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In a nutshell

Another weaver dies by suicide

SIRCILLA: Unable to clear his debts, weaver Erram Komuriah (55) died by suicide in Sircilla on Wednesday. Komuriah ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling in his residence. His family found him hanging in the morning. He is survived by wife Kamala, sons Srikanth and Saikumar, and daughter Varalakshmi. Komuriah, who had got his daughter and one son married, landed in debt after constructing a new house.

Total shutdown hits life in Manipur

IMPHAL: Normal life was affected in Manipur's Imphal Valley on Wednesday due to a total shutdown called by 13 civil rights organisations to protest the alleged abduction of three women and children each by militants in Jiribam district, officials said. Business establishments and educational institutions in the five Imphal Valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur were closed. **PTI**

British author wins Booker Prize

LONDON: British author Samantha Harvey has won the 2024 Booker Prize for her ambitious and beautiful 'Orbital', which becomes the first novel set in space to win the 50,000-pound literary prize selected from a historic shortlist that was dominated by women this year. 'Orbital', the biggest-selling book on the shortlist in the UK, takes place over a single day in the life of six astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the ISS. **NATION PAGE 8**

Doctor stabbed by patient's son

CHENNAI: An oncologist at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital was stabbed multiple times on Wednesday by the son of a patient allegedly over grievances regarding the treatment of his mother at the same facility, a hospital official said. The man assaulted the doctor inside the outpatient room during a conversation regarding his mother's treatment. He was apprehended by the hospital staff and handed over to the police. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 74

Ex-BRS MLA arrested for Lagacherla row

Cops drag Patnam Narendra Reddy out of his home

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Dramatic developments were witnessed in the State capital on Wednesday, beginning from Hyderabad before shifting to Parigi, when policemen in multi dragged former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy of the BRS from his Film Nagar residence around 6 am and bundled him into a vehicle even as he resisted, asking them who they were.

It was only much later that it came to light that he was arrested by the Vikarabad police in connection with the attack on government officials at Lagacherla village of Dudyal mandal in Kodangal constituency two days ago. After several hours of questioning at the Parigi police station, Narendra Reddy was produced before court, where he was remanded in judicial custody for 14 days and shifted to prison.

The arrest was in connection with Monday's attack on Vikarabad Collector Praateek Jain, Kodangal Area Development Authority special officer Venkat



BRS activists protest at the Kodangal court where former MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy was produced, on Wednesday. He was remanded to 14-day judicial custody.

Reddy and other officials, who had visited Lagacherla in Kodangal, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's constituency, to seek opinion on land acquisition from the public for the Pharma Village project.

The villagers had turned angry alleging that they were being forced to part with their fertile land, and

attacked the officials. The police version is that one B Suresh, a follower of Narendra Reddy, instigated the villagers to attack the officials, allegedly at the instance of the former MLA. Sources said the police arrested Narendra Reddy based on his multiple phone calls with Suresh before and after the incident.

Condemning the arrest, BRS working president KT Rama Rao and other senior leaders demanded for his immediate release. They called the arrest an undemocratic act by the Congress government as part of its bid to blame the BRS for the unrest in Revanth Reddy's constituency. **(SEE PAGE 2)**
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

SC halts 'bulldozer raj' across country

Lays down norms for demolition of properties

NEW DELHI

Equating 'bulldozer justice' with a lawless state of affairs where might is right, the Supreme Court on Wednesday laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without show-cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

The executive cannot assume judicial powers to punish citizens by demolishing their properties without following due process, it said while terming such excesses "high-handed and arbitrary" and ruling that they need to be dealt with the "heavy hand of the law".

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan described as "chilling" the sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building, rendering women, children and aged persons homeless overnight. "If the executive acts as a judge and inflicts penalty of demolition on a citizen on the ground that he is an accused, it violates the principle of 'separation of powers'," the Bench said in its 95-page judgment. "The chilling sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building, when authorities have failed to follow the basic

THE VERDICT

Here are the highlights of the Supreme Court's verdict laying down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties

- Executive cannot become judge, decide that person accused is guilty and punish him by demolishing his property
- No demolition should be carried out without prior show-cause notice
- Notice shall be served upon owner/occupier by registered post, it shall be affixed conspicuously on outer portion of structure in question
- If statute provides for appellate opportunity and time for filing same or even if it does not so, order will not be implemented for 15 days from date of receipt thereof
- Every municipal/local authority shall assign designated digital portal within 3 months from Wednesday wherein details regarding service/pasting of notice, reply, show-cause notice and order passed thereon would be available
- Designated authority shall give opportunity of personal hearing to person concerned and thereafter pass final order
- Opportunity should be given to owner/occupier to remove unauthorised construction or demolish it within 15 days



principles of natural justice and have acted without adhering to the principle of due process, reminds one of a lawless state of affairs, where 'might was right'," it said. It said high-handed and arbitrary actions have no place in the Constitution, which rests on the foundation of the rule of law.

The Bench made clear that they will not be applicable if there is an unauthorised structure in a public

place such as road, street, footpath, abutting railway line or river or water body and also in cases where there is an order for demolition made by a court of law. "No demolition should be carried out without prior show cause notice returnable in accordance with time provided by municipal laws or in 15 days from date of service of notice, whichever is later," it said. **PTI**
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

'Revanth misusing power to further family business'

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Holding Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy responsible for the Lagacherla attack on officials, BRS working president KT Rama Rao targeted the former for orchestrating large-scale land acquisition under the guise of promoting the pharma sector.

He also charged the Chief Minister with misusing official machinery to serve his family business interests, without considering its impact on the lives of farmers as well as villages.

