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In a nutshell

Constable shoots self dead with rifle
MAHABUBABAD: An armed reserve constable died by suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle while on duty in Mahabubabad town on Sunday. According to reports, G Srinivas was posted at the strongroom of the Mahabubabad district headquarters and, in the morning, he shot himself with the rifle. Other constables rushed to the spot and found Srinivas lying in a pool of blood. A case was registered.

Grand welcome for Lankesh's killers

VIJAYAPURA: The key men accused in the journalist Gauri Lankesh murder case were given a rousing welcome by some Hindutva activists on their arrival in their hometown here. Parashuram Waghmore and Manohar Yadave were released along with six others on bail on October 11. The activists took them to a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue where they were welcomed with saffron shawls and garlands. PTI

2 inmates break out of U'khand jail

HARIDWAR: Two prisoners who escaped from the Haridwar district jail had hatched the plan with a third inmate, who also tried to scale the prison wall with them but failed as his ladder fell, police sources said. They planned the prison break about a week before a Ramlila event in jail which they took advantage of to escape. Police are yet to find any leads on the whereabouts of the two. PTI

Driver tries to rape Manipur student

NEW DELHI: A 19-year-old Delhi University student from Manipur has accused police officials here of handling her harassment complaint against a cab driver with leniency and offering the man an "easy path to bail". She said the driver associated with an on-line cab aggregator held her hostage and drove to an isolated place with an intent to rape her but she escaped. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 126
Retail live.....	Rs. 148
With skin.....	Rs. 215
Skinless.....	Rs. 244
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



B'wood shamed Mallika

Actor on how success opened another dimension for her

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SpaceX's mega rocket Starship lifts off from Starbase for a test flight on Sunday in Boca Chica, Texas. SpaceX pulled off its boldest test flight of the enormous Starship rocket, catching the returning booster back with mechanical arms. — Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 8)

Chief Whip appointment unconstitutional: Harish

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS leader and former Minister Harish Rao raised concerns over the appointment of Patnam Mahender Reddy as the Chief Whip, calling it unconstitutional.

He accused the Congress of violating the Constitution. According to Harish, the Chief Whip's responsibility is to ensure the passage of Bills and the smooth conduct of government business. He questioned whom Mahender Reddy would issue the whip to — will it be to the members of

Questions whom Mahender Reddy would issue whip to — members of the ruling party or the Opposition?

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Harish pointed out that a whip is issued to ensure party members follow party orders. If Mahender Reddy issues a whip to the Opposition, it raises questions about which party he repre-

sents. Harish highlighted that the current situation in the State is another example of constitutional violations. The senior BRS leader mentioned that the Speaker had stated that the BRS had 38 members by the end of the State Legislative Assembly session.

However, Congress party members also claimed the same, only to later deny it. Harish emphasised that Mahender Reddy's disqualification petition is pending with the Chairman, who must decide on it as the Council Chairman.

(SEE PAGE 2)

GHMC owes Rs 144 crore in dues to EESL

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The LED streetlights that have brightened the city over last few years appear to be heading for a bleak future.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) failure to clear dues, now accumulated to a staggering Rs 144.48 crore, has left the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, in a precarious financial situation. In the last six months, the EESL has also not been paid the regular annuity amounting to Rs 57.10 crore. Despite this, the EESL, in a statement, said it is committed to fulfilling its commitment to the people of Hyderabad, ensuring that 5.48 lakh LED streetlights are maintained and operational across the city. Although EESL's contract is

Despite financial challenges posed by GHMC's delayed payments, EESL is steadfast in its commitment to the people of Hyd

— RAMESH T, EESL

valid till April 2025, GHMC has issued a tender for the procurement and supply of 15,000 new streetlights at a cost of Rs 3 crore to meet its obligations, without settling dues. This new tender and delay in payments are not due to performance issues, as EESL has consistently maintained the streetlights and addressed complaints, but rather GHMC's failure to reconcile and clear pending payments, the EESL said. (SEE PAGE 2)

No spot booking at Sabarimala, says Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan on Sunday made it clear that there will be no spot booking at Sabarimala, but assured that no devotee who comes to the Lord Ayyappa temple during the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season will miss out on 'darshan'.

The assurance came a day after BJP threatened to carry out agitations if the government goes ahead with its plan to not allow spot booking and permit darshan only through the virtual queue system. In the virtual queue system, pilgrims can book their darshan tickets and prasadam online through the official website of the Sabarimala temple. In spot booking, they can book slots at centres identified by Devaswom Board. PTI

Ex-DU professor Saibaba no more

HYDERABAD

Former Delhi University professor GN Saibaba died at a state-run hospital here due to post-operative complications, seven months after he was acquitted in an alleged Maoist links case. He was 54.

