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Embrace fitness like these desi pehllwans



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Netanyahu dissolves war cabinet amid raging conflict
 Move comes over a week after withdrawal of opposition leader Benny Gantz



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Bangladesh pacers take team to Super Eight

In a nutshell

5 Maoists killed in encounter

CHAIBASA: Following the recovery of another Maoist's body, the death toll from Monday's encounter with security forces in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district has now risen to five. The encounter took place around 5 am near Lipunga, within the Gua police station limits, 200 km from Jharkhand's capital Ranchi. "Bodies of five Maoists, including two women, have been recovered so far," police said. **PTI**

IIT-Kharagpur student dead

KOLKATA: The body of an IIT-Kharagpur third-year student was found hanging in her hostel on Monday, police said. The student has been identified as Devika Pillai (21), a senior police officer said. "The student was found hanging from the ceiling of the hostel building. Whether it is a case of suicide or something else is yet to be ascertained. We have started an investigation of the death," the IPS officer said. **PTI**

'YSRC complicated Polavaram project'

POLAVARAM: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday alleged that the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRC government had complicated the Polavaram Project and got it entangled in a chaotic situation. He asserted that he was studying the national project after five years of YSRC rule to make sense of it and what to do next. "They (YSRC gov't) complicated it," he said. **(NATION PAGE 7)**

Yediyurappa grilled for 3 hours

BENGALURU: The CID questioned former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa for three hours on Monday in connection with a POCSE case registered against him. Yediyurappa appeared before a team of CID, which had summoned him for an inquiry in connection with the case. "He was questioned for three hours," a CID officer said on Monday. **(NATION PAGE 8)**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 139
Retail live.....	Rs. 161
With skin.....	Rs. 233
Skinless.....	Rs. 266
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 65



Tahira's directorial debut soon

Sharmajeet Ki Beti explores theme of women's empowerment

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Life in TS may pinch pockets

Land, property registration, liquor to cost more

PS DILEEP
 HYDERABAD

Life in Telangana appears all set to turn costly on multiple counts, ranging from an increase in expenses for registering property and building regularisation to having to pay higher property tax and buying liquor. This is with the Congress government planning multiple measures to increase its revenues to fund the party's poll promises, especially the six guarantees.

The first of these hikes — after proposing to increase the market value of land and collect new property registration charges from August 1 — will be of liquor prices, for which proposals have already been submitted to the government. Officials are not ruling out a hike in property taxes as well soon.

Liquor prices are usually increased for once every two years. They were last hiked in March 2022 and officials have now proposed to increase them again. This time, the prices are expected to surge 20-25% on different brands, while the cost of beers is likely to be hiked by Rs 10-Rs 15. This hike is expected to fetch an additional Rs 4,500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore for the State exchequer, increasing the

What's on the list

- Congress gov't planning measures to increase revenue
- This is to fund party's poll promises, including **Six Guarantees**
- Proposal submitted to hike liquor prices
- Liquor prices to go up by **20-25%**
- Cost of beer to be hiked by **₹10-15**
- Hike to fetch an additional **₹4,500 cr to ₹5,000 cr**
- Officials not ruling out property tax
- Market value of land, new property registration charges from Aug 1
- Gov't also planning auction of prime land and assets
- Pending Land Regularisation Scheme applications to be cleared
- Building Regularisation Scheme too on the cards
- Sale of unused properties/plots of departments planned

excise revenue from Rs 35,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore, officials said.

Besides plugging revenue leakages to improve its revenues, the State government is also mulling auctioning prime land and other assets, which could earn good revenue. Official sources said apart from clearing pending Land Regularisation Scheme applications, the government might consider implementing a Building Regularisation Scheme to generate more revenue. The government is also considering the sale of unsold and unused properties and plots of various departments, including the State Housing

Board. The government had earmarked Rs 53,196 crore for the implementation of these six guarantees alone, from the overall budget of Rs 2,75,891 crore for 2024-25. However, it is facing serious challenges to mobilise such a huge amount, besides catering to regular expenditures, such as salaries and implementing various development and welfare programmes. Accordingly, the government recently issued guidelines to increase the market value of land and revise property registration charges from August 1. On similar lines, officials have submitted proposals to hike liquor prices too.

