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Delhiites choke as air quality worsens further



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Ramaswamy hints at massive govt job cuts

Plans mass deportations of unelected federal bureaucrats



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Dominant India stun China 3-0, book semifinal spot

In a nutshell

Class 9 student dies by suicide

SANGAREDDY: A 14-year-old girl died by suicide at BC Welfare Residential School at Kothlapur. The girl, studying in Class 9, was identified as T Swathi, a native of Lingampally. She was found hanging from the ceiling in her classroom on Saturday. The police registered a case and the body was shifted to the government hospital in Sangareddy. The reasons for her extreme step are yet to be ascertained.

Actor Kasthuri arrested

HYDERABAD: Actor Kasthuri Shankar was reportedly arrested by the Tamil Nadu Police in Hyderabad on Saturday. She is facing charges for allegedly making derogatory remarks against the Telugu community in Tamil Nadu. As per available information, Kasthuri is reported to have been taken into custody in Gachibowli by a special team from the Tamil Nadu Police and is being taken back to Chennai.

Century-old church told to vacate

HYDERABAD: A nearly century-old church at Lallaguda in the city faces uncertainty amid orders to vacate the premises. Sacred Heart Church, the parish church of the Catholic community in South Lallaguda, has been issued an eviction notice by the SCR stating that the religious structure, located on railway land at SLGD Officers and Staff Colony, was constructed illegally.

Farmer finds 7.44 carat diamond

PANNA: Three months after finding a 16.10 carat diamond, a farmer and his associates have dug up another precious stone of 7.44 carat in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, officials said. Dilip Mistry, who had leased a piece of land in Jaruapur area for excavation, deposited the diamond with the Panna Diamond Office on Saturday, said an official. It will be put up for auction. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 76

Pharma villages plan on the back burner?

Protests force officials to reconsider plans

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Is the government on a back foot over its plans to establish 10 pharma villages (clusters) across the State? Well, considering the widespread protests by farmers and residents over parting with their lands for the pharma villages, it appears so.

The fact that there have been many protests in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency is forcing the officials to reconsider the plans over the establishment of pharma villages or go slow on the project.

Further, when the High Court sought the State government's clarification over the pharma city project, it said that the project was very much in consideration.

Ever since the government issued a notification for acquiring 71 acres at Polepally village in Dudyal mandal for establishing a pharma village in August this year, there have been widespread protests from farmers and residents over parting with their land. Before the attack on

Stiff opposition

In August, govt issued notification to acquire 71 ACRES at Polepally village

- Since then, farmers and residents staging protests over parting with their land for pharma villages
- Protests erupted not just in Kodangal constituency but in Sangareddy as well
- Farmers in Dappur, Vaddy and Malgi under Nyalkal mandal up in arms against plans to set up pharma village
- Govt planned 10 pharma villages across Telangana
- Initially, it planned to set up them in Nalgonda, Medak, and other places, including one in Mucherla

Vikarabad Collector Prateek Jain on November 12 at Lagacherla, farmers and villagers staged protests at Rotibanda thanda and other villages under Dudyal mandal. There have been protests not just in the Kodangal constituency but in Sangareddy as well. Farmers in

Dappur, Vaddy and Malgi under Nyalkal mandal are up in arms against the plans to set up a pharma village.

They made their intentions very clear to the government. After announcing that the tailor-made land developed for setting up units at the Pharma City in Mucherla was scrapped, the State government, in the name of decentralising pharma industries, declared its plans to set up 10 pharma villages across Telangana.

Land acquisition

Accordingly, notification was issued for land acquisition in Polepally and other villages in Vikarabad district. Similarly, measures were intensified for land acquisition in Sangareddy also. However, the status of other pharma villages is still unclear. Initially, the government planned to set up them in Nalgonda, Medak, and other places, including one in Mucherla. The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC) is entrusted with the task of setting up the pharma villages.

