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Move Czech court, Supreme Court tells kin of Nikhil Gupta **page 7**

NATION

'Resources in place to curb airport congestion' **page 8**

WORLD

No fresh aid for war-torn Ukraine from European Union **page 9**

Glimpses of life



MEN AT WORK: Fishermen silhouetted against the setting sun on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Tezpur, Assam, on Friday. — Photo: PTI

Spacious living in demand

HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

Prince Harry wins lawsuit

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Deepthi picks up five wickets

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CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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Jagan hints at early polls in AP

AP BUREAU
Amaravati

The schedule for the Andhra Pradesh elections may be released earlier than expected, according to Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Indicating this at the Cabinet meeting held

here on Friday, he said the ruling YSRCP was fully prepared to face the polls. "We are ready for the elections. Nevertheless, Ministers should work efficiently at the field level. The elections schedule may be released about 20 days earlier than in the past," he said.

Jagan also asked his Cabinet colleagues to be wary of opposition parties and the media organisations supporting them. The Chief Minister asked them not to take the false campaign in the yellow media lightly, and refute it strongly.

'Wanted to create anarchy'

Cops inform court that Jha planned breach to get demands met

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday sent Lalit Jha, arrested in the Parliament security breach case, to seven-day custody of the Delhi Police that claimed he was the 'mastermind' of the shocking incident.

Special Judge Hardeep Kaur remanded Jha in Delhi police's custody on an application moved by the prosecution, which said he was required to be questioned to unearth the entire conspiracy. Police also said he needed to be questioned about a phone he was using and has not been traced yet. "Jha disclosed that they wanted to create anarchy in the country so that they



Lalit Jha, the key accused in the Parliament security breach, being produced at the Patiala House Court in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI

could compel the government to meet their demands. He took the phones (of other accused) to hide them and to destroy evidence as part of the larger conspiracy. He

disclosed that he threw his phone away on the way from Jaipur to Delhi," police told the court. Meanwhile, parliamentary proceedings were

washed out on Friday after opposition protested in both Houses over the security breach issue amid demands that Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement followed by a discussion. The Congress accused Shah of "contempt of Parliament" by speaking to TV channels on the security breach issue and not in the House when it is in session and said both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are unlikely to function till he makes a statement.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi slammed the Opposition for disrupting House proceedings and said they should behave responsibly. He said a high-level probe is on. PTI

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

KCR discharged from hospital

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao, who underwent total hip replacement surgery at Yashoda Hospitals in Somajiguda, was discharged on Friday. He was shifted to his Nandinagar residence in Banjara Hills for the rest of his treatment of about six-eight weeks.

Chandrashekhara Rao slipped and fell in the bathroom at his farmhouse in Erravelli early on December 8. He was rushed to Yashoda Hospitals in Somajiguda where doctors found a fracture in the left hip bone and performed total hip replacement surgery. He was advised to rest for the next six-eight weeks. The former CM thanked the hospital doctors and nursing staff, who treated him during his stay. He also greeted his supporters, loyalists and fans, who thronged the hospital to meet him. As he reached his residence in Nandinagar directly from Yashoda, he was welcomed by his family.



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao underwent total hip replacement surgery. — Photo: ANI

Mercury levels dip across State

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Mercury levels are plummeting across Telangana, with the lowest minimum temperature of 8.9 degrees C recorded at Kohir in Sangareddy in the last 24 hours.

The day minimum average temperature also dipped, with 14.9 degrees C recorded against the normal 17 degrees C, according to the Telangana State Development Planning Society's daily weather report.

Lowest minimum temperature of 8.9 degrees C recorded at Kohir in Sangareddy in the last 24 hours

Even at 11 am on Friday, the minimum and maximum temperatures in many areas were below 25 degrees C, with Doma in Vikarabad registering a minimum of 21.9 degrees C and a maxi-

mum of 24.8 degrees C. According to reports from Adilabad, the minimum temperature was continuing to fall on Friday, making life difficult for people of the region.

As per information provided by the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University's (PJTSAU) Agricultural Research Station in Adilabad, the district saw a minimum temperature of 12 degrees C and a maximum of 29.3 degrees C on Friday.

