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Khairatabad idol transitions to eco-friendly approach



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Cockpit Voice Recorder found; AAIB launches probe
US National Transportation Safety Board conducting parallel probe



SPORT | PAGE 10

Strong finish helps India clinch 2 golds in Munich

In a nutshell

4 women dead in cracker unit blast

AMROHA (UP): Four women were killed and more than a dozen others sustained serious injuries in a blast at a firecracker factory located inside a forest area here on Monday, officials said. According to district authorities, the explosion took place around two kilometres inside the forest near Atrasi village, where nearly 25 men and women were working at the time. The blast destroyed the tin-roofed structure, hurling debris up to 300 metres. **PTI**

G7 summit: Modi leaves for Canada

NICOSIA: PM Narendra Modi on Monday left for Canada to attend the G7 summit after concluding his visit to Cyprus during which he held wide-ranging talks with Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides and discussed a range of issues to boost ties. Modi is on a four-day, three-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. PM Modi "concluded a memorable visit to Cyprus," MEA posted on X. The PM thanked President Christodoulides for their warmth. **PTI**

Tribals clash with foresters, police

MULUGU: Tension prevailed at Chalpaka in Eturunagaram mandal in the district on Monday as tribals who have put up huts in reserve forest lands clashed with forest officials and police. As many as 80 Forest Department officials, along with 20 policemen reached the village and tried to remove the huts. Irrate tribals prevented the demolition of huts by blocking the JCBs. A large number of tribals revolted against forest and police personnel with sticks and knives.



Prabhas stuns in 'The Raja Saab'

Sanjay Dutt makes surprise appearance with powerful presence

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Ready to go to jail 100 times for Hyd's brand image: KTR

SAYS FORMULA-E RACE CASE A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC DEPLOYED BY REVANTH



BRS working president KT Rama Rao gets a rousing welcome by party leaders and activists at Telangana Bhavan after ACB questioning.

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Hitting out at the Congress government for misusing investigation agencies to target opposition leaders through false cases, BRS working president KT Rama Rao declared that he was willing to go to jail not once, but 100 times for his efforts in improving Hyderabad's brand image. He called the Formula-E race case a diversionary tactic deployed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ahead of the local body elections as the latter was unable to deliver electoral promises.

"This is the third time I have been summoned, and I'm ready to come even for the 30th time. We have full faith in the judiciary and the law of the land," he told the

ACB GRILLS KTR FOR 8 HOURS, MAY SUMMON HIM AGAIN

HYDERABAD: After eight hours of questioning on Monday, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) informed BRS working president KT Rama Rao that he may be summoned for a fourth round of questioning, "if required", in connection with the Formula-E race case. This was the third time he was questioned over the last six months.

Earlier in the day, Rama Rao met BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao at his residence in Nandi Nagar

before heading to Telangana Bhavan. After interacting with party leaders, he reached the ACB office in Banjara Hills, accompanied by former Additional Advocate General Ramachandra Rao. He was questioned for eight hours before being allowed to leave. He returned to Telangana Bhavan, where he was given a rousing welcome by party leaders and activists. The former Minister said officials kept repeating the same

questions. "I categorically informed them there were no irregularities. Hosting the Formula-E race was a policy decision to enhance Hyderabad's global image and attract investments. The funds remain in the organisers' bank account, but the government has been unable to recover it," he said. Earlier, amid heavy police deployment, prohibitory orders under Section 144 were imposed near Telangana Bhavan. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

media after the eight hour grilling session on Monday.

Addressing the party cadre at Telangana Bhavan after returning from the ACB office, Rama Rao stated that the Congress government and Revanth Reddy were trying to draw sadistic pleasure by targeting BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, former Minister T Har-

ish Rao and himself under the guise of investigations. However, he vowed not to back down, even if it meant going to jail again.

"I was imprisoned during the Telangana Statehood movement and won't hesitate to go again for making Hyderabad a global brand through Formula-E," he said, reiterating that it was a useless case and that Revanth

Reddy was a hopeless Chief Minister. Stating that he would not back down from questioning the government, no matter what, the BRS working president said Revanth Reddy was running a government of broken promises, from unfulfilled six guarantees to the delay in finalising BC reservations ahead of local body elections. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

Harish hospitalised after hectic day

HYDERABAD: BRS MLA T Harish Rao was hospitalised on Monday



evening after he developed high fever and exhaustion following a packed day of party engagements at Telangana Bhavan. He has been admitted to KIMS Hospital in Begumpet, where doctors said his condition is stable and advised rest.

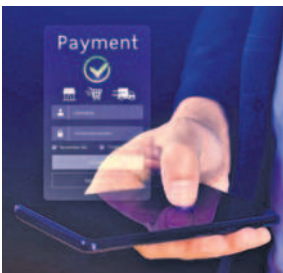
Harish Rao had a hectic schedule as he accompanied BRS working president KT Rama Rao for a crucial meeting with party chief K Chandrashekhara Rao. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

UPI payments get faster, time cut to 15 seconds

NEW DELHI

Transactions through the popular UPI get faster from Monday with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) mandating a reduction in response time to as swift as 10 seconds for payments.

UPI or Unified Payments Interface is a real-time payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. According to a recent NPCI circular, transactions including money transfer, status checks, and



reversals will now be completed in 10 to 15 seconds, as against 30 seconds. Effective June 16, the time taken in a UPI payment to validate address will now take only 10 seconds compared to 15 sec-

onds earlier. The revisions in response time are aimed at improving customer experience, NPCI said.

