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**Criminal laws mark new beginning, says Modi**



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**Trump issues ultimatum to Hamas to release hostages**

President-elect warns group to free them before his swearing-in



SPORT | PAGE 10

**Australia ready for Bumrah threat, says Alex Carey**

**In a nutshell**

**LeT terrorist killed in J&K encounter**

**SRINAGAR:** A Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist, allegedly involved in an attack near a tunnel construction site in Jammu and Kashmir's Gagangir in October, was killed in an encounter with security forces in the Dachigam forest. Based on specific intelligence inputs, security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the upper reaches of Dachigam on Monday night, officials said. PTI

**3 hospitalised due to food poisoning**

**NALGONDA:** Three girl students of the Model School here were hospitalised due to food poisoning after consuming mid-day meals in the school. Soon after consuming the food, the students of PA Pally Model School complained of stomach ache and nausea. The students were shifted to Government Hospital, Devarkonda for treatment, according to reports.

**Sanctity of LAC must, says MEA**

**NEW DELHI:** India on Tuesday said it is committed to remaining engaged with China to find a fair and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary issue but made it clear that its ties with Beijing will be contingent upon strictly respecting the sanctity of the LAC and adhering to the pacts on border management with no attempt to unilaterally alter status quo. NATION PAGE 7

**Proba-3 mission launch today**

**SRIHARIKOTA:** The countdown for ISRO's dedicated commercial mission, the launch of Proba-3 spacecraft of the European Space Agency slated for December 4, began here on Tuesday. NewSpace India Ltd is the commercial arm of ISRO which would launch client vehicles and has secured the order from the European Space Agency for its latest mission. PTI

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85

## Dark side of State's solar plant tenders

**Govt designs tenders to 'favour' big players such as Adani**

ANIL KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

The State government's plan to hand over works of installing 1,000 MW solar power plants across Telangana through self-help groups (SHGs) under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme is likely to benefit big companies such as Adani Group, as the government has designed the tender condition in such a way that small players cannot fulfil them.

The Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO) recently invited tenders for solar plants with a cumulative capacity of 1,000 MW across the State under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme. The scheme aims to install 1 MW capacity solar power plants that will be operated by SHGs. The deadline for submitting tenders is December 10. However, industry sources say the TGREDCO empanelled vendors, who have been active in the rooftop solar sector (up to 1 MW) in the State, will face challenges with the new ten-

### Conditions Apply!

TGREDCO INVITES TENDERS FOR SOLAR PLANTS WITH CUMULATIVE CAPACITY OF 1,000 MW UNDER INDIRA MAHILA SHAKTI SCHEME

- Scheme aims to install 1 MW capacity plants, which will be operated by SHGs; deadline for submitting tenders is Dec 10
- Conditions designed in such a way that small players cannot fulfil them
- Excludes vendors experienced in smaller-scale rooftop projects
- Funds will be released only after 70% of works are completed by company that wins tender
- This is in contrast with practices of other govt entities such as NTPC, SECL and BHEL
- Company should give 10% of total work value as bank guarantee
- Must have an annual turnover of three times the cost of its installation

This restricts opportunities for MSMEs to scale up and forces them to remain small

Industry sources say it will be difficult for small industries to fulfil conditions, forcing them to withdraw from tender process

der, as the requirement for ground-mounted solar plants with 11/33 kV connectivity excludes vendors experienced in smaller-scale rooftop projects with LT (400V) terminations. Officials estimate that the cost of setting up a megawatt plant might be around Rs 3 crore to Rs 3.5 crore.

The notification stipulates that funds will be released only after 70 per cent

of the works are completed by the company that wins the tender for setting up the plant. This is in contrast with the practices of other government entities such as NTPC, SECL and BHEL.

There is also a condition that the company should give 10 per cent of the total work value as a bank guarantee, which was opposed by small companies in a pre-bid meeting held recently and requested the authorities to reduce it to 8 per cent so that small companies could take part in the tender.

There is another requirement that, in order to win a tender for a megawatt plant, it must have an annual turnover of three times the cost of its installation. For instance, a vendor with a turnover of Rs 9 crore could only take up a maximum of 3 MW projects.

This restricts opportunities for MSMEs to scale up and forces them to remain small. Industry sources say it will be difficult for small industries to fulfil all these conditions, forcing them to withdraw from the tender process. (SEE PAGE 2)

## IT push in Tier II cities on backburner

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

The State government's approach to the once-flourishing IT sector in Telangana appears to be missing a few crucial chords. Even as work is delayed on the much-awaited IT Tower at Malakpet in the capital city, the construction of IT Towers and expansion of the sector to Tier II cities too has taken a backseat.

In fact, two companies have reportedly shut their operations from the IT Tower at Mahabubnagar. "In the past, nine companies were operating out of the tower at Mahabubnagar and now only two were operating. After a change in government, seven companies have shut their operations. This is the situation in the Chief Minister's home district," BharatMBNR, an X user, posted on the social media platform.

**After a change in government, seven companies have shut their ops in IT Tower at Mahabubnagar, says a user on X**

The previous BRS government laid an emphasis on expanding IT companies to Tier II cities and towns on part with Hyderabad. Accordingly, IT towers were constructed in Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad, Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda.

In tune with these plans, the BRS government accorded administrative sanction for the construction of an IT tower in Adilabad. Under the ICT policy and Rural Technology Policy, the government planned to develop the IT Tower at Battisavargaon village, (SEE PAGE 2)

Manalapan mandal in Adilabad. To this effect, the district administration identified three acres in survey no 72 of Battisavargaon village. In 2023, the State government accorded administrative sanction of Rs 40 crore for the construction of the IT tower with a built space of 48,000 square feet.

