



**NATION | PAGE 07**  
Supreme Court cautions over misuse of PMLA



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
Russia will win Ukraine conflict, asserts Lavrov  
Accuses US of worsening global conflicts, lambasts UN for silence on attacks on civilians



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
India eye clean sweep, hope Kohli, Rohit fire against B'desh

**In a nutshell**

**15-day jail for Sanjay Raut**

**MUMBAI:** A Mumbai court on Thursday convicted Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and sentenced him to 15 days simple imprisonment in a defamation complaint filed against him by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya. It later suspended the sentence for 30 days and granted bail to the Rajya Sabha member on his application for the same. Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Aarti Kulkarni convicted Raut for the offence. **PTI**

**46 drown while taking holy dip**

**PATNA:** At least 46 people, including 37 children, drowned while taking holy dip in rivers and ponds in several Bihar districts during the 'Jivitputrika' festival, officials said. The incidents occurred in 15 districts during the festival held on Wednesday, they said. During the festival, women fast for the well-being of their children and take holy dips. CM Nitish Kumar announced ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. **PTI**

**AFSPA extended for six months**

**NEW DELHI:** The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, under which an area is declared as 'disturbed' for the convenience of security forces, has been extended in eight districts in Nagaland, three districts in Arunachal Pradesh and some other areas for six more months after a review of the law and order situation in the two North-eastern States. An area or district is notified as a disturbed area to facilitate operations of armed forces. **NATION PAGE 8**

**IBC proceedings against Byju's: SC**

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP) to maintain status quo and not hold any meeting of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) in the matter pertaining to insolvency proceedings against ed-tech firm Byju's. The top court also reserved its verdict on a plea of US firm Glas Trust Company LLC against the verdict of NCLAT setting aside the insolvency proceedings against Byju's. **PTI**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 125
Retail live.....	Rs. 147
With skin.....	Rs. 213
Skinless.....	Rs. 243
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72

## KTR sees scam in move to scrap Pharma City

**'Conspiracy being hatched to benefit CM kin'**

STATE BUREAU  
RAJANNA-SIRCILLA

Barely days after he revealed a major scam in the Congress-led State government's handling of AMRUT 2.0 contracts, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday blew the lid off another potential land scam, which he said, could run into thousands of crores.

Pointing out how the State government was deceiving both the public and even the High Court over the actual status of the Hyderabad Pharma City, he said the government was proposing to cancel the prestigious project initiated by the previous BRS regime, was in fact hatching a conspiracy to benefit Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's brothers with billions of rupees.

"There's thousands of crores land scam behind the proposed cancellation of the Pharma City. We will soon reveal all the details," Rama Rao said. "On one hand, they claim Pharma City is cancelled, but in the High Court, they say it hasn't been cancelled. How can they mislead the judiciary like this?" he asked, questioning the feasibility of the government's alternative proposals.

"Revanth Reddy is talking about Future City, AI City and a Fourth City as well. Has he acquired even an

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Revanth is talking about Future City, AI City and a Fourth City. Has he acquired even an acre for these? How can he repurpose Pharma City land without acquiring any new land?"

— KT RAMA RAO



acre of land for these? How can he repurpose Pharma City land without acquiring any new land?" he asked.

Highlighting the scale of the original project, he said the BRS government had proposed Pharma City with 14,000 acres and an investment of Rs 64,000 crore. "The land was acquired under conditional acquisition and cannot be repurposed for other projects," he said, warning of severe consequences if the State government continued its deceptive tactics. The attempt to mislead the High Court

will have consequences both in court and in the people's court, he cautioned, demanding clarity from the government. "Is Pharma City still operational or not? The government must clarify this tomorrow in the High Court," he insisted.

Expressing concern over the project's potential cancellation, he said such a move would be disastrous since it would not only harm Telangana's industrial progress but also result in the loss of thousands of job opportunities.

Urging the government to abandon what he termed as "corrupt schemes" and demanding that the original Pharma City project be continued with, he said the land given by farmers for industrial development should not be used for corrupt land deals. In case the Pharma City project was cancelled, the government should return the acquired land to farmers.

Making it clear that as the government prepares to present its final stand on Pharma City in the High Court on Friday, Rama Rao said the BRS would closely scrutinise the government's actions and statements regarding the high-stakes project. The party would also discuss its future course of action after discussions with both party leaders and farmers.

## Will strike Hezbollah with full force, says Netanyahu

**Israel carries out fresh strike in Beirut, kills group commander**

NEW YORK

Dimming hopes for a ceasefire, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that Israel will continue striking Hezbollah "with full force" and will not stop until all of its goals are achieved.

Israel carried out a new strike in the Lebanese capital, which it said killed a senior Hezbollah commander. Netanyahu spoke as he landed in New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly meeting. At the gathering, US and European officials were putting heavy pressure on both sides to accept a proposed 21-day halt in the fighting to give time for diplomacy to avert a potential all-out war.

