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Cong lies can't hide its insults to Ambedkar, says Modi



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Sunita, Butch's return delayed to March

They won't be back on Earth until spring, 10 months after rocketing into orbit



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Draw at Gabba; rain plays spoilsport again on Day 5

In a nutshell

Folk singer ends life

SIDDIPET: The love story of a woman folk singer, which began on Instagram, ended on a tragic note with her dying, reportedly by suicide, in Jagadevpur mandal on Wednesday. She ended her life just 21 days after the love marriage. Sruthi (26) fell in love with cab driver Erra Dayakar. They befriended each other on Instagram. On Wednesday, Dayakar found Sruthi hanging from the ceiling. Sruthi's family alleged that it was a case of murder.

Biden relaxes H-1B visa rules

WASHINGTON: The outgoing Biden administration has relaxed rules for H-1B visas that will make it easier for American companies to hire foreign workers with special skills and facilitate a smoother transition from F-1 student visas to H-1B visas, a move that is likely to benefit thousands of Indian tech professionals. The rule aims to provide greater flexibility to employers and workers by modernising the criteria for special positions. PTI

Modi on 2-day visit to Kuwait

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Kuwait from Saturday in what will be the first trip to the Gulf nation by an Indian prime minister in 43 years. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing the visit, said it will provide an opportunity to further strengthen the "multi-faceted" ties between India and Kuwait. Modi is visiting at the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, it said. PTI

Sunita, Butch return delayed

CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA's two stuck astronauts just got their space mission extended again. That means they won't be back on Earth until spring, 10 months after rocketing into orbit on Boeing's Starliner capsule. NASA announced the latest delay in Indian-origin Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore's homecoming on Tuesday. The two test pilots planned on being away just a week when they blasted off on June 5. **WORLD PAGE 9**

Why this secrecy over Musi project, asks BRS

Kavitha questions govt's inconsistencies in its statements

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS MLC K Kavitha questioned the Congress government on inconsistencies in its statements and secrecy regarding the Musi Riverfront rejuvenation project.

She said the State government, in contrast to its earlier statements, had approached the World Bank for a loan. She questioned the government's plans to displace thousands of families and mortgage the State to execute the Chief Minister's dream real estate project.

Speaking to mediapersons at the Assembly media point on Wednesday, Kavitha said Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu provided false information, misleading the Assembly and the public about the project's funding and intent, exposing a deliberate attempt to deceive.

"The Minister claimed that no assistance was sought from the World Bank. When I insisted on having evidence to prove him wrong, he admitted to have sent a proposal, but for



BRS MLCs K Kavitha and Satyavathi Rathod speaking to mediapersons at the Assembly media point in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

sewerage interceptors project along the Musi river, which is false," she said.

The preliminary project report, submitted on September 19, clearly outlines plans for the Musi Riverfront project and seeks Rs 4,100 crore for it where the government mentions about Musi Riverfront Development Project, but not Rejuvenation Project as was being claimed. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

BRS MOVES PRIVILEGE MOTION

HYDERABAD: The BRS on Wednesday moved a privilege motion against the Congress government for misleading the Legislative Council on the Musi riverfront rejuvenation project issue. BRS MLC K Kavitha accused the government of misleading the House on the issue of the Musi project and trying to hide the facts. She said during the Question Hour on Tuesday, Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu informed the House that no DPR had been prepared and that it had not sought funds from the World Bank. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

13 dead after Navy boat rams ferry

MUMBAI

Thirteen persons died and 99 others were rescued after a Navy craft crashed into a ferry off the Mumbai coast on Wednesday.

At about 4 pm, a Navy craft undergoing engine trials lost control and collided with passenger ferry Neel Kamal off Karanja near Mumbai, the Navy said. The ferry was carrying passengers from the Gateway of India to Elephanta Island, a popular tourist destination.

"Search and rescue efforts were immediately launched by the Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and Marine Police. Four naval helicopters, 11 naval craft, one Coast Guard boat and three Marine Police boats were involved in the rescue efforts," the Navy said. "The survivors picked up by Navy and civil craft in the area have been transferred



Passengers after being rescued in an operation by the Navy and Coast Guard, in Mumbai on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

to jetties and hospitals in the vicinity. So far 99 survivors have been rescued," it added.