He suspected that the Chief Minister orchestrated the attack to create a law and order problem, before acquiring the land without conducting a legitimate public hearing. He de-

KTR targets CM for orchestrating large-scale land acquisition under the guise of promoting pharma sector

manded to know why the farmers were arrested, despite the Collector himself clarifying that there was no attack.

Speaking to mediapersons at Telagana Bhavan on Wednesday, Rama Rao said land belonging to marginalised communities, including SCs, STs and BCs, was being forcibly acquired for private companies linked to the Chief Minister's family. He specifically targeted the

expansion of Maxbien Pharma, which is owned by Revanth Reddy's son-in-law G Satyanarayana Reddy. He questioned the role of Medicover Hospital owner and Satyanarayana Reddy's partner Annam Sarath in the issue.

"Farmlands are being acquired in Kodangal to benefit Revanth Reddy's family, while the poor farmers are left to suffer," he said, adding that the land acquisition in Lagacherla and surrounding areas was not for public good, but an outright real estate deal to benefit Revanth Reddy's family members. The government was misusing official power to intimidate farmers and acquire land forcibly for the private pharma company. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



Rescue workers put out a fire at a building, which was destroyed during a Russian strike, in Brovary, outside Kyiv. — Photo: Ukrainian Emergency Service/AP **(REPORTS PAGE 9)**

CONFLICT INTENSIFIES

WB bypolls: TMC worker shot dead

KOLKATA

Sporadic incidents of violence, including a shootout-cum-crude bomb attack in Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas district that killed a local TMC worker, marred the West Bengal by-elections, while the voter turnout across six con-

stituencies stood at 69.29 per cent till 5 pm.

The killing of former TMC ward president Ashok Shaw, which took place adjacent to the Naihati Assembly constituency where the electorate exercised their franchise on Wednesday, sparked political accusations of voter intimidation

during the ongoing bypolls, prompting the Chief Electoral Officer's office to seek a report on the incident. The victim, out on bail in a 2020 murder case, succumbed to his injuries after three attackers allegedly shot him and lobbed crude bombs in full public view while he was having tea.

J'khand goes to polls

Meanwhile, the first phase of the Jharkhand Assembly polls was also held on the day. A voter turnout of 64.86 per cent was recorded in the 43 Assembly constituencies. Over 900 voters in a village in Chatra district boycotted the election for not getting justice in a murder case. **PTI**

Rail traffic restored after train derailment

STATE BUREAU
 Peddapalli

South Central Railway officials restored rail traffic between Delhi and Chennai within 24 hours of a goods train being derailed. Around 7.30 pm, it operated a good train successfully on a single track by completing the repairs.

The repairs were undertaken near Raghavapur in Palakurthy mandal where the goods train transporting iron coils from Bellary to Ghaziabad derailed around 10 pm on Tuesday. Eleven rakes were scattered on the tracks. As a result, rail traffic was hit. Several express and good trains were cancelled. Several passengers gathered at the Peddapalli bus stand to take TGSRTC buses to reach their destinations. Railway authorities began the track repair works by deploying cranes and staff. **(SEE PAGES 2, 3)**

Paddy farmers irked by delays

STATE BUREAU
 Mahabubnagar/Medak

Farmers in Gopanally village of Devarakadra mandal of Mahabubnagar district blocked the road and disrupted traffic to protest the government's slow paddy procurement process in the ongoing Kharif season on Wednesday.

The farmers accused the State government of running away from the purchase of paddy crop. They said despite the sharp increase in paddy arrivals, the grain remained unmoved, causing congestion at procurement centres.

Farmers also voiced their displeasure over the government's failure to purchase paddy at MSP, which forced them to sell their produce at lower rates. They claimed that the government's inaction had led to significant losses. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Block roads, disrupt traffic to protest State government's slow paddy procurement in ongoing Kharif season

The farmers alleged that the government's lack of coordination with traders and millers has hindered procurement. The farmers warned that they would intensify their agitation if the government failed to procure their produce. They also burnt the effigy of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the day.

Meanwhile, farmers of Jhansi Lingapur and Thongigandla in Medak district also protested at a procurement centre demanding lifting of paddy from the centres. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Engineering management quota fee to triple?

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

Engineering aspirants eyeing for a management quota seat in private colleges may have to shell out triple the fee set for the convener quota from next year. For instance, if a convener quota seat in a private engineering college costs Rs 1 lakh per annum, the management seat will be Rs 3 lakh.

The move, which could impact thousands of students, comes as part of the

Telangana Council of Higher Education's (TGCHE) efforts to streamline the management quota admission process in private engineering colleges.

The TGCHE plans to take over the engineering management quota admissions from the next academic year, aiming to increase transparency and fairness in the admission process. Permission to implement online admissions for the management quota, besides tripling the fee, will be shortly

sought from the State government. According to senior TGCHE officials, the engineering quota management admissions are being planned on the similar lines of the MBBS and BDS management quota seats via merit secured in NEET UG.

Medicine and dental seats in private medical and dental institutions are being filled by the Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences through web-based counselling. Here, the management quota fee is up to

twice the fee set for the convener quota seat. Similarly, the category C (NRI) seats fee is up to twice the fee of the management quota seat.

Currently, 70 per cent of the seats in private engineering colleges are filled via the Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Medical Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) by the TGCHE. The remaining 30 per cent of the seats are filled by the colleges' management by advertising in newspapers. As per the

rules, managements have to follow the order of merit, starting with NRI candidates, JEE Main, TG EAPCET and Intermediate scores not less than 45 per cent. But so far, these rules are only on paper. Only a few colleges adhere to the rules. There has been long distance demand from different student organisations to regulate management quota seats in private engineering colleges, which have been charging exorbitant fees from students.