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**BPSK row: Candidates intensify protest**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**South Korean acting President impeached**  
 Opposition-controlled National Assembly passes motion with 192-0 votes



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**India ends day two at 164/5 after dramatic collapse**

**In a nutshell**

**8 killed in Punjab bus accident**

**BATHINDA:** Eight people died and many were injured on Friday when a private bus crashed through the railing of a bridge here and plunged into a drain a few feet below, police said. The bus had over 45 passengers and it fell in Lasara drain at Jeewan Singh-wala village, officials said. The accident occurred when the bus was enroute to Bathinda from Talwandi Sabo. Police shifted the injured to a local hospital. **PTI**

**Pak-based LeT deputy chief dies**

**LAHORE:** Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed's brother-in-law and banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa deputy chief Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki died of a heart attack. According to the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Abdul Rahman Makki had been ill for the past few days and was undergoing treatment. "Makki suffered a cardiac arrest early this morning and he breathed his last in the hospital," a JuD official said. **PTI**

**Osamu Suzuki passes away at 94**

**TOKYO:** Osamu Suzuki, the charismatic former boss of Suzuki Motor Corp. who helped turn the Japanese mini-vehicle maker into a globally competitive company, has died, the company said Friday. He was 94. Suzuki was known for his candid remarks and friendliness, calling himself an "old guy from a small to mid-size company." He became CEO of Suzuki in 1978. **PTI**

**Kavitha announces Maha Dharna**

**HYDERABAD:** BRS MLC K Kavitha has announced a Maha Dharna at Dharma Chowk on January 3, coinciding with the birth anniversary of social reformer Savitribai Phule. The protest aims to demand implementation of the Kamareddy BC Declaration and the promise of 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections, as assured by the Congress during the Assembly elections last year. **STATE PAGE 5**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 103
Retail live.....	Rs. 125
With skin.....	Rs. 181
Skinless.....	Rs. 206
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 80



**What Samantha craves for...**

All she wants in a busy world is the quiet of a simple life

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## Fluorosis cases return to haunt Nalgonda

**Marriguda mandal reports fresh cases of dental fluorosis**

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

In an alarming development, fresh cases of dental fluorosis were reported from Marriguda mandal of Nalgonda district, just three years after the Central government patted Telangana for getting rid of the problem, largely through the supply of potable water through taps under the ambitious Mission Bhagiratha scheme, the brainchild of former Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu. Marriguda mandal, once a fluoride hotspot, has now reported new cases of dental fluorosis identified among children. It indicated a relapse in the fluoride problem reigniting concerns over water contamination issues in the region. Alarmed by these new instances, the district administration has ordered a door-to-door survey, covering over 13,000 households in Marriguda mandal. This



District officials during the door-to-door survey in Marriguda mandal of Nalgonda district.

survey, led by Asha workers, has already identified some 140 cases of dental fluorosis within the past five days and will continue for another ten days. Similar complaints have emerged from villages in Munugode, Nampally and Devarakonda mandals, despite these areas receiving 100 per cent tap water supply coverage under the Mission Bhagiratha programme. The recurrence of fluoro-

sis cases has raised questions about the effective implementation of the programme of late. The first fluorosis case in the district was detected in Bhatlapally village in Marriguda mandal back in 1945. Since then, excessive fluoride has been found in the groundwater of 967 habitations in the erstwhile Nalgonda district, severely impacting the quality of life for three generations. After a long drawn struggle,

several measures were initiated addressing the gravity of the situation. In 2020, the BRS government announced that no new fluorosis cases had been detected in Telangana, and the Union Health Ministry also endorsed the claim in Parliament, attributing the success to Mission Bhagiratha. The recent detection of new cases has come as a shock, largely attributed to the consumption of rice and vegetables irrigated with fluoride-contaminated groundwater. The district administration's ongoing survey has so far covered over 7,500 people, said the health officials. If neglected further, these dental fluorosis cases could progress to skeletal fluorosis, potentially crippling the victims. Kanchukata Subash, convenor of the Fluorosis Vimukthi Porata Samithi, attributed the rise in fluorosis cases to the use of groundwater potentially leading to the new cases.

