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Committed to conducting polls in J-K at earliest: EC



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Israel launches new assault on Gaza's Khan Yunis

Attack comes even as US, Qatar and Egypt renew their push for ceasefire deal



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Aman wins bronze, India's sixth at Paris Olympics

In a nutshell

Telangana to get new railway line

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved eight railway projects with a total estimated cost of Rs 24,657 crore, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The projects, covering seven States, including Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana and West Bengal, will increase the existing network of railways by 900 km.

NATION PAGE 8

Brazil: Plane with 62 aboard crashes

SAO PAULO: A plane with 62 people aboard crashed in a fiery wreck in a residential area of a city in Brazil's Sao Paulo State, the airline said, but it was not immediately clear how many people were injured or killed. The airline VoePass confirmed that a plane headed for Sao Paulo's international airport crashed with 58 passengers and 4 crew aboard. The statement didn't say what caused the accident. AP

Parliament adjourned sine die

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Friday, one sitting ahead of the scheduled end of the session. The current session of the Parliament was scheduled to end on August 12 but Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House sine die (for an indefinite period). The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned sine die. Birla said the productivity of the House was above 130%. PTI

Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights

NEW DELHI: Air India announced the suspension of flights to and from Tel Aviv till further notice. "In view of current situation in parts of the Middle East, scheduled operation of our flights to and from Tel Aviv are suspended with immediate effect until further notice. We are monitoring the situation," airline said. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 80
Retail live.....	Rs. 102
With skin.....	Rs. 148
Skinless.....	Rs. 168
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 56

Revanth's incompetence led to Sunkishala incident: KTR

Demands judicial probe into the incident and action against those responsible

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy responsible for the collapse of the retaining wall of the under-construction intake well and pumphouse complex at Sunkishala project at Nagarjuna Sagar. Terming it as a result of Revanth Reddy's incompetence as the Municipal Administration Minister, he demanded that a judicial probe be conducted into the incident and action be initiated against those responsible.

Rama Rao asserted that there was no engineering or design failure in the Sunkishala incident as was claimed by the Congress in the case of the Medigadda barrage. "The retaining wall between two expansion joints collapsed due to the fitting of gates in a haphazard manner, without the constant supervision of the Minister concerned. Hence, it is a complete failure on the part of the Chief Minister who also holds the Municipal Administration portfolio," he said.



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Rama Rao pointed out that the incident occurred on August 2 when the Assembly was underway. However, the government did not make any statement in this regard which is an established practice. "Was the government attempting to hide it or was it com-

pletely unaware of it? In either case, the Chief Minister should be held responsible (as the Leader of the House) for not making the statement," he said, adding that the previous BRS government did not hide the sinking of piers at Medigadda barrage though the Assembly elections were underway. The former

MA&UD Minister stated that the accident occurred due to the fixing of gates in a haphazard manner, despite the officials advising against it and asking the government to postpone until the flood season concludes. "If there is anything good, the Congress takes credit but blames the BRS for things which go bad.

They cannot escape from their responsibilities by blaming the previous BRS government," he said.

Rama Rao said the previous BRS government launched the project to meet the drinking water needs of Hyderabad for the next 50 years. The project was designed to lift water from Nagarjuna Sagar at the dead storage level (462 feet). He stated that all the works, except for motor fitting and gate fixing, were pending when the Congress came to power, but kept the works pending for nearly six months and woke up from deep slumber only after drawing flak over the drinking water crisis in Hyderabad.

Further, the BRS working president pointed out that the Congress government's allegations against the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), including the Medigadda barrage, have been proved wrong as the barrage withstood a flood of 12 lakh cusecs. Further, the government is also able to pump water from the Godavari River to various reservoirs. (SEE PAGE 2)

Sisodia out of Tihar on bail

SC grants relief, says right to speedy trial sacrosanct

NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia walked out of Tihar Jail after 17 months behind bars on Friday. The Supreme Court gave him bail earlier in the day and said his long incarceration without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice. The Supreme Court sharply rebuked the courts below saying his long incarceration without trial had deprived him of the right to speedy justice.

Observing that "bail is rule and jail is exception", the top court said it is high time trial courts and High Courts recognised this principle. "As observed time and again, prolonged incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted to become punishment without trial," a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said, while describing Sisodia as a man with "deep roots in society". The top court granted him bail in the separate corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. Hours later, a Delhi court issued an order for Sisodia's release after accepting the bail bonds and surety bonds submitted by his advocates. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)



AAP leader Manish Sisodia greets supporters in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI

KTR HOPES KAVITHA MAY GET BAIL SOON

HYDERABAD: With the Supreme Court granting bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia, BRS working president KT Rama Rao hoped that everyone including his sister and MLC K Kavitha would also get bail soon. He said another appeal had been filed on Thursday and it was likely to be heard next week. (REPORT PAGE 5)

'Pharma Villages' raise concern

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Even as the State government issued a notification to acquire 71 acres at Polepally village in Dudyal mandal to establish a pharma village, industrialists are apprehensive about the challenges involved, particularly time consumption for land acquisition and obtaining environmental clearances.

