

**STATE**

**Power consumption dips in TS as winter sets in** page 5

**NATION**

**Aditya-L1 satellite starts operations,** page 7  
**says ISRO**

**NATION**

**39 years on, scars of Bhopal gas tragedy hard to heal** page 8



**Capturing human element**

HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

**S Korea launches 1st spy satellite**

WORLD | PAGE 09



**Focus on Shreyas, Chahar for T20**

SPORT | PAGE 10



**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm .....	Rs. 86
Retail live.....	Rs. 108
With skin .....	Rs. 157
Skinless.....	Rs. 178
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 65

Would you like to subscribe to **TELANGANA TODAY** or **NAMASTE TELANGANA**? Please give a missed call to **9672533434**. We will get back to you.



## 'Himalayas crying out for help'



A view of the snow covered-mountains following heavy snowfall, at Koskar in Lahaul and Spiti on Saturday. — Photo: ANI

**DUBAI**

Warning of a potential catastrophe in the Himalayas where the glaciers are melting at an alarming rate, UN chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday said the ongoing annual climate talks here must respond to the needs of the developing nations, especially the vulnerable mountain countries that need urgent help.

Almost 240 million people depend on the glaciers and 10 major rivers, such as Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra, originating in the Himalayas. Another billion people living downstream of these rivers across eight countries, including India, are also dependent on the glacier-fed rivers.

Addressing a meeting with mountain countries at this year's Conference of

Parties (COP28), Guterres emphasised that nearly a third of Nepal's ice had vanished in just over 30 years, and it was directly linked to greenhouse gas pollution that heats up the planet.

Guterres, who visited Nepal, including the Everest region, in October last week, called for developed countries to clarify the delivery of \$100 billion and produce a plan to double adaptation fi-

nance to \$40 billion a year by 2025.

"But those sums are dwarfed by the scale of what's needed," he said and advocated for reform in International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to better cater to the needs of developing countries like Nepal. PTI

(CLIMATE CRISIS IS HEALTH CRISIS, SAYS WHO PAGE 8)

## Dam row: High-level meeting on December 6

**Centre to discuss Krishna water sharing**

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

A high-level meeting will be held by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on December 6 to discuss issues over the sharing of Krishna river waters and management of joint projects of the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the basin, including Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem.

The meeting convened by the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, will be held virtually with the Chief Secretaries, Irrigation Secretaries and DGPs of Telangana and AP, along with representatives of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). The Secretary of Water Resources, Debashree Mukherjee, who had reportedly asked for reports from the stakeholder agencies on the situation

**Transfer of projects to KRMB on the cards**

**HYDERABAD:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti has convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of Telangana and AP in New Delhi on December 6, according to a communication received by the State government from the Under Secretary to the Government of India. The meeting is intended to "review the situation relating to Nagarjuna Sagar dam and discussion on the transfer of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam and Srisailem dam reservoirs, along with all related appurtenances and structures to the KRMB by the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," according to official sources. The meeting, to be held at Shram Shakti Bhawan in New Delhi in physical mode, will be attended by the CWC Chairman, KRMB Chairman and CRPF Director General. It will be chaired by the Secretary of Department of Water Resources.

prevailing at the Nagarjuna Sagar Project following its occupation by armed forces deployed by AP, wanted to have the first round of talks with the officials of the two States in the day.

But the Chief Secretary of Telangana, A Santhi Kumari, has requested for rescheduling the meeting

after December 5, since she and her officials had a hectic schedule in the day because of preparations for the counting of votes due on Sunday. Mukherjee, however, had talks with the Chief Secretary of AP, Jawahar Reddy, and reviewed the developments. (SEE PAGE 2)

## TN braces for heavy rains

**CHENNAI**

The depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal will intensify into a cyclonic storm on December 3 resulting in heavy to very heavy rains in the northern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and interior parts, too, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

It would reach the west central Bay of Bengal off south Andhra Pradesh and adjoining north Tamil Nadu coasts by December 4 morning. Thereafter, it would move nearly northwards, almost parallel and close to the south Andhra Pradesh coast, and cross the south Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam during the December 5 forenoon, the IMD said. The cyclonic activity would lead the winds to blow at a speed of 80-90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph. According to S Balachandran, Deputy Director General of the Regional Meteorological Centre, heavy to very heavy rains are likely in Pudukkottai, Thanjavur & Tiruvarur. PTI

## Parties keep their fingers crossed

**BRS confident, Congress cautious, BJP silent**

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

After multiple exit polls threw the political scene in Telangana into turmoil of uncertainty ahead of the counting of votes polled on November 30, hectic activity was witnessed behind the curtains on Saturday, especially in the Congress, which has suddenly turned cautious. In fact, the party is making moves to ensure that its candidates, in case they win, are constantly under the watchful eyes of senior party leaders.

With the counting of votes slated to be held on Sunday, party sources said all Congress candidates were asked to reach Hyderabad and camp at a private hotel in the city. Senior AICC leaders, former union Minister P Chidambaram, Randeep Singh Surjewala and others either reached the city on Saturday or were on their way, with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, after being 'tasked' with the job of keeping the flock together, also reaching here.

Shivakumar, before heading to Hyderabad, alleged that the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) was trying to poach Congress candidates and, at the same time,



Arrangements under way for the counting of votes in Hyderabad on Saturday.

