

'HEARTBREAKING LOSS', KCR and KTR Call for Immediate Relief Measures After Saudi Bus Accident

A devastating bus accident in Saudi Arabia, which claimed the lives of several Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad, has drawn strong emotional responses from BRS chief and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao.KCR expressed deep shock over the incident, noting that the pilgrims—travelling from Mecca to Madinah as part of their Umrah journey—lost their lives when the bus caught fire following a collision with a diesel tanker. He said the loss of 42 lives in such a horrific manner was unimaginable and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the grieving families. The BRS president urged both the Centre and the Telangana Government to respond without delay, coordinate with Saudi authorities, and initiate necessary measures to support survivors. He stressed the need for immediate medical attention for the injured and asked the State Government to extend financial and emotional support to the bereaved families. KCR also prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to their families in this difficult time. Echoing similar sentiments, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao described the deaths of many Hyderabad residents in the Saudi accident as deeply distressing. He said that the State Government must act promptly to ensure that the injured receive the best medical care available.KTR noted that reports indicate a majority of the victims were from Hyderabad and urged the Telangana Government to work closely with the Ministry of External Affairs to speed up relief and coordination efforts.



HYDRAA Receives 52 Complaints in a Day as Encroachments Surge Across Hyd

■ As many as 52 grievances were filed during the Prajavani public interaction session on Monday, highlighting widespread concerns—from blocked roads to grabbed community spaces.



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Illegal encroachments continue to trouble residents across the city, prompting a flood of complaints to HYDRAA. As many as 52 grievances were filed during the Prajavani public interaction session on Monday, highlighting widespread concerns—from blocked roads to grabbed community spaces. According to the complaints, individuals in several areas are occupying public lands as they please. Residents alleged

that at dead-end colonies, open spaces are being taken over, while in older layouts, original boundaries are being erased. Parks, community utility spaces, and even temple-designated lands are reportedly under threat.

One such grievance came from representatives of the Sri Govindaraju Swamy Temple in Jagadgiri Gutta, who said that even the sacred bathing area (koneru) and other temple-related spaces were encroached upon. In Kukatapally's Ellamabanda, locals complained that sewage from Pragati-

nagar is flowing into the Ellamma Kunta lake. They requested that drainage diversion works be expedited and nearby encroachments cleared immediately. Residents of Ayyappa Colony in Samshabad Village and R.R. Nagar reported that parks and 4,794 sq. yards of land reserved for public amenities in Survey Nos. 748 and 749 had been illegally occupied. HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath reviewed all 52 complaints and instructed respective field officers to conduct immediate site inspections and submit detailed reports. Major Complaints Filed: Boundary Violations in Pragatinagar; Representatives of the Pragatinagar Lakeview Colony Welfare Association requested an official survey to demarcate the lake borders. They alleged that private individuals were conducting unauthorized surveys and marking boundaries at will.

TELANGANA: TELANGANA CABINET TO TAKE DECISION ON LOCAL BODY POLLS ON MONDAY

■ State government will have to conduct the local body polls with 50 pc cap on overall reservation.



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The Telangana Cabinet meeting on Monday is likely to take a decision on conducting local body elections as the High Court last week directed the state government to announce the poll schedule by November 24.

With both the Supreme Court and High Court setting aside government order providing 42 per cent reservation to Backward Classes (BCs), the state government will have to conduct

the local body polls with 50 per cent cap on overall reservation.

The ruling Congress may decide to allocate 42 per cent of the tickets in local body polls to BCs.

While setting aside the government order for 42 per cent reservation for BCs, the courts made it clear that the government may go ahead with the conduct of elections.

The BC groups are demanding that the state government should conduct local body elections only after 42 per cent reservations were legally cleared. After the byelection to the Jubilee

Hills Assembly seat, which was won by the Congress, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the Cabinet will take a decision after discussion.

Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao has directed the Panchayat Raj department to prepare a note on the actions to be taken for conducting the elections.

The High Court on October 9 stayed the implementation of the government order, providing 42 per cent reservation for the BCs.

