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Crores saved in welfare schemes, says PM Modi



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10 killed in shooting at adult education centre in Sweden
It wasn't immediately clear whether the gunman was among the dead, police said



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With CT in mind, Varun added to Indian ODI squad

In a nutshell

Stage set for Delhi polls today
NEW DELHI: The stage is set for the high-stakes Assembly elections in Delhi, where the Aam Aadmi Party is eyeing a third straight term, while the BJP and the Congress are looking at resurgence. Over 1.56 crore voters are eligible to cast their ballots from 7 am onwards on Wednesday. Voting will take place across 13,766 polling stations in all the 70 Assembly constituencies to decide the fates of 699 candidates in a contest that could reshape the political landscape of the capital.

Hindenburg stands by Adani report
NEW DELHI: Activist short-seller Nathan Anderson, known for his high-profile campaigns against the likes of Adani Group, said the decision to shut his firm, Hindenburg Research was not because of any legal or any other threat, but due to workload. And that he stands by all its reports including the one against Adani Group. He said that the report accusing Adani Group of "largest con in corporate history" was a result of following "red flags" raised against the conglomerate in media reports.

CM does another U-turn, this time on caste survey

Revanth says 42% quota for BCs requires an amendment to the Constitution

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who promised 42 per cent reservations for Backward Classes (BC) based on the Social, Economic, Employment, Education, Political, and Caste Survey-2024, did another volte-face in the Assembly on Tuesday, refusing to table the complete report on the survey in the Assembly. More importantly, he stated that the 42 per cent reservation would require an amendment to the Constitution and not just the survey.

Rather than offering clarity, his statements exposed contradictions, raising serious questions about the government's political intent and execution of the survey itself, instead of a genuine attempt at social justice.

Participating in a discussion on his statement on the survey in the Assembly on Tuesday, Revanth Reddy, who had earlier projected the survey as a foundation for 42 per cent reservation for BCs, made a U-turn, admitting that such a move required a Constitutional



Backward Classes JAC leaders burn the effigy of Congress senior leader K Jana Reddy in Nalgonda on Tuesday.

amendment. In a clear political manoeuvre, he promised 42 per cent ticket allocation to BCs in the upcoming local body elections, making it evident that the survey was more about political posturing than policy implementation.

Revanth Reddy went on to criticise the Samagra Kutumba Survey (SKS) report under the previous BRS government, questioning its legitimacy and data collection process. When the opposition, especially AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, pointed out the hypocrisy, stating that while the Congress government slammed

the BRS for withholding the SKS report, it was now doing the exact same thing by keeping the survey data off the Telangana government's official website, Revanth Reddy dodged an answer and refused to table the complete report.

When Opposition parties, including the BRS, BJP and AIMIM questioned the discrepancies in the data released by the State government, the Chief Minister sought to blame BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao along with former Ministers KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao for not participating in the survey.

Govt deceiving BCs, says KTR

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government for deceiving Backward Classes (BC) by failing to introduce a Bill for 42 per cent reservations in the Assembly, as promised in the Kamareddy BC Declaration meeting. He said the government made a mere announcement and avoided taking real legislative action. Participating in the discussion on the Chief Minister's statement on the Social, Economic, Employment, Education, Political, and Caste Survey-2024 in the Assembly on Tuesday, Rama Rao said BCs across the State had anticipated that the Congress government would introduce a Bill in the special legislative session to implement 42 per cent reservations in local body elections. However, the government had only issued a statement without taking concrete steps.

'Embarrassed' Congress deletes Samagra Kutumba Survey report

HYDERABAD: After facing embarrassment in the Assembly, the Congress government on Tuesday removed the Comprehensive Household Survey 2014 report from the official government website of MCHRD Institute. The previous BRS government made the survey report publicly accessible for the last 10 years. The CHS report became a key issue during discussions on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's statement regarding the Social, Economic, Employment, Education, Political, and Caste Survey-2024 in the Assembly. Opposition MLAs from BRS and BJP questioned the authenticity of the new survey, citing discrepancies when compared to the CHS report.

