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The four lantern junction in Hyderabad's Old City



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Rocket from Yemen strikes Tel Aviv, 16 injured

Houthi rebels say they aimed a hypersonic ballistic missile at military target



SPORT | PAGE 10

India's top-order must step up, says Jadeja

**In a nutshell**

**MDMA seized, 2 peddlers arrested**

**SANGAREDDY:** The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) nabbed two ganja peddlers and seized one kg of MDMA from them at Isnapur on NH-65. The drug peddlers reportedly were purchasing the drug regularly from Nigerian suppliers in Mumbai. The accused were Mohammad Salim Abdul (30) and Mukesh Dubey, residents of Mumbai. Another peddler, Rayees Riyaz Shaikh, was absconding. The duo was reportedly on their way to Hyderabad to sell the drug to one Shaik Amer.

**10 killed in Nigeria Xmas stampede**

**ABUJA:** Ten people, including four children, have been killed in a stampede in Nigeria's capital city as a large crowd gathered to collect food items distributed by a local church at a Christmas event, police said on Saturday. The stampede occurred in the early morning hours at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Maitama, an upmarket part of Abuja, police spokesman Josephine Adeh said, adding that more than 1,000 people have been evacuated from the church. AP

# 'FORGET 6G, NO CASH WITH GOVT'

## Revanth admits lack of funds to implement guarantees

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday admitted that the State government was unable to implement the six guarantees and other promises, including Rythu Bharosa, due to financial constraints.

Blaming the previous BRS government for his government's inability and delay in the implementation of the six guarantees and other election promises of the Congress, he said if the State government was facing challenges to implement Rythu Bharosa, extend financial assistance to tenant farmers, monthly allowance to women and one tola gold as part of Kalyana Lakshmi, the previous government should be held responsible.

Speaking during a short discussion on Rythu Bharosa in the Assembly, the Chief Minister claimed that all the income generated and loans raised by the State government were being used to pay the interest and principal component of loans raised by BRS government in the past.

"If this burden of repaying the past government's loans was not imposed on us, I would have done wonders in Telangana," he claimed, saying that the State



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy speaking during a short discussion on Rythu Bharosa in the Assembly on Saturday.

government would have offered MSP for all crops, paid Arogyasri bills one month in advance, offered Rythu Bharosa and cleared farmers loans completely if there were no financial issues.

Admitting that he was visiting New Delhi frequently, the Chief Minister said financial experts were consulted to get the loans restructured. If there was any reduction in the interest component on the loans, it would aid in considerable savings for the State government and the same

could be used for welfare and development works, he claimed.

The Chief Minister also alleged that the previous government had sold Kokapet lands, ORR and Hitec City to generate money. Now, BRS leaders were opposing welfare and development projects in the State, he alleged, accusing the BRS of opposing establishment of industries, land acquisition for setting up units, Regional Ring Road, radial roads and other projects. (SEE PAGE 2)

## KTR tears into Congress for failing to fulfil promises

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government for the yawning gap between its words and deeds in the implementation of the loan waiver, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was misleading the public and the Assembly with false statements on the extent of debt relief extended to the farmers.

Stating that Revanth Reddy had come out with a confession statement admitting his inability to implement the six guarantees promised by the Congress to win the polls, he pointed out that the Chief Minister was unable to explain how the promised Rs 49,500-crore loan waiver was reduced to Rs 26,000 crore. Despite this, Revanth Reddy had shamelessly claimed that 100 per cent of the loan waiver had been implemented.

The BRS leader criticised the Congress government for making false promises during elections and failing to deliver once in power. He accused the Congress of misleading farmers with promises of loan waivers and then failing to implement them effectively. He pointed out that the previous BRS government



BRS working president and MLA KT Rama Rao speaking in the Assembly.

had significantly reduced farmer suicides in Telangana through initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima.

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau data, which showed a decrease in farmer suicides from 1,348 in 2014 to 178 in 2022, he attributed the drop to the BRS government's support for the agricultural sector. He also pointed out that the Congress government had failed to provide a clear explanation for the discrepancies in the loan waiver figures. He said while one

Congress leader claimed that 70 per cent of the loan waiver had been implemented, the Chief Minister claimed that 100 per cent had been achieved. He asserted that no village in the State had received a complete loan waiver and that even the Chief Minister's own village, Kondareddipalle, was no exception.

Rama Rao also said the Congress government had diverted funds from schemes such as Rythu Bandhu to cover the loan waiver and vowed to continue holding the party accountable.

## Public inspection of poll e-records curbed

Centre tweaks election rule to limit access to videos

NEW DELHI

The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV cameras and webcasting footage, as well as video recordings of candidates, to prevent their misuse.

Based on the recommendation of the Election Commission (EC), the Law Ministry on Friday amended Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

According to Rule 93, all "papers" related to elections shall be open to public inspection. The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers". The Law Ministry and EC officials explained that a court case was the "trigger" behind the amendment. While documents such as nomination forms, appointment of election agents, results and election account statements are mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules, electronic documents such as CCTV camera footage, webcasting footage and video

### Why is ECI afraid of transparency: Cong

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Saturday hit out at the Election Commission for tweaking an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage, asking why the poll panel was afraid of transparency.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the party would legally challenge amendment. "If there was ever a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in recent times, this is it," Ramesh said in a post on X. Sharing a December 20 notification, the Congress leader said, "This move of the ECI will be challenged legally right away." PTI

recording of candidates during the MCC period are not covered. "CCTV coverage, webcasting of poll stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken to ensure a level playing field," a former EC official said. PTI

The Ministry of External Affairs, condemning the "horrific and senseless" attack, said the Indian mission in Germany is in contact with Indians injured. It, however, did not specify the number of injured Indians. PTI (REPORT PAGE 9)

## Seven Indians injured in German Christmas market attack

NEW DELHI

Seven Indians have been injured in the deadly car-ramming attack in the eastern German city of Magdeburg and the Indian embassy in Berlin is providing them all possible assistance, official sources said on Saturday night.