The state government challenged the interim order in the Supreme Court, which refused to interfere with the High Court order.

The courts left the door open for conducting local body polls with the existing 50 per cent cap on overall reservation.

The government order had taken the total reservation to 67 per cent, exceeding the 50 per cent limit prescribed by the Supreme Court.

Under the existing system, BCs enjoy 27 per cent reservation.

Holding the local body polls is crucial for the Congress-led state government as lack of Central funds to local

Asaduddin Owaisi grieves for Hyderabad Umrah pilgrims feared dead

Hyderabad: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi expressed grief over a tragic incident wherein at least 42 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad are feared dead after a fatal accident that took place in Madinah. After getting the information about the accident, he contacted two Hyderabad-based travel agencies and shared the passengers' information with the Riyadh Embassy. He also spoke to Abu Mathen George, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh. Asaduddin Owaisi requests EAM to bring bodies back to India.

After sharing the details of passengers with the Riyadh Embassy and the Foreign Secretary, he requested the Union Government, especially EAM Dr S. Jaishankar, to bring the bodies back to India.

MADINAH BUS TRAGEDY: Hyderabad family loses 18 members

■ At least 45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad have been killed after their bus collided with a diesel tanker near the holy city of Madinah in Saudi Arabia.

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On November 9, when Syed Rashid waved goodbye to his family at the Hyderabad airport for the Umrah pilgrimage, he never, in his wildest dream, thought those moments would be their last living memories.

Eighteen members of the family were travelling in that ill-fated bus that was burnt to ashes near Mufrihat, approximately 160 km from Madinah, in the wee hours of Monday.

Among the dead are 65-year-old Shaik Nazeeruddin, a retired railway employee and his 60-year-old wife, Akhter Begum. One of their sons, Sa-laudin, an IT professional and his wife, Farhana Sultana and their children – Tasmia Tahreen, Shaik Zain Uddin and Rida Tazeen.

His other daughter-in-law, Sana, and her children – Umaiza, Mehrish and Uzairuddin. Their father, Sirajuddin, lives in the United States. He did not accompany his family.



Nazeeruddin's three daughters and granddaughters – Rizwana Begum and her daughter Maiyam Fatima; Ameena Begum and her daughter, Anees Fatima and Shaban Begum – also died.

Other members include Sara Begum and Saleem, distant relatives.

At least 45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad have been killed after their bus collided with a diesel tanker near the holy city of Madinah in Saudi Arabia, Hyderabad city police commissioner, VC Sajjanar said, citing preliminary

information. The deceased include 17 men, 18 women and 10 children, most of whom were residents of Asif Nagar, Jhirra, Mehdiapatnam and Toli Chowki.

Abdul Shueb Mohammed, the sole survivor, a 24-year-old resident of Asifnagar, has emerged as the sole survivor who remains in critical care at a German Hospital in Madinah, according to sources who spoke.

The tragedy stands as a stark reminder of how quickly life can change, leaving an entire community in grief.

At least 45 Hyderabad Umrah pilgrims killed in Madinah bus accident: Police Commissioner

Hyderabad: At least 45 Umrah pilgrims from Hyderabad were killed after their bus collided with a diesel tanker near the holy city of Madinah in Saudi Arabia, the city police chief said on Monday, November 17, citing preliminary information.

The accident occurred in the early hours of Monday at around 1.30 am near Mufrihat, approximately 160 km from Madinah. Many passengers were asleep when a diesel tanker reportedly came towards the bus, resulting in a collision that caused the bus to burst into flames. Speaking during a press meet at the DCP Office in Hyderabad, Commissioner of Police V C Sajjanar said the pilgrims were part of a 54-member group that left Hyderabad for Makkah on Saturday, November 9, with their return planned for Saturday, November 23. Four pilgrims travelled to Madinah by car. Four others stayed behind in Makkah. Forty-six continued by bus, and 45 of them died in the accident.