US deports illegal Indian immigrants

NEW DELHI

The United States is rigorously tightening immigration laws, the American embassy said on Tuesday amid reports that a US military aircraft is bringing some illegal migrants to India.

The first round of deportation of illegal Indian nationals from the US comes around two weeks after Donald Trump became the US President for a second term. Trump has promised a strict policy approach in dealing with illegal immigrants residing in the US and already signed a number of immigration-related executive orders.

Asked about the deportation flight bringing back a group of illegal migrants to India, a US embassy spokesperson did not provide details, but asserted that Washington is removing illegal migrants. "I can't share any details on those inquires, but I can share, on the record, the US is vigorously enforcing its border, tightening immigration laws, and removing illegal migrants," the official said.

"These actions send a clear message: illegal migration is not worth the risk," he added. According to reports, the plane, carrying around

CHINA COUNTERS US TARIFFS

BEIJING: China countered President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese products with tariffs of its own on multiple US imports on Tuesday. US tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico also were to go into effect on Tuesday, though Trump agreed to a 30-day pause on his threats against Mexico and Canada as they acted to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days. This isn't the first round of actions between the two countries. China and US engaged in a trade war in 2018 when Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded in kind.

200 illegal immigrants, would land at the Amritsar airport on Wednesday. A top Punjab Police officer said the State government authorities will receive the deported Indians. Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal expressed disappointment over the US' decision to deport these people, saying they have contributed to the US economy and should have been granted permanent residency, instead of being deported.

10 BRS turncoat MLAs get notices



STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a fresh jolt to the 10 BRS MLAs who switched loyalties to the ruling Congress, the Assembly Secretary on Tuesday served notices seeking their explanation on the disqualification petitions filed by the BRS Legislative Party against them. However, the MLAs are learned to have sought some time to respond after consulting legal experts. The move comes in the wake of the Supreme Court directing the Telangana Assembly

Speaker to set a reasonable timeline for ruling on the disqualification petitions and asked the Assembly Secretary to inform the court of the Speaker's decision within a week. The SC raised questions over the government's explanation of "reasonable time" for Speaker to take a decision on disqualification of the defectors. Defected BRS MLAs Tellam Venkat Rao, M Sanjay Kumar and others have confirmed to have received the notices and informed that they would respond after taking legal opinion.

Low cotton yield drives farmer to end life

STATE BUREAU
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

Low cotton yield reportedly forced a farmer to end his life by consuming pesticide at Bondaguda village in Asifabad mandal on Tuesday. Asifabad Inspector Ravinder, in a statement, said Komram Poshaiha (55) died by suicide as he was depressed by the poor cotton yield. He had attempted suicide on Monday. He was shifted to a hospital in Mancheril. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment on Tuesday.

Poshaiha grew the cotton crop on his 10 acres of land. He was disheartened to register a dip in yield and consumed the pesticide when he was alone. At least eight farmers have died by suicide in Adilabad from December 1 to January 25. M Narsaiha, a 55-year-old farmer, ended his life by hanging as he was depressed over his inability to repay mounting debts at Vartamannur on January 25.

Brace for hot and dry February

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

With the winter season almost making an exit, people in Hyderabad should prepare for dry weather conditions, including high daytime temperatures and low humidity.

The early signs of this shift in weather pattern are clear with maximum temperatures in the State hovering between 34 degrees Celsius and 37 degrees Celsius. The near summer-like conditions, no humidity and relatively colder early hours of the day are expected to continue throughout February.

Weather expert from Hyderabad, T Balaji, who tracks even minute changes in weather patterns and issues alerts through platform X (@telanganaweatherman) says that February will be the driest month of the year. "The next 15 to 20 days will be driest days of this year with desert-type humidity, also there will be large variations in day and night temperatures," Balaji on X noted.



