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Netanyahu says move put on hold until "safe release" of hostages can be assured



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In a nutshell

Second suspected GBS death in Maha
MUMBAI: Maharashtra recorded the second suspected fatality of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) with the death of a 56-year-old woman on Sinhadag Road in Pune. The woman died on Tuesday following respiratory failure with sepsis and was suffering from oral cancer. The total number of GBS cases in the State has risen to 127. The woman, who complained of weakness, was taken to hospital on January 15. IANS

Man who burnt Quran shot dead
STOCKHOLM: An Iraqi man who carried out several Quran burnings in Sweden has died, a judge in Stockholm said on Thursday. Swedish media reported that he was killed in a shooting in a nearby city. Salwan Momika (38) staged several burnings and desecrations of Islam's holy book in Sweden in 2023. Videos of the Quran burnings got worldwide publicity and raised anger and criticism. WORLD PAGE 9

New DGP takes charge in AP
AMARAVATI: The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday appointed Harish Kumar Gupta as the Director General of Police under full additional charge. A 1992 batch IPS officer, Gupta will replace D Tirumala Rao as the DGP after the latter's superannuation from service on January 31. Rao is re-employed as the vice-chairman and managing director of the APSRTC for one year.

All 64 onboard US plane feared dead in collision with chopper

28 bodies pulled out from Potomac river after midair collision in Washington

AP
ARLINGTON

All 64 people aboard an American Airlines jet that collided with an Army helicopter were feared dead in what was likely to be the worst US aviation disaster in almost a quarter century, officials said on Thursday.

At least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the midair collision Wednesday night when the helicopter apparently flew in the path of the jet as it was landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, officials said.

Rescuers were still searching for any sign of the 60 passengers and four crew members, but they did not believe there were any survivors, which would make it the deadliest US air crash in nearly 24 years.

"We are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation," said John Donnelly, the fire chief in the nation's capital. "We don't believe there are any survivors."

The body of the plane was found upside-down in three sections in waist-deep water. The wreckage of the helicopter was also found. Donnelly said first responders on Thursday were searching an area of the Potomac river as far south as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, roughly 4.8 km south of the airport.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the col-



Rescuers searching for passengers and crew members after an American Airlines jet collided with a US Army helicopter, in the Potomac river in Washington on Thursday. — Photo: Web

lision, but officials said flight conditions were clear as the jet coming from Wichita, Kansas, with US and Russian figure skaters and others aboard, was making a routine landing when the helicopter flew into its path. "On final approach into

Reagan National it collided with a military aircraft on an otherwise normal approach," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said. "At this time, we don't know why the military aircraft came into the path of the ... aircraft."

Three soldiers were aboard the helicopter during a training flight, an Army official said.

Images from the river showed boats around the partly submerged wing and the mangled wreckage of the plane's fuselage.

Tragedy should've been prevented: Trump

WASHINGTON

As the death toll from the deadly plane crash in Washington continues to rise, US President Donald Trump said that the accident "should have been prevented" and questioned why the authorities failed to inform the helicopter to divert its route.

Taking to his social media platform Truth Social, Trump posted, "The airplane was on a perfect and routine line of approach to the airport. The helicopter was going straight at the airplane for an extended period of time."

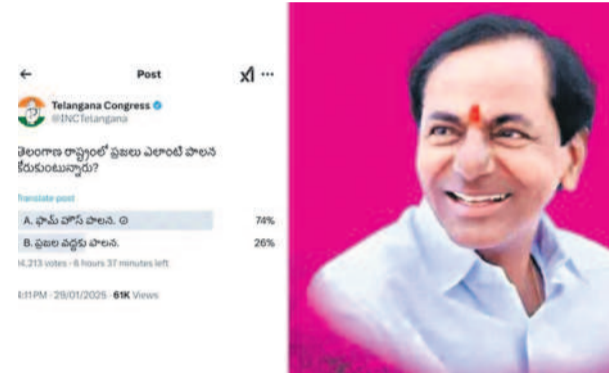
"It is a clear night, the lights on the plane were blazing, why didn't the helicopter go up or down, or turn. Why didn't the control tower tell the helicopter what to do instead of asking if they saw the plane. This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. Not good," he wrote.

"What a terrible night this has been. God bless you all!" Trump said in another post. IANS



People want KCR's return: Congress poll

@INCTelangana asked X users which governance they preferred



More than 70 per cent of the voters called for the return of the BRS led by K Chandrashekhar Rao.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

An attempt by the Telangana Congress to insult the previous BRS regime by calling it 'farmhouse governance' through an online poll on X is boomeranging, with people calling for the return of the K Chandrashekhar Rao government.

As part of an attempt to showcase the "support" extended to the State government by the people, the official handle of Telangana Congress, @INCTelangana, launched an online poll asking X users which governance they preferred.

The options were "A. Farmhouse governance" and "B. Prajasa Vaddaku Palana", with the Congress calling itself the people's government. However, as voting progressed, the trend favoured what the Congress

tried to belittle by calling it the farmhouse governance, with more than 70 per cent of the voters calling for the return of the BRS led by Chandrashekhar Rao.

Sharing a screenshot of the Telangana Congress X handle's poll, in which the more than 70 per cent favoured the BRS regime, BRS spokesperson Putta Vishnuvardhan Reddy said the message was clear.

"Okay ... the message is crystal clear. People want KCR government. Revanth government is a disaster..."