Will never leave BRS, says Harish

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Senior BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao dismissed reports on social media about him taking over the reins of the BRS as the new working president or quitting the party to join others.

He urged people, especially the media, to refrain from spreading reports that had mala fide intentions. "For the sake of likes and views, I urge you not to damage the credibility and loyalty of a leader like me. Media should refrain from putting such thumbnails on their YouTube channels to sensationalise their news," he said during a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Monday.

Harish Rao said he was a loyal foot soldier of BRS president K Chan-



Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao

drashekar Rao and that there was no question of him quitting the party. He also rubbished reports about him becoming the working president of the party, replacing KT Rama Rao, as also reports on him joining the BJP or Congress, which he termed completely baseless.

He warned that hereafter, he would send legal notices to those spreading such mala fide news and initiate necessary legal action.

Mismatch in votes polled, counted!

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Concerns are being raised from different quarters over the Election Commission of India's (ECI) data, especially on the difference in the number of EVM votes polled and those counted in different parliamentary constituencies in the country, including in Telangana.

While a BRS supporter has flagged a few concerns regarding the difference in votes polled and counted in all 17 constituencies in Telangana, Congress MP from Assam Gaurav Gogoi also raised doubts over faulty EVMs on Monday.

Both stressed that this was not a political allegation, but a serious issue that required immediate attention and explanation from the ECI.

In Telangana, according to Nayini Anurag Reddy, the number of EVM votes

Glaring discrepancies

DOUBTS RAISED OVER DIFFERENCE IN VOTES POLLED AND VOTES COUNTED IN TELANGANA. DIFFERENCE NOTED IN ALL 17 CONSTITUENCIES

Parliamentary Constituency	Votes Polled	Votes Counted	Difference
Adilabad	12,21,553	12,19,982	1,571
Bhongir	13,88,680	13,88,579	101
Chevela	16,57,107	16,56,178	929
Hyderabad	10,74,827	10,73,544	1,283
Karimnagar	13,03,690	13,02,447	1,243
Khammam	12,41,135	12,40,582	553
Mahabubabad	11,01,030	11,00,480	550
Mahabubnagar	12,18,587	12,18,323	264
Malkajigiri	19,19,131	19,15,185	3,946
Medak	13,72,894	13,72,896	-2
Nagarkurnool	12,07,470	12,05,275	2,195
Nalgonda	12,77,137	12,77,136	1
Nizamabad	12,26,133	12,26,215	-82
Peddapalli	10,83,467	10,82,815	652
Secunderabad	10,39,834	10,39,041	793
Warangal	12,56,301	12,55,435	866
Zaheerabad	12,25,049	12,25,027	22

polled in the Nizamabad parliamentary constituency was 12,26,133, while the EVM votes counted were 12,26,215 — a difference of 82.

In Medak constituency, the number of votes polled was 13,72,894, while the EVM votes counted were 13,72,896 — a difference of two. The difference in Adilabad was 1,571, while in

Malkajigiri, it was 3,946. In Nagarkurnool, it was 2,195. In Hyderabad, it was 1,283, while in Karimnagar, it was 1,243.

There were such discrepancies in all 17 constituencies, with the difference being either more or, as in the case of Medak and Nizamabad, less. The data is available from two links —

on www.results.eci.gov.in (for number of votes counted) and www.eci.gov.in (from Press Release issued on May 25 on number of voters for all completed phases). "This is not an allegation against EVMs but a concern of an Indian citizen," Anurag Reddy stated on X (formerly Twitter). **(SEE PAGE 2)**

People gather near the accident site of the Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train at Nirmaljote near Rangapani station in West Bengal on Monday. — Photo: AFP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

NEW JALPAIGURI/KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

At least nine people were killed and 41 injured after a goods train ramed the Kanchanjunga Express from behind in West Bengal's Darjeeling district on Monday, a senior railway official said.

Among the deceased were the pilot and co-pilot of the goods train, as well as the guard of the passenger train, he added. The injured

have been shifted to North Bengal Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

Some local reports attributed to senior West Bengal Police officials put the casualty count at 15. The collision occurred near Rangapani station, 30 km from New Jalpaiguri station, causing four rear compartments of Kanchanjunga Express to derail due to the impact by the goods train's locomotive, the official said.

