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In a nutshell

'Z' security cover for Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI: The Centre has provided a Z-category armed protection cover to Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in view of potential security threats to him, official sources said on Thursday. The union Home Ministry has directed the VIP security wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to take charge of the 89-year-old leader. He had a small protection cover of the Himachal Pradesh Police and was extended security when he travelled to Delhi or any other place by the local police. PTI

Bird flu: Central teams to reach AP

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Animal Husbandry Minister K Atchannaidu said the Centre has dispatched teams to assess the Avian Influenza situation in the State following the outbreak of the viral disease in three districts. Over the past 45 days, 5.4 lakh chickens have died in the State due to the disease, prompting the Animal Husbandry Department to begin culling birds and creating restricted zones in the affected areas. Badampudi village in Eluru reported the death of 2.2 lakh chickens. PTI

Hamas to release three hostages

JERUSALEM: Hamas said on Thursday it would release the next group of three Israeli hostages as planned, in a reversal of its previous statement and raising the prospect of resolving a major dispute over the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. It had threatened to delay the next release of Israeli hostages, accusing Israel of failing to meet its obligations to allow in tents and shelters, among other alleged violations of the truce. Israel had threatened to renew its offensive if hostages were not freed. **WORLD PAGE 9**

IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY

Simmering public discontent spills onto streets in Telangana again

Protests break out over agri crisis, land acquisition, drinking water

Furore over food poisoning cases in govt-run edu institutions

**STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD**

The streets of Telangana are once again witnessing people coming out in sheer rage against the government, that too from all sections.

From cotton farmers protesting against delays in procurement in Adilabad, to a farmer dying by suicide over mounting debts in Nalgonda, to another attempting to end his life over severe shortage of water for his crops in Suryapet, to people blocking officials from attempting a land acquisition survey in Mahabubabad, the State saw multiple forms of protest on Thursday.

The loudest one, perhaps, was from the constituency of the Chief Minister himself, where men, women and children came out with empty pots demanding drinking water in Kodangal.

A day before, on Wednesday, Telangana also saw people, especially women braving the presence of police, and stopping the vehicle of a Congress MP and MLA in Rangareddy, questioning them over the delay in the promised Rythu Bharosa and a complete crop loan waiver.

The two elected public representatives had to be escorted to safety by the police, indicating what lay in store for Congress leaders across the State if the current situation continued. As if the protests were not



Residents staging a protest on the road with empty pots for drinking water, at Tekulkod village in Kodangal on Thursday.

Telangana saw multiple forms of protest over various issues, with people taking to the streets against Cong govt

In Kodangal, people protest for water

HYDERABAD

Summer is yet to set in but people in many areas are already staging protests with empty pots for drinking water. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's constituency of Kodangal is also witnessing such protests.

On Thursday, residents of Tekulkod village staged a protest on the roads with empty pots complaining that water supply from Mission Bhagiratha had stopped since the last few

enough, the State also witnessed an incident that showed all the public furore recently, over shockingly frequent food poisoning incidents and even deaths in government-run educational institutions, had not perturbed the Congress at all. Two more children fell sick due to food poisoning in Nagarkurnool on Thursday.

days. Armed with empty pots, the residents, including men and women, raised slogans and demanded supply of drinking water.

They also charged that despite many complaints, officials failed to address their problems. Residents said the pipelines were blocked and the same was informed to the officials.

Residents, especially women, fumed that even before the summer had set in they were facing severe scarcity of drinking water.

FARMER DIES BY SUICIDE IN NALGONDA

NALGONDA: In yet another instance of a farmer ending his life due to mounting debts in Telangana, a tribal farmer hanged himself to death in Nalgonda district on Thursday. According to information available, Nanavath Harya, who belonged to Errakalva thanda under Kothapet gram panchayat in Miryalguda mandal, ended his life by hanging himself from a tree near his paddy fields. Harya, who was struggling with mounting debts, took the extreme step out of sheer desperation. More details are awaited.

Cong leaders face ire over Rythu Bharosa delay

RANGAREDDY

Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi and Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayan Reddy faced the people's ire over the delay in Rythu Bharosa financial assistance and tardy implementation of the crop loan waiver.

Tension prevailed at Madgula mandal when the

Congress leaders arrived to participate in a few development programmes at Ervin and Kubyas thandas on Wednesday.

Soon after the leaders' convoy arrived in the village, residents stopped their vehicles and questioned as to why they had arrived in their villages. In a few videos that are going viral

on social media platforms, the villagers holding placards are demanding the Congress leaders to keep their promises.

A woman is seen questioning Narayan Reddy on a few issues, including Rythu Bharosa assistance, Rs.2500 monthly assistance for women and the demand to construct a

bridge across the Andugula canal. The villagers said they were facing severe hardships due to lack of a bridge across the canal and the same was brought to the notice of the leaders.

Though they had promised to construct the bridge, works were not taken up so far. Irked over the delay, the villagers stopped the lead-

ers' vehicles, forcing the leaders to leave the village without inspecting the canal.