Many users laughed their hearts at the way the poll boomeranged on the Congress and wanted the details not to be deleted, with a few insisting that screenshots of the debacle be saved. There were a few, who criticised the Congress, asking it how many times it would face embarrassing moments. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

BRS corporators arrested

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS corporators, who protested during the Budget proceedings at the GHMC council meeting here on Thursday, were arrested.

They were opposing Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi's decision to pass the Budget without discussion in the council meeting.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao condemned the arrest of GHMC corporators, calling it an attempt to suppress voices questioning the Congress government's approach toward Hyderabad's development.

He criticised the arrests, stating that corporators were detained for raising concerns over the lack of funds for the city in the GHMC Governing Council meeting. "Is it a crime to question why Hyderabad is being ignored? If we ex-



A BRS corporator being detained during the protest in Hyderabad on Thursday.

posed the Congress government's failure to utilise last year's allocated budget, will they silence our representatives?" he asked.

Former Minister T Harish Rao also decried the arrests, calling the use of marshals to remove corporators from the Budget Council meeting undemocratic. "Approving a

Budget without discussion is unacceptable. Suppressing public representatives who speak for the people is intolerable," he said.

BRS leaders demanded the immediate release of arrested corporators and warned the State government against undermining elected representatives.

Inter hall tickets now on phones!

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

For their hall tickets, students appearing for the Intermediate examinations need not go all the way to the college. They can just download it on their phone!

The first-of-its-kind initiative has been rolled out by the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TG BIE) from this year. The student needs to click on the link sent by the Board, download the hall ticket and take a print out of the same to appear for the examinations.

The Board, on a pilot basis, introduced the initiative for the environmental education exam held on Thursday. It will be extended for theory and practical exams commencing on

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education to send hall tickets to students' registered mobile numbers

March 3. The initiative is in addition to hosting of hall tickets on the Board's website from where students can download them. The hall tickets so far were sent to colleges, which refused to hand over these to students over non-payment of tuition fee dues. Meanwhile, there were reports that the Board failed to provide hall tickets to students despite paying the fee for environmental education exam. (SEE PAGE 2)

BRS stages widespread protests against Cong rule

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The BRS staged widespread protests across Telangana, and in the UK and Australia as well, charging the Congress government with failing to implement its 420 promises even after being in power for 420 days.

In response to a call by BRS working president KT Rama Rao, the party leaders and activists submitted petitions to statues of Mahatma Gandhi at various locations, urging him to grant wisdom to the Congress leaders to honour their poll promises.

The protests coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, with leaders pointing out key welfare schemes that remain unfulfilled, including



BRS leaders and workers protesting the Congress government's failure to implement its 420 promises, on Thursday.

one tola gold for brides under Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaaadi Mubarak, Rs 4,000 pension for senior citizens, Rs 15,000 per acre Rythu Bharosa, unemployment benefits for youth and loan waivers for farmers.

BRS leaders criticised the Congress for failing to implement its six guarantees and alleged that the government was suppressing dissent by filing cases against those who questioned its performance. (SEE PAGE 2)

No domicile quota to hit medical students hard

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

Meritorious students from Telangana are set to lose their domicile-based reservations in Post Graduate (PG) medical seats from next academic year.

The change will allow students from other Indian States who have completed MBBS in Telangana to compete for super-specialty medical seats under the Competent Authority in Telangana.

The Supreme Court's judgment on Wednesday declaring domicile-based reservations in PG medical



seats as 'impermissible' also means that students from Telangana will lose all such reservations within the State.

A large number of students, public health experts and individuals closely following medical education said the apex court's judg-

ment would be unfair to native students, who have pursued MBBS elsewhere, while others have argued that this will only open opportunities for meritorious students from across India.

The Supreme Court's judgment has also elicited arguments that South Indian States, with highly evolved medical education and higher number of PG medical seats, will struggle to maintain quality healthcare without the domicile reservation.

"Isn't it unfair to deny a candidate an opportunity in their native State, where they were born and raised,

just because they completed their MBBS in another State. How is it equitable to grant State quota benefits to students who have resided in the State only for five years and at the same time deny benefits for domiciled students?" asks Dr Sunil T, a Nalgonda native who did his MBBS in Karnataka.

Aravind Varier, well known for his data-analysis on social media platform X (@VarierAravind), said: "It would be difficult for South Indian States to maintain the quality of healthcare without domicile reservation for PG medical seats". (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

2 dead as rocks fall on labourers

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

A woman and her daughter, both MGNREGS workers, died on the spot after rocks fell on them while they were busy with earth work near a hillock at Goverdhanagiri village in Akkanapet mandal.

Five other women sustained injuries in the incident. The deceased are Mandarapu Saravva (52) and her daughter Annari Mamatha (32), who lived in the same village after mar-

riage. According to their fellow labourers, 18 women and four men arrived at the worksite at 9 am. While they were removing soil and filling a tractor, a couple of rocks caved in and rolled over seven women working at a site.

While Saravva and Mamatha died on the spot, the other five sustained grievous injuries. The injured are Indrala Swaroopa, Vallaboju Manemma, Thatikonda Vimala, Indrala Renuka and Gouda Venkataiah. (SEE PAGE 2)

Indian servers to host DeepSeek

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday said DeepSeek, an open-source model, will soon be hosted on Indian servers to address data security and privacy concerns over the Chinese AI platform.

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said every app or system, which needs to be tested on security parameters will be tested, and decisions will be taken. "The good thing is that Deepseek is an open-source model, and we are very soon going to host DeepSeek on Indian servers," he said. PTI