## State pins high hopes on Union Budget

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Notwithstanding the years of poor treatment of Telangana in Budget allocations, the Congress government is pinning high expectations on the union Budget for 2025-26, scheduled to be introduced in Parliament in February next. Accordingly, the State government has

outlined its priorities, seeking financial assistance worth Rs 1.63 lakh crore for infrastructure projects, including Regional Ring Road, Phase-2 of Hyderabad Metro Rail, Musi Riverfront Rejuvenation project and others. The Congress government in the State is also hoping for the resolution of pending financial issues, in-

cluding funds from the Centre as well as Andhra Pradesh pertaining to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act since 2014. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, and other Ministers concerned have already submitted proposals to the union Ministers in this regard, over the

last couple of months. Among the proposals, the Regional Ring Road project, estimated at Rs 34,367 crore, is viewed as essential for boosting industrial growth, logistical hubs, and the pharmaceutical sector. The State government has already initiated land acquisition but awaits the required clearances. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## AI system to detect eye cancer

**M SAI GOPAL**  
 Hyderabad

For the first time in India, Hyderabad-based researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based system that can detect eye cancer, also known as Retinoblastoma (RB), by analysing images. Eye researchers from Hyderabad-based LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Dr Vijitha S Vempuluru, Dr Swathi Kaliki, ocular specialist from US-based Wills Eye Hospital, Dr Carol L Shields, IIT-Hyderabad, and TechSophy Inc collaborated to develop first AI model dubbed as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Ocular Oncology, Retinoblastoma (ArMOR), to diagnose eye cancers for peoples of all

ethnicities with 97 per cent accuracy. In the new study that was published in the journal Cancers (October 2024), the researchers said that they have improved ArMOR and tested its ability to detect retinoblastoma in a multiracial patient group or cohort. The Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Ocular Oncology, Retinoblastoma technology was refined with the help of researchers from IIT-H and Bourntec Solutions Pvt Ltd. The researchers used deep learning and geometric calculations to extract various features of retinal tumours, such as tumour seeds, blood vessels, hemorrhage, etc., that an Artificial Intelligence can identify. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## US issues 1 mn nonimmigrant visas to Indians

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

The US Mission to India issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas for the second year in a row, including a record number of visitor visas, underscoring the huge demand of Indians for travel to the United States for tourism, business, and education. In the past four years, visitor numbers from India have increased by five times, and more than two million Indians travelled to the United States in the first 11 months of 2024, a 26% increase over the same period in 2023. Over five million Indians already have a nonimmigrant visa to visit the United States and each day the Mission issues thousands more. **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

## Arli (T) reels under cold wave

**SANTOSH PADALA**  
 Adilabad

It is neither a hill station nor a valley! The nondescript Arli (T) village in Bheempur mandal of the district has been drawing headlines for witnessing record-level minimum temperatures in the Telangana State. Bounded by the Penganga River on one side and forests on the other, Arli (T), also called the Lambasingi of Telangana, has a total population of nearly 2,000 people. While no other village in the same landscape records such

record-low temperatures, only this settlement remains in the news for reeling under the severe cold weather conditions. Golli Rama Bai, former sarpanch of the village, said the minimum temperature of the village, which is

around 35 km away from district headquarters, hovers around 6 degrees Celsius during winters. She recalled that the village recorded a minimum temperature of 3.6 degrees Celsius in 2020 and 6.3 degrees Celsius on December 15 this year. She said villagers got habituated to cope with chilling weather over a period of time. Locals say they light up bonfires to keep themselves warm while consuming hot food to withstand the freezing temperatures. They regret that the cold weather condition sometimes affects farm operations. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## World remembers eminent statesman

**Funeral of Manmohan at Nigambodh Ghat today**

**NEW DELHI**

Several top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his residence on 3 Motilal Nehru Road, the sprawling bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi that served as his retirement abode for over 10 years. Draped in the tricolour, Singh's body was placed in a flower-bedecked casket at the bungalow, where leaders, cutting across party lines, paid their last respects to the departed leader in the presence of his wife Gursharan Kaur and other family members. The last rites of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be conducted at 11:45 am on Saturday at the Nigambodh Ghat crematorium here with State honours, the Union Home Ministry said. It said the Ministry of Defence has been requested to make arrangements for according Singh State funeral with full military honours. The family is waiting for one of his daughters to arrive from the United States. Other than Prime Minister Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadra also paid tributes to Singh. Top Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, too paid their last respects to Singh. AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other leaders were also present. "Paid tributes to Dr Manmohan Singh Ji at his



National flag flies at half mast as a mark of respect for former PM Manmohan Singh, in Hyderabad on Friday. — Photo: PTI

residence. India will forever remember his contribution to our nation," PM Modi said in a post on X, sharing images from his visit. The 92-year-old former two-time Prime Minister passed away on Thursday night at AIIMS, where he was rushed in the late evening after he suddenly lost consciousness. His body was taken to his residence late on Thursday night after embalming. **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**

**Centre to build memorial in Delhi**

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has decided to make a memorial for Manmohan Singh in the national capital, official sources said, as they accused the Congress of doing politics over the issue. The sources said the decision has been conveyed to Congress, but it will take a few days to find an appropriate venue. **PTI**

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