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Switching sides is Congress' culture, says Punjab CM



WORLD | PAGE 09
Trump warns Hamas of 'all hell breaking out'
Says truce deal should be cancelled if they don't release all hostages by February 15



SPORT | PAGE 10
India aim for clean sweep against England

In a nutshell

2 Armymen killed in J&K IED blast

JAMMU: Two Army personnel, including a captain, were killed and another was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), believed to have been planted by terrorists, exploded near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnour sector near here on Tuesday, officials said. The Army confirmed the fatalities in the blast and said "own troops are dominating the area and search operations are underway". The injured personnel were rushed to a hospital. **PTI**

30 injured in honey bee attack

PEDDAPALLI: Nearly 30 people were injured in honey bees attack in Manthani town on Tuesday. The episode began when the bees, which emerged from the nearby trees, attacked a boy who was practising karate in the Junior college grounds. Other people who were present on the ground tried to rescue him. However, they were also attacked by the bees. The injured persons were shifted to the Manthani government hospital.

22 candidates in fray for MLC poll

NALGONDA: A total of 23 candidates submitted 50 sets of nominations by the end of the nomination schedule for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers MLC constituency. During the scrutiny process, independent candidate Thundu Upendar's nomination was rejected due to the absence of signature on the nomination papers. As a result, 22 candidates remain in the fray. Polling will be held from 8 am to 4 pm on February 27, followed by vote counting on March 3.

Private jets collide in US, one killed

SCOTTSDALE: One person was killed and others were injured when a private jet owned by Motley Crue singer Vince Neil collided with another jet Monday afternoon at the Scottsdale Airport in Arizona, authorities said. Neil's jet was landing at the airport when it veered off the runway and collided with another parked plane, Neil's representative Worrick Robinson, IV, said in a statement. There were two pilots and two passengers on plane. **AP**

8 foundation stones, zero progress!

Work on most of the projects, launched by Cong, yet to take off

S SANDEEP KUMAR
HYDERABAD

If the last 14 months of the Congress government in power in the State is any indication, Telangana will have a large collection of foundation stones, along with a long list of announcements, by the time the Congress tenure ends. Nothing more.

The Revanth Reddy government, which announced several projects and initiatives across sectors including infrastructure, health and education, has barely been able to take the projects or initiatives beyond the foundation laying ceremony or the announcement. Some of the projects are also mired in controversy.

Just as there has been a huge public outcry against the Congress failure to keep its election promises, right from the Six Guarantees, Rythu Bharosa to the crop loan waiver, work on most of the projects is yet to be grounded, reflecting the state of affairs in Telangana.

In March 2024, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy laid the foundation for the

PROJECTS ANNOUNCED BY CONGRESS GOVT

- JAN 2025:** Foundation for Osmania General Hospital new building
- DEC 2024:** Foundation for H-CITI works around KBR Park
- NOVEMBER:** Foundation for expansion of Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple
- OCTOBER:** Foundation for Young India Integrated Residential school, Kondurg
- SEPTEMBER:** Family Digital Health Cards pilot project
- AUGUST:** Foundation for Young India Skills University
- MARCH:** Foundation for Old City Metro
- MARCH:** Foundation for double-decker corridor near Kandlakoya junction

elevated double-decker corridor near Kandlakoya junction, but there is hardly any development at the ground level even after nearly a year. In August, the foundation was laid for the Young India Skill University.

The proposed varsity, however, hit headlines for the wrong reasons over a Rs 100 crore donation from Gautam Adani and also Rs 200 crore from MEIL, a firm that has been in controversy in connection with contracts from the government despite Sunkishala retaining wall collapse episode.

Subsequently, the Future City was announced but has

made no headway with farmers in many villages up in arms over parting with their lands for laying the approach road. The same has been the fate of the Pharma Village cluster, which is facing opposition from ryots.

The State government had then announced that it would expedite the Regional Ring Road works. However, there is uncertainty over the alignment of the southern part of the RRR.

The Chief Minister had suggested a few changes in the alignment for the southern part with this has not gone well with landowners, who are now protesting.

Then, the biggest project — the Musi Riverfront Development project.