A 50-year-old man drove his car into crowds at a Christmas market on Friday evening in Saxony-Anhalt State's Magdeburg, leaving at least five people, including a nine-year-old, dead and nearly 200 injured, authorities said. Three of seven injured Indians have been discharged from hospital, the sources cited above said.

The Ministry of External Affairs, condemning the "horrific and senseless" attack, said the Indian mission in Germany is in contact with Indians injured. It, however, did not specify the number of injured Indians. PTI (REPORT PAGE 9)

## Panic over fire in IT corridor

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Panic prevailed in the city's IT corridor at Madhapur in the early hours of Saturday after a fire broke out at the Sattva Elixir building inside Knowledge City, Madhapur. No casualties were reported in the incident.

According to the fire officials, the incident was reported to the control room at 6.12 am and fire tenders rushed to the spot within a short time. Fire was noticed on the fourth floor and fire-fighting operations were reinforced with a Bronto Skylift and additional fire tenders from Gachibowli, Vattinagulapally and Kukatpally fire stations.

The mishap occurred in the ground plus four-storey building that houses restaurants, a bar and a gymnasium. It took over an hour for the officials to control the blaze.

Fire officials said the fire started on the fourth floor and spread to the other floors. "The cause of the fire is being ascertained," Shaik



Firefighters dousing the blaze that broke out on the fourth and fifth floors of the Sattva Elixir building in Madhapur, Hyderabad, on Saturday. —Photo: PTI

Khaja Karimulla, District Fire Officer-1, Rangareddy, said.

Following the incident, Sattva Group said high-quality safety measures were in place and the fire was quickly detected, contained, and extinguished by well-

trained on-site emergency response team. "There were no injuries or casualties, and the situation is now fully under control," said a Sattva Group spokesperson in the statement. "We are currently investigating the cause of the fire and will

continue to monitor the situation closely. Operations at Knowledge City are proceeding as usual, and we remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and security," the spokesperson said.

**HOT TOPIC**

## 'Actor left only after police warning'

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday came down heavily on the Telugu film fraternity for their approach towards the stampede during Pushpa 2's benefit show at Sandhya Theatre here, and also alleged that actor Allu Arjun had insisted on staying on to watch the movie even after a woman was killed in the stampede.

Without naming Allu Arjun, he said the 'actor' had left only after police warned him that he would be arrested. Asking the

film fraternity not to be inhuman, he said the State government would accord special permissions for film shootings and extend incentives to the film industry, but any inconvenience to people or human loss would not be tolerated.

He was responding to a query raised by AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, who asked whether a "film star" had gone to a theatre and, even as a woman died and her child suffered injuries, watched the movie. "We support the government and police action," Owaisi said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Do not malign my character: Arjun

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Actor Allu Arjun on Saturday broke his silence over the tragic incident at Sandhya Theatre earlier this month, in which a woman died and her son was grievously injured in a stampede when he visited the theatre for a benefit show of his recent release 'Pushpa 2: The Rule'.

Offering an apology and clarifying multiple misconceptions surrounding the death of the 35-year-old woman, Revathi, and her eight-year-old son Sritej being grievously injured in the stampede-like

situation, Allu Arjun said it was an unfortunate accident and that nobody was at fault. He expressed his deep regret over the loss of life but stressed that he never intended to harm anyone.

"The primary reason for this press conference is to make it clear that I do not blame anyone, neither the government nor the officials. The incident was purely unfortunate," he said, adding that he had remained silent so far in order to avoid further speculation and misinformation. (SEE PAGE 2)

(NO MORE BENEFIT SHOWS FOR TOLLYWOOD PAGE 5)

## Three temples vandalised in Bangladesh, one arrested

NEW DELHI

Over two consecutive days, miscreants targeted three Hindu temples in Bangladesh, vandalising eight idols in Mymensingh and Dinajpur districts, according to media reports.

Law enforcement authorities have arrested a 27-year-old suspect in connection with one of the incidents, police confirmed. Quoting temple sources and locals, Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge (OC) of Haluaghat police station, said on Saturday that miscreants ransacked two idols of Bonderpara Temple in the Shakuai Union, Haluaghat, was attacked on Friday. The attacks are the latest

### ISKCON condemns priest's 'murder'

**KOLKATA:** ISKCON Kolkata on Saturday condemned the 'murder' of a Hindu priest allegedly by Bangladeshi extremists at a cremation ground temple in Nature and accused the neighbouring country's interim government of failing to protect religious minorities, who continue to face "unabated torture and killings" following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's administration. ISKCON Kolkata spokesperson Radharamn Das posted a video on X. PTI

in a string of incidents targeting the minority Hindu community in the country. In Mymensingh, three idols in two temples were destroyed during early hours of Thursday and Friday.

The Bonderpara Temple in Shakuai Union, Haluaghat, was attacked on Friday, while another idol was damaged at the Polashkanda Kali Temple in Beeldora union the previous day.

## 800 properties to be acquired for Metro Rail

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

For phase-2 of the Metro from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, notifications were issued for acquisition of 800 properties.

According to the Hyderabad District Collector, "For the compensation, an agreement has been reached after discussions with many property owners to pay Rs 81,000 per square yard and the construction value."

The house owners can go to Metro Bhavan, Ra-soolpura, Begumpet and give their consent. The compensation will be given in the form of a cheque within 10 days of giving consent.