Saibaba was suffering from gall bladder infection and was operated on two weeks ago, but developed complications subsequently. He breathed his last around 9 pm on Saturday, an official said. He was admitted to NIMS for the last 20 days. In March, the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted him in the Maoist links case. PTI (REPORTS PAGE 5)

18 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza

IDF strikes 40 targets, eliminates dozens of militants

GAZA

At least 18 Palestinians were killed on Sunday as Israeli forces launched attacks in the northern and central Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian sources.

Israeli artillery targeted the outskirts of the Bureij refugee camp and Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, Palestinian security officials said. Seven people were killed in the shelling and taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, medical sources said. In a separate incident, eight members of a single family

Two dead after drinking impure water from well

80 others fall sick, three of them critical

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

In a State that set a national record by supplying treated drinking water through taps to almost every rural household, two persons died and around 80 others took ill, three of them seriously, allegedly after being forced to consume contaminated water from a well at Sanjeevaraopet in Narayankhed mandal of Sangareddy district.

The incident is said to have occurred after a continued disruption of water supply through the Mission Bhagiratha scheme. According to reports, residents of two BC colonies in Sanjeevaraopet had resorted to drawing drinking water from a well after the disruption of water supply through Mission Bhagiratha.

The water in the well, the reports said, was contaminated, triggering health issues immediately among all those who consumed it. Many began vomiting, apart from widespread complaints of diarrhoea, after the incident.

While two persons, Mahesh (22) and Sayamma (70) died, more than 50 of those who fell ill had to be taken to hospital. Of the three persons whose condition was



Residents of Sanjeevaraopet, who fell sick after consuming the contaminated water, at a hospital on Sunday.

Govt should support the families of the deceased, provide assistance to those undergoing treatment and ensure that such incidents do not occur

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS

stated to be critical, one was shifted to the Sangareddy Government Hospital, while two others were shifted to the Narayankhed Government Hospital.

According to the villagers, there were three tanks in the village. Two tanks were connected to the Mission Bhagiratha scheme, while the old tank was connected to a well. Residents of the two BC colonies fell ill after drinking the water sup-

plied through the well water tank. The situation prompted Narayankhed MLA P Sanjeeva Reddy, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Ashok Chakraborty, District Coordinator of Hospital Services, District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr Gayatri Devi and Deputy DMHO Dr Sandhyarani to visit the village. A medical camp was also set up in the village. (SEE PAGE 2)

WB stir: Elective services to be shut across India

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), a body representing Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs) across India, on Sunday called for a nationwide shutdown of elective services in hospitals from Monday in solidarity with medics' ongoing protest in West Bengal.

Additionally, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has announced a 24-hour nationwide hunger strike on Tuesday to support doctors in West Bengal, seeking justice for the young doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The announcement comes as a fast-unto-death agitation by junior doctors at the hospital entered the ninth day, with three hospitalised so far. AGENCIES

Cop sacked in ganja case ends life, blames 2 SIs

STATE BUREAU
 Kothagudem

A police constable, who was suspended from services in a ganja case eight months ago when he was working at the Burgampahad police station in Kothagudem district, died by suicide by consuming pesticide on Sunday. He died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad.

Constable Bhukya Sagar recorded a selfie video on his phone holding two police Sub-Inspectors (SIs) and another individual responsible for his act and the

video went viral on social media. In the video, Sagar addressed his wife Ashwini telling her that he had consumed pesticide to end his life and asked her to take care of their children. He said in the Burgampahad police station, ganja that was seized in a case had gone missing, for which he was held responsible and a case was booked against him.

The constable maintained that if a property under the control of a police station goes missing, the SI concerned should be responsible, but here, he was made a scapegoat in the case. In-



Police Constable B Sagar

stead of questioning the SI, a constable was booked in the ganja missing case, Sagar said, alleging that SIs San-

thosh and Raj Kumar, who served at the police station in the past, and an individual Gonela Nani sold the seized ganja by engaging the local youth.

He also said the police officials at the police station made calls using his phone to sell the ganja. He said he was wrongly booked in the ganja missing case and was unable to bear the allegation made against him. It was said that the suspension imposed against the constable eight months ago was revoked recently and he was given a posting at another police station.

In the video message, Sagar appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to do justice to his family, stating that he and his family had voted for the Congress.

Tribal body wants probe
 Meanwhile, Telangana Girijana Sangham Khammam district general secretary Bhukya Veerabhadram demanded that the State government conduct an inquiry into the suicide of the constable. He warned that if the government and officials failed to respond properly, the Sangham would launch protests against them.