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 'Political instability dangerous for Telangana' **page 5**



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 Centre considers lowering EV tariff to lure Tesla **page 8**

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 Thousands flee Gaza hospital; patients, babies in jaws of death **page 9**

Cong's golmaal plans exposed

KCR tears into Revanth for his lack of knowledge in agriculture



A BRS follower dances as others cheer him during Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's public meeting at Narsampet on Monday.

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Tearing into TPCC president A Revanth Reddy for his apparent lack of agricultural knowledge, BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Monday dismissed the former's statement that three hours of power supply using 10 horsepower (HP) pump sets was adequate in Telangana, stating that the Congress leader lacked even the basic knowledge on pump sets used in the State.

Stating that Revanth was making impractical suggestions to mislead people, the

"I do not know if he (Revanth) is just arrogant or never cultivated on a farm... Farmers do not have the 10HP pump sets that Revanth is talking about. Who is going to buy those for them?"

— K CHANDRASHEKHARA RAO, Chief Minister

Chief Minister said farmers in the State use 3HP and 5HP pump sets, for which 24 hours of quality power supply was necessary. Addressing well-attended Praja Ashirvada Sabhas covering Ashwaraopeta, Bhadrachalam,

Pinapaka and Narsampet constituencies on Monday, the Chief Minister said the TPCC secretary's ignorance was evident.

The Congress was openly stating that it would do "golmaal" if it was voted to

power, he said. "I do not know if he is just arrogant or never cultivated on a farm. Farmers in Telangana irrigate their land using 3HP pump sets and the Telangana government is giving them 24 hours of free, quality power supply. Farmers do not have the 10HP pump sets that Revanth is talking about. Who is going to buy those for them?" he asked.

He also said there were over 30 lakh pump sets in the State and demanded that Congress clarify who would replace all these if their party was planning to supply only three hours of power. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

Fire in Nampally building kills nine

Explosion on ground floor, where chemical containers were kept, reportedly caused blaze

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Nine persons, including seven of a family, were killed and one was critically injured when fire broke out at a residential building in the Bazar Guard locality of Nampally on Monday morning. Fire personnel and local people rescued 21 persons from the blaze.

The incident occurred at a four-storey residential building located in a lane near Bazar Guard (popularly known as Bazar Ghat) crossroads around 9 am on Monday. The fire reportedly erupted following an explosion on the ground floor of the building, where dozens of chemical-laden containers were stored.

Soon after the fire broke out, the local people rushed into the building and rescued the families residing in its B portion, while those staying in the A portion were trapped. A few locals, rather bravely managed to enter the first floor of A portion and rescue a family but those trapped on the second and third floors could not be rescued. "As thick smoke was billowing out of the building, no one could enter the building. As a result, the victims were trapped inside and died of asphyxiation and burns," DCP (central) A Venkateshwarlu said.

Fire tenders from different fire stations were pressed into service. It took nearly two hours for firefighters to douse the flames, after which they and DRF teams of the GHMC checked the building and found the bodies. Police inquiries revealed that the building owner, Ramesh Jaiswal, who also owns an



A car which was gutted in the fire at a residential building in Bazar Guard, Nampally, on Monday. — Photo: Anand Dharamana

Major blazes in Hyd

JAN 2023 3 killed in fire mishap at a complex on Minister's Road	MARCH 2022 11 killed after fire guts scrap godown in Bhoiguda
MARCH 2023 Six dead due to asphyxiation when fire breaks out at Swapnalok Complex, Secunderabad	SEPT 2022 8 killed as blaze rips through electric showroom at Regimental Bazaar, Secunderabad
JULY 2023 Ambulance driver killed when vehicle catches fire at BN Reddy Nagar	

other building, was using a portion of the ground floor to store various chemicals. The chemicals, diesel and some other combustibles led to the massive fire, police said. The Nampally police have registered a case against Jaiswal. The deceased are Mohd Azam (58), his wife Rehana Sultana

(50), daughter Faiza Sameen (26), elder daughter Thahoor Farheen (35), granddaughters Maha Mariyam (6) and Yusra Fatima (13), and son Hasib ur Rahman (32). A couple staying in another flat, Mohd Zakeer Hussain (66) and Nikhat Sultana (55), also died. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

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Mahua gets new role in TMC
NATION | PAGE 08



Delighted with team effort
SPORT | PAGE 10



ENTERTAINMENT
PAGE 12

On true war hero
 Ishaan says PT-76 tank one of driving forces of Pippa



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40 trapped as tunnel collapses



Rescue workers at the site after the tunnel collapsed in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. — Photo: AFP

UTTARKASHI

All 40 workers trapped in an under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route are safe and being sent food and water, authorities assured on Monday but said the rescue operation could take up to two more days.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reached the site to oversee rescue operations. Rescuers have worked overnight on preparing an escape passage for the labourers, the Silkyara police control room said. The workers have been trapped for nearly 30 hours now.