In the name of decentralising pharma industries, the State government proposed to establish ten pharma villages in different districts. Polepally pharma village is one of the proposed pharma villages, setting aside the tailor-made land developed for setting up units at the Pharma City in Mucherla.

However, the State government's decision to develop 10 pharma villages evoked mixed reactions from the industry. While a section of industrialists say that it could generate em-

Industrialists apprehensive about challenges involved, especially the time involved for land acquisition

ployment for youth in different places, others stress that securing land and obtaining environmental clearances would be challenging, not to mention legal hurdles.

The small cluster concept can be beneficial, but it all depends on the State government's commitment to effectively implement the proposed ideas, said an office-bearer of the Federation of Pharma Entrepreneurs Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. For the successful implementation of ideas, one industry giant should lead the initiatives proposed by the government in each cluster. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC refuses to postpone NEET-PG

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to postpone the NEET-PG examination scheduled for August 11, saying it can't put the careers of two lakh candidates in jeopardy for five students who have filed the petition.

The top court dismissed a plea seeking deferment of the NEET-PG which claimed that candidates have been allocated cities that are highly inconvenient for them to reach.

A Bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said judges are not academic experts. "How can we postpone such an exam. Mr Sanjay Hegde, nowadays people just come asking to postpone the exam. It's not a perfect world. We are not academic experts. There are two lakh students and four lakh parents who will weep over the weekend if we postpone it," said. PTI



A baby gorilla, the first to be born at the Detroit Zoo in US. According to zoo authorities, the birth was the first in its 96-year history. The baby gorilla doesn't have a name yet, and the sex has not been determined. — Photo: AP

AI tool to detect malnutrition

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Researchers at the IIIT-Hyderabad have come up with a new AI-based tool that promises to revolutionise the way malnutrition is detected among children.

The new smartphone-based tool, developed by researchers of Raj Reddy Centre for Technology and Society (RCTS) at IIIT-Hyderabad, represents a significant departure from the traditional practice of manual recording of measurement scales, which are prone to human errors.

The researchers have come out with two setups where the measurement can be taken with the web app using the smartphone.

IIIT-Hyd's AI-based tool promises to revolutionise the way malnutrition is detected among children

In the first setup, by placing the smartphone over the child's head, two images are taken — one of the weighing scale reading and the other of the region directly in front of the scale (on the floor). In the second setup, with the child standing against a wall with a height chart, a photograph of the child is captured as well as of the weighing scale. (SEE PAGE 2)

Boy dies 20 days after dog attack

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A four-year-old boy, who sustained severe injuries in a street dog attack about 20 days ago in Raipole of Ibrahimpatnam, succumbed at the hospital on Friday.

Kriyansh (4), son of Shiva and Madhuri, was returning home from school when he was attacked by a street dog on July 12. He was immediately shifted to the Niloufer Hospital. He was subsequently discharged but had to be admitted to the hospital again after developing a fever. The boy died while undergoing treatment.

PwD injured

In another incident, a seven-year-old differently-abled boy was attacked by a

Recent incidents

- FEB 2024:** One-year-old boy mauled to death in Shamshabad
- APRIL 2024:** Two-and-a-half-year-old girl dies in Jeedimetla
- JUNE 2024:** A six-year-old boy mauled to death in Miyapur
- JULY 2024:** 18-month-old boy mauled by a pack of street dogs in Jawaharnagar
- JULY 2024:** Four-year-old boy attacked in Ibrahimpatnam



street dog at Kokapet. The boy sustained injuries to his private parts in the incident. According to the information available, the boy was sleeping in his house at Sabitha Nagar when the dog sneaked in.

Police sources said the incident occurred when the dog, in the absence of the child's parents, got into the house and attacked him. Neighbours rushed to his rescue. The boy is currently undergoing treatment.

Newborn found partially eaten

HYDERABAD: A newborn baby was found partially eaten by street dogs on the premises of a state-run hospital in Warangal district on Friday.

The policemen manning a police outpost at the hospital found street dogs eating the newborn at a secluded place on the hospital premises and chased away the canines. It was not clear whether the baby was alive or dead and how it came to be in that spot, officials said adding that they were examining CCTV footage. The police are investigating whether someone abandoned the newborn at the hospital. PTI

'Iran may be trying to meddle in US polls'

NEW YORK

Iran is accelerating online activity that appears intended to influence the US election, in one case targeting a presidential campaign with an email phishing attack, Microsoft said.

Iranian actors also have spent recent months creating fake news sites and impersonating activists, laying the groundwork to stoke division and potentially sway American voters this fall, especially in swing States, the technology giant found.

The findings in Microsoft's newest threat intelligence report show how

Iran, which has been active in recent US elections, is evolving its tactics for another election that's likely to have global implications.

The report goes a step beyond anything US intelligence officials have disclosed, giving specific examples of Iranian groups and the actions they have taken so far. Iran's UN mission denied it had plans to interfere in the US elections. The report doesn't specify Iran's intentions besides sowing chaos in the United States, though US officials have previously hinted that Iran particularly opposes former President Donald Trump. (SEE PAGE 2)

CREATING FAKE NEWS SITES AND LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TO STOKE DIVISION, FINDS MICROSOFT

