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Vinesh Phogat joins farmers' protest at Shambhu



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'US doesn't need another defective person as Prez'
 Trump launches fresh personal attack on his Democratic rival Kamala Harris



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Bronze glory for shooter Rubina in Paris paralympics

In a nutshell
KTR fears closure of 1,864 schools
HYDERABAD: Voicing grave concern over the Congress government's handling of school education in the State, BRS working president KT Rama Rao feared that 1,864 schools may face closure for want of viable student strength. The State government was neglecting the education sector as part of its designs for keeping poor and middle-class students away from quality education, he said. **HYDERABAD PAGE 4**

Rain leaves eight dead in Andhra
AMARAVATI: Eight persons died in rain-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday, including four in Vijayawada due to landslides, officials said. The landslide deaths occurred at Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada when large boulders fell on the houses of the deceased due to heavy rain. CM N Chandrababu Naidu announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the victims. **NATION PAGE 7**

Haryana Assembly polls now on Oct 5
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Saturday deferred the Haryana Assembly poll date to October 5 from October 1, keeping in mind a centuries-old festival of the Bishnoi community. The counting of votes for J&K and Haryana Assembly polls will now be held on October 8 instead of October 4. The EC said the decision has been taken to honour the voting rights and traditions of the community. **PTI**

Brazil blocks Musk's X
SAO PAULO: Brazil started blocking Elon Musk's social media platform X early on Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through its mobile app after the company refused to comply with a judge's order. X missed a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to name a legal representative in Brazil. **BUSINESS PAGE 8**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 99
Retail live.....	Rs. 121
With skin.....	Rs. 175
Skinless.....	Rs. 200
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



'Hidden cams used in caravans'
 Radhika says she saw men watching illicit clips of actresses

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CM's zoo idea raises doubts

Questions crop up on intentions, priorities

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's plans to establish a new zoo park on the outskirts of Hyderabad has triggered quite a few doubts over the actual intentions behind such a move, especially given the financial constraints of such a step, the difficulties in getting necessary approvals and, most importantly, the need for another zoo in the capital region.

The Forum for Good Governance (FGG), for one, has questioned the State government's priorities. The existing Nehru Zoo Park at Bahadurpura was one of the best in the country and if it did not have enough space, establishing a new one could be good, said FGG president M Padmanabha Reddy.

However, more than setting up a new zoo park in 1,000 acres, which can incur a lot of expenditure, there were many other priorities that needed to be focused upon, he said. The health and education sectors were crippled. Work on double-bedroom houses was pending and the Indiramma Housing programme was yet to take off, not to mention the poor road infrastructure, he added. "The State government is secur-

Apart from availability of land, securing permissions from Central Zoo Authority is a major challenge, say forest officials

ing a lot of loans for executing different works. At this juncture, establishing a new zoo park in 1,000 acres with a lot of money should be thought about only after key priorities are handled," Padmanabha Reddy said.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department has a different perspective. Apart from availability of land, securing permissions from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is a major challenge.

3 zoos in close proximity
 The Kammadanam forest block near Shadnagar, one of the possible locations, is spread over nearly 700 acres. But again, the CZA has to be convinced about the necessity of establishing a new zoo hardly 30-40 km away from the existing one. The zoo park at Mahabubnagar, though a small one, too would be pointed out, with the presence of three zoos in near proximity of each other to be questioned.

To overcome this, if the State government suggests

any other far-off location, the distance from the city would be a factor since ensuring enough footfall could be a challenge. To maintain a zoo park, visitor footfall, that too in large numbers, was essential, a senior forest official said.

Long-drawn process
 Moreover, right from the proposal stage to securing permissions from the CZA, the entire process could take at least three-four years. And then, the expenditure to set up the park in such a way so as to attract visitors and sourcing wild animals could be really huge, the official said.

And this is where the actual intentions behind such a proposal come into play. Presenting a new dimension of the plan, a senior real estate developer from the city says the announcement could be more about spurring real estate activity, with the sector in the capital region not performing quite well for the last few months. It may be recalled that the foundation was laid for a new High Court complex in 100 acres of the agriculture university, Rajendranagar.

Now, by announcing a new zoo park, it appears that attempts are being made to boost the real estate sector towards that side of the city, he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Heavy rain lashes city, more in store for today

Many districts across State also receive continuous downpour



People wade through an inundated stretch, caused by an overflowing stream, in Mahabubnagar amid torrential rain on Saturday.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A day after incessant rain threw life out of gear in Hyderabad, netizens are bracing for more on Sunday.

On Saturday, residents had no respite as continuous showers lashed the city. Many districts across Telangana also received heavy rain on the day. The Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway was blocked due to torrential rain, with police urging motorists to take an alterna-

Schools to be shut tomorrow
HYDERABAD: Due to the heavy rain forecast and a subsequent red alert in the Hyderabad district, a holiday has been declared for all primary and secondary schools on Monday. Keeping in view the safety of children, the holiday has been declared for the schools functioning under all managements — government/ aided/private — across the district.

But this is not all! The weatherman has forecasted moderate to heavy showers across the city on Sunday too. Dr A Shravani

of the IMD-H confirmed that while heavy rain is expected, severe flooding is not anticipated. The Telangana State Development

Planning Society reported that the entire city will experience varying intensities of rain throughout the day. Areas prone to more intense rainfall are Gajularamaram, Quthbullapur, Alwal, Kukatapally, Contentment Area, Malkajigiri, Kapra, Osmania University, Uppal and Saroornagar. The forecast indicates a shift in weather patterns in the coming week. The intensity of rain is expected to reduce to light showers on September 2. **(REPORTS PAGE 3)**

Six govt officials booked for role in encroachments

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Cyberabad police registered two cases against six government officials for allegedly allowing encroachments of tanks and lakes at different places.