According to preliminary information received from railway officials, the passenger train was stationary on the tracks when the goods train ramed it from behind.

"The collision happened because the goods train disregarded the signal and hit the Kanchanjunga Express, which was on its way to Sealadah from Agartala," Railway Board Chairperson Jaya Varma Sinha told re-

porters in Delhi soon after the accident at 8.55 am.

Additionally, internal documents showed that the goods train was allowed to cross all red signals as the automatic signalling had "failed". The document, a written authority called TA 912, was issued to the driver of the goods train by the station master of Ranipatra, authorising him to cross all red signals, a railway source said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Rahul retains Rae Bareilly seat

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will keep the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh and vacate the Wayanad seat in Kerala from where his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will contest, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said on Monday.

Kharge was speaking to reporters after the Congress' top leadership held discussions on the issue at his residence here. Rahul said it was a difficult decision for him as he has an emotional connection with both Rae Bareilly and Wayanad. "The last five years as a member of Parliament from Wayanad have been a very fantastic and enjoyable experience. The people of Wayanad gave me support, energy to fight in a very difficult time. I will never forget that..," he said. **PTI**

Teen tries to mow down woman with car after tiff

PUNE

Police have taken a 17-year-old boy into custody for allegedly trying to run over a woman with his car following a heated argument in Maharashtra's Pune district, officials said.

The incident, which occurred at Vadgaon Ghenand village in Alandi on Saturday, has drawn comparisons to the infamous Porsche car case from May 19. In this recent incident, a video shows the reckless driving of a car that struck a woman. The boy reportedly verbally abused the woman's husband and father-in-law before getting into the car and threatening them. **PTI**

AI flyer finds blade in meal

MUMBAI

A week after an Air India passenger allegedly found a blade-like metal piece in his food onboard a Bengaluru-San Francisco flight, the airline on Monday confirmed the presence of a "foreign object" in the food.

It (the object) came from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of its catering partner, the airline said.

"Air India confirms that a foreign object was found in the meal of a guest aboard one of our flights. After investigation, it has been identified as coming from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of our catering partner," AI chief customer experience officer Rajesh Dogra said.



The blade-like metal piece found in the flyer's food on board the Bengaluru-San Francisco Air India flight. — Photo: Twitter

The airline had initiated a probe after the passenger posted on X that there was a blade-like metal object in the meal. "Air India food can cut like a knife. Hiding in its

roasted sweet potato and fig chaat was a metal piece that looked like a blade... Thankfully, no harm was done," the passenger, Mathures Paul, a journalist, said. **PTI**

Chinese, Philippine ships collide in South China Sea

TAIPEI

A Chinese vessel and a Philippine supply ship collided near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, China's coast guard said, in the latest flare-up of escalating territorial disputes that have sparked alarm.

The coast guard said a Philippine supply ship entered waters near the Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged reef in the Spratly Islands, part of a territory claimed by several nations.

Philippines says the shoal falls in its internationally recognised exclusive economic zone and often cites a 2016 ruling. **PTI** **(FULL REPORT PAGE 9)**

Scattered heavy rains bring relief

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Following a brief monsoon break and a week of soaring temperatures, with occasional scattered showers, Hyderabad on Monday experienced heavy rain and thunderstorms, causing waterlogging at several low lying areas.

The downpour, however, provided much-needed relief from the sweltering daytime heat, which was accompanied with higher humidity of 90 per cent, on Monday.

Golkonda received the highest rainfall of 58 mm, followed by AsifNagar with 57 mm, Khairatabad 52.5

mm and Shaikpet with 46.8 mm, data from the Telangana Development and Planning Society recorded at 7 pm on Monday indicated. Other parts of the city recorded rainfall of up to 30 mm.

Notably hailstorms were also reported in the city at Kukatpally, Miyapur and Serilingampally. Throughout Monday, people in Hyderabad endured a hot day with temperatures hovering between 38 and 39 degrees C until 3 pm.

However, the weather took a dramatic turn in the evening as overcast skies brought heavy and scattered downpours to various areas. **(SEE PAGES 2, 4)**