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In a nutshell

4 women killed as tractor overturns

PALNADU: Four women chilli farm labourers were crushed to death in Palnadu district on Sunday when the tractor trolley they were travelling in overturned, police said. Police said the accident occurred at around 6.30 pm when the tractor lost control on a poorly maintained road in Chagantivaripalem village. "The labourers were sitting on sacks of chillies when the tractor trolley overturned, resulting in their deaths," Rao said. According to police, up to 15 people were sitting on the chilli sacks when the accident occurred. A case was registered. PTI

Stage set for Aero India-2025

BENGALURU: The Yelahanka Air Force Station is decked up for the biennial Aero India show which will be inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday. Themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', the five-day extravaganza will showcase India's aerial prowess and indigenous cutting-edge innovations alongside state-of-the-art products of global aerospace companies. The key highlight among the displays will be the Tejas Formation comprising Air Chief Marshal A P Singh in one of the aircraft. **BUSINESS PAGE 8**

Arms, ammo looted in Manipur

IMPHAL: Unidentified gunmen looted arms from India Reserve Battalion outpost in Manipur's Thoubal district, officials said on Sunday. The gunmen came in vehicles and looted arms from the IRB outpost in the Kakmayai area of the district on Saturday night, they said. "Armed men who came in several vehicles looted at least six SLRs and three AK rifles from the personnel of IRB and Manipur Rifles from an outpost," officials said. "Around 270 rounds of ammunition along with 12 magazines were also taken from the post," they said. PTI

31 naxals killed in C'garh encounter

Deceased include 11 women, two security personnel martyred

PTI
 BIJAPUR

In one of the deadliest blows to naxalites in Chhattisgarh, security forces on Sunday gunned down 31 rebels, including 11 women, in a fierce encounter in the State's Bijapur district, police said.

Two security personnel were also killed and as many injured in the face-off, they said. More than 650 security personnel entered the Indravati National Park area from different sides and eliminated 31 naxalites in their den, Chhattisgarh's Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said.

With this success, 81 naxalites have been neutralised by security forces in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year, compared to 219 in 2024.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the end of naxalism in Chhattisgarh and the country is certain. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home



Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai addressing to the media on Bijapur encounter, in Dhamtari on Sunday. —Photo: PTI

Minister Amit Shah, the State will get rid of naxalism by March 2026, he asserted.

The latest gunbattle took place on a forested hill along the border of Madded and Farsegarh police station areas when personnel from different security forces during an anti-naxal operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P said. Acting on inputs about the presence of

Maosts belonging to their national park area committee, personnel from state police units District Reserve Guard, Special Task Force and Bastar Fighters had launched the operation on February 7, he said.

At around 8 am on Sunday, an intense exchange of fire broke out on the hill, a part of the Indravati National Park. The intermittent gunfight lasted till

around 4 pm, he said. "So far, bodies of 31 Naxalites, including 11 women, clad in 'uniform' have been recovered from the encounter site. Besides, a huge cache of weapons, including AK-47, INSAS, SLR and .303 rifles and Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGL), and explosives have also been seized from the scene," the official said.

DRG Head Constable Naresh Dhruv and Constable Vasisht Ravte from the STF were killed in the gunfight and their mortal remains have been brought to Bijapur district headquarters, he said. While Dhruv was a resident of Balodabazar-Bhatapara district, Ravte hailed from the Baldo district in the State.

Constables Jaggu Kalmu (DRG) and Gulab Mandavi (STF) suffered injuries during the encounter. They were airlifted to Raipur and admitted at a hospital there, Sundarraj said, adding that their condition was stated to be out of danger.

KTR calls caste survey irrelevant

Demands govt to conduct fresh survey in State



BRS working president KT Rama Rao along with others addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan.

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

KCR, KTR offer to participate in fresh survey

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who demanded a fresh and scientific caste census, has also offered to participate in it along with party chief K Chandrashekar Rao and other leaders of the party. He was countering Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims during the recent Assembly session that BRS and BJP leaders had skipped the caste census to avoid revealing their land ownership details. The Chief Minister listed out that Chandrashekar Rao, Rama Rao, T Harish Rao, and BJP MP DK Aruna among others did not participate in the caste survey when it was conducted across the State last year. Calling the Chief Minister's remarks silly excuses, Rama Rao pointed out that the election affidavits of Chandrashekar Rao, himself and other BRS leaders were available in the public domain on the ECI website.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the Congress government, charging it with manipulating the caste census to reduce the population of Backward Classes (BCs) by 5.5 per cent.