**All arrangements in place**

**HYDERABAD:** Elaborate arrangements are in place for the counting of votes, which will begin at 8 am on Sunday. The staff deployed for counting and agents of the contesting candidates have been asked to reach the respective counting centres by 5 am across the State. All 49 counting centres across the State will be covered with a three-layered security, including Central forces, State armed forces and local police. To begin with, postal ballots will be counted at 8 am, followed by votes polled on EVMs. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3 & 4)

said he was confident that none of the Congress candidates would switch loyalty. The Congress, apparently buoyed by a few exit polls that predicted victory for it, is also summoning other

leaders from Karnataka to Telangana, with AICC general secretary KC Venugopal asking Karnataka Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan to reach Hyderabad. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Can women be booked for rape?

**NEW DELHI**

Women are usually the victims of rape but can a woman be booked in a rape case? The Supreme Court has agreed to examine this question after a woman petitioned it for anticipatory bail in a rape case also involving her son.

The apex court has asked the Punjab government to respond to the plea filed by a 61-year-old woman, who has been implicated in the case filed by her daughter-in-law. While agreeing to examine the issue, a Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and Sanjay Karol granted the woman protection from

arrest and directed her to cooperate with the investigation. "Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. In the meantime, the petitioner is protected from arrest. But she is expected to cooperate with the investigation of the crime," the Bench said.

At the outset, advocate Rishi Malhotra, who appeared for the woman, argued that all other penal sections in the FIR are bailable barring the charge under Section 376(2)(n) IPC (repeated rape). Conviction under the section entails imprisonment of not less than 10 years and may extend to life. PTI

## Parliament winter session from tomorrow

**NEW DELHI**

The impending expulsion of TMC member Mahua Moitra from Lok Sabha, three Bills to replace criminal laws and a proposed law for the appointment of Election Commissioners are set to dominate the Winter Session of Parliament, with the Centre urging the Opposition to ensure a conducive environment for discussions.

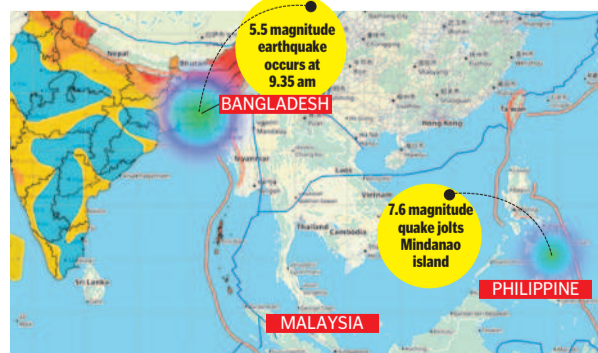
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a meeting on Saturday. The results of the Assembly elections are expected to have a bearing on the Winter Session that begins on Monday. PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)

## Powerful quake in Philippines, tsunami warning issued

**MANILA/DHAKA/KOLKATA**

A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 struck on Saturday night off the coast of the southern Philippine island of Mindanao and authorities issued a tsunami warning.

It struck at 10.37 pm at a depth of 32 km, according to the US Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said it expected tsunami waves to hit the southern Philippines and parts of Indonesia, Palau and Malaysia. A one-metre tsunami may hit but



the wave could be higher in enclosed coves, bays and straits.

**Earthquake in Bangladesh** An earthquake jolted

Bangladesh too on Saturday morning, sending tremors that were felt across the country and parts of West Bengal. No damage or injuries were reported. AGENCIES

## 'Digital arrest', new cyber fraud doing the rounds

**NOIDA**

The Uttar Pradesh Police has launched an investigation after a Noida resident found herself at the receiving end of a new cyber fraud trend, wherein she was duped of over Rs 11 lakh and held under 'digital arrest' for a day, officials said on Saturday.

This is the first case in the new trend of 'digital arrest fraud' lodged at the Cyber Crime police station in Noida. The thugs posed as police officials, who mentioned the names of an IPS officer in the CBI and the founder of a grounded airline, associating the 50-

year-old victim in a fictitious money-laundering case.

A similar case was recently reported in Haryana's Faridabad where cyber thugs, posing as police personnel, got a woman 'digitally arrested' for more than a week after convincing her that her personal IDs were used for illegal activities. They then asked her to stay online via Skype and not share this information with anyone even as they kept a watch on her throughout the period.

In her complaint, the Noida-based woman has claimed that she was contacted over an IVR (inter-

active voice response) call on November 13 and told that a mobile phone SIM card was purchased using her Aadhaar card in Mumbai and used for illegal advertising and harassment of women. "Then my call was transferred to a person (who identified himself as a Mumbai Police officer), who did the initial interrogation over the call

and then on Skype VC. Then he informed me that I had another allegation of money laundering related to (the founder of an airline), for which an FIR has been registered against me and an arrest warrant issued by the Supreme Court for which he sent documents on Skype," the woman said.

"After the interrogation, he said I am innocent and not guilty, so he is transferring the interrogation (to an IPS officer posted with the CBI, Mumbai) for further investigation of this case. Then he gave the Skype ID and asked me to request the CBI officer to do the priority investiga-

tion on VC to remove my arrest warrant," she said in her complaint.

The said CBI officer told her that during the investigation of the airline founder, police found 246 debit cards from his house and one of those had the victim's name on it, which was used to open a bank account with her Aadhaar card. Inspector Reeta Yadav, in charge of the Cyber Crime police station in Noida Sector 36, said an FIR has been lodged under relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC). "An investigation into the case is under way," she said. PTI