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Devotees flock Prayagraj ahead of Mauni Amavasya



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Donald Trump plans to 'clean out' Gaza

Asks Jordan, Egypt to increase number of Palestinian refugees they are accepting



SPORT | PAGE 10

Tata Steel Chess: Gukesh storms into joint lead

In a nutshell

Uttarakhand to implement UCC

DEHRADUN: The Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in Uttarakhand on January 27, making it the first State in independent India to put into effect such a law, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said. All preparations have been completed to implement the UCC, including getting approval of the rules for the implementation of the Act and training of officials concerned, Dhami said.

NATION PAGE 7

70 killed in attack on Sudan hospital

DUBAI: Some 70 people were killed in an attack on the only functional hospital in the besieged city of El Fasher in Sudan. The attack on the Saudi Teaching Maternal Hospital, which local officials blamed on rebel RSF, came as the group has seen apparent battlefield losses to the Sudanese military and allied forces under the command of army chief Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan.

WORLD PAGE 9

Misri in Beijing for talks with officials

BEIJING: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri arrived here Sunday for a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Chinese officials, in the second such high-profile visit from India to China in less than one-and-a-half months. The visit of Misri, who was also the former Ambassador to China, is taking place on Republic Day ahead of the celebrations of China's Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year. PTI

India to join WEF's initiative

NEW DELHI: India is among world's 13 leading industrial clusters along with countries such as Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands, the UK and Saudi Arabia to join the WEF's Transitioning Industrial Clusters initiative to fight climate change. A new white paper was released to highlight the critical role that industrial clusters play in advancing deployment of clean-energy infrastructure at scale.

BUSINESS PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 120
Retail live.....	Rs. 142
With skin.....	Rs. 206
Skinless.....	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 66

Rythu Bharosa: Congress govt in spot over funds

Move comes after Centre halts State's proposal for more borrowings

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Uncertainty looms large over the disbursement of financial assistance under the Rythu Bharosa investment support scheme initiated on Sunday, with the State government struggling to arrange the required Rs 8,400 crore during the current Yasangi season.

Despite Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims of disbursing the assistance by March 31, the Centre not approving the State's proposal to raise Rs 10,000 crore for January through Open Market Borrowing (OMB) has come as a major shocker for the Congress government. The denial of approvals for fresh borrowings, coupled with poor revenue, also spells doom for other newly launched schemes, including Indiramma houses, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa and ration cards due to the unavailability of required funds. Official sources do not hesitate to attribute the uncertainty to thoughtless decisions of the State government without considering the implications.

The Centre had capped the State's Open Market Borrowing (OMB) limit for 2024-25 at Rs 49,255.41 crore, significantly lower than the State's proposed Rs 57,112 crore, which is in addition to Rs 3,900 crore from Central loans and another Rs 1,000 crore through other sources. However, the

Why selective approach, KTR to govt on schemes

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government on implementation of the newly launched four schemes in only one village per mandal on a pilot basis across the State as part of a phased rollout.

He questioned whether the Congress came to power with votes of only one village per mandal and

whether their election manifesto was applicable to only one village per mandal. In a statement, the former Minister warned that public discontent was growing and people would turn every neglected village into a battleground, signaling public agitations in these villages across the State commencing from Monday. (REPORT PAGE 5)

State had planned to raise Rs 30,000 crore through OMB in the final quarter of the current fiscal year, with indents submitted to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2024.

The State was compelled to seek fresh borrowings as its borrowings and liabilities reached Rs 48,178.93 crore in December itself against the annual target of Rs 49,255.41 crore. Despite this, the government submitted indents for Rs 10,000 crore each for the next three months. While Rs 3,000 crore was secured on January 7, subsequent attempts for Rs 2,000 crore on January 14 and Rs 2,500 crore on January 21 were rejected due to lack of approvals.

The State government is now caught in a Catch-22 situation, with approvals for

OMB resulting in the borrowing limit shooting beyond the permissible limits of FRBM, while rejection leading to curtailing its expenditure for the current fiscal. Sources said though the State's tax revenue has shown signs of improvement in January, it still falls short of last year's revenue receipts by more than Rs 12,000 crore and is expected to fall short of the annual target.

