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In a nutshell

25 naxals surrender

BIJAPUR: Twenty-five naxals, five of them carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 28 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh on Monday. The 25 ultras, who were active in Ganguor and Bhairamgarh area committees of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), include two women, an official said. The two women were active in company no. 2 of the Maoists. **PTI**

Toll in AP blast rises to three

VISAKHAPATNAM: The toll in last week's industrial accident at a pharmaceutical unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parwada rose to three with another injured succumbing on Monday. Four workers of Synergene Active Ingredients Private Limited were injured in the flash fire when they were mixing chemicals on August 23. K Suryanarayana, a chemist from Vizianagaram, succumbed to his injuries. **IANIS**

Truck runs over 3 homeless people

NEW DELHI: Three homeless people sleeping on a road divider were killed and two others severely injured after a speeding truck hit them in Shastris Park of Delhi on Monday. The incident occurred around 5.30 am when the truck coming from Seelampur and going towards Iron Bridge ran over five people who were sleeping on the divider. They were taken to hospital, where they were declared dead. **IANIS**

CRPF trooper kills self in C'garh

DANTEWADA: A Central Reserve Police Force head constable allegedly committed suicide on Monday in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, an official said. Around 10.30 am, head constable Vipin Chandra of the CRPF's 195th battalion shot himself in the barracks with his AK-47 rifle, the official said. The incident took place in the 195th battalion's headquarters under Barsoor police limits, some 400 km from here. **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

6k cops deployed for Kolkata protest

KOLKATA
A total of 4,000 police personnel will be stationed in different pockets of Kolkata, especially the connecting points with the adjacent Howrah district, given Tuesday's 'Nabanna Abhijan' (March to Secretariat) call given by students to protest against the R G Kar Medical College & Hospital rape-murder case. This will be in addition to the 2,000 police personnel, under the supervision of 97 senior officers, who will be deployed to ensure security in and around Nabanna,

which is located at Mandirtala in Howrah. The Nabanna Abhijan call was given on social media by the students who invited everyone to join the protest march without carrying the banner of any political party. It was similar to the call given by women for a midnight march on the eve of Independence Day seeking justice for the rape and murder victim. Those willing to join the rally will assemble at the College Square in central Kolkata and from there the protesters will march to Secretariat. **PTI (REPORT PAGE 7)**

Rythu Bharosa delay adds to ryots' misery

Situation worsens as banks also refuse to extend new loans

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Even as the Vanakalam (Kharif) crop season is drawing to an end, uncertainty looms large over farmers in Telangana as the much-anticipated financial assistance under the Rythu Bharosa scheme remains elusive.

Despite the Congress government's promises, farmers are yet to receive any support, leaving them to struggle for investment. The situation is worsened by the banks refusing to extend new loans due to the incomplete loan waiver process, adding to the farmers' financial distress.

The Congress, in its election manifesto, had pledged to increase the assistance amount to Rs 7,500 per acre per season, promising Rs 15,000 across two seasons. However, after assuming power, the government announced that it would review the existing Rythu Bandhu scheme to ensure that only eligible farmers receive the benefits, as they believed that the previous scheme disproportionately favoured the wealthy and non-farming landowners.



Farmers may slide into debt trap

HYDERABAD: With several banks not offering fresh loans to a large number of farmers citing various reasons, the farmers are under severe stress as they have to look towards private lenders to take up agricultural activities. Agriculture experts feel that if banks turn their back on farmers, they would be forced to approach private lenders, which will in turn land them in a debt trap. Small farmers who approach unregistered private money lenders after they are denied loans by the banks fall into an unending debt trap. The lenders constantly harass them. **(FULL REPORT PAGE 5)**

A Cabinet sub-committee on Rythu Bharosa, led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, was formed on July 2 to address these issues. After holding meetings with farmers in various districts and gathering inputs, the consultation process took a back

seat with no further progress. The much-anticipated guidelines, which were expected to be discussed and approved during the Assembly's Budget sessions starting on July 23, remain undecided. This review resulted in delays that have left farm-

ers in a state of uncertainty. Speculation is rife that the government may impose a ceiling on the Rythu Bharosa scheme, limiting assistance to those with a land extent up to five or 10 acres.

As per the latest statistics available with the Agriculture Department, about 68.99 lakh farmers owning around 1.52 crore acres in the State received Rs 7,625 crore under the Rythu Bandhu scheme during the last Yasangi (Rabi) season.

Of this, about 62.34 lakh farmers have less than five acres totalling around one crore acres. Thus, the State government is said to be planning to cut down on its expenditure by around 35 per cent and ensure benefit for 90 per cent farmers. However, the delay in finalising these guidelines, coupled with the absence of financial aid, has left farmers anxious and uncertain about their future.

As the monsoon draws to a close, the uncertainty in providing Rythu Bharosa has placed an unbearable burden on Telangana's farmers, casting a shadow over the State's agriculture sector. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Kangana shoots off her mouth again

Says bodies were hanging, rapes taking place during farmers' stir; BJP denounces remarks

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday denounced its Lok Sabha MP and actor Kangana Ranaut for her disparaging remarks on the farmers' agitation, as it expressed disagreement with her views and made it clear that she is neither permitted nor authorised to comment on the party's policy matters.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has directed Kangana Ranaut to not make any statement of this kind in future," the ruling party said in a statement as her controversial remarks threatened to inflame an issue it has tried hard to contain over the last few years.

