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New policy to counter terrorism, says Amit Shah



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Germany's coalition collapses dramatically
Chancellor Olaf Scholz plans to lead with minority government



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India's new stars look to shine against South Africa

In a nutshell

Man kills self after assault by cop

MEDAK: A man, who was allegedly beaten up by a constable, died after he set himself ablaze at Rampur village. Talari Kishan had gone to the Alladurg police station on Tuesday night to file a complaint after he lost his mobile phone. However, constable Sailu allegedly beat him up, refusing to register any case. Feeling humiliated, Kishan doused himself with petrol and set himself on fire.

Threat to SRK; lawyer summoned

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Police have registered an extortion case and summoned a lawyer from Chhattisgarh in connection with a death threat to actor Shah Rukh Khan and a demand for Rs 50 lakh, officials said on Thursday. The lawyer from Raipur has been summoned as the threat call was made from a phone number registered in his name.

Two shot dead by terrorists in J&K

JAMMU: Two Village Defence Guards were shot dead by terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said. The incident occurred when Nazir Ahmad and Kuldeep Kumar had gone to graze their cattle in Munzla Dhar forest in the Adhwari area. Meanwhile, a terrorist was killed in an encounter in Kupwara district.

Senior resident doctor found dead

KOLKATA: A senior resident doctor, attached to the Jhargram Medical College & Hospital, was found dead in mysterious circumstances in a hotel room in West Bengal's Jhargram. The deceased has been identified as Dipro Bhattacharya, a senior resident attached to the Anaesthesia Department of the medical college & hospital.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 120
Retail live.....	Rs. 142
With skin.....	Rs. 206
Skinless.....	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 76

KTR counters Congress with facts on Formula-E deal

Says the event boosted Hyderabad's brand image and attracted investments

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Rubbing allegations of irregularities in hosting the Formula-E event in Hyderabad and taking the fizz out of the false campaign unleashed against him, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday said the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) had issued orders for release of Rs 55 crore to sustain the Formula-E initiative after the private promoter, Greenko, pulled out due to financial constraints.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Rama Rao pointed out that the HMDA was an independent board with the Chief Minister as chairman and the Municipal Administration Minister as vice-chairman.

As an autonomous body, HMDA did not require Cabinet approval to release funds. As per his instructions, the then Special Chief Secretary for Municipal Administration and HMDA Commissioner, Arvind Kumar, ordered the release



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.

of funds to host the event. "Formula-E was more than motorsports. It was the platform to organise Mobility Week, designed to attract Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers and position Telangana as a leader in EV technology," he said, adding that the objective of the event was not only to promote motorcar racing but also to boost Hyderabad's

brand image and attract investments in the EV manufacturing sector to improve the State's economy.

The race, part of a broader Mobility Week aimed at promoting EVs, was lauded for its economic impact, adding Rs 700 crore to Hyderabad's economy, as per a Nielsen report. Further, Mobility Week also attracted investments at the State's

Mobility Valley at Divitipally including Rs 4,500 crore by Amara Raja Batteries and Rs 1,400 crore by Hyundai among other investments.

"It was a strategic move to enhance Hyderabad's global image and attract investments. We made Hyderabad known in 49 countries through the Formula-E race, attracting significant invest-

ments. But Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's hasty cancellation of the event in the second year has cost the city Rs 700 crore and tarnished its image," Rama Rao said.

'Prove claims'

In response to the accusations of corruption and fiscal mismanagement from Congress leaders, including Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the BRS working president challenged them to prove the same, asserting that there was no misuse of public funds and charged the Congress for running a misinformation campaign for political gain.

"If anyone intends to imprison me out of political vendetta for bringing investments to Hyderabad, creating an incredible brand for the city, and generating employment opportunities through these investments, I will not back down. If they want to file a case against me, let them file it and arrest me. I will return stronger and continue to question the inept governance of the Congress as well as its unfulfilled promises," he asserted.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Canada blocks news outlet for EAM presser

New Delhi says actions on Australia Today highlight the hypocrisy of Trudeau govt

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said Canada blocked an Australian media outlet hours after it broadcast the press conference of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong. External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said the Canadian action of blocking the social media handles and certain pages of 'Australia Today' smacked of hypocrisy towards freedom of speech.

"We understand that the social media handles, pages of this particular outlet, which are important diaspora outlets, have been blocked and are not available for viewers in Canada. This happened just an hour or few hours after this particular handle carried the press conference of EAM

'ENSURE SAFETY OF HINDUS IN BANGLADESH'

NEW DELHI: Amid reports of tension in Bangladesh's Chittagong following provocative social media posts, India on Thursday urged Dhaka to take action against "extremist" elements and ensure the safety of the country's Hindu community. During a weekly media briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal condemned the alleged attack on the members of the Hindu community in Chittagong.

Dr S Jaishankar with Penny Wong," Jaiswal said in response to a question at the weekly media briefing.