"The decision to launch all four schemes was taken anticipating a green signal to raise more loans from the market. However, the shortfall of funds prompted the government to launch them only formally in one village per mandal," a top official in the Finance Department told Telangana Today. (SEE PAGE 2)

Military prowess takes centre stage at R-Day parade

Rafale's victory roll, Sukhoi-30's 'Trishul' act show stoppers



Akash Army Launcher on display during the 76th Republic Day parade at the Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Sunday. — Photo:PTI

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu led the celebrations along with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who was the chief guest at the event

India's new tactical missile Pralay, T-90 tanks, a skit depicting tri-services synergy on the battlefield, scores of dances and a parade of tableaux marched down Kartavya Path on Sunday in a magnificent display of military power, culture and development to celebrate the 76th Republic Day.

Like every year, defence hardware took centre-stage of the 90-minute multifaceted colourful parade that began at 10.30 am, marching, dancing and rolling down the ceremonial boulevard, past the podium of the Supreme Commander, President Droupadi Murmu. On the VVIP dais, Murmu was joined by Indonesian Presi-

dent Prabowo Subianto, the chief guest for this year's parade. A contingent of his country's military band was given the honour of leading the parade. The two Presidents arrived in the traditional horse-drawn buggy, a practice which made a comeback in 2024 after a gap of 40 years. They were escorted by the President's Bodyguard, the most senior regiment of the Indian Army. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, various Union Minis-

ters, the country's top military brass, foreign diplomats, senior officials and thousands of spectators from across the country gathered on a sunny winter morning to witness the impressive show that also included a fly-past by helicopters and fighter and transport aircraft. C-130J Super Hercules, C-295, C-17 Globemaster, Dornier, AN-32, Rafale, Jaguar and Su-30, among other aircraft, took part in the flypast. Subianto was the fourth Indonesian President

to attend the Republic-Day celebrations. Sukarno, the first President of Indonesia, was the chief guest at India's first Republic Day celebrations in 1950. In a first-of-its-kind display, more than 5,000 folk and tribal artistes showcased 45 dance forms from various parts of the country, covering the entire Kartavya Path, to ensure that all guests had the same viewing experience. The Sangeet Natak Akademy curated the 11-minute cultural performance, titled 'Jayati Jaya Mamah Bharatam'. The presentation was brought alive through the rich and colourful legacy of the country's tribal and folk forms as a tribute to tribal icon Birsa Munda. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Woman shamed for not repaying loan

STATE BUREAU
JANGAON

Even as criticism continues over a bank deducting loan amount from Kalyana Lakshmi assistance from a tribal woman's account in Sirikonda, Adilabad, another woman was humiliated by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and bank officials for not paying loans.

They put up a small fire in front of the woman's house. Inviting the villagers to assemble before the

house, they demanded that she immediately repay the loan amount. Guguloth Lakshmi, a resident of Pedatanda village under Devaruppla mandal in the district, had taken a loan through a self-help group under Telangana Grameena Bank.

She was due to pay the Rs 61,000 loan amount, according to reports. In a video that is going viral on social media platforms, officials are seen demanding repayment of the loan amount. (SEE PAGE 2)

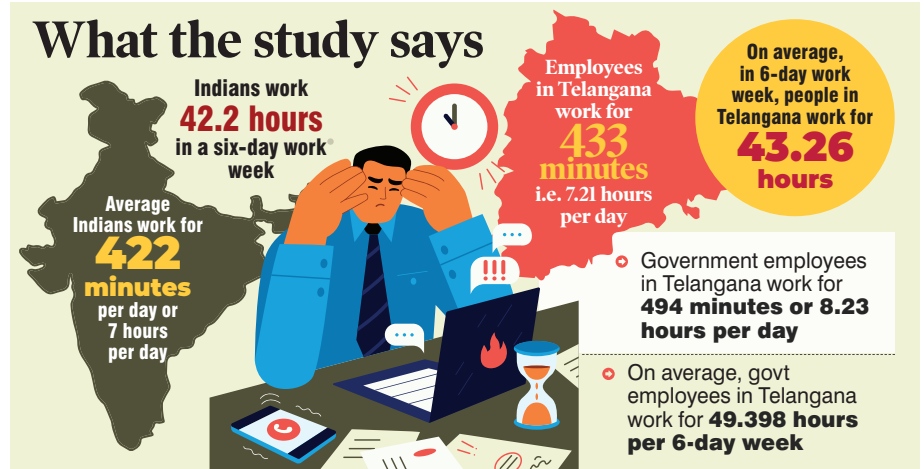
'TG employees most hard-working'

M SAI GOPAL
HYDERABAD

Do you know that employees in Telangana are among the country's top individuals who clock the most work hours per day? Government employees in Telangana put in more hours than their counterparts in other Indian States.

