroachments on water bodies.

What most of those who pose these questions do not know are the limitations that the Telangana government had faced during the past decade, when Hyderabad served as the common capital for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

From 2014 to 2024, Hyderabad was governed under a unique administrative arrangement established under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014. This arrangement, particularly under Sections 5 and 8, severely restricted the Telangana government's authority over the city. According to Section 5 of the Act, Hyderabad was designated as the common

Ripples in Tollywood

HYDERABAD: Is there a much bigger plot behind Saturday's demolition of Tollywood star Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention Centre by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency? The move, apart from rattling Tollywood, has made bigwigs from the industry go into huddle and also rally behind the actor. Post the demolition of N Convention, it is learnt that discussions have taken place among a few bigwigs in Tollywood. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

capital for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a period of 10 years, ending on June 2, 2024. During this time, Chandrashekar Rao did not have unilateral control over the city, as it remained under the jurisdiction of both States. According to officials, this

unique arrangement complicated governance, especially when it came to enforcing decisions that involved private properties.

Section 8 further complicated these challenges by granting the Governor of the common capital area — an appointee of the Central government, with exclusive responsibilities for law and order, citizen security, and protection of property.

The Governor's decisions in these matters were final and did not require the approval of the Telangana government, including its Chief Minister and the Cabinet. The Act also mandated that the Governor be assisted by two advisors, both of whom were retired IAS and IPS officers, effectively sidelining CM from making unilateral decisions on critical urban issues, senior officials in the know of things told 'Telangana Today'. This arrangement made it nearly impossible for the BRS government to initiate measures that could have affected private properties in Hyderabad without Governor's consent. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

2 held in Rs 175 cr cyber fraud

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Cyber fraudsters are now luring the hapless poor of Old City to open bank accounts and using them to commit cyber frauds by taking up high-value transactions and hawala operations. In the process, the fraudsters are collecting commissions for illegal transactions done through the bank accounts of the poor.

The operation came to light when two people — Mohammed Shoeb Tauqeer of Masab Tank and Mahmood Bin Ahmed Bawazir of Moghalpura — were arrested for their alleged involvement in Rs 175 crore

The main fraudster and his associates were involved in luring poor people into opening bank accounts

— SHIKHA GOEL
 DIRECTOR, TGCSB

cyber fraud by the TGCSB on Sunday. The data analysis of team TGCSB spotted numerous complaints that were reported on the National Cyber Reporting Portal against six specific bank accounts in SBI, Shamsheer-

gunj. Thorough verification revealed that many transactions of high amounts were done through these accounts within a short period in March and April 2024, Director, TGCSB, Shikha Goel said. Sensing that the account holders were involved in large-scale cyber fraud, the TGCSB decided to launch an investigation. "Approximately 600 complaints were linked to these accounts. The main fraudster, operating from Dubai, and his five associates were actively involved in luring poor people into opening bank accounts and utilising them in cyber crimes and hawala operations," said Shikha Goel. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH EXCHANGE FIRE



A Hezbollah UAV intercepted by Israeli jets goes up in flames over north Israel on Sunday. Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across southern Lebanon in what it said was a preemptive strike on Hezbollah. The militant group responded that it had launched hundreds of rockets and drones to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders last month. — Photo: AFP **(REPORT PAGE 9)**

Telegram CEO Durov held at Paris airport

PARIS

The founder and CEO of popular encrypted messaging service Telegram was detained at a Paris airport, French media reported.

Pavel Durov was detained at the Paris Le Bourget airport on Saturday evening after landing in France from Azerbaijan, according to broadcasters LCI and TFL. French media reported that Durov, 39, was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by France based on allegations that his encrypted platform has been used for money laundering, drug trafficking and allowing the sharing of content linked to sexual exploitation of minors. **(REPORT PAGE 9)**

Mpox impacting broader demographic, says report

NEW DELHI

Monkeypox (Mpox) has once again surged to global attention and unlike the 2022 outbreak, the 2024 outbreak is impacting a broader demographic globally, a latest Lancet report has warned.

The report mentioned that with the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the epicentre of this outbreak, the virus' spread beyond Africa has raised international alarm, particularly with the "emergence of a new clade, 1b". "Health authorities are scrambling to contain the virus amid limited vaccine supplies, inadequate testing, and the need to balance responses to mul-

The virus, primarily spreading through direct contact, has been reported among men, women, and children

multiple public health threats," it noted. The WHO on August 14 declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya also declared it a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS). "Clade 1b of Mpox is of particular concern due to its higher transmissibility and

potential for more severe clinical outcomes," according to the report.

According to an epidemic intelligence report issued by the Africa CDC, there have been 18,737 Mpox cases (3,101 confirmed and 15,636 suspected) across 12 African countries since the beginning of the year, resulting in 541 deaths. In contrast, Africa recorded 14,838 Mpox cases (1,665 confirmed and 13,173 suspected) across seven countries, with 738 confirmed deaths, throughout 2023. Unlike the 2022 Mpox outbreak, which predominantly affected men who have sex with men, the 2024 outbreak is impacting a broader demographic. **(SEE PAGE 2)**