The Mandi MP had posted a clip of her interview with Hindi daily Dainik Bhaskar in which she suggested that a "Bangladesh-like situation" could have erupted in India but for the country's strong leadership. She then alleged that "bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place" during the farmers' protest against the now-repealed three farm laws. She alleged the involvement of China and the US in the "conspiracy".



A Bangladesh-like situation could have erupted in India due to the farmers' agitation but for country's strong leadership

— KANGANA RANAUT, BJP MP

The BJP said, "The statement made by BJP MP Kangana Ranaut in the context of the farmers' agitation is not the opinion of the party. The BJP expresses its disagreement with her statement."

As the BJP swung to distance itself from her remarks, the Congress piled pressure on the ruling party seeking her expulsion if it indeed disagreed with her

views. With Haryana, where the farmers had extended considerable support to the protest, which involved a larger number of farmers from Punjab, going to the polls in a few weeks, the BJP has sought to shield itself from any blowback Ranaut's remarks may trigger in the State. Its statement added, "The BJP is committed to following the principles of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' and social harmony."

Meanwhile, the Congress slammed Ranaut for her "shameful" remarks and asked the actor-politician to apologise. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the "shameful anti-farmer" comments are a "grave insult" to the farmers of western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab as well as the entire country.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also lashed out at the BJP over the actor-politician's remarks and said this "shameful and highly reprehensible anti-farmer ideology is the DNA of the Modi government". Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala asked Ranaut to "Get well soon". **PTI**

No clarity yet on new TPCC chief

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The delay in the appointment of a new president for the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee has exposed the widening rift between the State leadership and the party high command in Delhi.

The State leadership, read Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, had visited New Delhi multiple times to finalise the TPCC president appointment. However, the high command appears to have a different view on the recommendations made by Revanth. The fact that Rahul Gandhi did not meet Revanth and his team during the last couple of visits to New Delhi reflects the situation. A few times, Revanth had to meet other AICC leaders and returned without any assurance from the high command over his recommendations, including those on the Cabinet expansion. In the last week's two-day trip to New Delhi



Revanth Reddy visited New Delhi multiple times to finalise the appointment, but high command appears to have a different view

though, he met AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and returned on Saturday morning. Deputy CM Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, who accompanied him, returned later in the evening. The State leadership is learnt to have suggested the names of former Union Minister Balram Naik and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud to the high command. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Russia bombs energy infra across Ukraine

KYIV

Russia unleashed a massive drone and missile barrage throughout Ukraine on Monday that appeared to target energy infrastructure. At least three people were killed.

The barrage began around midnight and continued beyond daybreak in what appeared to be Russia's biggest attack against Ukraine in weeks. According to Ukraine's air force, there were groups of Russian drones moving toward the eastern, northern, southern and central regions. **AP (REPORT PAGE 9)**

PLAYING DRESS-UP



Performers take part in the main parade of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London on Monday. — Photo: AFP

Tattoo artist on mission to preserve ancient Naga art

BISWAJIT TALUKDAR
Hyderabad

When Morangam Khaling, also known as Mo Naga, first delved into the ancient art of tattooing, he understood that India had a rich tradition of getting inked but there was very little information available about the tattoos.

Hailing from the Khoibu Naga tribe of Manipur, Mo — an expert in hand-poke and hand-tapping tattoos, which are traditional tattooing methods that use thorns attached to a stick to insert ink into the skin — has dedicated himself to uncovering the meaning and significance of Naga tattoos. "From 2007 to 2012, I researched extensively on



Tattoo artist Mo Naga at work in his studio. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

Naga tattoos, and in 2013 I did my first Naga tattoo, and began practicing hand-poke and hand-tapping techniques in 2015," he explains. Mo is currently in Hyderabad, tattooing at Inkraft Tattoos and Piercing as part of his ongoing tattoo tour in the country. He says he shares a deep connection with the city. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

TG govt acquires ryots' land by force?

JAMES EDWIN
Enkoor (Khammam)

Even as Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao thanked farmers for giving their land voluntarily for the Sitarama project's Enkoor link canal, many of the farmers whose land were acquired said the acquisition was forceful, not voluntary.

In fact, some of the farmers were allegedly detained for demanding compensation and opposing the canal work. They said the hurried inauguration of the project pump houses had turned futile as water was not released into the canal after the inauguration and that farmers were still awaiting compensation for their land. Speaking to Telangana

Suryapet man drowns in US pool

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 41-year-old native of Patharlaphad village in Atmakur(S) mandal of Suryapet district died after accidentally falling into a community swimming pool in Atlanta, US.

According to reports, Thapsi Praveen Kumar, who was residing in the US with his wife Shanthi for the last six years, was employed as a teacher at an educational institution. The incident occurred over the weekend, and Praveen's family was informed on Sunday evening by his wife.

The family members said Praveen went to the swimming pool around 8 pm for a swim. However, he was not aware that the pool was deep. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Today, Telangana Rythu Sangham leader Bhukya Veerabhadram said some of the farmers were detained for opposing the canal works in their fields without paying the compensation. Farmers Nunavath Srinu, Bhukya Kishan and Bhukya Kittu of Enkoor were taken into police custody and the works were carried out in their fields prior to the pump house inauguration by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on August 15, he said. Around 100 acres was acquired from 80 farmers without issuing a gazette notification and award of compensation to construct the 8-km link canal to connect the main canal with the NSP canal head regulator in Enkoor mandal. **(SEE PAGE 2)**