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Why Hindi titles for laws, asks Opposition in Parliament



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French PM Barnier ousted in no-confidence vote

Macron to nominate new Prime Minister in 24 hours ahead of Notre Dame inauguration



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India face pink ball test; Rohit confirms Rahul as opener

In a nutshell

Diesel autos barred from Hyd
HYDERABAD: In yet another major blow for auto-rickshaw drivers in Hyderabad, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that vehicles operating on diesel in the city would be shifted beyond ORR and that they would be replaced with electric autos to make the city pollution-free. At times, auto drivers use kerosene for cost-cutting. **HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

Farmers' 'jatha' march today
CHANDIGARH: A 'jatha' of 101 farmers will embark on a march to Delhi at 1 pm on Friday from the Shambhu border protest site, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said. The Ambala police in Haryana flagged a high alert and sent senior officers to the border to assess security. Central paramilitary forces have also been deployed on the border. **NATION PAGE 7**

2 die due to water contamination
CHENNAI: Two persons died and 19 others are undergoing treatment at a government hospital on Thursday, allegedly due to suspected drinking water contamination in the city. Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian, who visited the hospital and consoled the patients, said water samples have been sent to the King Institute of Preventive Medicine. **NATION PAGE 8**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 85
Retail live.....	Rs. 107
With skin.....	Rs. 155
Skinless.....	Rs. 177
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85

DARK DAYS RETURN; BRS MLAs ARRESTED

Political tussle between BRS and law enforcement intensifies as Harish, Kaushik Reddy, others arrested



BRS leaders Padi Kaushik Reddy, T Harish Rao and G Jagadish Reddy being arrested from the former's residence at Kondapur in Hyderabad on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU HYDERABAD

Tension escalated in Hyderabad on Thursday as the Cyberabad Police arrested senior BRS leaders, including MLAs T Harish Rao, G Jagadish Reddy and Padi Kaushik Reddy, amid high drama. The leaders, barring Kaushik Reddy, were released after 10 hours. The arrests intensified the political tussle between the BRS and law enforcement, triggering widespread protests by party cadre across the State. The dramatic events began unfolding early in the morning when the police reached

Kaushik Reddy's residence at Kondapur to arrest him in connection with a case registered on Wednesday at the Banjara Hills police station. The case stemmed from an altercation when Kaushik Reddy visited the station to lodge a complaint alleging phone tapping by the Congress government. The confrontation erupted when he demanded that Station House Officer KM Raghavendra stay to receive the complaint. Accusing Kaushik Reddy of obstructing a public servant, the police filed charges, including unlawful assembly, rioting and criminal intimidation.

BRS CONDEMNS ARRESTS, VOWS TO EXPOSE CONG

HYDERABAD: Condemning the arrest of its leaders and the Congress government's constitutional violations, the BRS has decided to stage a massive demonstration at the iconic 125-ft statue of Dr BR Ambedkar near Necklace Road on Friday. Commemorating the death anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, the BRS leaders will pay tributes to the Constitution's architect and expose the 'murder of democracy' by the Congress government in

Telangana. BRS MLAs, MLCs, MPs, elected representatives and activists will assemble at Telangana Bhavan by 9 am before proceeding to the protest site. The protest is being held opposing the arrest of BRS leaders including T Harish Rao, G Jagadish Reddy, Padi Kaushik Reddy and others for questioning the government's actions. Former Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy pointed out the neglect of the Ambedkar statue. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

Thursday morning, the situation escalated further when Harish also reached Kaushik Reddy's residence to meet him. Police personnel, deployed in large numbers, blocked him, leading to a heated argument. He was subsequently arrested and shifted to the Gachibowli police station. A similar scene unfolded when Jagadish Reddy and other BRS leaders arrived and were also detained and shifted to the Raidurg police station. They were charged with obstruction of police duty, criminal intimidation and others. As news of the arrests spread, hundreds of BRS

leaders and supporters, including Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council S Madhusudhana Chari, MLC K Kavitha and former Ministers P Sabitha Indra Reddy, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, S Niranjan Reddy and Mohd Mahmood Ali, rushed to the Gachibowli and Raidurg police stations. Despite negotiations and protests, the detained leaders were not released, adding to the tension. The arrests sparked political outrage among the BRS cadre, with the party accusing the Congress government of using law enforcement to suppress dissent. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Maha triumvirate takes oath

MUMBAI

Scripting a powerful comeback, Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday evening took oath as Maharashtra Chief Minister, while leaders of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers at a grand ceremony in South Mumbai's Azad Maidan. Immediately after the ceremony, the triumvirate drove together to Mantralaya, the State Secretariat, also in South Mumbai, where Fadnavis (54) chaired a Cabinet meeting and addressed a press conference. Prime Minister Narendra



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan with newly sworn Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde. — Photo: PTI

Modi, several union Ministers and Chief Ministers of various States, besides thousands of supporters of the Mahayuti alliance, were present at the ceremony, held almost a fortnight after results of the State Assembly elections were declared on November 23.