The project was to be executed by the IT Department through Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC). A few companies evinced interest in setting up their units at the tower. It has been nearly one year since the Congress government came to power, but the status of the IT tower in Adilabad is still unclear.

The objective behind establishing IT towers in Tier II cities was to provide IT jobs for youth in the districts and facilitate the companies in cutting down their costs. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Dhaka summons Indian envoy

**Agartala mission suspends consular services**

DHAKA/AGARTALA

Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned the Indian envoy to its Foreign Office while announcing the suspension of consular services at its mission in Agartala, a day after the premises were breached by protesters over the arrest of a Hindu monk in the neighbouring country.

The developments marked another low in ties between the two countries following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as Prime Minister in August. India has been expressing concern over Hindus and other minorities being targeted in Bangladesh under the interim government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

The issue also figured in Indian Parliament on Tuesday and the British House of Commons a day earlier. New Delhi earlier called the breach at the Agartala mission "deeply regrettable". Tripura Police said seven people have been arrested and action taken against four policemen over the incident. Bangladesh had said its flag was desecrated. Emerging from the meeting with acting Bangladesh foreign secretary Riaz



Members of various Hindu organisations during a protest in Varanasi on Tuesday. — Photo:PTI

**No relief for arrested Hindu leader**

**DHAKA:** A Bangladesh court deferred to January 2 hearing on the bail petition of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachary on a government plea as no lawyer appeared on his behalf. "The court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Saiful Islam rescheduled the date as the prosecution side submitted a time petition as no lawyer appeared as defence counsel," a government prosecutor said. PTI

Hamidullah in Dhaka, Indian envoy Pranay Verma said Delhi wanted to build a "constant stable, constructive relationship" and no single issue should stand as a barrier to bilateral ties. "We are willing to engage with the interim government of Bangladesh," he said.

Earlier, Bangladesh's Law Affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul asked New Delhi to reassess

its ties with Bangladesh after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. "We believe in a friendship based on equality and mutual respect. While Sheikh Hasina's government followed a pro-India policy to cling to power without elections, India must realise that this is not Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh," he wrote on Facebook. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

**MAKING VOICES HEARD**



Municipal Chairperson, Vice-Chairman, Councillors and other BRS activists staging a protest against the Congress government over bad roads in Pebbair of Wanaparthy district on Tuesday.

## Newly appointed teachers yet to receive first salary

YUVRAJ AKULA  
HYDERABAD

Amidst much fanfare, thumping beats and official praises, they were handed over appointment letters by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, promising a new beginning in their lives, at an event organised at LB Stadium here in October.

Yet, nearly two months later, many of them are grappling with financial distress as their first salaries are yet to be credited. This is the situation of several hundreds of teachers who have been appointed recently by the Congress government via the DSC 2024. Despite receiving appointment orders on Octo-

**We spent all savings on coaching classes and preparation to crack DSC. Now, our savings have dried up, says an SGT**

ber 9, with the joining date as October 10, the newly appointed teachers are yet to receive their first salary, including for October and November, leaving them in financial limbo. One of the main reasons behind the issue is fixing the date of joining. After receiving appointment letters on October 9, candidates reported at the respective dis-

trict educational offices on October 10. Following the counselling conducted by the DEOs, candidates received school posting orders a week later, with some teachers joining the schools on October 16 and 17.

While the School Education Department decided October 10 as the date of joining, the district treasuries raised objections to this date as the date of actual joining of teachers is different as some candidates joined the work on October 16 and 17.

The Treasury Department officials sought clarity over the date of joining of new teachers as they cannot be paid for non-working days. (SEE PAGE 2)

## US approves sale of \$1.17 bn chopper equipment to India

**WASHINGTON:** The Biden Administration notified the Congress of its decision to approve the sale of MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter Equipment and related ones at an estimated cost of \$1.17 billion. The proposed sale will improve India's capability to deter current and future threats by upgrading its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Congress. The Biden administration's approval of sale of major defense equipment to India comes weeks ahead of its completion of its four-year term. President-elect Donald Trump would be sworn in as 47th president of the United States of America on January 20, 2025. PTI

## Opposition MPs protest over Adani issue

**NEW DELHI:** MPs of several I.N.D.I.A bloc parties protested on the Parliament premises over the Adani issue and reiterated their demand for a probe by a joint parliamentary committee into the matter. MPs of the Congress, AAP, RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT), DMK and the Left parties, among others, raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demanded accountability. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other also participated in protest. PTI

## 'Will question CM despite thousands of false cases'

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao on Tuesday vowed to continue questioning Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to ensure that he was punished in the people's court for betraying the people of Telangana with false promises. He said even one lakh false cases could not silence him.

"Revanth Reddy, even if you file thousands of false cases, I will not stop questioning your failures. I will not rest until the people deliver their verdict against your governance," he said in a strong counter to a case filed against him for his alleged involvement in a

**I will not rest until the people deliver their verdict against your (Revanth) governance**

**- T HARISH RAO**  
BRS LEADER



phone tapping case during the previous BRS regime. Taking to X on Tuesday, Harish Rao held the Congress government responsible for targeting him with a string of fabricated cases to

deflect attention from its shortcomings. "You cannot bear being questioned. From filing a false case at Yadagirigutta for exposing lies about loan waivers to registering unrelated complaints at Begum Bazar and Cyber Crime stations, your actions only reveal your inability to answer people's concerns," he said.

He cited examples of vindictive actions by the current Congress government, including cases registered at Manakondur and Panjagutta police stations for his remarks at public events. "These are nothing but attempts to silence me for exposing your two-faced policies and broken promises," he remarked. (SEE PAGE 2)