



NATION | PAGE 07
Maha polls:
 EC agrees to meet Congress team



WORLD | PAGE 09
Will end conflict for NATO seat, says Zelenskyy
 Ukrainian President voices his readiness to end 'hot phase' with Russia



SPORT | PAGE 10
Syed Modi:
 PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen enter final

In a nutshell

Farmer who tried to end life dies
KARIMNAGAR: A tenant farmer, Borala Rajender (30), who tried to end his life by consuming pesticide on Friday, died while undergoing treatment in hospital on Saturday. Rajender had cultivated cotton in five acres of land, of which four acres were taken on rent. However, he incurred debts due to lack of adequate yield. Upset over this, he tried to die by suicide by consuming pesticide on Friday.

Irrigation official booked in DA case
HYDERABAD: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) unearthed disproportionate assets, allegedly worth over Rs 17 crore, belonging to H Nikesh Kumar, an Assistant Engineer (AE) with the Irrigation Department. The officials conducted searches at 25 locations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Following the outcome and seizures, ACB booked a case against Nikesh Kumar.

Tariffs: Trudeau to meet Trump
WEST PALM BEACH: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau flew to Florida to have dinner with President-elect Donald Trump after the latter threatened to impose tariffs on Canadian products. Trump threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if they don't stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across borders.

SP leaders denied entry into Sambhal
LUCKNOW: Several SP lawmakers, including its Sambhal MP, were stopped from entering the violence-hit Sambhal district on Saturday as the administration extended a ban on the entry of outsiders and public representatives into the area till December 10 to maintain "peace and order". The ban on outsiders' entry was to expire on Saturday.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 105
Retail live.....	Rs. 127
With skin.....	Rs. 184
Skinless.....	Rs. 210
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 82

Lagacherla farmers steadfast

Won't part with their lands even as govt issues notification for setting up industrial park

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Even as tribal farmers and villagers are standing firm over not parting with their lands in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency, the Vikarabad district administration has issued fresh notifications for acquiring land in Polepally and Lagacherla under Dudyal mandal. In the earlier notifications, 1,358.37 acres were to be acquired in Hakimpet, Polepally and Lagacherla for establishing a pharma village in the same mandal. However, with tribal farmers and residents putting up a relentless fight, the notifications were withdrawn on Friday. On Saturday, fresh notifications were issued for acquiring 71.39 acres in Polepally and 110.32 acres in Lagacherla villages, this time for a multipurpose industrial park. Compared to the last notification, the land acquisition area has been curtailed from 632.26 acres to 110.32 acres in Lagacherla, while the acquisition area remains the same in Polepally village. The farmers and residents have been vociferously declaring that they would not part with their lands. Yet, the State govern-

ment is sticking to its plans for acquisition and this time, it is for a multipurpose industrial park in place of a pharma village. Ever since the land acquisition notification was issued on August 3, the farmers and villagers have been up in arms against the acquisition. Since the last few months, protests have been staged at different places over the State government's plans. On November 12, Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain and KADA special officer Venkat Reddy were chased away by the villagers when they wanted to conduct a public hearing programme in Lagacherla. A few persons, including farmers, have been arrested in connection with the incident. Women had also complained about atrocities by police at midnight. Following the incident, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes member, Jatothu Hussain Nayak, visited Lagacherla and neighbouring villages and interacted with the farmers and villagers. Speaking to media persons, Hussain Nayak said the farmers and residents were not willing to part with their lands for any kind of project. (SEE PAGE 2)

Congress' U-turns dent TG image

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Telangana was once praised by world leaders for having a pro-active, fast-moving (remember Foxconn Chairman Young Liu's 'Telangana Speed' remark) and foresighted government. Those were the days when the BRS was at the helm. That image, however, is fast crumbling. The Congress dispensation in the State now appears to be fast building a dubious recognition for flip-flop decisions over different issues. One step forward, two steps back has been the functioning style that is becoming all the more identifiable with the Congress as it completes one year in power. Right from the decision to reject the Rs 100 crore donation from the Adani Group, to the retracted orders on the assessment of Class 10 students, the 'U' turn on decisions taken by the State government in the last one week alone reflects the state of governance in Telangana. On Tuesday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government decided to turn down the Rs 100 crore donations for