They also demanded that Ervin village should be upgraded as mandal headquarters. As the situation was going out of control, police intervened and escorted the leaders outside of the village.

New Income Tax Bill introduced in LS

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in Lok Sabha on Thursday and urged Speaker Om Birla to refer it to a select committee of the House.

Opposition members opposed the Bill at the introduction stage but the House passed a motion by voice vote for its introduction.

While moving the Bill for introduction, Sitharaman

urged Birla to refer the draft law to a select committee of the House, which will submit its report by the first day of the next session. She urged the speaker to take a call on the proposed panel's composition and rules.

The much-anticipated Bill will replace terminologies such as "assessment year" and "previous year" with the easier-to-understand "tax year" as part of a move to simplify language while removing provisos and explanations. PTI

President's rule imposed in Manipur

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL

President's rule was imposed in strife-torn Manipur on Thursday and the State Assembly put under suspended animation, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led to political uncertainty in the State.

The Manipur Assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Af-

fairs. Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as Chief Minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far. The decision to impose the Central rule was taken after the governor sent a report to President Droupadi Murmu.

Meanwhile, security agencies have been put on high alert to counter any mischief by banned terror groups in the State, officials said on Thursday. PTI

KCR to chair BRS State executive meet on Feb 19

**STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad:**

The BRS, bracing to organise its silver jubilee celebrations, will hold an extended State-level executive meeting on February 19. The meeting, scheduled to commence at 1 pm, will be held at Telangana Bhavan here.

It will be chaired by party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, who issued directions to party working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday.

The meeting is expected to bring together the party's leaders at all levels, including the State executive committee, district party presidents, present and former MPs, legislative council members, MLAs, corporation chairpersons, district parishad chairpersons, DCCB and DCMS presidents, and party constituency in-charges.

The discussions at the meeting will focus on several important issues. As the BRS Party approaches its 25th anniversary, plans for the Silver Jubilee celebrations will be a primary agenda item. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Trump plans tariff order ahead of Modi meeting

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has heaped praise on him and is hoping to avoid tariffs that Trump has ordered for imports from other countries.

The White House said Trump would sign a new order ahead of their meeting that could impose reciprocal tariffs across the global economy. "TODAY IS THE BIG ONE: RECIPROCAL TARIFFS!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social. "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!" He later posted that there would be a news conference in the Oval Office on the tariffs, raising questions about whether he's formally signing the tariffs as he previously said he would do or simply making the broader case for them to US voters with plans to study and formulate a detailed set of policies.

The prospect of a dramatic hike on tariffs could send shockwaves through the world economy, possibly depressing growth while also causing inflation to intensify. Trump has maintained that such tariffs will help to create domestic factory jobs, but most economists say they would effectively be a tax increase on US consumers that would add to inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, Modi met SpaceX CEO Elon Musk here on Thursday. Modi arrived here on a two-day visit to hold high-stakes talks with Trump in the face of concerns in New Delhi over Washington's new 'America First' trade agenda as well as its policy on immigration. Modi will be hosted by the US President in what would be the first bilateral talks between the two leaders after Trump assumed the presidency for a second term last month. Modi is staying at Blair House, the US presidential guest house in the heart of the capital. AGENCIES



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with USA's Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Washington DC. — Photo: PTI

2% extra fuel for motorists at BPCL bunks

**C. ROMEO
 Hyderabad**

Now, motorists in the city and across the State can get 2 per cent extra amount of fuel on refilling their vehicle fuels tanks with fuel worth Rs 200 or more at the outlets run by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

The offer period which commenced in January this year will be available till the midnight on March 31. The offer is available at select BPCL retail outlets. Customers fuelling any product

i.e., MS (Petrol), Speed, Speed 97 or HSD using UFill for an amount of Rs 200 or more at one go at the participating retail outlets will get 2 per cent extra fuel.

"Customers can avail this offer by buying fuel worth Rs 200 and more at select fuel outlets. It is available on digital transactions only. Good number of customers are availing this offer across the BPCL outlets in the city and State," said Srinu, a worker at the fuel pump in Errum Manzil.

The maximum incentive amount will be Rs 120 per

transaction during scheme period; customer will get additional incentives on a maximum of two eligible transactions per VPA/UPI ID in a day and, maximum of four eligible transactions per VPA/UPI ID in a month and a maximum of 10 transactions per UPI/VPA ID during scheme period.

In case of UFill voucher redeemed partially or refunded, the refund amount will be calculated based on actual fuelling, which will not include incentive amount. The list of retail outlets where the offer is

available is displayed on www.bharatpetroleum.in > Bharat Petroleum for > Your Corner > contest corner, at the end of this document.

The products are available at BPCL retail outlets, without this offer also. Detailed terms and conditions are also available on BPCL website - www.bharatpetroleum.in > Bharat Petroleum for > Your Corner > contest corner.

For more details, customer can contact on z_retail_hwsales@bharatpetroleum.in.