"We were surprised. It looks strange to us. But nonetheless, what I say is that these are actions which yet again highlight the hypocrisy of Canada towards freedom of speech," the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

State explores ways to bolster its finances

PS DILEEP
Hyderabad

Facing a revenue shortfall in the first half of the fiscal year, the State government is exploring various strategies to bolster its finances. The officials are considering alternative revenue enhancement proposals, without immediately raising taxes, apparently due to the upcoming local body elections.

This is after the State managed to achieve only 39.41 per cent of its projected Budget revenue, amounting to Rs 1.08 lakh crore of the Rs 2.74 lakh crore goal set for the 2024-25 financial year.

Tax revenue

The tax revenue reached Rs 69,000 crore against the target of Rs 1.64 lakh crore, falling short by approximately Rs 13,000 crore as of

On the cards

- Considers hike in prices of liquor: **Rs 20 for beer** and by **Rs 20 to Rs 70 per quarter** bottle of IMFL
- Move will generate additional revenue of **Rs 1,000 cr** monthly
- Looks at monetising assets, specifically by identifying prime land plots for development and auction
- Selling unsold flats constructed under Rajiv Gruhakalpa in erstwhile AP also on table
- Efforts on to recover pending dues from both the Centre and various organisations

STATE ACHIEVES ONLY 39.41% OF ITS PROJECTED BUDGET REVENUE

REALISES RS 1.08 LAKH CR OF THE RS 2.74 LAKH CR GOAL SET FOR 2024-25 F.Y.

TAX REVENUE REACHES RS 69,000 CR AGAINST TARGET OF RS 1.64 LAKH CR

September 30 and posing a huge challenge for the State government to run the show.

Under these circumstances, the focus is on increasing liquor sales, where the government sees potential for a substantial boost. Proposals are being considered to hike prices by Rs 20

for beer and by Rs 20 to Rs 70 per quarter bottle of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), to generate an additional revenue of Rs 1,000 crore monthly. If approved, this measure could make up for the tax deficit while sparing property and registration fees from immediate increases.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Woman held for trying to kidnap newborn in Hyd

HYDERABAD: The Sultan Bazaar police arrested a notorious woman thief who allegedly tried to kidnap a newborn baby from Government Hospital Sultan Bazaar on Wednesday. The suspect, Askari Begum, (45), a resident of Rein Bazaar, who was previously involved in nine cases of theft in the city, went to the labour room of the hospital and tried to kidnap the baby. The alert security personnel caught her and handed over to the police.

Man loses Rs 48 lakh to 'digital arrest'

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Placing a government employee under 'digital arrest', cyber fraudsters, posing as CBI officials, duped the victim of Rs 48 lakh in the city. According to the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police, the fraudsters accused the victim, aged around 55, of involvement in money laundering and threatened him with arrest.

According to the police, the victim received a phone call from a person who introduced himself as a CBI officer from Delhi. The caller told the victim that he was involved in a money laundering case, and a bank account was maintained by him in Delhi through which crores of rupees were transferred into multiple accounts.

The caller threatened the man with arrest and interro-

gated him for over seven hours over the video call. The comment then sought details of his family members and also took details of the Aadhaar Card.

The fraudster then asked the man to withdraw fixed deposit receipts worth Rs 48 lakh and transfer the amount to some bank accounts details of which were provided to him. He said if the Supreme Court permits, the amount will be returned to

him, said an official of Hyderabad Cybercrime police station.

The man was also threatened by saying that some policemen in civilian clothes would visit and interrogate him at his house soon, and until then, he has to report to him over video call every hour. The man later realised that he was duped and approached the police, who registered a case and took up an investigation.

SC orders liquidation of Jet Airways

NEW DELHI: In a major development in the Jet Airways insolvency saga, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the grounded airline's liquidation, forfeiture of Rs 200 crore infused by successful bidder Jalan Kalrock Consortium and permitted the lenders led by SBI to encash Rs 150 crore performance bank guarantee. The Bench put the curtains down on the insolvency proceedings of the airlines by setting aside the order of the NCLAT.

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2024 likely to be the hottest year

CHICAGO

For the second year in a row, Earth will almost certainly be the hottest it's ever been. And for the first time, the globe this year reached more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming compared to the pre-industrial average, the European climate agency Copernicus said. "It's this relentless nature of the warming that I think is worrying," said Carlo Buontempo, director of Copernicus.

Buontempo said the data clearly shows the planet would not see such a long sequence of record-breaking temperatures without the constant increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere driving global warming. He cited other factors that contribute to exceptionally warm years like last year and this one.

Ruckus over Art 370 in J&K Assembly

SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was adjourned for the day on Thursday following a brawl between the BJP MLAs and marshals, as the opposition members protested against a resolution for the restoration of the erstwhile State's special status for the second consecutive day.

While the opposition BJP said the resolution is "illegal" and demanded its withdrawal, the Speaker said he does not have such powers as anything passed by the House can only be undone by the House itself.

