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Working mom carves comic niche with flair for standup



WORLD | PAGE 09

Danish Prime Minister attacked, accused held

39-year-old attacker to appear in pre-trial custody hearing, say officials



SPORT | PAGE 10

Focus on pitch as India take on Pakistan today

In a nutshell

Fresh stir for Maratha quota

JALNA: Maratha activist Manoj Jarange launched an indefinite fast on Saturday demanding the implementation of the draft notification that recognises all Kunbis as blood relatives of Maratha community members. He sought framing of a law to identify Kunbis as Marathas, and warned of fielding candidates from all 288 Assembly seats in the upcoming State polls if his demands were not approved. (NATION PAGE 8)

EC begins poll exercise in J&K

SRINAGAR: The EC has officially started the process of holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. This follows the statement of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, in which he said the people of J&K would soon have their democratically-elected government. The last Assembly election was in 2014 after which a coalition government of the BJP and PDP came to power. (NATION PAGE 7)

Two killed in lightning strikes

NARAYANPET: Two persons died after lightning struck them at Damragidda village here on Saturday. Borabanda Ashanna (58) was working in his cotton field, along with Borabanda Kousalya (54), wife of Pedda Anjilappa. When it started to rain, they took shelter under a tree. But lightning struck them and they collapsed on the spot, according to reports. Ashanna's wife, granddaughter and others were injured.

Swiatek wins third French Open title

PARIS: Iga Swiatek won her third consecutive French Open championship and fourth in five years by defeating Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-1 in the final on Saturday. The top-seeded Swiatek trailed 2-1 early in Court Philippe Chatrier before taking the next 10 games to claim the opening set and go up 5-0 in the second. She stretched her winning streak at Roland Garros to 21 matches. (SPORT PAGE 11)

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 147
Retail live.....	Rs. 169
With skin.....	Rs. 245
Skinless.....	Rs. 279
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 61



Rakul plays 'headstrong girl' in next

Says she resonates with her *Indian 2* character in her real life

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Guest info of Hyd hotels leaked

Cops allegedly share data with US crypto firm

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Amidst mounting concerns of data privacy of citizens in Telangana being compromised following the alleged hacking of the State's police website, another disturbing concern over citizen data has emerged.

This is after a cybersecurity enthusiast revealed that details of guests in hotels across Hyderabad, along with information of whom they stayed with, was allegedly sent by the State police to an American crypto firm, without consent.

Cyber security activist Srinivas Kodali, who goes by the handle @digitaldutta on X, shone light on this shocking act. "Dear @TelanganaCops why are you collecting details of everyone who checks into a hotel in Hyderabad and why are you sending them to a blockchain company — zebichain?" he asked in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

What exactly happened or why this was done, if the allegation is true, is yet to be clear. Another X user, Ma-

Who is this crypto firm Zebichain? Turns out it's a near-defunct crypto company based in California...

— MAHESH MURTHY, NETIZEN

hesh Murthy, responded to Kodali's post and did some information digging on his own. "So who is this crypto firm Zebichain? Turns out it's a near-defunct crypto company based in California, founded by 2 Bay Area gents @BabuMunagala and Pruthvi Rao @PointsOfFew. Munagala apparently spent 18 years at @Oracle and then started doing some #crypto stuff https://linkedin.com/in/sbabs/," Murthy said.

He added that Babu Munagala had claimed, in a 2018 interview, that loads of people were voluntarily sharing this information from 200 hotels in India. "I have

stayed dozens of times in #hyderabad hotels in these 6 years and I have NEVER been asked for consent to share my name and details with Zebichain or anybody else. Unscientific survey — I asked 5 friends who visit and stay at hotels in the city often — and they all had never heard of their data being harvested thus. I have never heard of or had a Zebi ID — and neither had anyone else. So how did this firm do a deal with the @TelanganaCops to illegally steal this data?" he asks.

He added that the same group has AP land records as well, apart from having some Andhra connections too. "The US company has an 'affiliate' in India called Zebi Data India @ZebidataIndia, which is based in Gannavaram, Vijayawada. For a company with little apparent activity, there's a paid-up capital of nearly Rs 3 crore https://clearartax.in/f/company/zebi-data-india-private-limited/U72200AP2015PTC096738..." (SEE PAGE 2)

70 houses torched in Manipur

IMPHAL

Tensions heightened in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday after suspected militants torched two police outposts, a forest office and at least 70 houses, prompting the authorities to transfer the superintendent of police, officials said.

A contingent of more than 70 state police commandos was airlifted from Imphal to Jiribam to assist security personnel in their

operations against militants, they said.

Meanwhile, around 239 Meitei people, mostly women and children, were evacuated from peripheral areas of Jiribam on Friday, and moved to a newly set up relief camp at a multi-sports complex in the district, the officials said.

According to a senior officer, suspected militants torched more than 70 houses in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal

and Begra villages. He said the villagers vacated their residences and took shelter in a relief camp.

The SP's transfer order was issued hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra and the Goakhal forest beat office were set on fire, the officer said. The State government transferred Jiribam SP A Ghanashyam Sharma to the post of Additional Director of Manipur Police Training College. PTI

Man dies at fish prasadam centre

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A 65-year-old man, who had come to take fish prasadam at Numaish Grounds in Nampally here, died on Saturday.

Rajanna, a native of Nizamabad district, had come to the venue with his relatives to take the fish prasadam being distributed by the Bathini Goud family.