(SEE PAGE 2)

10 newborns perish in UP hospital fire, probe ordered

Government rejects claims of expired fire extinguishers



Charred ward of the NICU after a fire at the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi district on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

LUCKNOW/JHANSI

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday formed a four-member committee to probe into the fire at the children's ward of a medical college in Jhansi that snuffed out the lives of 10 newborns as officials suspect electrical short circuit to be the cause of the tragic incident.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already directed the Divisional Commissioner of Jhansi, the Fire Department and the deputy Inspector General of Police

to submit a report on the incident within 12 hours. Amid claims that the medical college had expired fire extinguishers, Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak asserted all firefighting equipment in the college was completely fine and a fire safety audit was carried out in February and a mock drill in June.

Principal of the medical college, Dr Narendra Singh Sengar, also termed the allegations "baseless". The committee, to be headed by the Director General of Medical Education and

Training, has been tasked with identifying the cause of the fire and determining whether any negligence was involved and asked to submit its report within seven days.

"Sixteen children are undergoing treatment in other wards of the medical college. The children, who were three to four days old, have been kept on a warmer," Pathak said. The blaze at the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), where the infants admitted were mostly prematurely

born, has been doused but the air around is heavy with sorrow. Parents, mostly young mothers, and their families who gathered outside the children's ward clung to one another, drawing strength in their darkest hour.

Yakub Mansuri was sleeping on the pavement outside the children's ward Friday night when the fire broke out. He broke in through a window and managed to rescue some newborns but not his two daughters. (SEE PAGE 2)

Eight more held in Lagacherla row

STATE BUREAU
Vikarabad

Police continued to arrest villagers in connection with the vociferous protest against the setting up of a pharma village in Lagacherla. In addition to the 17 persons already taken into custody, eight more were arrested by the police on Saturday. All eight were shifted to Parigi police station, and after conducting health checkups, the arrested persons were presented before the court, according to reports.

Fearing arrests, many villagers are moving out of Lagacherla and taking shelter at their relatives and friends' places in other villages, reports said. Already, 17 people have been arrested in the incident. Of these, 16 were shifted from Parigi jail to Sangareddy jail. Former Kodangal MLA Patnam Mahendar Reddy

Fearing arrests, many are fleeing Lagacherla and taking shelter at their relatives and friends' places in other villages

has also been arrested and is currently lodged in Cherlapally jail. Meanwhile, Additional Director General Mahesh Bhagwat began an inquiry into the incident. He held a meeting with district police at the District Police Office here, and along with SP Narayana Reddy, other officials also participated.

It is learnt that the Additional DG met with Collector Prateek Jain and enquired about the incident. Special teams, which have been constituted to nab the absconding persons involved in the incident, are intensifying their checks.

Plans to finish BRS will not realise, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Highlighting the strategic vision and leadership demonstrated by BRS supremo K Chandrashekar Rao, which has been the crucial factor behind the resilience shown by the organisation, party working president KT Rama Rao recalled that many people had dreamt of diminishing the party reach and influence, but they had not succeeded. They got themselves finished today instead of finishing the BRS.

Addressing a meeting of the party workers at Telangana Bhavan, where some Congress leaders, including former MLAs, joined the party, he said despite facing various challenges and opposition, KCR and the BRS have continued to grow stronger.

'Govt betrayed farmers'

HYDERABAD: Highlighting the failure of the Congress government in fulfilling its commitments to the people, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Saturday that voting for the Congress by falling prey to its false promises only resulted in inviting the touch of ruin. Taking to X, Rama Rao pointed out that despite the Congress government's 420 promises, key initiatives, including the Rs 15,000 Rythu Bharosa support, and Rs 2 lakh loan waiver were not implemented. He accused the government of betraying farmers' trust by not delivering on these promises. He also mentioned that the Congress government failed to provide the Rs 500 bonus per quintal for fine-quality paddy, which was one of the key promises made to farmers. He warned that believing in false promises and voting for Congress would lead to disappointment and betrayal.