No other Ministers were sworn in. The Ministry will be expanded next week, ahead of the winter session of State legislature in Nagpur, a BJP leader said. Those present at the ceremony included Union Ministers Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Chief Ministers of various NDA-ruled States were also present, including Yogi Adityanath, Nitish Kumar, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Mohan Yadav and Pramod Sawant. Also present were actors Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, among others. **PTI**

HC bars Harish's arrest in phone tapping case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT Hyderabad

Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Thursday provided relief to BRS MLA T Harish Rao, directing the Punjagutta police not to arrest him in connection with the investigation into phone tapping and related charges. The case, registered under FIR No. 1205/2024 on December 1, accused Harish of involvement in criminal conspiracy, extortion, breach of trust, criminal intimidation and violations of the IT Act, 2008. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

ISRO places 2 European satellites into orbit

SRIHARIKOTA

The ISRO on Thursday successfully launched the PSLV-C59 rocket with the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 satellites from here, in a first-of-its-kind initiative involving precision formation flying of two satellites. "Mission Success! The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 Mission has successfully achieved its launch objectives, deploying ESA's satellites into their designated orbit with precision," ISRO said in a post on X. Addressing the scientists at the Mission Control Centre after the launch, ISRO Chairman S Somnath said the two satellites were placed into the 'right orbit' around 18 minutes after the lift-off. The Proba-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) mission consists of twin satellites in which two spacecraft (placed inside



PSLV-C59 carrying two satellites of ESA Proba-3 spacecraft lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. — Photo: PTI

the satellites) would fly together as one, maintaining a precise formation down to a single milli-metre to study the Sun's outer atmosphere. For ISRO, this launch would provide key insights on taking up scientific experiments on the Sun after its maiden mission — Aditya-L1, which was launched in September 2023. **PTI**

'States should learn from each other'

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao emphasised the need for Indian States leveraging their unique strengths and learning from each other's experiences to drive development. He called for a united approach to innovation and progress, urging Indian States to learn from each other's experiences for collective national growth. He shared Telangana's journey over the last decade, highlighting policies that trans-



formed the State into an innovation and industrial hub, emerging as a model for other States to emulate. He was participating in a panel discussion at Tycon TIECon Kerala 2024 on Thursday. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Students will soon be able to pursue any UG, PG course

YUVRAJ AKULA Hyderabad

In a transformative and bold step that marks a significant departure from rigid stream-based admissions in higher education institutions (HEIs), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has provided flexibility to students to pursue any undergraduate or postgraduate programmes regardless of previous disciplines of study. This means, irrespective of disciplines — Arts, Commerce or Science — taken

Irrespective of disciplines taken in Class XII or UG, students eligible for admission in any UG/PG programme

by a student in Class XII or UG, a student is eligible for admission in any discipline of UG or PG programme. However, they must qualify the relevant national- or university-level entrance exam for admission. This is

among several major changes introduced by the UGC in the draft UGC (Minimum Standards of Instructions in the Award of UG and PG Degrees) Regulations 2024. "We have decoupled eligibility for UG/PG admissions from the rigid discipline-specific requirements of school education. Under these regulations, students can choose to study in any programme, irrespective of their past disciplinary qualification," UGC Chairman Prof M Jagadeesh Kumar said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Allu Arjun booked for stampede

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

The Chikkadpally police has registered a case against actor Allu Arjun, his security wing, Sandhya Theatre owner and others following the death of a woman and serious injuries to her child

during a stampede at the premiere of the actor's latest movie *Pushpa 2*. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Central Zone DCP Akansh Yadav said, "Based on the complaint from the victim's family, we have booked a case under Sections 105, 118(1) r/w 3(5)

under the BNS Act and are investigating. Notices will be issued to the actor." A woman, Revathi, from Dil-sukhnagar died while her eight-year-old son is battling for life following a stampede at the theatre at RTC Crossroads on Wednesday. **(SEE PAGES 2, 3)**