Netanyahu said Israel's "policy is clear." "We are continuing to strike Hezbollah with full force. And we will not stop until we reach all our goals, chief among them the return of the residents of the north securely to their homes," he said. Just before his comments, the Is-



A man carries pictures of his relatives, at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Saksakieh, south Lebanon, on Thursday. — Photo: AP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

raeli military said it killed a Hezbollah drone commander, Mohammed Hussein Sourour, in an airstrike in the suburbs of Beirut. Hezbollah did not immediately comment on the claim of his death. The Lebanon

Health Ministry said two people were killed and 15 wounded in the strike. The strike gutted an apartment on an upper floor of a residential building in Dahiyeh, the mainly Shiite suburb where Hezbollah has a

strong presence, according to Associated Press photos of the scene. Earlier in the day, a strike in eastern Lebanon killed 20 people, most of them Syrian migrants, according to Lebanese health officials. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Centre issues advisory to Indians

JERUSALEM

The Indian Embassy in Beirut has urged its nationals to avoid travel to Lebanon due to escalating violence and "strongly advised" those present there to exercise extreme caution and leave the country as soon as possible. The UN Office for the Coordination

of Humanitarian Affairs on Wednesday said 2,00,00 people have been displaced in Lebanon since Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel nearly a year ago, drawing Israeli retaliation.

According to Lebanon's Health Minister, 51 people were killed and 223 wounded Wednesday in Is-

raeli strikes. In an advisory posted on X, the Indian embassy said, "As a reiteration of the advisory issued on August 1, 2024 and in view of the recent developments and escalations in the region, Indian nationals are strongly advised against travelling to Lebanon till further notice. All Indian nationals already in Lebanon

are also strongly advised to leave Lebanon. Those who remain for any reason are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements, and remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Beirut through our email ID: cons.beirut@mea.gov.in or the emergency phone number 96176860128." **PTI**

### SUPER MOM



A gig worker carries her child on a bike as she delivers food amid a downpour, in Rajkot, Gujarat, on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

### MUDA row: K'taka withdraws consent to CBI

BENGALURU

Amid the MUDA land allotment row, the Karnataka government on Thursday withdrew general consent given to CBI to investigate cases in the State as it alleged that the agency was "biased". Announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said, "It is clear that the CBI or the Central government while using their instrumentalities are not using them judiciously."

The move comes amid demands by the opposition BJP to hand over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case to CBI. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

**(NO ONE STAKED CLAIM FOR CM POST, SAYS DKS PAGE 7)**

## Homes on Musi riverbed marked for demolition



Residents protesting against the survey of houses encroaching upon Musi riverbed in Hyderabad on Thursday.

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In preparation for the Musi Riverfront Development Project, officials on Thursday initiated the process of collecting details of the houses located in the riverbed and marking them.

Under the exercise, which had worried residents protesting at some places, several teams assisted by police fanned out to survey and mark these dwelling units in Kishan Bagh, Asad Baba Nagar and Nandimusalai Guda areas. The officials, along with police, were visiting houses alleged to have encroached upon the riverbed and the buffer zone in Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri districts.

The team members were seen marking the structures, which would be removed to clear the riverbed and buffer zone of all encroachments. The officials

were seen surveying Langar Houz, Chaderghat, Musa Nagar, Shankar Nagar and other areas.

At a few places, residents raised objection to the survey and raised slogans against the government. They showed their property registration documents and said they were living in the area for decades and paying property tax, electricity and water bills.

A woman criticised the Telangana government for removing the encroachments and planning to shift them to other places. One of the residents questioned the government for calling their houses illegal. The officials said they would soon begin the removal of 10,000-odd illegal dwellings and commercial structures. A preliminary survey by the Revenue Department revealed that there were 2,16 structures on the riverbed and another 7,850 in the buffer zone. **(REPORTS PAGE 3)**

### SC rejects Guj gov't's plea for review of Bilkis Bano verdict

**NEW DELHI:** The SC dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat government seeking a review of the court's verdict, which contained observations against the State while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 riots. It also rejected the application for listing review petition in open court. **PTI** **(REPORT PAGE 8)**

### Domestic Violence Act applicable to women of all religions, says SC

**NEW DELHI:** The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a civil code that is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation or social background, the Supreme Court has said. A Bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice N Kottiswar Singh said the 2005 legislation was applicable to all women for more effective protection of their rights. **PTI**

## Meet NALSAR's 'golden' boy

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

He stands small but big indeed are his achievements. Despite locomotor disability and Achondroplasia, a genetic mutation, which restricted his height to just 3 feet and 9 inches, Bhavya Johari will walk away with a rich haul of 10 gold medals at the convocation of NALSAR University of Law on Saturday.

In a display of academic excellence, the 23-year-old secured gold medals for topping in criminal law, history,

environmental law and administrative law, besides for being adjudged as the best boy student in company law and overall excellence in the BA LLB (Hons) programme. His kitty of medals will also include two memorial gold medals for securing first rank in the final examination.

Johari will receive these gold medals at the NALSAR's 21st annual convocation from the President Droupadi Murmu. This would be law graduate's journey to academic excellence has been an extraordinary feat. Initially met with

scepticism and discrimination, the student silenced his peers and doubters with sheer dedication to studies, particularly in criminal law — a field he is passionate about. "I faced discrimination from peers due to my condition. However, I proved them wrong with my high CGPA in the first year of study itself. I have always been passionate about criminal laws. I did not pursue it as a normal study but went an extra mile. The faculty has been supportive," Johari told *Telangana Today*. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



Bhavya Johari