Fresh resolution

Amid high drama, the day also witnessed a group of MLAs, including those from the PDP and Peoples' Con-

ference, submitting a fresh resolution demanding immediate restoration of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution in their original form. As soon as the Assembly met in the morning, pandemonium broke out as the BJP members protested against the resolution that was passed on Wednesday. While Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma (BJP) was speaking on the resolution, Awami Ittehad Party leader Sheikh Khurshheed jumped into the well with a banner that read Articles 370 and 35A be restored.

This irked the BJP members, who also jumped into the well, snatched the banner from the Langate MLA and tore it into pieces. There was a minor scuffle between the BJP MLAs and Khurshheed.

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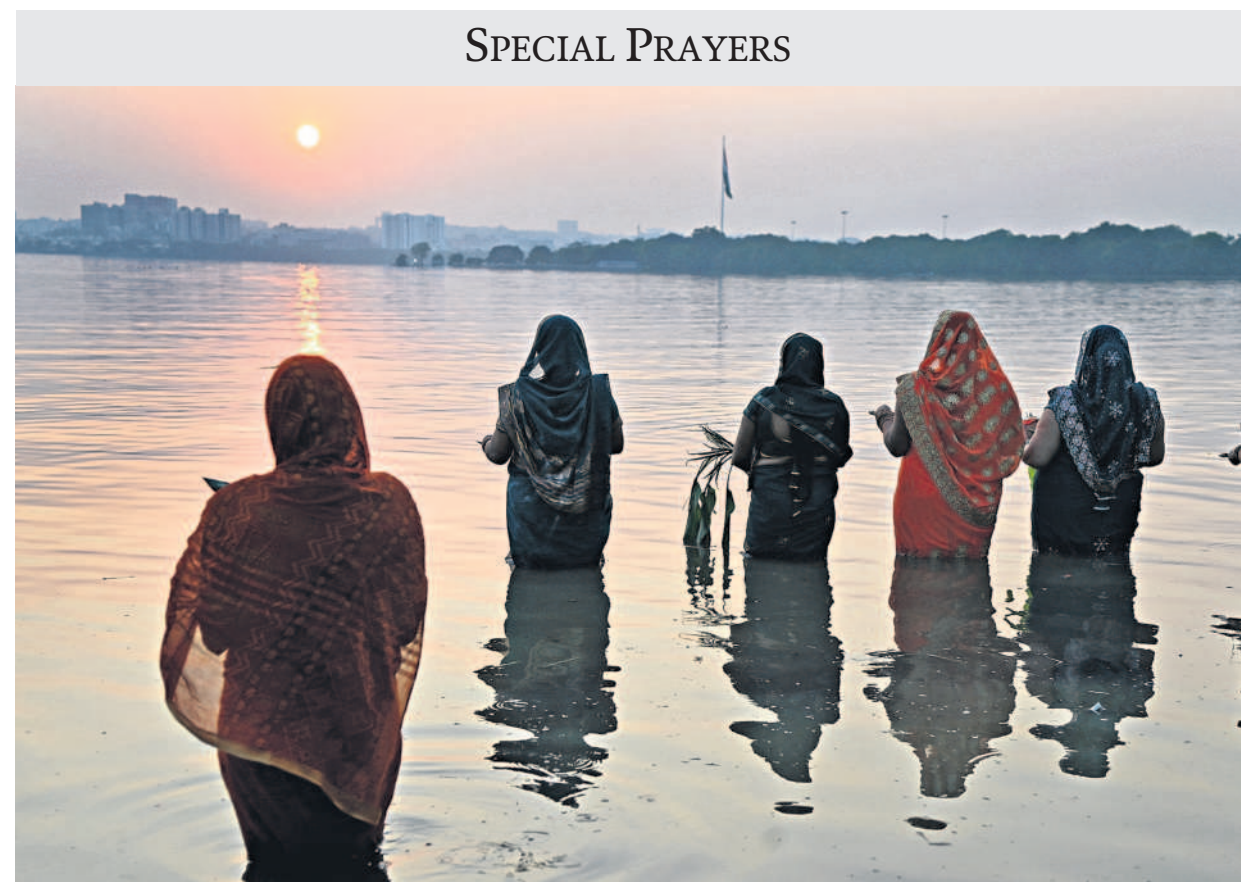
I concede this election, but not the fight: Harris

WASHINGTON

Shortly after conceding the presidential race to Donald Trump, Vice President Kamala Harris urged supporters to accept the election results and pledged to ensure a peaceful transfer of power to the Republican leader.

In an emotional concession speech at her alma mater Howard University, 60-year-old Harris said the "light of America's promise will always burn bright" and vowed to keep up the "fight" that fuelled her campaign. Harris said she spoke to President-elect Trump and congratulated him on his victory.

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Devotees offer prayers to the Sun God on the occasion of Chhath Puja on the banks of Hussain Sagar on Thursday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar