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Barry Jenkins brings fresh energy, originality



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Russian missiles target Ukrainian capital

Moscow says attack in response to Kyiv's strike using US-made missiles



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Rishab loves to be involved in Sandeep's films

In a nutshell

Food poisoning: 4 students fall ill

KAMAREDDY: In yet another case of food poisoning in government-run schools in the State, four students of Scheduled Castes Boys' Hostel in Jukkal mandal headquarters allegedly fell ill due to food poisoning on Friday. According to reports, four students complained of stomach ache and vomiting after lunch. They were rushed to Banswada Area Hospital for treatment by the staff.

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Ex-Haryana CM OP Chautala dies

CHANDIGARH: Om Prakash Chautala, a prominent Jat leader and former Haryana chief minister whose career was marked by dizzying highs and rockbottom lows, including stints in jail, died on Friday. He was 89. He is survived by two sons and three daughters. His wife Sneha Lata passed away over five years ago. An INLD spokesperson said Chautala had hiccups in the morning and collapsed in his house. PTI

WB okays \$800 mn loan for Amaravati

AMARAVATI: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 800 million Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Program for building Andhra Pradesh's greenfield capital city Amaravati, the international development said on Friday. The Bretton Woods institution's Board of Executive Directors met in US.

NATION PAGE 7

Formula-E: HC relief for KTR

Bars ACB from arresting BRS leader until Dec 30, asks agency to continue probe

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday granted interim relief to BRS working president KT Rama Rao, barring his arrest in the Formula-E case until December 30. Justice NV Shrivani Kumar, while granting the relief, also allowed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to continue its investigation into the matter. Rama Rao, the former MA&UD Minister, had moved the High Court in a lunch motion seeking to quash the FIR registered against him. The FIR alleges that Rama Rao, during his tenure as Minister, misused government funds in connection with the Formula-E race held in Hyderabad in 2023.

The ACB registered the case accusing Rama Rao of directing the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to pay Rs 55 crore to a foreign company in violation of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. The FIR, filed under Sections 13(1)(a), 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Sections 409 and 120(B) of the Indian Penal Code, claims that the money was transferred improperly, causing financial misconduct.

Represented by Senior Counsel Aryaman Sundaram, Rama Rao's legal team argued that the FIR was politically motivated and lacked sufficient evidence to support the serious charges. In his submission, Sundaram emphasised that the case stemmed from a procedural lapse, not corruption. He also pointed out



BRS MLAs T Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav and others staging a protest against the Congress government on Friday.

that no preliminary inquiry had been conducted before the FIR was filed, despite a 14-month delay.

"We had to safeguard the event (Formula-E). The worst case against the petitioner is that he did not follow procedures. That's the only charge," Sundaram told the court, adding that there was no evidence to suggest criminal misconduct by Rama Rao. Sundaram further argued that the FIR did not meet the legal requirements for charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act. He stated that no allegations of financial gain or enrichment had been made against Rama Rao. (SEE PAGE 2)

(ED FILES CASE PAGE 3)

Cong pursuing a baseless case, says BRS leader

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao reiterated his readiness to face allegations surrounding the Formula-E race legally, asserting there was no corruption involved. He criticised the Congress government for pursuing a baseless case and questioned its sincerity in addressing developmental issues.

In an informal chat with media at the Assembly during a break on Friday, Rama Rao referred to Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar's statements, which made it clear that there was no corruption. He explained that the Hyderabad Metropolitan

Development Authority (HMDA), an autonomous body, is empowered to allocate funds for any developmental activity in Hyderabad without requiring government approvals.

"Someone is misguiding the government on the issue. There is no corruption, and if the government is keen to proceed, we will face it legally," he quipped.

On the Special Investigation Team (SIT) by the State government to probe the Outer Ring Road (ORR) lease, the former Municipal Administration Minister explained that the Toll, Operate, Transfer (TOT) model is

being successfully implemented across India, including the National Highways. "The funds raised through ORR TOT were utilised for the farmers' crop loan waiver scheme, based on recommendations from a Cabinet Sub-Committee on the mobilisation of resources," he said.

Rama Rao challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's allegations of corruption in the ORR lease and benefiting a private company, questioning why the lease had not been scrapped if the claims were credible. (SEE PAGE 2)

ONOE Bills sent to joint panel

NEW DELHI

Amid uproar over Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks related to BR Ambedkar, the Lok Sabha on Friday referred the two Bills on simultaneous polls to a joint committee of Parliament. Opposition members were raising slogan haling Ambedkar and slamming Shah when the House met for the day.

Instead of taking up the Question Hour, Speaker Om Birla asked Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to move the resolution to refer Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 referred to Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 27 members from the Lok Sabha and 12 from the Rajya Sabha.

The resolution was adopted by a voice vote amid noisy scenes. The Lok Sabha was then adjourned sine die (indefinitely), bringing to an end the Winter session which began on November 25. The two 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) bills, including one requiring an amendment in the Constitution, lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections and were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday after a fiery debate.

BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab is being considered to head the joint committee of Parliament that will scrutinise the two bills proposing simultaneous elections, sources said on Thursday. With the BJP set to get the position of the chair for the crucial panel, official sources said Mahtab's par-

Parliament session records low productivity

NEW DELHI: Parliament was adjourned sine die on Friday, capping off a tumultuous session that saw a robust debate on the country's constitutional journey and the introduction of two landmark Bills on simultaneous elections before plunging to a new low of political animosity over alleged insult of B R Ambedkar.

As Parliament met on the last day of Winter Session, the overhang of mutual bitterness involving the ruling National Democratic Alliance and Opposition parties following Thursday's spat persisted, forcing Speaker Om Birla in Lok Sabha to adjourn the House within three minutes without even the customary summing up of the Session's highlights. (REPORT PAGE 7)

liamentary experience may weigh in his favour.

The strength of the committee was increased from 31 MPs to 39, giving representation to more parties. While the panel already includes BJP's P P Chaudhury and Anurag Thakur, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of the Congress is another prominent member on the committee. Among the Lok Sabha members, 17 are from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, including 12 from the BJP. PTI

Unable to clear debts, weaver ends life in Sircilla

STATE BUREAU
Rajanna-Sircilla

Unable to clear his debts, a weaver, Dusa Ganesh (50), died by suicide in Sircilla. Ganesh, who was staying alone in his house after his wife and daughters left him, ended his life by hanging himself at his Gandhinagar residence. He was found hanging by neighbours on Friday morning.

Police found a suicide note near the body, in which Ganesh said nobody was responsible for his suicide and that he had decided to end his life as he was unable to clear a loan of Rs 5 lakh borrowed from Sircilla Urban Bank and a private finance firm. The finance company created more troubles for

BRS leader KT Rama Rao says another weaver had died due to the indifferent attitude of the State government

him, he said. Unable to tolerate harassment by the company, he decided to end his life. He could not clear debts as there was no work, he wrote in the note. Ganesh was survived by his wife Suvama and daughters Sumasree and Pujitha.

Responding to the incident, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said another weaver had died due to the indifferent attitude of

the State government. Weavers were unable to get employment as looms have not been operated during the last one year due to lack of orders from the State government, he said.

Sircilla has again been made a suicide hub by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he said, asking whether the CM could hear the sound of affected weavers' families crying. The CM had promised change, he said, asking Revanth Reddy to tell the daughters of Ganesh that he was busy in revenge politics. The situation was the same for farmers too. Suicide notes and debt papers were the only properties that the children of weavers and farmers in Telangana would inherit, he lamented.

(SEE PAGE 2)

11 dead in LPG tanker blast in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

An LPG tanker collided with a truck on Friday, sparking a massive fireball that turned a stretch of the Jaipur-Ajmer highway into an inferno in which 11 people were killed and 37 vehicles engulfed in flames.

The State Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar said that nearly half of the injured were "very critical." "A total of 11 people have died. Five were brought dead to SMS hospital. Five succumbed during treatment. One death was reported from Jaipuria hospital," Dr Deepak Maheshwari, Principal, SMS Medical College, said.

