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'Drag Me...' aims to redefine faith, art



WORLD | PAGE 09

South Korea to inspect all Boeing aircraft

Government struggles to find cause of plane crash that killed 179 people



SPORT | PAGE 10

Australia beat India by 184 runs, take 2-1 lead in series

In a nutshell

'GDP to grow at 6.6% in FY25'

MUMBAI: The Indian economy is exhibiting resilience and stability, and the GDP is projected to grow at 6.6 per cent in 2024-25, aided by a revival in rural consumption, a pickup in government consumption and investment, a RBI report said. On inflation, the report said, the disinflationary effect of bumper kharif harvest and rabi crop prospects are expected to soften prices of foodgrains.

BUSINESS PAGE 8

Man kills self with gelatin stick

MANDYA: A 21-year-old man died after he allegedly blew himself up with a gelatin stick in front of the house of a girl he was in love with after her family rejected him. The incident occurred at Kalenahalli village of Mandya district on early Sunday morning, they said. According to police, Ramachandra was in relationship with a minor girl. Last year, he was booked under POCSO Act. PTI

Vitul Kumar given charge of CRPF

NEW DELHI: Senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar will take charge as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after incumbent Anish Dayal Singh retires on Tuesday. Kumar, a 1993 batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as Special Director General of the CRPF. The competent authority has approved to assign the officiating charge for the post of DG, CRPF, to Vitul Kumar. PTI

Naidu richest CM, says ADR report

NEW DELHI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is the richest Chief Minister in India with assets worth over Rs 931 crore, while West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee is the poorest with just Rs 15 lakh, according to an Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report. The report said that the total assets of 31 chief ministers are worth Rs 1,630 crore.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 95
Retail live.....	Rs. 117
With skin.....	Rs. 170
Skinless.....	Rs. 193
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 78

Intimidation tactics won't work, KTR to ED

Dismisses corruption charges against him in Formula-E case

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who said he had received summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Formula-E case, questioned the agency's unusual aggression in the case. "Unlike other cases, the ED seems aggressive in this case. I have filed a quash petition in the High Court and have confidence in the legal process. We will take a further decision based on the outcome," he said here on Monday.

Dismissing the corruption charges against him in the Formula-E race case, Rama Rao termed them to be politically motivated. He said the Congress government was misusing agencies like the ACB to target him while failing to provide concrete evidence of corruption against him. He questioned why no case was filed against the Formula-E race organisers if the latter had indeed received undue benefit as accused by the government.

"Where is the undue benefit gained by either me or those who signed the agree-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and others handing over a 'chadar' to Muslim leaders, who will offer it at Ajmer Dargah, at the Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday.

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— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

ment? There can be no cases based on suspicion, only evidence can lead to prosecution," he said.

The former Municipal Administration Minister reiterated that he stood by every decision he took as a

Minister, which was all for the State's benefit. Stating that he cannot be held responsible for any procedural lapses, he said he was well prepared to face any charges legally and would not bow down to the intimi-

dation tactics of the ruling party.

Rama Rao also questioned the Chief Minister's reasoning for the cancellation of the Formula-E race, but not the agreements with the Adani Group. He wondered on what basis Congress leaders were alleging corruption of Rs 600 crore in the case.

Questioning why the State government was not cancelling the lease of Outer Ring Road (ORR) despite claims of irregularities and corruption against the previous BRS regime, he went on to take a dig at the Congress government, labelling its first year in office as 'Dhoka Nama Samvatsaram' (Year of Betrayal).

He charged the State administration with failing to deliver on key promises, particularly crop loan waivers and farmer assurances. "The Congress has robbed farmers of confidence and is conspiring to scrap the Rythu Bharosa scheme, by imposing numerous conditions," he said. Rama Rao stated that the on-going schemes had become a mess under the current Congress regime. (SEE PAGE 2)

Adani's takeover of Orient Cement triggers panic

SANTOSH PADALA
 Mancherla

The Adani Group's October 2024 buyout of CK Birla Group's Orient Cement Company (OCC) in Devapur of Kasipet mandal here has triggered job security worries among the company's employees. OCC, established by the CK Birla Group at Devapur village 42 years ago, was taken over by Adani Cement at an equity value of Rs 8,100 crore in October. The transaction will be completed in three-four months.

The management of the cement manufacturer will be soon shifted to Adani Cement. However, employees have their own concerns. Currently, the company has 2,358 employees, including



OCC was taken over by Adani Cement at an equity value of Rs 8,100 crore in October.

permanent, contract, management and loading staff. The employees fear that the new management will slash the workforce. They also fear that the new management might not fulfil promises made by the existing one. They plan to launch protests soon. "The taking over of one company by another is part and parcel of business. But the management of the cement company must strive to fulfil its promises made in the past. Else, we will begin a stir if injustice is done to the employees," Ch Tirupathi Reddy, working president of the recognised trade union of the OCC, said. (SEE PAGE 2)

TG demands Bharat Ratna for Manmohan Singh

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Legislative Assembly convened a special session on Monday to pay tributes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and passed a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to confer him with

the Bharat Ratna. The legislators also gave unanimous approval for the State government's proposal to install the statue of Singh in Hyderabad, citing his role in Telangana State formation.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who moved a condolence motion, remembered Singh as a visionary econo-

mist and leader. He highlighted the former Prime Minister's pivotal role in transforming India's economy through liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation (LPG) policies, crediting him with laying the foundation for India's global competitiveness. (SEE PAGE 2)

Eight test positive for drugs at party

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The anti-narcotics bureau busted a high-end party at Madhapur and subjected guests to on-the-spot drug tests, of which eight tested positive for a range of drugs, including marijuana, Cocaine, Amphetamine, and Methamphetamine.

Based on a tip-off, teams of Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) and Cyberabad Police raided the party on Sunday and identified 25 potential drug consumers. Of them, 14 were subjected to advanced drug testing, of which eight tested positive.

The bust utilised cutting-edge equipment, including advanced drug detection kits, rapid-result urine and saliva testing kits and trained narcotics detection dogs. These tools enabled on-the-spot testing with unparalleled accuracy. The advanced technology ensured immediate results,

Internationally acclaimed German DJ Ben Bohmer and his team were also subjected to the testing process

leaving no scope for evasion, TGANB said.

Even high-profile individuals were not exempted from the operation. Internationally acclaimed German DJ Ben Bohmer and his team were also subjected to the testing process and were cleared drug-free.

Meanwhile, TGANB directed all pubs and bars across the State to display prominently that their establishment is a drug-free space and to strictly follow a zero-tolerance policy for underage drinking. Any violation of these norms would attract severe legal consequences. (SEE PAGE 2)

ISRO's SpaDeX mission successful

Spacecraft injected into desired orbit, says space agency chief Somanath

SRIHARIKOTA

Two spacecraft that would aid ISRO in demonstrating space docking, a critical technology for future space missions got separated successfully and were placed into the desired orbit late on Monday, ISRO said.

"PSLV C60 mission accomplished as of SpaDeX spacecraft is considered," said Mission director M Jayakumar. ISRO chief S Somanath said the rocket has placed the satellites in the right orbit of 475 km circular orbit, after over 15 minutes of flight. "So, as far as we are concerned, the rocket has placed the spacecraft in the right orbit and the Spadex satellites have moved one behind the other, and over the period of time, it will pick up further distance, travel about 20 km away and then the rendezvous and docking process will start. And we hope that the docking process can happen in another one week and the



ISRO's PSLV-C60 carrying SpaDeX and its payloads, lifts off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre. — Photo:PTI

nominal time is going to be approximately January 7," he said in his address from the Mission Control Centre. And in this mission the very

important part is POEM-4 with 24 payloads from startups, industries, academic institutions and also from ISRO centres, he said. These

are scheduled to be fired late on Monday night. Dubbed as a prelude to ISRO setting up its own Space Station by 2035, the PSLV-C60 mission

would also make India join an elite club in achieving this feat which is expected to take place in the coming days. (SEE PAGE 2)

Time to gaze at Black Moon in Hyd

M SAI GOPAL
 Hyderabad

Time has come for the casual star gazer and amateur astronomers in Hyderabad to look up at the night sky and spot the Black Moon!

Yes, you heard it right! It's not the typical idiom of 'Once in a Blue Moon' but the foreboding sounding Black Moon, which will be visible across the chilly Hyderabad sky in the coming two days. "This Black Moon is quite rare. Usually, two New Moons (Amavasya) occur in a single calendar month. The second New Moon (Amavasya) is called Black Moon. And, similarly, if two Full Moons (Purnima) occur in one single month, the Second Moon is called



Black Moons are rare events because of the cycle of the Moon and the time it takes to go through its different phases.

Blue Moon," explains founder secretary, Planetary Society of India (PSI), Raghunandan Kumar.

In the yearly 2024 calendar, there are two New Moon Days (Amavasya) in

December 2024 i.e. 11.51 am on December 1 and at 3.57 am on December 31, the noted amateur astronomer from Hyderabad said. Essentially, the term Black Moon is used when there

are more than one new moon in a month and December happens to have one. The Black Moons are quite rare events because of the cycle of the Moon and the time it takes to go through its different phases. Based on calculations, approximately, once in every two-and-half years, there will be a month with two new moons and the second new moon is often referred to as the Black Moon.

Amateur astronomers also pointed out that Black Moons are also good for stargazers as it means darker skies, which allows them to checkout celestial bodies such as galaxies that are more farther and cluster of stars that are not seen easily.

All flyovers to be shut

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

All flyovers in the city, except for the PVNR Expressway, Begumpet and Toli-chowki under Hyderabad Police Commissionerate will be closed for traffic in view of the New Year celebrations from 10pm on December 31 to 2 am on January 1, 2025. The ORR will also be closed for light motor vehicles and passenger vehicles, except for vehicles bound towards RGIA, from 10pm on December 31 to 5am on January 1. Passengers travelling towards RGIA will be allowed on producing air tickets while medium and heavy goods vehicles will be allowed on ORR. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Law same for all, Pawan on Pushpa

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday said that law does not give preferential treatment to anyone while reacting to the saga of Tollywood actor Allu Arjun's brief arrest.

Holding Allu Arjun responsible for the death of a 35-year-old woman and serious injuries to her minor son during a stampede at a theatre in Hyderabad when they went to watch Pushpa 2 movie, Hyderabad Police recently arrested the actor. "Some are saying that the Telangana government should have gone soft, but the law should not give

preferential treatment to anyone. That's what the law says," said Kalyan, adding that law does not care how popular or powerful a person is. Kalyan is a close relative of Allu Arjun.

The actor-politician, while addressing reporters, reminded that he had declared in the Assembly that a mistake committed by him should also be punished. Further, Kalyan observed that the makers of Pushpa 2: The Rule should have called on the family of the deceased woman immediately without delay. A gesture like this could have averted the situation from spiralling out of control, he further said. PTI

Ex-US President Jimmy Carter dies at 100

WASHINGTON

Jimmy Carter, the 39th US President and the third American head to make a trip to India, during which a village in Haryana was named Carterpuri in his honour, died peacefully at his home in Plains, Georgia surrounded by his family. Carter, who died Sunday at 100, was the longest-lived President in US history.

"Today, America and the world lost an extraordinary leader, statesman and humanitarian," President Joe Biden said in a statement. Carter is survived by his children -- Jack, Chip, Jeff, and Amy; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)