Large crowds, from different parts of the country, had gathered at the venue and as the programme commenced, long queues were

formed. According to the Begum Bazar police, Rajanna, who was standing in the queue, suddenly collapsed. "He was rushed to hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. We suspect that he died of a cardiac arrest," an official of the Begum Bazar police station said.

The police shifted the body for a post-mortem examination to the Osmania General Hospital mortuary. A case has been registered and investigation is under way, officials said. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

Ramoji Rao passes away

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Ramoji Rao, chairman of the Begum Bazar media group and founder of Ramoji Film City, is no more. He was 88.

Rao passed away while undergoing treatment at Star Hospitals here, leaving behind a vast legacy, encompassing numerous business ventures and media productions.

It was under Rao's leadership that Eenadu became a major force in Telugu media. His other business ventures include film production house Usha Kiran Movies, film distribution company Mayuri Film Dis-



Ramoji Rao passed away while undergoing treatment at Star Hospitals in Hyderabad. — Photo: D Ravinder Reddy

tributors, financial services firm Margadarsi Chit Fund and the Dolphin Group of Hotels. He was also the head

of the ETV Network of television channels. In 2016, he received Padma Vibhushan. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

Rahul urged to take on Leader of Opposition role

NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Saturday unanimously urged Rahul Gandhi to take on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and he told the party's top brass that he will decide "very soon".

Meanwhile, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was re-elected as the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party. PTI (REPORT PAGE 7)

them from escaping. The vehicle fell and seeing passersby stopping, the robbers jumped over a fence and fled, leaving their bike behind," Kalpana said.

Injured, the mother and daughter were taken to hospital where doctors stitched their injuries. Kalpana approached the Pahadishareef police, who registered a case, and a special team arrested Shamsheer Singh and Dandla Babu. "They had been involved in several property offences and arrested too. The Sangareddy police had invoked the PD Act too," Maheshwaram DCP D Sunitha Reddy said.



G Kalpana and her daughter Laxmi Prasanna.

chilli water on her face and snatched her gold chain. "He was standing on the pavement. I got off the pavement to avoid him but he pulled me into the bushes. He snatched the gold chain from my neck," Kalpana told *Telangana Today*. The suspect tried to escape, but

quickly recovering from the shock of the attack, Kalpana caught hold of him. The robber was then joined by his friend and they both attacked Kalpana and her daughter, who came to her rescue. "They kept hitting me, but I held on to their bike handle and stopped

ISRAEL RESCUES 4 HOSTAGES; 94 KILLED IN GAZA



A car carrying injured people arrives at the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, in central Gaza Strip, following the Israeli bombardment of a residential apartment and an area in al-Maghazi, on Saturday. — Photo: AFP (REPORT PAGE 9)

Panel to review NEET result

AAP demands SC-monitored probe, Congress alleges paper leaks

NEW DELHI

Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday that the Education Ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates.

The NTA denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

The issue also took political turn with the AAP demanding a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged irregularities and the Congress alleging that paper leaks, rigging and

Crux of the controversy

NEET-UG MEDICAL ENTRANCE EXAM SCORES ALLEGEDLY INFLATED

- Grace marks reportedly awarded to over 1,500 candidates to make up for loss of time at 6 exam centres
- Exam centres are from Meghalaya, Bahadurgarh (Haryana), Dantewada and Balodh (Chhattisgarh), Surat (Gujarat), Chandigarh
- 67 candidates bag first rank in exam, including 6 from one centre in Haryana
- National Testing Agency denies any irregularities
- Says changes made in NCERT textbooks, grace marks for losing time at exam centres some of the reasons behind students scoring higher marks



NSUI members protest alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024 results, in Bhopal. — Photo: PTI

corruption have become an integral part of many examinations. The party also accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with their futures.

There have been calls from several quarters for a re-exam. (SEE PAGE 2)

KTR demands high-level probe

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday demanded that the Centre order an inquiry by a high-level expert committee into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the NEET. He wanted the Centre to respond immediately on the issue. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Modi swearing-in today; BJP may retain key portfolios

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi is set to take oath on Sunday for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government after two full tenures in which the BJP enjoyed a majority on its own.

Modi (73) will be equaling the feat of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who won the 1952, 1957 and 1962 general elections. Leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean Region are among the dignitaries and special invitees expected to attend the swearing-in at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Principal opposition Congress said its leaders were yet to receive invitations for the swearing-in ceremony, while Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee announced that her party would not attend the event. "Neither we have got any invitation nor are we attending it," she said.

Meanwhile, hectic parleys involving BJP leadership and allies were on over the share of berths of different constituents of the National Democratic Alliance in the new government. Senior BJP leaders such as Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, besides party president JP Nadda, have been

KCR gets invite

HYDERABAD: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been invited to the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi on Sunday. Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Prahlad Joshi called the BRS chief over phone and invited him to take part in the ceremony.

consulting the allies, including TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, to finalise their share of representation in the government.

There is a view that heavyweight portfolios of Home, Finance, Defence and External Affairs, besides Education and Culture, will be kept by the BJP, while allies can get five to eight Cabinet berths. Ram Mohan Naidu of TDP, Lalan Singh, Sanjay Jha and Ram Nath Thakur of JD(U) and Chirag Paswan of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) are among the allies who may be a part of the government. PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)