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Hyderabad's real estate shows signs of slowing down



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Trump picks wrestling mogul to head Education Dept

Linda McMahon to be tasked with overseeing an agency Trump has promised to dismantle



SPORT | PAGE 10

India hopes for a fit Gill; Nitish Reddy may figure in team

In a nutshell

30 fall ill after mid-day meals

NARAYANPET: About 30 students of the Zilla Parishad High School in Maganoor mandal fell ill after consuming mid-day meals in the school in the afternoon on Wednesday. However, the District Medical and Health Officer Dr K Sowbhagyalaxmi claimed that only 15 students were affected by the food poisoning. She said except for four, all were stable. **STATE PAGE 5**

BMW mows down Telugu scribe

CHENNAI: A video journalist of a private Telugu television channel was mowed to death by a speeding luxury car on the Maduravoyal-Tambaram bypass here, police said on Wednesday. The victim, who was riding a motorcycle, was flung about 100 m away from the accident spot when the BMW on high speed knocked the two-wheeler. Police are looking for the driver. **PTI**

Murmu on two-day visit to Telangana

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu will be on a two-day visit to Telangana beginning Thursday, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. She will grace the 'Koti Deepotsavam-2024' in Hyderabad on November 21 (Thursday). "On November 22 (Friday), the President will deliver inaugural address at the Lokmanthan-2024 at Hyderabad," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement. **PTI**

Jilted lover stabs teacher to death

CHENNAI: A 26-year-old teacher was brutally stabbed to death in a classroom in the Mallipattinam Government School in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district by a man whose marriage proposal she had rejected. The teacher, Ramani, had been teaching at the school for the past four months. She was attacked in her classroom by Madhankumar (30), a former lover. **IANIS**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 103
Retail live.....	Rs. 125
With skin.....	Rs. 181
Skinless.....	Rs. 206
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 78

Revanth peddles Lagacherla fertile land as barren!

Replete with contradictions, CM goes out on a limb to defend pharma village

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

More than a week after the unsavoury incidents in Lagacherla in his own constituency of Kodangal, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy finally spoke in public about the village, which has been in the limelight for opposing his plans for a pharma village project there.

However, his attempt even then was to discredit the farmers of Lagacherla, describe their fertile land as barren where "not even lizards lay their eggs", and also to level allegations against the BRS, accusing the party and its working president KT Rama Rao of orchestrating attacks on officials. Even while naming the BRS, he also accused unnamed groups of sending "rowdies" to attack officials and surprisingly, found fault with Rama Rao for supporting the Lagacherla victims in Delhi and enabling them to lodge complaints against midnight arrests and police highhandedness.

Addressing a public meeting in Vemulawada on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy



A lush green field in Lagacherla, much in contrast to what the Chief Minister has been claiming.

acknowledged the disproportionate impact of such projects on marginalised communities such as Dalits, tribals and backward classes, but defended his decision to go for the pharma village, stating that "development required sacrifice of land". He also claimed that farmers would give up their land if the price was right. "Any farmer will give up their land for a remunera-

tion price and we are willing to provide a better compensation," he said. In an attempt to justify his actions, he said he was acquiring "only 1,100 acres in four villages for industries" as against thousands of acres acquired by the previous BRS government for irrigation projects and other works. He also made an attempt to placate the protesting farmers and villagers,

claiming that he had already asked officials to ensure better compensation. However, he did not make it clear why this aspect was not made public earlier, if he truly believed farmers would give up their land if the price was right. In the process, he also found fault with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013

(LARR Act) brought by the Congress-led UPA government. Revanth Reddy claimed that he had asked the Chief Secretary to consider amendments to the land acquisition policy in the State and said he would ensure compensation up to three times the registration value of the acquired land.

Here lies the contradiction — the LARR Act mandates four times the market value in rural areas, which is normally higher than the registration value. Moreover, the existing LARR Act places restrictions on the acquisition of agricultural land, including irrigated multi-cropped land. And the Chief Minister's statement is all the more contradictory because any amendments to the existing Act are within the purview of the Centre, and the State government can only provide additional compensation. At the same meeting, in an attempt to discredit former CM K Chandrashekar Rao, Revanth said the former had spent Rs 1.83 lakh crore on irrigation projects, including Kaleshwaram, which he deemed useless. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

US embassy in Kyiv shut

Kremlin warns of nuke strikes if Ukraine uses Western arms

KYIV

The US Embassy in Kyiv said it would stay closed on Wednesday after receiving a warning of a potentially significant Russian air attack on the Ukraine capital.

The embassy said its closure and attack warning were issued in the context of ongoing Russian missile and drone attacks on Kyiv and anticipated a quick return to regular operations.

The precautionary step came after Russian officials promised a response to President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets on Russian soil with US-made missiles — a move that angered the Kremlin.

Additionally, Moscow's revised nuclear doctrine has outlined the possibility of a nuclear response if Kyiv uses Western-made missiles against Russia, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. "The Russian Federation reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in the event of aggression against it or the Republic of Belarus, ... with the

use of conventional weapons, in a way that poses a critical threat to their sovereignty and (or) territorial integrity," he said. The war, which reached its 1,000-day milestone on Tuesday, has taken on a growing international dimension with the arrival of North Korean troops to help Russia on the battlefield — a development which US officials said prompted Biden's policy shift. Russian President Vladimir Putin subsequently lowered the threshold for using his nuclear arsenal, with the new doctrine announced on Tuesday permitting a potential nuclear response by Moscow even to a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power. That could potentially include Ukrainian attacks backed by the US.