Recent instances

- REVANTH REDDY DEFENDS INVESTMENTS AND DONATIONS FROM ADANI GROUP
- Later, turns down Rs 100 cr donations for Skills University announced by the group
 - Puts up brave face against fight put up by farmers in Lagacherla against pharma village
 - First says there was no proposal for pharma village, later comes up with industrial corridor plan
 - Issues fresh notification for acquiring land for multipurpose industrial park

Issues memo to award 100% marks to external assessments in SSC without any marks for internal assessments

Later revokes decision, decides to retain existing assessment system

other U-turn, and a fresh notification was issued for acquiring land, this time with the announced purpose being a multipurpose industrial park. The U-turns did not end there. On Thursday, the State government issued a memo to award 100 per cent marks to external assessments in SSC public examinations without any marks for internal assessments from the academic year 2024-25. The orders did not stand straight even for 24 hours. On Friday, the government took a U-turn on awarding 100 per cent marks to external assessments and decided to retain the existing assessment system i.e., 80 per cent marks to external assessment and 20 per cent to internal assessment for the academic year 2024-25 only. The government also decided to implement the allotment of 100 per cent marks to external assessment in the SSC examination from the academic year 2025-26. Repeated U-turns make a circle, and that is how the Revanth Reddy administration appears to be functioning.

Skills University announced by Adani Group. This was after earlier defending the investments and donations from the Adani Group. During the recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the Chief Minister openly defended Adani Group's investments in Telangana. However, soon after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi spoke against deals with the Adani Group, Revanth Reddy's bus with Adani screeched to a halt and the donation was 'rejected'. Soon after this came the Lagacherla embarrassment. This was after several attempts to put up a brave face against the relentless fight put up by tribal farmers in

Lagacherla and other villages against the Chief Minister's pet Pharma Village project in his own constituency. With attempts to pull conspiracy theories out of the air against the BRS backfiring, and national agencies including the National Human Rights Commission descending on Lagacherla, Revanth Reddy first tried to say that there was no proposal for a pharma village and came up with an industrial corridor story. Even that version changed with the State government withdrawing the controversial land acquisition notification on Friday. Interestingly, on Saturday, the government took an-

New govt in Maha on Dec 5, Fadnavis likely to be CM

MUMBAI
 Mahayuti alliance's new government in Maharashtra will be formed on December 5 with Devendra Fadnavis emerging as the frontrunner to become the next Chief Minister again, a senior BJP leader said on Saturday. In the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP retained power, pocketing a whopping 230 of the 288 Assembly seats. The BJP emerged as the single largest party, winning 132 seats, followed by Shiv Sena with 57 and NCP with 41 seats. However, even after the announcement of poll results on November 23, the formation of the government has been delayed as the tripartite alliance is yet to decide on who will be the next Chief Minister. Shinde, Fadnavis and Pawar met BJP president JP Nadda and Union Minister Amit Shah to discuss a power-sharing pact for the next government. A key Mahayuti meeting scheduled on Friday was put off and likely to take place on Sunday now as caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde headed to his native village, delaying government formation further. (SEE PAGE 2)

Now, pay more for new power connections

Move comes after discoms hike connection fee

ANIL KUMAR
 Hyderabad

New power connections in Telangana will now cost more with the State-run power distribution companies — South Telangana Power Distribution Company (TGSPPDCL) and North Telangana Power Distribution Company (TGNPDCL) — increasing the minimum load capacity for domestic and commercial use and accordingly, the connection fee as well. The power distribution companies have recently issued instructions in this regard to the Integrated Consumer Service Centres, asking them to increase the minimum load capacity for single-phase and three-phase connections. According to the latest directives, those who want a single-

phase household electricity connection have to apply for 2 kilowatt instead of 1 kilowatt. Three-phase residential and commercial connections will be sanctioned only on application for a minimum load of 5 KW. Officials said the new norms would be initially implemented in Hyderabad and Warangal and extended to other places in a phased manner. Till now, a consumer had to pay Rs 1,425, including deposit, charges and application fee for a kilowatt household single-phase connection. Henceforth, consumers have to pay Rs 2,825 for 2 KW and Rs 7,025 for a three-phase 5 KW domestic connection. Similarly, for commercial connections, Rs 4,045 will be charged for a 2 KW single phase and Rs 10,050 will be charged for 5 KW three-

phase connections. Additional charges will be levied on those households having notary documents as compared to register documents. Notary households will have to pay Rs 3,625 for single phase 2 KW connections and Rs 9,025 for three phase 5 kW connections. Similarly, for notary commercial connections, the fee is Rs 7,250 for single phase 2 kilowatts and Rs 18,050 for three phase 5 KW connections. Meanwhile, officials claim that they have only increased load capacity due to high consumption and not the charges and deposit amount. Many people take one KW connection and use up to 2.5-KW load, which causes problems in summer, the official said, adding that the users had been advised to regulate the load based on the RMD of such connections.



