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Rahul praises 'Make In India,' then calls it a damp squib



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Thousands protest against mass deportations in US

People block major freeway in Los Angeles for several hours, say 'nobody is illegal'



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Yuvi paaji believed in me, says Abhishek Sharma

In a nutshell

RBI may slash interest rate

MUMBAI: The RBI is likely to reduce the key interest rate by 25 basis points this week after keeping it on hold for two years, complementing the Union Budget initiatives to push consumption-led demand, though the sliding rupee continues to be a concern. As the retail inflation has remained within the comfort zone for most of the year, the bank can take rate action to boost growth hit by sluggish consumption, opined experts. PTI

Govt working on uniform toll policy

NEW DELHI: The Road Transport Ministry is working on a uniform toll policy to benefit NH users, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said. Gadkari also asserted that now India's highway infrastructure matches that of the US. "We are working on a uniform toll policy," he said. He was responding to a question on simmering discontent among users of NHs on account of high toll charges and sub-par road-user experience. BUSINESS PAGE 8

SC directive on forest cover

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday restrained until further orders the Centre and the States from taking any step that would reduce forest areas. "We will not permit anything which leads to reduction of forest area. We further order that until further orders, no steps will be taken by the union of India and any State which will lead to reduction of forest land unless compensatory land is provided by the Centre and the States...", the Bench said. PTI

Engage with panel on funds: FM

NEW DELHI: With southern States voicing concerns over 'unfair' tax money devolution, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the States have to engage and highlight their concerns with the 16th Finance Commission. She said the Centre does not decide on the devolution formula. The devolution of taxes is made in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission, the Finance Minister said. BUSINESS PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 103
Retail live.....	Rs. 125
With skin.....	Rs. 181
Skinless.....	Rs. 206
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 66

Congress caught in caste turmoil

SC categorisation, BC quota issues rock party

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Even as the internecine tussle among the loyalists, defectors, MLAs and Ministers within the Congress is threatening to assume bigger proportions, the party appears to be caught in the quagmire of caste and communal politics as well now.

The silence of the party leadership and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, with no action against those playing such politics, has triggered discussions in political circles about whether this was a deliberate move to divide Telangana on casteist lines.

Sample this. The Congress Telangana unit had promised SC categorisation before the elections and promised to implement the Supreme Court judgment. However, Chennai MLA G Vivek Venkatswamy has been raising his voice against the SC categorisation and is demanding 20 per cent reservation for the Mala community.

He had even organised a 'Malala Simha Garjana', a massive public meeting in the city on December 1. This has not gone down well with a section of Congress leaders and they are demanding that disciplinary action should be taken against Vivek.

Former MLA and AICC Secretary SA Sampath Kumar reminded that the Congress had announced its commitment towards SC classification in its manifesto. Revanth Reddy had also made an announcement in the State Assembly, he stressed. If a few leaders, in-

Party's social media head may be sacked

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

After the online poll conducted by the Telangana Congress official X handle backfired miserably and put the party in a spot, speculations are rife that the party leadership is considering the dismissal of social media team head, Manne Satish. He is also the chairman of Telangana Technology Services.

When A Revanth Reddy was TPCC president, Manne Satish supported him through social media campaigns and other activities. However, following the online poll debacle, Satish is reportedly

facing the axe. There is buzz in the party circles that Peddapalli MP G Vamshi, and son of Chennai MLA G Vivek, who owns a Telugu newspaper and a news channel, is being considered. Vivek is also one of the aspirants seeking a Cabinet berth.

Similarly, Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy's son Gutta Amit is also a front runner for the party's social media team head post. Amit Reddy is chairman of the Telangana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation. The decision to replace Satish is expected to be taken anytime soon.

cluding Vivek and others, raise objections over SC categorisation, it would be equal to raising their voice against the party. Disciplinary action should be taken against such leaders, he insisted recently.

Countering his comments, Vivek Venkatswamy had said that he was only striving for the welfare of his community. "My community's self-respect is important for me and I am prepared to go to any extent," Vivek had said.

Another issue that is worrying the State leadership is the promised 42 per cent reservations to the BC community in local bodies. Even

as it is yet to find a solution, Congress MLC Teenmaar Mallanna and a few other leaders have been alleging an upper hand for the upper castes in the party. After the party declared Narendra Reddy as its candidate for the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad MLC constituency elections, Mallanna openly challenged the Reddy community leaders to win the elections without seeking BC community votes. At a public meeting in Warangal on Sunday, the Congress MLC also made some casteist remarks using filthy language against the Reddy community. (SEE PAGE 2)

EC notification for MLC polls in TG, AP

HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India on Monday issued notification for elections to three seats each of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Legislative Councils scheduled on February 27. This set in motion the process for filing nominations for the elections from Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies.

The term of office of three members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (two Graduates' and one Teachers' constituency) and three members of the Telangana Legislative Council (one Graduates' and two Teachers' constituencies) will end on March 29, 2025.

Nominations can be filed till February 10 while the scrutiny of nominations will be taken up the next day. February 13 will be the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures.

Polling will be held on February 27 between 8 am and 4 pm. The counting of votes will be taken up on March 3. The model code of conduct has already into force in the concerned constituencies.

In Telangana, polling will be held for Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' constituency and Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituencies. (SEE PAGE 2)

Curtains down on Delhi poll campaign

NEW DELHI

The high-voltage campaigning for Delhi Assembly polls came to an end at 5 pm on Monday, drawing curtains on months-long, high-decibel electioneering replete with AI-generated memes, acerbic jibes and venomous barbs and a race to woo voters with freebies, including monthly doles to women and the youth.