As per another NPCI circular, customers will soon be able to check their account balance 50 times a day through their UPI apps. As of now, there is no limit to check account balance in a day and threshold of 50 has been introduced, keeping in mind system efficiency and ease of load, according to an expert.

The number of transactions through UPI increased 33 per cent in May. **PTI**

LONDON/HYDERABAD

A Lufthansa flight to Hyderabad that was forced to make a U-turn and return to land at Frankfurt Airport due to a bomb threat is now en route and scheduled to land in the Telangana capital on Monday night local time, the airline said.

"The flight took off and is expected to land at 23:18 hrs," Lufthansa said in response to a query. Flight tracker website Flightaware. Com data shows Sunday's aborted flight was en route to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad.

Flight LH752 had earlier departed from Germany on Sunday afternoon local time

DELHI-BOUND AI DREAMLINER RETURNS TO HK AFTER SNAG

MUMBAI: A Delhi-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner from Hong Kong returned to its airport of origin on Monday within an hour of takeoff after the pilot in command suspected a technical issue. The flight, AI 315, landed safely in Hong Kong and all passengers have disembarked from the plane, the airline said in a statement, adding that the aircraft is undergoing inspection. The flight departed from Hong Kong at 12.16 pm (local time) and was scheduled to land in Delhi at 12.20 pm IST. The flight had departed after a delay of almost 3.5 hours as its scheduled departure was at 8.50 am, as per the flight tracking website flightadar24.com. "AI315 operating from Hong Kong to Delhi on 16 June 2025 returned to Hong Kong shortly after takeoff due to a technical issue. The flight landed safely at Hong Kong and is undergoing checks. **PTI**

and was scheduled to land at the Hyderabad airport in the early hours of Monday, but Lufthansa said it had to be turned around over a bomb threat, with passengers provided overnight accommodation. "Out of an abun-

dance of caution, Lufthansa flight LH752 from Frankfurt to Hyderabad returned to its point of departure after authorities were made aware of a bomb threat posted on social media," Lufthansa said in a statement.

"The safety of our passengers and crew is Lufthansa's highest priority. Affected passengers were provided with accommodation in Frankfurt and will be continuing their journey to Hyderabad today (Monday)," the statement said.

Airport sources in Hyderabad had said that a "bomb threat email targeting Lufthansa flight LH752 was received at the Hyderabad airport at 18:01 hrs on June 15, 2025". They said a bomb threat assessment committee was formed and all procedures were followed. In the interest of safety, the airline was advised to divert back to the origin or the nearest airport. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Iran plans to exit nuclear treaty

TEHRAN

Amid intensifying hostilities with Israel, Iran on Monday announced that its Parliament is drafting legislation to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of Nuclear Weapons, raising global concerns about the future of nuclear stability in the region.

The proposed move was announced alongside a statement from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who reiterated Tehran's stance that it has no plans to develop nuclear

weapons. He underscored that Iran's nuclear activities remain focused on peaceful energy and research, aligning with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's long-standing religious edict against weapons of mass destruction.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to the development of nuclear arms, but it will pursue its legitimate right to nuclear energy and research under international law," Pezeshkian said. The NPT, a landmark international treaty that came into force

in 1970, seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and facilitate nuclear disarmament. Iran's potential exit from the treaty would mark a significant escalation, further deepening global fears of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. This follows three consecutive days of heavy missile exchanges between Israel and Iran, with no sign of a ceasefire. On Monday, Israel urged civilians living near weapons sites to evacuate. **PTI**

(RELATED REPORTS PAGES 7, 9)

Infant among 3 shot dead at Utah festival

WEST VALLEY CITY (US)

Three people, including an eight-month-old infant, were fatally shot at a Utah carnival after two groups got into an argument, police said. Police officers working at WestFest at Centennial Park in West Valley City saw the two groups Sunday night.

"As they approached to break up the altercation, a 16-year-old male from one of the groups pulled out a gun and fired," the depart-

ment posted on X. One officer fired back but did not hit anyone. In addition to the infant, a 41-year-old woman described as a bystander was killed, police said. An 18-year-old man in one of the groups also was struck by gunshots and died.

Two other teens, a 17-year-old female and a 15-year-old male, were both hit in the arm, police said. It was not clear if they were connected to the groups involved. Their conditions were not known. **AP**

Poll announcement: TPCC chief angry with Ponguleti

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed displeasure over Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's announcement regarding the schedule for the upcoming local body elections. The Minister had on Sunday stated that the notification for the local body polls would be issued by the end of this month. However, this remark did not go down

well with the TPCC president. "The local body elections are tied to the implementation of 42 per cent reservations for BCs. Ministers must exercise caution when commenting on matters currently before the courts," Goud said in a statement issued on Monday.

He further pointed out that the issue of conducting local body elections was to be deliberated in the Cabinet before any official announcement. "How can a

Minister make such a statement to the media without Cabinet discussion?" he asked. "A Minister should not interfere in matters that come under the purview of other Ministers, nor should they make announcements related to another's portfolio. Such actions could trigger unnecessary rifts within the party," Goud cautioned, also advising Ministers to refrain from making public statements without party's consent.