Visitors brave strong winds at the Marina beach, in Chennai on Saturday. Hospitals and houses were inundated in Chennai and its neighbourhoods following Cyclone Fengal-induced heavy downpour. — Photo:PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Tiger strikes again, farmer attacked

STATE BUREAU
 Kurnam Bheem Asifabad

Close on the heels of the tragic killing of a woman by a tiger at Easgaon village in Kaghaznagar on Friday, a farmer sustained injuries when the big cat attacked him while he was picking cotton in his farm at Dubbaguda village in Sirpur (T) mandal on Saturday. Forest officials said Rauthu Suresh sustained injuries on his neck when the tiger tried to kill him while he, along with his wife and four others, was picking cotton balls. Suresh managed to survive by getting freed from the jaws of the tiger when his wife and colleagues raised the alarm. He was rushed to a private hospital

in Kagaznagar and provided basic treatment. He was then shifted to a hospital in Mancherial for better treatment. His condition was stated to be stable. He would be under observation for two days. Swab samples of the tiger were sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad for examination, officials said. Meanwhile, forest officials said that a male migrant tiger, aged 7-8, which killed the woman, might have attacked Suresh. Special teams were formed for night patrolling in Sirpur (T) and Kagaznagar mandals in view of the consecutive instances of attacks by tigers on humans. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

Telangana youth shot dead in US

HYDERABAD

A youth from Khammam district of Telangana was shot dead by miscreants at a gas station near Chicago in the United States where he was working, family members said on Saturday. Sai Teja Nukarapu (22) was shot at by the assailants early on Saturday, BRS MLC Madhusudan Thatha said, citing preliminary information received from the US. The MLC, who called on the parents of the victim at their residence near Khammam, said Sai Teja was not on duty when the incident happened but helping a friend who asked him to stay on for some time. PTI

World's tiniest wild cat spotted

T KARNAKAR REDDY
 Sangareddy

A Rusty-Spotted cat, considered the world's tiniest wild cat, was spotted in Mahabubabad district on Saturday morning. The cat, rated under the near-threatened category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), is rarely seen in Telangana. Farmers spotted the cat, which is rivalled only by the black-footed cat when it comes to size, at Kauslyadevipally in Narasimhulpet mandal. Forest officials, who rushed to the spot following information from villagers, rescued it. District Forest Officer Vishal said they released the cat into the reserve forest area after a medical examination and



The Rusty-Spotted cat which was found in Mahabubabad.

3 temples vandalised in Bangladesh's Chattogram

DHAKA

In a disturbing incident, three Hindu temples in Chattogram, Bangladesh, were vandalised by a mob shouting slogans, amid on-going protests and violence in the region. The attack occurred at around 2.30 pm on Friday in the Harish Chandra Munsee Lane area, targeting the Santaneshwar Matri Temple, the Shoni Temple, and the Shantaneshwari Kalibari Temple. According to reports from BDNews24.com, a group of several hundred individuals, after attending the Friday prayers, descended upon the temples, throwing brickbats and causing damage to the Shoni Temple and the gates of the other two temples. The tem-

NO ENTRY FOR BANGLADESHI PATIENTS IN TRIPURA HOSPITAL

AGARTALA: A day after a Kolkata hospital decided not to treat patients from Bangladesh over alleged atrocities against minority Hindus, a multi-specialty healthcare facility in Agartala followed suit on Saturday. Agartala-based ILS Hospital, which has been a popular destination for patients from the neighbouring country due to its proximity and affordable treatment costs, said the decision was taken over atrocities against Hindus and disrespect to the national flag in Bangladesh. PTI

ple authorities confirmed the extent of the damage, which included broken gates and other vandalised structures. Kotwali Police Station chief Abdul Karim confirmed the attack and stated that the assailants made deliberate attempts to damage the temples. Tapan Das, a permanent member of the Santaneshwar Matri Temple management committee, recounted the harrowing events, stating that the attackers began chanting anti-Hindu and anti-ISKCON slogans as they arrived in large numbers. (SEE PAGES 2, 8)