The ruling AAP and rival BJP and the Congress engaged their star campaigners liberally with the pack being led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet Minister Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Piyush Goyal, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadera, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann and Chief Ministers of

SOUND OF DEVOTION



A sadhvi of Kinnar Akhara blows a conch during Amrit Snan on the occasion of Basant Panchami during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Monday. — Photo: PTI

SC to hear KTR's plea on turncoat MLAs on Feb 10

BRS leader says Congress can't shield defected MLAs anymore

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court on Monday scheduled a hearing for February 10 on BRS working president KT Rama Rao's petition seeking the disqualification of seven MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress. The apex court tagged the petition with an earlier plea filed by BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy and issued notices to all the turncoat legislators.

The Bench, comprising Justice BR Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran, took up Rama Rao's petition, which seeks the disqualification of BRS MLAs who switched al-

Apex court tags the petition with an earlier plea filed by BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy and issues notices to all the turncoat legislators

legiance to Congress. The court heard Kaushik Reddy's petition on January 31 regarding the defection of Tellam Venkat Rao, Danam Nagender and Kadiyam Srihari, directing the Telangana Assembly Speaker to set a reasonable timeline for ruling on the disqualification pleas. It also asked the Assembly Secretary to inform the court of the Speaker's decision within a week.

Following petitions filed by Rama Rao apart from BRS MLAs Kaushik Reddy and KP Vivekananda, a single Bench of the Telangana High Court on September 9 last year directed the Assembly Secretary to fix a schedule of hearing for the disqualification motion with the Speaker and ensure a decision within four weeks.

However, the State government filed a writ petition before the Division Bench of

the High Court, which overturned the order in November last year, siding with the State government's argument that the Speaker's authority over disqualification should not be subject to judicial interference.

'Reasonable time'

It allowed the Speaker a 'reasonable time' to decide the matter, stating that the exact timeframe would depend on the specifics of each case. Kaushik Reddy then approached the Supreme Court, filing a special leave petition against the defection of Nagender, Venkat Rao and Srihari. (SEE PAGE 2)

Chevella MLA's gunman killed in road accident

STATE BUREAU
SANGAREDDY

A constable with the Armed Reserve police, Muthangi Srinivas (32), who was working as Chevella MLA Kale's gunman, died after his bike hit a wild boar at Velimela Thanda in RC Puram mandal on Sunday night. Srinivas, a native of Bulkapur in Shankarapally mandal of Rangareddy district, was on his way to Velimela to attend a function when the incident occurred. He died on the spot as he sustained multiple injuries. The body was shifted to a government hospital in Patancheru for postmortem. A case was registered.

Telugu film producer ends life in Goa

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Telugu film producer-turned-drug peddler, KP Chowdary alias Sunkara Krishna Prasad Chowdary, died by suicide in Goa.

As per available information, his friends in the film circles said Chowdary was allegedly upset since his arrest in a drug case and also had financial problems.

KP Chowdary, a native of Khammam district, entered the film industry in 2016. He was the producer of the Telugu film 'Kabali'. In

According to his friends, Chowdary was allegedly upset since his arrest in a drug case and also had financial issues



2023, he was arrested by the Cyberabad Police in possession of 93 grams of Cocaine. Police found that Chowdary's clients were al-

legedly spread across movie circles, including actors and actresses from Telugu and Tamil film industries and also in business

circles.

He reportedly procured ganja from Petit Ebuzer, a Nigerian national and was using it for self-consumption and supply in his circles. He was also associated with drug kingpin Edwin Nunes who was earlier arrested by HNEW.

Chowdary, who relocated to Goa, started a club there. However, his business ran into losses. He was also a distributor for other movies. Though he ran into losses, Chowdary built good relations with celebrities in the industry.

Ex-serviceman killed in J&K terror attack

SRINAGAR

An ex-serviceman was killed while two women, including his wife and cousin, sustained gunshot injuries in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. The terrorists opened fire at Manzoor Ahmad Wagay, his wife and cousin in the Behibagh of the district, they said. All three were rushed to a hospital where Wagay succumbed to his injuries, officials said. PTI

TG-EAPCET schedule out

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Convenor of Telangana Engineering Agriculture and Pharmacy Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) examinations for 2025, Dr B Dean Kumar, released the detailed schedule of the entrance examinations on Monday.

The EAPCET-2025 examination for the engineering stream will be conducted between Friday, May 2 and Monday, May 5, 2025, while the entrance examination for agriculture and pharmacy will be held on Tues-

According to the schedule, exam for the engineering stream will be conducted between May 2 and May 5

day, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

The commencement of submission of online applications will be from Tuesday, February 25, while the last date for submission of online applications without late fee is Friday, April 4,

2025, the notification on Monday said. The syllabus for TG EAPCET-2025 will be based 100 per cent of first year and second-year intermediate syllabus. To finalise the dates, the first CET committee meeting of TG EAPCET-2025 was held on Monday, at JNTUH, in which Prof V Balakista Reddy, Vice Chancellor, JNTUH and Chairman of the CET Committee, Prof E Puroshotham, Vice Chairman-I, TGCH, Prof SK Mahamood, Vice Chairman-II, TGCH, Prof Sriram Venkatesh, Secretary, TGCH and others participated.