Police said an outlet nozzle of the LPG tanker was damaged in the collision, leading to a gas leak that caused the blaze. (SEE PAGE 2)



Rescue operation under way after an LPG tanker collided with multiple vehicles on the Jaipur-Ajmer Highway, in Jaipur on Friday. — Photo:PTI

'Abused' by SI, ryot tries to end life



STATE BUREAU
Nagarjunool

A farmer tried to end his life, allegedly after being abused by the Lingala Sub-Inspector over a land dispute. Purushotham, a resident of Appaivala, wanted to purchase land from a farmer in the village. However, he alleged that Lingala SI Nagaraju intervened and directed him to drop the plans.

In a video message, Purushotham alleged that SI Nagaraju had called him to the police station and threatened him with dire consequences, as he wanted one of his friends to purchase the land. The SI abused me and wanted that cases would be booked under SC/ ST atrocities, besides opening a rowdy sheet, he claimed.

Holding a pesticide bottle, Purushotham in the video said: "I have a wife and two children. I am humiliated and have decided to die by suicide. SI Nagaraju is responsible for my death."

In October, a youngster tried to die by suicide after the police tonsured his head and of two others, allegedly for combing his hair in front of a Sub-Inspector at Lingala in the district.

Temple-mosque disputes unacceptable: RSS chief Be mindful, India warns Bangladesh

PUNE

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has expressed concern over the resurgence of several temple-mosque disputes and said certain individuals, after the construction of Ayodhya Ram temple, seem to believe they can become "leaders of Hindus" by raking up such issues.

Delivering a lecture on 'India - The Vishwaguru', at Sahjeevan Vyakhyannamala (lecture series) here, Bhagwat advocated for an inclusive society and said the world needs to be shown that the country can live together in harmony.

Highlighting the plurality of Indian society, the chief of RSS said Christmas is cel-

After Ram Mandir, some people think they can become leaders of Hindus by raking up similar issues in new places

— MOHAN BHAGWAT
RSS CHIEF

ebrated in Ramkrishna Mission, adding "only we can do this because we are Hindus." "We have been living in harmony for a long time. If we want to provide this harmony to the world, we need to create a model of it. After the construction of

the Ram Mandir, some people think they can become leaders of Hindus by raking up similar issues in new places. This is not acceptable," he said. The Ram temple was constructed since it was a matter of faith for all Hindus, Bhagwat said. "Every day a new matter (dispute) is being raked up. How can this be allowed? This cannot continue. India needs to show that we can live together," he said without mentioning any particular site. Several demands for surveys of mosques to unearth temples have found their way to courts in the recent past, though Bhagwat did not mention any by name in his lecture. (SEE PAGE 2)

Words should match action, says Oppn

NEW DELHI: Several political leaders, particularly from the Opposition, have welcomed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement condemning certain Hindu leaders for raising issues about new Hindu sites driven by hate and enmity.

However, they expressed scepticism about the actions of the Sangh Parivar and its affiliates.

Congress leader Husain Dalwai lauded Bhagwat's remarks but questioned the RSS' role in ongoing societal tensions. "Mohan Bhagwat's statement is correct, but what about the violence against Muslims — mob lynchings, demolitions of their homes, and other oppressive acts? These actions are carried out by those who follow RSS ideology. Why is nothing done to stop them?" he said. IANS

NEW DELHI

India lodged a strong protest with Dhaka over a now-deleted social media post by a key aide of Bangladesh's interim government that claimed certain areas of Indian territory should be part of that country.

Mahfuz Alam, known for his provocative comments, also posted on Facebook four days ago a map purportedly showing parts of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam as parts of Bangladesh.

He deleted the post after it triggered a backlash. Alam is a de facto Minister in the Muhammad Yunus-

Response comes after a key aide of interim govt, in a post, said certain areas of India should be part of Bangladesh

led interim government of Bangladesh. In strongly reacting to the post, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday reminded all concerned to be "mindful" of their public comments. "We have strongly registered a protest on this issue," he further said. PTI