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**Trump wants hush money charges tossed**  
 Citing pardon for Hunter Biden, lawyers ask judge to throw out hush money conviction



**ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12**  
**Chay, Sobhita tie the knot in traditional ceremony**

**In a nutshell**

**Assembly session from December 9**  
**HYDERABAD:** Governor Jishu Dev Verma on Wednesday issued a notification commencing the Legislative Assembly and Council winter session from December 9 at 10.30 am. The upcoming winter session of the Assembly coincides with the completion of the Congress government's one year in office. The House is likely to witness heated exchanges on various issues. The government is likely to take several key decisions.

**Lok Sabha passes banking Bill**  
**NEW DELHI:** In a significant move to enhance customer experience and protect citizens, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts. The higher number of nominees aims to reduce unclaimed deposits in banks. **NATION PAGE 7**

**ED attaches horses worth Rs 4 crore**  
**NEW DELHI:** The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached more than three dozen horses worth about Rs 4 crore as part of a money laundering investigation in a cyber fraud case in West Bengal where foreign citizens were duped through fake call centres. The federal agency said it issued a provisional order under the PMLA on Tuesday. **PTI**

**Assam bans beef in public places**  
**NEW DELHI:** The Assam government has decided to ban serving and consumption of beef in restaurants, hotels and public places, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Wednesday. A decision was taken at a meeting of the State Cabinet. "We have decided to ban serving and consumption of beef in public places," Sarma said. **PTI**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85

## TG falling & failing under Cong rule: KTR

**Will write to Rahul about govt's failure to deliver on promises**

**STATE BUREAU**  
**HYDERABAD**

Telangana is falling and failing, but not rising under the Congress government, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Wednesday. Criticising Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for indulging in rhetoric and mudslinging against the BRS instead of showcasing the Congress government's achievements, he said he would write to Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi about the Congress' promises to Telangana and the Revanth Reddy government's failure to deliver them over the last one year. "The Chief Minister has become a habitual liar and he's been lying through his teeth continuously. Even a year after assuming power, the CM is still misleading people on debts obtained during the BRS regime. He is indulging in diversion tactics to avoid speaking about the Congress government's promises especially the six guarantees that did not see light," he said, demanding that the Congress speak



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

about its promises and their current status. On the occasion of the Congress government completing its one-year rule, the BRS working president lashed out at Revanth Reddy for failing to deliver poll promises and resorting to diversionary tactics. He said the Congress government had betrayed people by not implementing its six guarantees or fulfilling promises such as crop loan waivers, Rythu Bandhu and government jobs. "Farmers and weavers' suicides are on the rise, and students in residential welfare institutions are frequently hospitalised. Congress is failing Telangana on all fronts," he said. Rama Rao questioned the Chief Minister's claims about loans obtained during the BRS regime, clarifying that the actual borrowings amounted to Rs 4.26 lakh crore, not Rs.6.71 lakh crore as alleged. "The Congress inherited a revenue surplus of Rs 5,944 crore, but over the last year, it borrowed Rs 1 lakh crore, including Rs 85,000 crore from market borrowings. Where has this money gone?" he asked, pointing out the lack of new schemes or projects initiated by the Congress. The former Minister dismissed Revanth Reddy's claim of repaying Rs 6,500 crore in loan principal and interest. "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) documents show only Rs 2,900 crore is paid monthly, amounting to Rs 34,730 crore annually," he said. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

## 5.3-magnitude quake jolts parts of State

**Earthquake of such scale seen in TG after 55 yrs**

**CITY BUREAU**  
**Hyderabad**

An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Telangana in the early hours of Wednesday. The effects of the earthquake at Mulugu, recorded for the first time after half a century in these parts, were felt far and wide, with people from Hyderabad and even Vijayawada reporting the impact. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS), New Delhi, reported that the epicentre was approximately 85 km northeast of Warangal, 65 km southwest of Bijapur (Chhattisgarh), 218 km to the northwest of Hyderabad and 212 km to the north of Vijayawada. People in several districts of Telangana, including Mulugu, Hanumakonda, Bhupalpally, Kothagudem, Bhadrachalam, Khammam, Rangareddy, Warangal, Karimnagar and Jangaon, reported tremors that lasted for 3-4 seconds. In Hyderabad, people from Vanasthalipuram, Hayathnagar, Abdullapurmet and surrounding areas experienced the ef-



A portion of the wall that collapsed due to the earthquake, in Karimnagar on Wednesday. **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)**

fects for a brief period. Tremors of similar intensity were also reported from parts of Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Jaggaiahpetta in Krishna district, Nandigam and Eluru. Last time the two Telugu States recorded an earthquake of this scale was in 1969 when Bhadrachalam was hit by a seismic event of 5.3 magnitude, which was recorded by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Fadnavis to be Maha CM, Shinde suspense continues