A portion of the tunnel being built between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the

Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway caved in on Sunday morning. According to a list of the trapped workers issued by the District Emergency Operation Centre, 15 are from Jharkhand, eight from Uttar Pradesh, five from Orissa, four from Bihar, three from West Bengal, two each from Uttarakhand and Assam, and one from Himachal Pradesh.

Dhami said all efforts were being made for the safe rescue of those trapped. "Safely rescuing the trapped workers is our priority. The rescue operation is being carried out expeditiously. I want to assure the families of the labourers that they will be rescued soon," he said. PTI

Sunak rejigs Cabinet, fires Braverman

LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak carried out a dramatic reshuffle of his Cabinet on Monday, firing his hardline Indian-origin Home Secretary Suella Braverman and bringing former PM David Cameron back to frontline politics as Foreign Secretary.

"It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Home Secretary. I will have more to say in due course," Braverman said, as it was announced that James Cleverly will replace her, making way for Cameron as the new Foreign Secretary. PTI (REPORT PAGE 9)

9 Meitei extremist groups, associate outfits banned

NEW DELHI

The government on Monday banned nine Meitei extremist groups and their associate organisations, which mostly operate in Manipur, for their anti-national activities, and launching fatal attacks on security forces.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the groups that have been banned for five years are: the Peoples' Liberation Army (generally known as PLA), and its political wing Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed

Groups aim for the establishment of an independent nation by the secession of Manipur from India, says MHA

wing Manipur Peoples' Army (MPA).

The Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its armed wing Red Army, the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and its armed wing (also called the Red Army), the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), the Coordination

Committee (CorCom) and the Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK) have also been banned.

The PLA, UNLF, PREPAK, KCP and KYKL were banned by the MHA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) years ago and the latest action extends the ban by five years. The declaration as outlawed of the other organisations is fresh.

The MHA said the organisations have declared, as their professed aim, the establishment of an independent nation by the secession of Manipur from India through armed struggle. PTI

TMC leader shot dead, assailant lynched

JOYNAGAR

A local Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead at Joynagar in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Monday morning, which led to the lynching of an alleged assailant by a mob, police said.

Saifuddin Laskar (47), TMC area president of Bamungachi area in Joynagar, was shot dead from close range near his house by miscreants when he went out to offer prayers in the morning, police said. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Enraged supporters of Laskar, whose wife is a panchayat pradhan, caught two of the alleged assailants and lynched one of them.

Another was rescued and arrested by police, who rushed to the spot. A large police contingent was deployed in the area after the incident.

Local MLA Biswanath Das claimed that goons supported by the CPI-M and the Bharatiya Janata Party were behind the murder. Eyewitnesses and police said a number of houses were ransacked, looted and set on fire in neighbouring Daluakhali village after the incident. PTI

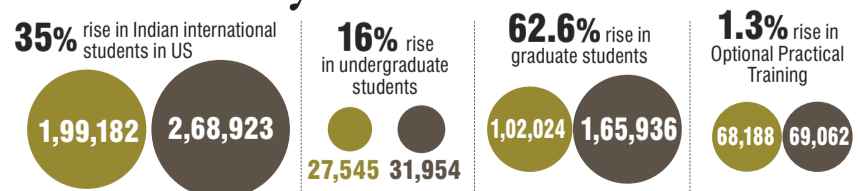
India sends record students to US

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

For the third year in a row, a record number of Indian students travelled to the United States to pursue higher education. The number of students from India to the US increased by 35 per cent and resulted in an all-time high of 2,68,923 students in the 2022-23 academic year.

Indian students constitute more than 25 per cent

Numbers say it all



of the over one million foreign students studying in the US, according to the Open Doors Report (ODR), the annual statisti-

cal survey conducted by the Institute of International Education (IIE). India has surpassed China to become the largest

source of international graduate students in the US for the first time since 2009-10, the report said. (SEE PAGE 2)