The accident led to the loss of 13 lives, including a Naval personnel and two from the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) on board the naval craft, the Navy said. PTI

FOR A CAUSE



BRS MLA KT Rama Rao drives an auto-rickshaw during a rally from the MLA quarters at Adarshnagar to the Assembly, demanding the immediate implementation of promises made to auto-rickshaw drivers in Telangana. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

Allu Arjun fans booked for remarks on CM

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Cybercrime Police in the city and other places across Telangana have booked at least four cases against fans of actor Allu Arjun for allegedly making derogatory comments on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The cases were booked following complaints from Congress leaders and others. According to officials privy to the developments, units of the Cybercrime Police in Hyderabad and districts are also actively tracking social media activity of the fans, who are spreading unverified and malicious posts, especially against Revanth Reddy, after the actor's arrest. The social media monitoring teams of the Cyberabad Police have been directed to maintain high vigil. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Ashwin calls it a day

BRISBANE

India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin on Wednesday stunned the cricketing world by bidding adieu to his international career in the middle of the ongoing Test series against Australia here despite having a "bit of punch left" in him.

The 38-year-old retires from the game as the second highest wicket-taker for India in Tests with 537 scalps in 106 games, placing him only behind the great Anil Kumble (619 wickets) in the overall statistics. In the limited-overs format, being part of the 2011 World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy-winning teams would count among the highlights of his career. He will continue to play club cricket, including the IPL, where he will compete for Chennai Super Kings. PTI **(REPORT PAGE 10)**



Lagacherla ryots, BRS leader get bail

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Former Kodungal MLA and BRS leader Patnam Narendar Reddy, along with 24 farmers from Lagacherla village, who were arrested for the alleged attack on the Vikarabad Collector and other officials, were granted conditional bail by the Nampally Special Court on Wednesday.

However, one of the key accused, B Suresh, was denied bail. Police in its report accused Suresh of orchestrating the attack on the Collector during a public hearing on land acquisition in Lagacherla village, Vikarabad district, on November 11.

Narendar Reddy was granted bail after furnishing a personal bond of Rs

This is a farmers' victory against Revanth Reddy's anarchy... The CM had handcuffed farmers, including those who were sick — **T HARISH RAO, BRS**

50,000 and the others were told to furnish two sureties of Rs 20,000 each.

They are required to appear before the police every Wednesday for three months.

The case is related to the attack on Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain and other government officials on November 11. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

YouTuber Prasad Behera held for harassing co-actor

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Jubilee Hills police has arrested prominent Telugu YouTuber, actor and writer Prasad Behera following a sexual harassment complaint made by a co-actor. According to the police, a 32-year-old female actor alleged that Prasad had been sexually harassing, misbehaving and verbally abusing her for the past several months. In her complaint, the actress mentioned that Prasad had inappropriately touched her while shooting a web series. But, when she strongly objected to it, he apologised several times. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Ghee row hits Bhadradri temple

JAMES EDWIN
KOTHAGUDAM

A controversy is brewing over ghee procurement at the Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam at Bhadrachalam, with the top temple official facing disciplinary action.

The episode began when the temple's Executive Officer (EO) L Rama Devi allegedly signed an agreement with a private firm, Rythu Dairy of Jangaredy-gudem in Andhra Pradesh, for the procurement of ghee to prepare laddu prasadam at the temple. The temple was earlier procuring ghee from the Karimnagar Dairy and the EO's act, according to officials, was against the rules.

The State government had in August issued orders

directing all endowment temples to procure ghee from the government-owned Vijaya Dairy. But, the EO signed the agreement with the private dairy, which quoted a lesser price in the tender but did not meet the requisite conditions, official sources said.

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha was said to have expressed anger at the EO for ignoring the government orders. She reportedly directed Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaier on Tuesday to transfer the EO to the Revenue Department, from which she was on deputation in the Endowments Department. Surekha also directed the official to cancel the ghee tender and issue a charge memo to the EO. **(SEE PAGE 2)**