**MUMBAI**

Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister on Thursday, after Governor CP Radhakrishnan invited him to form the new government in the State. Two Deputy Chief Ministers, including NCP leader Ajit Pawar, will also be sworn in at the ceremony at the sprawling Azad Maidan in South Mumbai in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is no clarity yet on whether outgoing CM Eknath Shinde will be a part of the new Ministry. While Fadnavis said he has requested Shinde to join the government, Shinde said the media will be updated on this front later. Newly-elected Shiv Sena MLAs also met Shinde and urged him to take up the post of Deputy Chief Minister. Party legislators said



BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, NCP leader Ajit Pawar, Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde, along with BJP Central Observers Nirmala Sitharaman and Vijay Rupani, meet Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan in Mumbai on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

they have been meeting Shinde, who is currently the caretaker CM, for the last two days to convince him to become part of the new government. All through the day, the MLAs made a beeline to Varsha, the CM's official residence, to meet him. Meanwhile, a delegation of the ruling Mahayuti alliance met the Governor at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday, soon after Fadnavis was unanimously elected state BJP legislature party leader. At the legislature party meeting in Vidhan Bhawan, former Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP's central observer Vijay Rupani said Fadnavis has been elected the BJP legislature party leader. **PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)**

## POLITICAL TURMOIL IN S KOREA



Protesters march to the presidential office after a candlelight vigil against South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul. The President shocked the nation by declaring martial law and calling in troops to secure the National Assembly building, only to lift it a few hours later. The announcement sent citizens streaming to the streets in protest. — Photo: AP **(REPORTS PAGE 9)**

## Sukhbir escapes murder bid at Golden Temple

**AMRITSAR**

Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal escaped a bid on his life on Wednesday when a former Khalistani terrorist fired from a close range at Punjab's ex-Deputy Chief Minister at the Golden Temple's entrance here but missed as plainclothes policemen overpowered him. The audacious attack, which occurred around 9.30 am, was captured on cameras by mediapersons who had gathered to cover the second day of Badal performing the duty of 'sewadar' at the main gate of the Sikh shrine as religious penance for "mistakes" committed by the SAD government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017.



People catch shooter Narain Singh Chaura at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI **(RELATED REPORT PAGE 8)**

As other devotees were entering, the shooter, identified as former terrorist Narain Singh Chaura, slowly walked towards Badal (62), a Z protectee who was sitting in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, and pulled out a gun from his pocket. Chaura (68) was seen at the shrine on Tuesday as well. Assistant Sub-Inspector Jasbir Singh, who was standing close to Badal in plainclothes, sensed the threat to the senior Akali leader and pounced on the shooter. **PTI**

## B'desh: UK warns of terror attacks

**LONDON/DHAKA**

The UK government has updated its travel advisory for Bangladesh to caution against travel to the country where "terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks". "Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Bangladesh," reads the updated travel advisory. Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is likely to visit Bangladesh next week for a Foreign Secretary-level meeting, amid tensions between the two countries after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power. Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hosain said the scheduled Foreign Office Consultation will take place in Dhaka on December 9 or 10. It will be

the first high-level visit by a senior Indian government official to Bangladesh since the interim government came to power on August 8 after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister. Protests broke out across India as Hindu organisations demonstrated against the alleged violence targeting the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh. In UP, protesters took to the streets in Budaun, Bareilly, Deoria and Pilibhit districts, while in Assam, two stalls selling Bangladeshi goods at a global expo were shut after Bajrang Dal protested. In MP, protests continued for the second day with marches organised amid the chants of 'Ek Rahenge to Safe Rahenge' slogans. Rallies were taken out in Jharkhand too. **AGENCIES**

## Harish moves HC to quash criminal case

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**Hyderabad**

BRS MLA and senior leader T Harish Rao has approached the Telangana High Court seeking directions to quash the criminal case registered against him by the Panjagutta police at the instance of complainant Gadhagoni Chakradhar Goud. The complaint filed by Goud raised various allegations of interfering with his charitable activities, and threatening, intimidating including offences of extortion. Contentions were raised in the petition that the case was cooked up by the complainant who was politically motivated. The case is expected to come up for hearing this week.

## 'Stree' haunting people near RGIA?

**ASIF YAR KHAN**  
**Hyderabad**

Is a 'chudail' roaming the streets of Jalpally near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA)? Rumour mongering in these parts of the Hyderabad outskirts is high about what some have come to describe as a sequel to Rajkumar Rao's hugely popular movies 'Stree' being played here. For the last few days, social media is abuzz with a set of videos and pictures accompanied by an audio clip about a youngster attacked by the chudail (witch) at Jalpally RR Masala katcha road. In the audio clip, the narrator describes the incident of the youngster being chased for a distance by the

**Social media abuzz with videos, pics, audio clip of youth being attacked by chudail (witch) at Jalpally**

witch and claims the injured person is now under treatment at a private hospital. The narrator also urges people to be careful of the 'chudail' and not move around Jalpally at night! In the videos, though not clear, one can hear strange noises of someone walking on dry grass wearing anklets and crying aloud. A picture of a young man with cut wounds on his body makes one further nervous. **(SEE PAGE 2)**