

**In a nutshell**

**Five workers killed in road mishap**

**HYDERABAD:** Five migrant workers from Odisha were killed and 16 others were injured in a road accident in Suryapet on Friday. The accident occurred near Ilapuram in Chivvemla mandal when a private bus carrying the workers rammed a stationary truck. The bus driver apparently failed to notice the truck parked by the roadside and rammed into it from behind.

STATE PAGE 5

**Hush money case: Trump sentenced**

**NEW YORK:** President-elect Donald Trump was sentenced in his hush money case, but the judge declined to impose any punishment. The outcome cements Trump's conviction before he returns to power before while freeing him to return to White House unencumbered by threat of a jail term or a fine. Meanwhile, Trump said he committed no crime.

WORLD PAGE 9

## Congress govt on hunt for funds

**Asks HMDA to raise Rs 20,000 crore**

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
 HYDERABAD

Once the most staunch critics of government borrowings, Congress had changed tack after assuming power, with its government setting new records in borrowings. Now, the State government is reportedly pressuring State agencies as well to raise funds through every means possible.

After the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC) raised Rs 10,000 crore through debt markets, it is the turn of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to rope in a merchant banker to raise Rs 20,000 crore through debt markets, all this by paying eye-popping amounts as commission.

**After TGIC raised Rs 10,000 cr through debt markets, it is the turn of the HMDA to rope in a merchant banker to raise funds**

The TGIC had raised Rs 10,000 crore through a merchant banker and paid a staggering Rs 100 crore as commission. The amount that the HMDA will shell out as commission if its plans fructify remains to be seen.

**Merchant banker**

The move to tap the debt market by these two agencies reflects the pressure being exerted on State-run organisations to raise funds through different means, officials said.

In July, the TGIC floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a merchant banker to raise funds through the debt market for capital expenditure and general purposes. The task was to identify an advisor cum merchant banker, who would handle the fund-raising assignment. As per the terms, the merchant banker had to raise Rs 5,000 crore within six months from the date of issue of the work order.

"Accordingly, one merchant banker was identified and Rs 10,000 crore has been raised already," a senior TGIC official said. TGIC officials, however, are tightlipped on the purposes for which the funds were being raised, besides on what was the interest being paid. (SEE PAGE 2)

## India to build strategic infra along LAC

NEW DELHI

The Centre's wildlife panel has cleared several proposals to build infrastructure for troops, ammunition storage and communication networks in eastern Ladakh near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, official records show.

The new infrastructure, set to be developed in the Changthang High Altitude Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and the Karakorum Nubra Shyok Wildlife Sanctuary, aims to speed up ammunition access and ensure quicker operational deployment, according to the Ministry of Defence. India and China were engaged in a 54-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh, which began after their troops clashed in the Galwan Valley in May 2020. This standoff ended in October last year.

The proposals for this strategic infrastructure were discussed during a meeting. (PTI)

## AUSPICIOUS DAY



Priests perform rituals as part of Vaikunta Ekadasi at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Yadagirigutta, on Friday. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 2)

## VIP treatment for CM's brother sparks row

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Notwithstanding the criticism from various quarters, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's brother A Tirupati Reddy continues to get VIP treatment, which, during his visit to a school in Vikarabad district, included a massive convoy, police escort and a huge deployment of police for security.

Though the incident occurred around three days ago, it came to light after a video of the event went viral on social media.

In the viral video, Tirupati Reddy is seen being given VIP treatment at a school in Vikarabad. He is seen arriving with a huge



Students standing on both sides of a road welcoming Revanth's brother A Tirupati Reddy at a school in Vikarabad.

convoy led by a police escort. While the school band welcomed him and took him in a parade to the venue, students, along with a huge number of police personnel, could be seen standing on both sides of the path to welcome him. Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain is also seen in the video,

escorting Tirupati Reddy. Opposition parties have been criticising the VIP treatment, including a police escort being provided to Tirupati Reddy and other family members of the Chief Minister, despite them not holding any official positions in the government. (SEE PAGE 2)

## HC raps govt for permitting Game Changer special shows

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
 Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court on Friday criticised the State government for taking a 'U-turn' in permitting special shows and enhancing ticket rates for Ram Charan-starrer *Game Changer*.

Stating the government to reconsider its decision, Justice Reddy said if it fails to act, the court will be forced

to pass prohibitory orders against the special shows.

The judge questioned under which provision of law the price was enhanced by Rs 100 for multiplexes and Rs 50 for standalone theatres. The judge issued specific directions to the Special Secretary, Home Department, to review and reconsider the memo issued for *Game Changer*. Further, it directed not to permit any

special shows in future without considering public interest, health and safety.

Recollecting the unfortunate stampede at Sandhya theatre, the judge questioned government pleader and said, "You said you will not permit special shows after *Pushpa 2*, what happened? Tomorrow they will want to screen for 24 hours, will you allow it?" (SEE PAGE 2)

## Elderly couple kill, bury daughter-in-law, held

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

An elderly couple who murdered their daughter-in-law and buried the body was arrested after their son complained to the police about his missing wife.

According to the police, the victim, M Dhooli (38), had a love marriage with M Suresh, a car driver against the wish of the latter's parents about 20 years ago. The

couple has two children, both sons. However, ever since their son's marriage, Dhooli's in-laws — Tulasi Ram and Ananthi — bore a grudge against Dhooli and did not keep a cordial relationship with her. Suresh was addicted to alcohol and had frequent fights with Dhooli, following which they considered divorce too. Following such incidents, Dhooli's in-laws decided to eliminate her. (SEE PAGE 2)

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