Western leaders dismissed the Russian move as an attempt to deter Ukraine's allies from providing further support to Kyiv, but the escalating tension weighed on stock markets. **AGENCIES (REPORTS PAGE 9)**

Exit polls give BJP an edge

NEW DELHI

Several exit polls on Wednesday gave a clear edge to the BJP-led alliances in Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls while some put the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition ahead in the western State.

Axis MyIndia was the only one to predict victory for the Congress-JMM alliance in Jharkhand with 53 seats out of 81 as against only 25 for the BJP-led NDA and three seats for others.

Exit polls were out soon after the close of polling in Maharashtra and the second phase of voting in Jharkhand, predicting victory of the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra and the NDA in Jharkhand. In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, 145 is the majority mark, while it is 41 in the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly.

Party-led alliances likely to sweep Maha, Jharkhand Assembly polls; some pollsters put MVA ahead in Western State

The BJP-Shiv-Sena-NCP alliance is in power in Maharashtra while JMM-Congress is ruling in Jharkhand. Counting of votes would take place on November 23 for the single-phase Maharashtra election held on Wednesday and the two-phased voting in Jharkhand on November 13 and 20.

While the Matrize exit poll conducted with several news firms predicted 150-170 seats for the BJP and allies in Maharashtra with a 48 per cent vote share, it gave the Congress and allies only 110-130 seats. **PTI**

HC raps cops over arrest of Patnam

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday sharply criticised police officials over the arrest of former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narender Reddy in connection with the Lagacherla incident.

The court raised serious concerns about the manner in which the arrest was carried out, particularly asking whether the police considered Reddy to be a 'terrorist' given the circumstances of his detention.

Justice Lakshman, while hearing a quash petition filed by Reddy, was visibly perturbed by the handling of the situation by the police. "Is he a terrorist to be arrested during a morning walk at the KBR Park?" the judge asked, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the police action. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



GHMC started demolishing a four-storey building, which tilted to one side, in Gachibowli on Wednesday. The building started to tilt on Tuesday after earth in the adjacent plot was excavated to build a cellar, disturbing its foundation. — Photo: Anand Dharamana **(REPORT PAGE 3)**

Broken promises, scams mark 1 year of Cong rule

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

When the Congress came to power a year ago, at least those who voted for them might have expected them to try and match the performance of the previous BRS government.

However, over the last year, Telangana has seen complaints of broken promises, allegations of scams involving even the Chief Minister, disappointment among multiple sections of society and subsequent protests, including even by the uniformed force. As if these were not enough, almost every initiative launched by the Congress government in the last 11 months has met with stiff opposition.

Soon after coming to power, the Congress gov-

ernment had announced that changes would be introduced in Telangana Thalli statue and State emblem. A row broke out immediately, with many questioning the need to make the changes, forcing the government to constitute a Cabinet subcommittee to seek suggestions from different sections and make its recommendations.

Pharma City

This was followed with the announcement that the Pharma City at Mucherla was scrapped and, in its place, 10 Pharma Villages were proposed. However, when the High Court sought the government's clarification on the project in September, the latter claimed that the project was still on, despite legal challenges. The pharma vil-

lages are being opposed by many, including farmers in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency. The protests, which saw Congress leaders being locked up by villagers during a public hear-

ALMOST EVERY INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY THE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN TELANGANA IN THE LAST 11 MONTHS HAS MET WITH STIFF OPPOSITION AND DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF SOCIETY

ing programme in Dudyala mandal, have reached the Lagacherla episode. Farmers in Dappur, Vaddy and Malgi of Nyalkal mandal in Sangareddy are also up in arms against the establishment of the Pharma Village.

HYDRAA

Just when things were get-

ting streamlined, the government announced the establishment of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA). From day one, HYDRAA has been in the news for all the

MP Pallam Raju, questioned HYDRAA's selective demolitions in gross violation of rules. Even the High Court pulled up HYDRAA and instructed the agency to mend its ways and follow rules and regulations.

Musi Demolitions

Along with HYDRAA, the Musi Riverfront Development Project, too, came into the picture. Even before the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared, the State government marked and demolished houses along the riverbed in different areas, evoking strong protests from residents and every other political party. Such was the opposition over the demolitions that the affected residents approached the BRS to save

them and demanded the State government to withdraw the project. Echoing similar opinions, experts and voluntary organisations wanted the government to address the core issues of addressing the flow of murky water into the river by setting up more STPs.

Apart from the BRS, all other parties, including the Left, which are in alliance with the Congress, found fault with the government for demolishing the houses of the poor. The State government's move to rope in Singapore-based Meinhardt as one of the consortium for preparing the DPR, too, set off verbal duels between the Congress and BRS as the company was allegedly involved in different controversies. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

EFLU squad to curb 'Sutli Bomb' menace

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

It's been close to three weeks since Diwali celebrations, but the festive spirit still appears to be going strong on the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) campus in Hyderabad. However, the celebrations are not the way most students and the university administration expected.

The hostels' inmates are having sleepless nights as 'Sutli Bombs' are being exploded late at night inside the hostels meant for Indian students, causing threat and danger to students, besides damaging the hostel property. These bombs, made of jute twine and small amounts of explosives, produce a deafening sound, far

exceeding the permissible sound barrier. "Some students have been bursting these bombs in bathrooms, corridors and anywhere they like. This is causing a lot of problems for hostel inmates. Students faced the same issue last year as well. The issue, which began during Diwali, went on till December," a student told *Telangana Today*.

The issue has become so severe that the university administration constituted a flying squad, comprising hostel officials and university teachers, to curb the menace. The squad has been tasked to look out for 'Sutli Bombs', inflammable items or any prohibited material in the rooms. The inspections will be conducted without prior notice. **(SEE PAGE 2)**