While suggestions made by industry leaders that Indians must work 70 hours a week continue to draw attention and criticism from various quarters, on average, an employee from Telangana works for 433 minutes (7.21 hours) per day, in contrast to the all-India average of 422 minutes.

On average, an employee from both the private and government sectors in



Telangana State works for 43.26 hours per week, assuming that it is a 6-day working week. Interestingly, among South Indian States, employees in Telan-

gana are in second place, after their counterparts in Tamil Nadu, who on average work for 436 minutes (7.26 hours) per day. The study, titled 'Time Spent on

Employment-Related Activities in India: A Note', was prepared by Dr Shammika Ravi, member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. (SEE PAGE 2)

Row as national flag displayed upside down



STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Digital Media wing courted controversy with its Republic Day post on X, with a picture showing the Tricolour unfurled upside down.

The picture, which has the green colour on top instead of the saffron, is in clear violation of the Flag Code of India 2002.

The Flag Code of India brings together all laws, conventions, practices, and instructions for the display of the National Flag.

It governs the display of the national flag by private, public, and the government institutions. The Flag Code of India took effect on January 26, 2002. It clearly says that the national flag should not be displayed in an inverted manner, i.e., the saffron band should not be the bottom band. Netizens were quick to point out the unpardonable mistake. (SEE PAGE 2)

Four of family killed as iron bars fall on autorickshaws

STATE BUREAU
WARANGAL

Four of a family, including a 7-year-old, died while three others sustained injuries after iron bars from a lorry fell on two autorickshaws on the Warangal-Manunuru road on Sunday.

The police shifted the injured to MGM Hospital. The deceased were identified as Santosh Chauhan (48), Aarthi Chauhan (20), Kiran Chauhan (12) and Kanha Chauhan (7). They were all natives of Lalitha Nagar of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Two other family members, including Chauhan's



A man who was injured in the road accident.

ing treatment at the hospital. The incident occurred around 11 am, when a lorry laden with iron bars used for laying railway tracks, lost control near the Bharat Petrol Pump on the road and hit the autorickshaws and turned turtle.

A car also was partially damaged in the incident. As a result, the iron bars fell on the autorickshaws, resulting in the instant death of four people. Meanwhile, District Collector Satya Sharada visited the hospital and directed the Superintendent to extend quality treatment to the injured. (SEE PAGE 2)

Maha sees first death due to rare GBS disease

MUMBAI

Maharashtra has reported its first death due to Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) after a Pune-based Chartered Accountant succumbed to the disease.

The man was living in Pune's DSK Vishwa area and was suffering from diarrhoea for a few days. After feeling weak, he was admitted to a private hospital in Solapur where the doctors diagnosed him with GBS. (SEE PAGE 2)

Government drafts rules for mandatory adoption of IST

NEW DELHI

In a move to standardise timekeeping, the government has drafted comprehensive rules mandating the exclusive use of Indian Standard Time (IST) across all official and commercial platforms, with the Consumer Affairs Ministry seeking public feedback by February 14.

The Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2024, aims to establish a

legal framework for standardising timekeeping practices, mandating IST as the sole time reference for legal, administrative, commercial, and official documents. "IST shall be the mandatory time reference across all sectors, including commerce, public administration, legal contracts, and financial operations," as per the draft rule.

Key provisions include, the prohibition of time references other than IST for official and commercial pur-

poses, mandatory display of IST in government offices and public institutions and requirement for time-synchronisation systems to ensure reliability, availability, and cybersecurity.

The proposal comes as part of efforts to ensure precise timekeeping in critical national infrastructure, including telecommunications, banking, defence, and emerging technologies like 5G and artificial intelligence. PTI