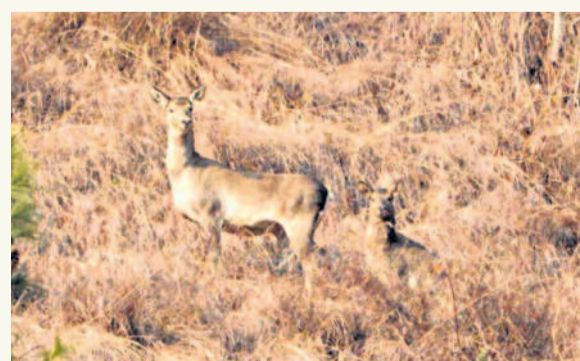
(RELATED REPORTS PAGES 2, 4)

CCMB team studies Hangul deer population

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

For the first time in India, geneticists from the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have utilised genetic data to estimate the population of the Hangul deer, the critically endangered iconic species of Kashmir Himalayas, which faces imminent threat of population loss and extinction.

Once widely distributed across Kashmir, the Chenab Valley of Jammu and Himachal Pradesh, the Hangul deer (hangul Cervus hanglu hanglu) is categorised as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN



The researchers used genetic data to estimate the population of the Hangul deer, which is categorised as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

Red List and as a Schedule 1 species in the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The CCMB study, published in Cambridge Core — the journal of Cambridge University

Press — on December 13, 2023, was led by senior principal scientist Dr P Anuradha Reddy. The researchers utilised non-invasive genetics to understand the population

Cop shoots family, himself to death

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

In a shocking incident, an AR constable, working as a gunman for the Siddipet Collector, allegedly shot his wife and two children dead before killing himself with his service pistol at his residence in Ramunipatla village of Chinnakodur mandal on Friday morning.

All four — Akula Naresh (35), wife Chaitanya (30),

son Revanth (6) and daughter Rishitha (5) — died on the spot. The children were students at a private school in Siddipet.

Naresh, a 2013 batch AR constable, was reportedly in a deep financial crisis after he started borrowing money from different loan apps and spending it on online betting.

As he suffered huge losses, he could not repay the amount. (SEE PAGE 2)

BJP MLA gets 25 yrs in jail for raping minor

SONBHADRA (UP)

A court here on Friday sentenced BJP MLA Ramdular Gond to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for the rape of a girl nine years ago, setting the stage for his disqualification from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. According to the Representation of the People Act, a lawmaker sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Gond. The rape survivor is now married and the mother of an eight-year-old girl. PTI

'Six guarantees in 100 days'

Governor says govt committed to providing MSP, quality power supply to farm sector

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Expressing hope that the State would tread the path of progress and bring light to the lives of farmers, women, youth and the poor, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said the government would implement all guarantees within 100 days in addition to the two guarantees that were being implemented since last Saturday.

Addressing members of both Houses in the Assembly here on Friday, she said the State government was actively preparing an action plan based on the promises made in the poll manifesto. The government was committed to providing quality and uninterrupted power supply to the agriculture sector, the Governor said, adding that it would also give a Minimum Support Price for each and every crop. There would be an action plan to waive farm loans to the tune of Rs 2 lakh, she said.

Stating that the Government would get the rightful share of the Krishna river water, the Governor said it would also aim to get national status for the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation project, which was a boon for south Telangana. Similarly, the Pranahita-Chevella project, which was started during the previous Congress regime, would be completed to provide irrigation water to the upper region of Adilabad and other districts, she said.

"We will fill up teacher posts by constructing a



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu greet Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Cabinet 'divided' over fulfilling promises

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Is the implementation of the Congress' Six Guarantees leading to serious differences of opinion among Cabinet Ministers? According to party sources, the State Cabinet meeting on Thursday witnessed a heated debate between a few Ministers and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

After R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that efforts were on to launch a few

more guarantees from December 28, the Congress party formation day, the Cabinet meeting chaired by Revanth Reddy is said to have discussed the expenditure for implementing the six guarantees. They concluded that the implementation in letter and spirit would require a budget at least three times the current one. To this, the CM is learnt to have suggested that conditions should be applied in the implementation of the schemes.

(SEE PAGE 2)

mega DSC within six months. This apart, steps will be taken to fill up two lakh vacancies in one year,"

Soundararajan said, adding that the exercise to clean up the TSPSC would also begin soon. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)