Amidst criticism from different sections, the State government announced the project. A consortium of consultants was entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed project report. DPR. It is unclear whether the preliminary DPR is ready. The only progress, if it can be called that, was that a team of politicians and journalists went on a 'study tour' to Seoul. Similarly, in December last, the foundation was laid for different works under the Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infra initiative. Under the project, flyovers on different levels were proposed around KBR Park. Again, land acquisition has turned into a challenge for the government to executing the works. On Monday, film star Allu Arjun's father-in-law K Chandrashekhara Reddy, himself a Congress leader, filed an application at the Prajvani programme here asking authorities to reconsider the acquisition of his plot for the project.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Stocks bleed amid trade war fears

Sensex plunges by 1,018 points while Nifty cracks below 23,100 due to across-the-board selling

MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex plunged by 1,018 points to settle a two-week low while Nifty cracked below 23,100 on Tuesday due to across-the-board selling, unabated foreign fund outflows and fresh US tariffs reigniting trade war fears.

Declining for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,018.20 points or 1.32 per cent to settle at 76,293.60. During the day, it tumbled 1,281.21 points or 1.65 per cent to 76,030.59. The NSE Nifty cracked 309.80 points or 1.32 per cent to 23,071.80 with 44 of its constituents closing lower and six with gains. Realty, industrials, consumer discretionary and capital goods sector shares were major losers as the US confirmed fresh 25 per cent duties on all steel and aluminium imports.

EUROPEAN UNION SAYS US TARIFFS 'WILL NOT GO UNANSWERED'

BRUSSELS: European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed on Tuesday that US tariffs on steel and aluminum "will not go unanswered", adding that they will trigger tough countermeasures from the 27-nation bloc. "The EU will act to safeguard its economic interests," von der Leyen said in a statement in reaction to US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum the previous day. "Tariffs are taxes — bad for business, worse for consumers," von der Leyen said. "Unjustified tariffs on the EU will not go unanswered — they will trigger firm and proportionate countermeasures." In Germany, home to the EU's largest economy, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told parliament that "if the US leaves us no other choice, then the European Union will react united," adding that "ultimately, trade wars always cost both sides prosperity". **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

The European union leaders also vowed a 'firm' response to US tariffs, fanning fears of trade war. Among 30 Sensex shares, Zomato tanked over 5 per cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the biggest laggards. Bharti Airtel was the only gainer among Sensex scrips.

Economic concerns

In the past five days, the BSE bellwether gauge has slumped 2,290.21 points or 2.91 per cent, while the Nifty tanked 667.45 points or 2.81 per cent. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,463.72 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"The ongoing uncertainty surrounding US trade policies and tariffs, coupled with domestic economic growth concerns and persistent selling by FIIs, is dampening market sentiment. The mid and smallcap stocks experienced significant declines due to demand concerns and higher valuations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

All BSE sectoral indices ended lower. Realty tanked 3.14 per cent, industrials (2.87 per cent), consumer discretionary (2.73 per cent), capital goods (2.59 per cent), auto (2.49 per cent) and metal (2.23 per cent). As many as 3,478 stocks declined while 525 advanced and 94 remained unchanged on the BSE. **PTI**

JEE Main: Only 1 from TG secures top score

HYDERABAD: Only one student from Telangana secured top score in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main session I results, which were declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday.

Bani Brata Majee from Telangana secured 100 NTA score in the paper-I (BE/BTech) of the entrance test and stood top in the State. Overall, 14 students in the country secured 100 NTA score. A girl from Andhra Pradesh, Sai Manogna Guthikonda, who secured 100 NTA, score has been adjudged overall topper among the female candidates.

Prior to announcing the results, the NTA released the final keys for the entrance tests conducted for the BE/BTech programmes, dropping 12 questions. A total of 13,11,544 candidates registered and 12,58,136 appeared for the JEE Main session I, which was conducted on January 22, 23, 24, 28 and 29 in 618 centres in 304 cities, including 15 cities outside India. **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

Relief to Adani likely as Trump halts bribery law

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice to pause enforcing a nearly half-century-old law that was used to launch a bribery investigation against the Adani Group.

Donald Trump signed an order to pause enforcing of the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) that prohibits American companies and foreign firms from bribing officials of foreign governments to obtain or retain business.

The President directed US Attorney General Pam Bondi to pause enforcement of FCPA, which was at the heart of some of the US Department of Justice's most high-profile cases, including an indictment against Indian billionaire and Adani Group head Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar. **(REPORT PAGE 8)**

Kumbh: 7 from Hyd die in accident

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Seven pilgrims from Hyderabad were killed, and two others sustained injuries when the minibus in which they were travelling in was allegedly rammed by a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Tuesday.

According to the Jabalpur police, the victims were returning from Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh to Hyderabad in the minibus when the accident took place.