The cases were registered on the basis of a complaint made by HYDRABAD Commissioner AV Ranganath against the officials. In a case, with FIR No. 41/2024, the police cited four persons — P Ramakrishna Rao, Municipal Commissioner, Nizampet Municipal Corporation; Poolsingh, MRO Bachupally mandal; K Srinivasulu, Assistant Director (AD) Survey and Land Records, Medchal Malkajigiri; and Sudheer Kumar, Assistant Planning Officer, HMDA — as accused.

In the complaint, the Commissioner alleged that the officials allowed illegal constructions, and their negligence and misconduct have resulted in significant environmental harm. They allowed the construction at Errakunta pond in Pragathi Nagar of Nizampet. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'India has special China problem'

NEW DELHI

Asserting that India has a "special China problem" which is over and above the world's "general China problem", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday the border and the state of relations with the country call for investments from there be scrutinised.

Jaishankar said if people are complaining of trade deficit with China and "we are too", it is because decades ago, "we consciously overlooked the nature of Chinese production and the advantages which they enjoyed in a system where they got a level playing field with all the advantages they brought to bed". "China in many ways is a

We are not the only country which is having a debate about China. Look at the US. It is obsessed with China, and rightly so...
 — S JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER



unique problem because it is a unique polity, it is a unique economy. Unless one tries to grasp that uniqueness and understand it, the judgements, the conclusions and the policy prescriptions flowing out of it can be problematic," he said at a summit here. "There is a general China problem. We are not the only country in the world which is having a debate about China. Go to Europe, and ask them what

is among their major economic or national security debates today. It is about China. Look at the United States. It is obsessed with China, and rightly so in many ways," he said.

So, the fact is that it is not only India which has a China problem, he said. "India has a China problem... a special China problem that is over and above the world's general China problem," Jaishankar said.

"When we look at trade with China, investments with China, exchanges of various kinds with China. If you neglect to take into account that this is a very different country with a very different way of working, I think your basics start to go off track," he said. "Once you understand that because there is a general problem with China as well as our own situation, all of you know we have a very difficult situation at the border for the last four years. I think the sensible response to it is to take the precautions that a country like India is taking," he said.

It has never been the government's position that it should not be having investments with China or doing business with China, he stressed. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Gruha Jyothi shock for power consumers

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

People who applied for Gruha Jyothi, the flagship scheme of the Congress government aimed at providing up to 200 units of free electricity to domestic consumers, are furious over power officials demanding that they pay arrears of the last five months.



The power utilities' authorities claimed that the scheme would come into force only when zero bills are generated and that the people, who had applied for the scheme and had not paid bills since March when the scheme was launched, had to pay the arrears.

Despite fulfilling all conditions, many eligible individuals are still facing difficulties in getting their electricity bills waived. During the Budget session, the government had presented data indicating that 42.25 lakh people were receiving free electricity.

The beneficiaries claim that several eligible people were left out in the first phase of the scheme and the government has asked them to re-apply. However, since then a large number of people have not been receiving zero bills. In March, the government had announced that all eligible beneficiaries of the scheme need not pay the bills till they get zero bills. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'Need swift justice in crime against women'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday underlined the need for swift justice in cases involving crime against women and said that it will give them greater as-

urance of their safety. His remarks come against the backdrop of the rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor and sexual assault on two kindergarten girls in Maharashtra's Thane. Modi also said the judiciary is consid-

ered a guardian of the Constitution and that the Supreme Court and the judiciary have lived up to the responsibility.

Addressing the inaugural session of a national conference of the district judiciary

in the presence of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Modi referred to the "burning issue" of atrocities against women and safety of children and said it was a matter of serious concern. **PTI**
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

47 Indians rescued from Laos cyberscam centres

VIENTIANE: At least 47 Indians trapped in cyberscam centres in Laos have been rescued from the Bokeo province of the country, the Indian embassy in the Southeast Asian country said on Saturday. Indian authorities have been cautioning its nationals against fake job offers in Laos and urged them to conduct thorough due diligence to avoid being deceived. The Indian mission has, so far, rescued 635 Indians from the country and ensured their safe return to India. In the latest case, the embassy rescued 47 Indians trapped in cyberscam centres at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone in Bokeo province, the Indian Embassy in Laos said. Of them, 29 were handed over to the Embassy by Laos authorities after their crackdown. **PTI**

Actors want report on Tollywood made public

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Prominent voices from the Telugu film industry have demanded that the Telangana government publish the findings of a subcommittee report on sexual harassment within the industry.

This report was submitted by The Voice of Women, a support group for women in the Telugu Film Industry (TFI) established in 2019.



Several influential women from the industry, including director Nandini Reddy, actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Jhansi, Lakshmi Manchu, singers Chinmayi Sripada, Kausalya, anchor Suma

Kanakala, among others have shared a unified message on their social media platforms, urging the government to make the report public. In their statement, The Voice of Women wel-

comed the Hema Committee report and expressed appreciation for the Women in Cinema Collective in Kerala, which has been instrumental in advancing the movement against sexual harassment in the film industry.

The group emphasised the importance of the Telangana government addressing their rightful demand by releasing the subcommittee report. The statement read, "We hereby urge the Telan-

gana government to publish the submitted subcommittee report on sexual harassment, which can help frame government and industry policies to establish a safe working environment for women in the TFI."

The Hema Committee report revealed widespread sexual harassment, unsafe working conditions, and significant pay disparities between male and female actors. **(SEE PAGE 2)**