The lone survivor, Md Abdul Shoaib, is undergoing treatment in a Saudi hospital ICU. The deceased include 17 men, 18 women and 10 children, most of whom were residents of Asif Nagar, Jhirra, Mehdiapatnam and Toli Chowki.



Mir Inayat Ali Bagheri, former Chairman of Telangana and Chairman of the India Labour Welfare Federation (ILWF), represented India as a delegate at COP30 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, highlighting the climate crisis' impact on street vendors and the unorganized sector.

MADINAH BUS ACCIDENT: ONE HYDERABAD UMRAH PILGRIM SURVIVES AS AT LEAST 42 KILLED

Hyderabad: A 24-year-old resident of Asifnagar, Hyderabad, has emerged as the sole survivor of the tragic bus accident near Madinah that claimed the lives of at least 42 Umrah pilgrims early Monday, November 17. Abdul Shueb Mohammed remains in critical care at a German Hospital in Madinah, according to sources who spoke. The pilgrims were split between two Hyderabad-based operators: Al Meena Tours and Travels, Mallemally Fly-zone Tours and Travels, Mehdiapatnam. The pilgrims, who had left Hyderabad on Saturday, November 9, had completed their Umrah rituals in Makkah and were travelling to Madinah when their bus collided with an oil tanker around 1:30 am Saudi time (4 am IST) near Muhras/Mufrihat, nearly 160 km from the holy city. Shueb reportedly seated close to the driver, survived with severe injuries, while the impact triggered a massive fire that left the remaining passengers with no chance of escape, sources said. The bodies have been shifted to King Fahad, Meeqat, and King Salman hospitals in Madinah. Authorities say identification is proving difficult due to the condition of several remains, and procedures are being followed with extreme care to avoid errors. The passenger list shows 45 individuals, of whom at least 42 died, one survived, and two remain under verification.



Four including two minors held for murder of CCTV technician in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Raidurgam police, on Monday, arrested four persons, including two minors, on charges of allegedly stabbing a 24-year-old CCTV technician to death earlier this month.

Seminar on “Religious Literature in the Modern Age” Successfully Held in Hyderabad

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A scholarly religious literary seminar titled “Religious Literature in the Modern Age” was successfully held on Sunday, 16 November 2025, at Yawar Manzil, Hussaini Mohalla, Noor Khan Bazar, Hyderabad. The seminar highlighted the evolving landscape of religious writing in the modern era and emphasized the need to strengthen Shi'a English literature.

Organized in collaboration with Green Palm Publications (Iran), the event aimed to promote meaningful reading habits, encourage the growth of Shi'a English publications, and acknowledge the Deccan region's rich contribution to religious English writing.

The program witnessed active participation from scholars, writers, educators, community leaders, and media representatives. Teachers and institutions engaged in literary and religious education were also present.

The seminar was coordinated by Green Palm Publications in association with Mohammed Abbas Masood, founder of Masooma-e-Qom Islamic Educational Society and Shia Ilmi Aas-ar Digital Library. He expressed that such initiatives will pave the way for deeper scholarly engagement and new literary contributions.

Key Highlights of the Speeches

Hujjatul Islam Dr. Mohammad Hussain Ziyaani, Deputy Representative of Ayatollah Khamenei in India, elaborated on Qur'anic



verses that guide humanity towards the straight path. He emphasized that the Qur'an remains a universal source of guidance for all people.

Agha Mujahid Hussain stated

ed that God commands mankind to follow the straight path, and through reading authentic religious literature, one can clearly recognize the Prophet (PBUH) and his Holy House-

hold. He added that salawat and reflection upon religious texts illuminate this path. Mr. Toosi, Assistant Professor at MANUU, noted that Google searches and digital PDFs can never replace the value of physical books, which provide emotional depth, intellectual engagement, and lasting impact.

Mr. Agha Mohammad Hussain Sinaiyee, Head of Media Coordination at Palm Tree Publications, highlighted that books have the power to transform lives, and that many inspiring personal journeys are preserved within their pages.

In his concluding remarks, Moulana Masood Abbas thanked all the speakers, guests, and participants for making the seminar a meaningful and enriching experience.