A couple make their way on a bike as daytime temperature continues to rise across Telangana, in Siddipet district on Tuesday.

SI, motorcyclist killed in accident

STATE BUREAU
Jagtial

A woman Sub-Inspector and a motorcyclist died on the spot in a road accident near Chilvakodur of Gollapalli mandal on Tuesday morning. The deceased were identified as Kokkula Swetha and Mallial Naresh (28), a bank employee.

The incident occurred when the car, in which the SI was travelling, first hit a motorcycle and then swerved off the road to crash into a tree. Swetha was on her way to Jagtial from Dharmaram when the incident occurred. Swetha, who was working with the Jagtial District Crime

The car, in which the SI was travelling, first hit a motorcycle and then swerved off the road to crash into a tree at Chilvakodur

Records Bureau, earlier worked as an SI in Korutla, Velgatur, Kathalapur and Pegadapalli police stations. Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar and DSP Raghuchander visited the spot and later visited the Jagtial government hospital mortuary where the body was shifted for post-mortem.

Ranikhet Disease deals blow to poultry farmers

JAMES EDWIN
Khammam

A large number of chickens died of Ranikhet disease (RD), also known as Newcastle disease, causing financial losses to poultry farm owners.

The incidence of RD has been found in VM Banjar, Penuballi and Kallur mandal in Khammam district. Poultry farms at Payapur, Yagnanarayanapuram, Korlagudem, Peruvancha, Vennavelli and other villages in Kallur mandal are the most affected.

Similarly, poultry farms near Bhadrachalam in Kothagudem district have also

been affected. When contacted, the district veterinary and animal husbandry officer (DVAHO), Dr KV Narayana, informed that the disease has been found in the poultry farms located on the borders of Andhra Pradesh while the farms in other areas are not affected.

Officials sound caution

It was first reported in Penuballi mandal. Veterinary teams visited the farms, diagnosed the disease and advised farmers about the precautions to be taken to stop the spread of the disease as well as to dispose of the dead chickens. The disease was caused due

to the unhygienic conditions prevailing in the poultry farms. "The owners have to clean the bird litter and the farm area should be cleaned with sanitary liquids," he suggested. Dr Narayana, who is also in-charge of Warangal and Hanamkonda districts, said that the RD cases are not found in those districts. The situation in Penuballi is also under control and the poultry farmers in other areas have been advised to follow safety measures.

Layers, broilers and country chicken are vulnerable to Ranikhet disease which is called 'Kokkera vyadhi' in Telugu.

Arabic teacher gets 3-yr jail for sexual assault

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A local court here sentenced an Arabic teacher to three years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor girl at Vanasthalipuram in 2019. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on him.

The convict, Mohd Shahbaaz (40), in the guise of teaching the Arabic language to the seven-year-old girl, had made sexual advances and misbehaved with her. Based on the complaint from her family members, the police booked a case and arrested him. The court also ordered a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the victim.

Warden booked for sexual abuse of boys

STATE BUREAU
Khammam

A warden of the Government Tribal Welfare Boys Ashram High School, Relakayalappally of Singareni mandal, was booked on charges of sexually harassing students.

The accused, Bhukya Venkateshwarlu, was said to have been forcing students of Class VIII and IX to sleep with him in the night. The warden used to select one boy every day and ask them to spend the night with him. This was allegedly going on for many days.

The affected students complained that the warden warned them not to reveal

his acts to others and threatened them that those who failed to oblige his request would be rusticated.

Unable to bear his torture, one of the students informed the matter to his parents, who lodged a complaint with Karepally police a couple of days ago. The police booked a case under the POCSO Act and other relevant sections against Venkateshwarlu and recorded the statements of the students harassed by the warden.

School headmaster N Srinivas Rao and ITDA official Jaheeruddin were also booked by the police for trying to conceal the incident.