The deceased were identified as Anand Kumar (48), Shashi Kumar (50), Ravi Kumar (55), TV Prasad (57), Mallareddy (62), P Santosh (47) and E Raju (55). The injured, S Naveenacharya and Balakrishna Shiram were shifted to a local government hospital for treatment.

All the victims are residents of Nacharam, Saroornagar and Tarnaka in the city. The group hired a minibus and left the city on Saturday to visit the Maha Kumbh Mela. After taking a holy dip on Monday and resting in the night, they started for Hyderabad on Tuesday morning when around 9.30 am, the accident



People gather near the mangled remains of the minibus that met with an accident at Sihora in Jabalpur on Tuesday. — Photo:PTI

took place.

The family members got information about the incident around 10 am, and soon the relatives, friends and well-wishers started gathering at the houses of the victims. The local police visited the houses, and crosschecked the details

and took relevant documents of the victims from their families. The police coordinated with their counterparts in Jabalpur.

Local revenue officials also visited the houses and collected details, and took up the issue with higher-ups. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

SIRCILLA MAN DIES WHILE STANDING IN QUEUE AT KASHI TEMPLE

SIRCILLA: A 45-year-old man from the district, Kadire Srinivas Goud, met with an unexpected death in Kashi. A native of Venkatraopet of Konaraoet mandal, Srinivas along with his friends had gone to Prayagraj to participate in the Kumbh Mela four days ago.

After visiting the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, they went to Kashi on Sunday. Srinivas is said to have suddenly collapsed while they were standing in queue to have darshan in a temple in Kashi. His friends shifted him to a local hospital where he was declared brought dead.

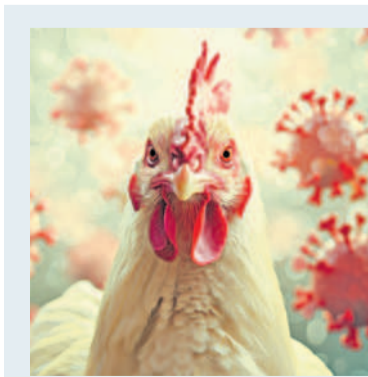
TG denies entry to AP poultry vehicles

STATE BUREAU
Jogulamba Gadwal

The Telangana government is intensifying checks on the State borders and denying entry to poultry vehicles after chicken deaths continue to rise in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh due to a suspected avian influenza outbreak.

On Tuesday, the district veterinary department deployed special teams at the Alampur toll plaza. Vehicles arriving with poultry loads from Kurnool and other areas were being checked and sent back.

Similar drives were conducted on Monday evening as well. Officials said the move aimed to prevent the



BIRD FLU CONFIRMED IN TWIN GODAVARI DISTRICTS

HYDERABAD: Avian influenza has been confirmed in two areas of East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh. However, boiled egg or chicken can be consumed as they are cooked at high temperatures and as such the virus cannot survive.

According to reports, the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Bhopal, which tested samples from the two districts, confirmed that H5N1-Bird Flu virus was the cause of deaths of several birds in the region. One sample from Velpur of Tanuku mandal in West Godavari district and another sample from Kanuru Agraharam of Peravalli mandal of East Godavari district tested bird flu positive.

The Andhra Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department has taken measures to check the spread of the disease. Accordingly, a red alert has been sounded in the 1 km area near the poultry farms. Officials have also undertaken awareness programmes.

spread of the virus in the State. It is also learned that directions have been issued to Animal Husbandry and Police Department officials to not to permit any vehicles carrying birds or bird feed

from Andhra Pradesh. Poultry farmers, especially those in the bordering villages, are also being directed to ensure hygiene measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Not just Jogulamba

Gadwal but all the bordering districts have been directed to stay alert and ensure no poultry vehicles are permitted into the State from neighbouring States, particularly Andhra Pradesh.

Time to democratise technology, says Modi

PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong case for collective efforts to establish a global framework for artificial intelligence (AI) based on open source which enhances trust, transparency and is free from biases.

Co-chairing the AI Action Summit along with French President Emmanuel Macron here, Modi said that AI is changing the polity, economy, security and society, and is writing the code for humanity in this century. "There is a need for collective global efforts to es-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron during the AI Action Summit in Paris. — Photo:AP

establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks and build trust. We must de-

mocratise technology and create people-centric applications," the Prime Minister said. **(SEE PAGES 2, 8)**



Sanya reveals her 'red flags'

Says she would not overlook major ones like disrespect, gaslighting