Calling the survey unscientific and irrelevant, he demanded an immediate resurvey and an apology from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his deliberate attempt to betray BCs in Telangana.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan after a meeting with BRS BC leaders here, Rama Rao condemned the Congress for reneging on its pre-election promise of 42 per cent reservations for BCs. "Congress has played a cruel

joke on BCs. It has slashed their population figures and shattered their hopes of welfare benefits, ration cards, house allotments, and government contracts, turning the entire caste census into a scrap of paper. This is an act of de-

ception, and no BC child will accept it," he said, adding that the most vulnerable MBC and BC families were now living in fear of losing their rightful share in welfare programmes, education and job opportunities. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

BREATHTAKING



The sun sets at the Sangam during the Maha Kumbh Mela, in Prayagraj on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

Atishi resigns as Delhi CM

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi handed over her resignation to Lt Governor V K Saxena on Sunday, a day after her Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced a crushing defeat in the assembly polls.

Atishi, who retained her Kalkaji seat, handed over her resignation to Saxena at Raj Niwas, officials said. The LG's office said that Saxena has asked the outgoing CM to continue on the post till formation of a new government.

The BJP is expected to stake claim to power next week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from a foreign visit, party leaders said. "Hon'ble Lt Governor, Shri VK Saxena today received the resignation of Hon'ble CM, Ms Atishi. He asked her to continue in her position till the formation of the new government," Raj Niwas, Delhi posted from its X handle. The LG dissolved the Delhi Assembly effective from Saturday, February 8. **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**



Atishi

Nadda, Shah meet to pick new CM

NEW DELHI: BJP president JP Nadda met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday as the party's exercise to pick the new Delhi Chief Minister gathered pace. Senior leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had held consultations at BJP headquarters on Saturday as well. PTI

Manipur CM Biren Singh tenders resignation

IMPHAL

Amidst rumblings within the State BJP seeking a change of leadership, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal, officials said.

The Governor accepted Singh's resignation, along with that of his Council of

Ministers, and requested that he continue in office until alternative arrangements are made. The development comes hours after he returned from Delhi.

Earlier this week, a new controversy erupted after the Supreme Court sought a sealed-cover forensic report on the authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging the role of Singh in the ethnic violence. The tapes reportedly



N Biren Singh

included conversations where Singh allegedly suggested that Meitei groups were allowed to loot arms

and ammunition from the State government during the unrest, which has so far claimed 250 lives.

In his resignation letter, Singh said, "It has been an honour to serve the people of Manipur thus far. I am extremely grateful to the central government for time actions, interventions, developmental work and implementation of various projects for safeguarding

the interests of every single Manipuri." "My sincere request to the Centre through your good office is to continue with the same. I take the opportunity to enumerate the most important ones of them ... To maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur which has a rich and diverse civilizational history over thousands of years," the letter added. **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)**

A woman from Siddipet who was admitted to a private hospital with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) last week, reportedly died in Hyderabad on Sunday. Perhaps the first case of GBS fatality in Telangana State, since the recent outbreak of the neurological disease in Maharashtra, the woman was in a critical state and was on ventilator support for several days. According to reports, the woman was on ventilator support since January 31 at a private hospital and was in critical condition.

Unable to afford the expensive treatment costs, which included ventilator support in the ICU, the woman's relatives had shifted her to a couple of private hospitals before she died of GB Syndrome. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Are you eating the 'real' paneer?

M SAI GOPAL
 Hyderabad

Does your favourite paneer dish really has paneer in it? Food lovers, especially vegetarians, should be aware of analogue paneer that may contain vegetable oil or animal fat and less nutritive value.

The restaurant where you order does not reveal whether the paneer is dairy-based or an analogue product made up of either animal fat or vegetable oils. Analogue paneer is made from



vegetable oil or animal fat and is regulated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The problem comes when you walk into a

restaurant and order a paneer dish. The eatery, from where you might have ordered a paneer dish online, does not specify whether the paneer is made up of

milk or vegetable/animal oil. While you eat your favourite paneer, thinking it is nutritious, in reality, you might be eating an analogue substitute made up of processed food products that mimic the taste and texture of traditional paneer.

Typically, analogue paneer is made from a combination of vegetable oils, animal fats and starch, which provides restaurants with a cheaper alternative to paneer. However, it is not as nutritious as the original paneer. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Businessman loses Rs 23 lakh on bus

STATE BUREAU
 Nalgonda

A businessman travelling in a private bus from Vijayawada to Hyderabad lost Rs 23 lakh on Sunday. The theft occurred when the bus was parked near a hotel on the national highway near Narketpally.

Some unidentified persons sneaked into the bus and decamped with the bag containing cash. The victim,

identified as Venkatesh from Bapatla, was on his way to Hyderabad.

He came out of the bus along with fellow passengers for breakfast. As he returned to his seat, he discovered that his money was missing.

Venkatesh filed a complaint with the Narketpally police. The police identified a suspect with the help of CCTV footage and further investigation is on.