The party was due for a bigger comeback as a formidable force in the State. Being in the opposition, the party got the opportunity to engage more effectively with the public and address their concerns. Referring to the Congress plotting to

implicate him in issues and see him arrested for the fault of exposing it thoroughly for its corruption and failures, he warned that this plan would not succeed as the Congress leadership hoped. (SEE PAGE 2)

Adani friend in TG, foe in Maha

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

After laying out a red carpet for Adani Group and welcoming its investments in Telangana, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy warned that if BJP comes to power in Maharashtra, all the projects would be shifted to Gujarat by Gautam Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public meeting at Rajura constituency in Maharashtra, he said both 'Pradhani' (Prime Minister) and Adani had made grand plans to loot Mumbai, he said, referring to the Dharavi slum development project.

Despite the agitations against his government over the non-implementation of the Six Guarantees promised before the elections, Revanth Reddy brazenly claimed that his government had implemented all the guarantees

promised to the people of Telangana. Even as farmers were staging protests over the Telangana government's failure in implementing crop loan waiver, Revanth Reddy said, "Within 25 days of Congress government coming to power, Rs 18,000 crore was spent to waive loans of 22 lakh farmers."

Similarly, Rs 500 bonus was being extended to paddy farmers in addition to the MSP. This apart, within 10 months, the Congress government provided 50,000 government jobs in Telangana, he said, asking the audience to check if the Telangana government was offering Rs 500 domestic gas cylinders to households or not. "Elect Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance to power and the Congress will implement the five guarantees in Maharashtra," Revanth Reddy stressed. (SEE PAGE 2)

Mob tries to storm Biren's house

IMPHAL/SILCHAR

A day after the bodies of three persons out of six missing people were recovered from a river, a mob tried to barge into the personal residence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday evening. The security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters.

Earlier in the day, protesters attacked the residences of three State Ministers and six MLAs, prompting the government to impose curfew in five districts for an indefinite period and suspended internet services in parts of the State. Protesters ransacked the houses of



Women protest at Ima Market in Imphal on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

three of six legislators, including that of Chief Minister N Biren Singh's son-in-law, and set their properties on fire while security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse protesters in different parts of Im-

phal, police said. The bodies of two women and a child, who had been missing since Monday from a camp for the displaced, were recovered from Barak river in Jiribam on Saturday, while three other bod-

ies, including a woman and two children, were found on Friday night. The bodies of six people, including those of three children, recovered from Jiribam district, were sent to Silchar Medical College Hospital (SMCH) in Assam for post-mortem. Among the Ministers whose residences were stormed by the protesters are Sapam Ranjan, L Susindro Singh and Y Khemchand, an official said. The curfew was imposed for an indefinite period in Imphal East and West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakchering districts of Imphal valley "due to developing law and order situation," he said. PTI

Bomb threat: Mild tension at RGIA

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Mild tension prevailed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport after a passenger on a Hyderabad to Bangkok flight screamed that there was a bomb in the aircraft, prompting an emergency landing on Saturday and causing a temporary disruption to flight operations. The incident sparked concern among airport authorities and prompted a swift response from security personnel. The bomb threat was reported shortly after the flight took off from RGIA and was heading towards Bangkok. (SEE PAGE 2)

Five naxals killed in Bastar region

RAIPUR

Five naxalites were killed and two security personnel injured in an anti-insurgency operation in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Saturday, a senior police official said. The gunfight broke out at around 8 am in a forest in north Abujhmad along the border of Narayanpur and Kanker districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, he said. Personnel belonging to the BSE, District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task

Force (STF) are involved in the operation, he said. The bodies of five naxalites and a cache of firearms have been recovered from the spot so far, the official said, adding that a search operation is still underway in the area.

Two security personnel sustained injuries in the exchange of fire. They have been shifted to the state capital Raipur for treatment and are out of danger, he said. Including this incident, the bodies of 197 naxalites have been recovered so far this year following separate encounters in the State's Bastar region. PTI

Bizman duped of Rs 49.90 lakh

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 39-year-old businessman from the city was cheated to the tune of Rs 49.90 lakh by cyber fraudsters on the promise of trading on an international equity fund platform for high returns. The fraudsters contacted the victim on WhatsApp and advised him to download the app from the Google Play Store. "Trusting them, the victim began investing, totalling Rs 48,97,000. The scammers displayed the invested amount along with a supposed profit of Rs 62,13,535 as well," cybercrime officials said. (SEE PAGE 2)