



HYDERABAD

Rumble strips breaking backs, ignite debate on health hazards **page 3**

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Kejri, Mann launch AAP poll campaign **page 7**



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Cut off from food, Gaza children succumbing to hunger **page 9**

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President hails IAF service to nation



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Fiesty speech

Democracy and freedom under threat, says Biden



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Rohit, Gill put India on top



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Alia's wise words

Asks women to celebrate themselves every day



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 107
Retail live	Rs. 129
With skin	Rs. 187
Skinless	Rs. 213
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 63

'Indians duped to work in Russian army'

MEA asks citizens not to get swayed by offers

PTI
NEW DELHI

Several Indian nationals have been "duped" to work with the Russian Army and India has strongly taken up the matter with Moscow for their early discharge, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said strong action has been initiated against agents and unscrupulous elements who recruited the Indians on false pretenses and promises. He said India remains committed to ensuring the early release of its nationals serving as support staff with the Russian Army.

The MEA spokesperson's comments came days after Indian national Mohammed Asfan from Hyderabad, who was duped into joining Russia's war against Ukraine, was killed. Another Indian, who also had worked as a support staff to the Russian army, died several days ago.

The MEA spokesperson said India is trying its best to bring back their mortal remains. He said around 20 people have contacted the Indian government and it is

2 Russia-based agents involved in trafficking on CBI radar

NEW DELHI: Two Russia-based agents involved in the human trafficking network that pushed Indians into the Ukraine war zone are under the CBI scanner, officials said on Friday. The agents allegedly confiscated the passports of Indians arriving in Russia and forced them to fight with the armed forces, officials said. The network was busted by the CBI on Thursday.

Christina and Moinuddin Chippa, a resident of Rajasthan, are based in Russia and were facilitating the trafficking of Indian youth to Russia by offering them lucrative job opportunities there, officials said. The central probe agency's FIR has listed 17 other Visa consultancy companies, their owners and agents spread across India, they said. The agency has booked them under Indian Penal Code Sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and human trafficking. (SEE PAGE 2)

doing its best to locate them. However, the exact number of Indians working as support staff in the Russian Army is not yet known.

Jaiswal appealed to Indian nationals to not get "swayed" by offers made by agents for support jobs with the Russian Army, saying it is fraught with danger and risk to life. "Several Indian nationals have been duped to work with the Russian army. We have strongly taken up the matter with the Russian government for

their early discharge," he said. The spokesperson said strong action has been initiated against agents and unscrupulous elements who recruited the Indians on "false pretexts and promises".

"The CBI yesterday (Thursday) busted a major human trafficking network conducting searches in several cities and collecting incriminating evidence. A case of human trafficking has been registered against several agents," he said.

4 from TS in Cong first list

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Friday released the first list of four candidates contesting the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in the State.

Suresh Kumar Shetkar has been finalised as the candidate from Zaheerabad, Raghuveer Kunduru from Nalgonda, Balram Naik Porika from Mahabubabad and Challa Vamshichand Reddy from Mahabubnagar, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said in New Delhi.

In all, the AICC released the first list of 39 candidates across the country. But before it officially released the list, another list of 36 candidates, including Sunitha Mahender Reddy's candidature from Chevela, was circulated on social media. (SEE PAGES 2, 8)

Cooking gas price cut by Rs 100 weeks before polls

NEW DELHI: Weeks before general elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a Rs 100 per cylinder cut in cooking gas LPG price to ease financial burden on households. Non-subsidised cooking gas price will be cut to Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital with effect from midnight of Friday-Saturday, official sources said. Prices vary from State to State depending on the incidence on local taxes. The reduction has been made possible because of easing of international oil and gas prices, against which domestic fuel rates are benchmarked. However, no change in petrol and diesel prices was announced. Petrol and diesel prices continue to be on freeze for a record 23 months now. PTI

Sudha Murty nominated to Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI: Philanthropist and author Sudha Murty was nominated to Rajya Sabha on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauding her contribution in diverse fields. Modi asserted in a post on X that her presence in the Upper House is a powerful testament to "Nari Shakti", exemplifying the strength and potential of women in shaping the nation's destiny. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our country and its people, both of whom have taught me so much about life..." Murty said. PTI



TDP, BJP, JSP unite in AP

NEW DELHI

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP K Ravindra Kumar claimed on Friday that the BJP, Jana Sena and his party have decided in principle to work together for the upcoming polls and the modalities are being worked out.

A day after TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu held deliberations with union Home Minister Amit Shah and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief JP Nadda, Kumar said preliminary discussions have taken place for the "purpose of an alliance" for the Lok Sabha

night. Sources said the number of seats the BJP will get in such an alliance remains a sticking point.

Andhra Pradesh has 25 Lok Sabha and 175 Assembly constituencies. The top leaders of the three parties may hold another round of discussions to sort out the differences and finalise the arrangements, the sources added.

While the BJP wants to contest more than 20 Assembly and around eight Lok Sabha seats, the main opposition party in the southern State, TDP, is unwilling to concede more than five-six parliamentary seats. (SEE PAGE 2)

Abducted JCO rescued in Manipur

IMPHAL

A serving Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army, who was abducted from his home in Manipur's Thoubal district by anti-social elements on Friday morning, was rescued by security forces in the evening, sources said.

JCO Kongsam Kheda Singh is currently at Waikhong police station in Thoubal district. Police are investigating the incident. According to sources, a co-ordinated search operation was launched to rescue the JCO which ultimately led to his safe release at 6.30 pm on Friday. PTI

Acute water crisis



PARCHED: With the Akeru Vagu at Narsimhulapet mandal in Mahabubabad district drying up, farmers are forced to hire earthmovers to dig pits to source water for irrigation purposes. (REPORT PAGE 4)

'Will work with MIM to develop Hyd'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Stressing that politics and development were different, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the Congress government would work along with the AIMIM to develop Hyderabad.

"We are involved in politics only during elections and later our priority will be development. In the Assembly, we debate on several issues and shout at each other

but it is limited to the House. We don't have any personal rivalry with them (MIM)," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation for the Metro line covering 5.5 km from MGBS to Falaknuma here on Friday. "AIMIM candidates keep winning from Old City and even I tried to defeat them but was not successful," he admitted.

Assuring that the Congress government was committed to developing Old

City, the Chief Minister said Old City was the real Hyderabad.

The Congress government would be in power till 2034 and the Metro works in Old City would be completed in five years, he assured, adding that the government would take loans and seek Central funds for executing the works.

Ridiculing the past government's plans to construct the Metro from Hitec City, ORR and the airport, the

Chief Minister said people living in Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills do not board the Metro, instead they use their cars. People from middle and low-income groups, who fly to the Gulf from Old City, need Metro, he said.

A Metro junction would be constructed at Chandrayangutta and once the operations commence in Old City, it would generate more employment for the local youth, the Chief Minister said. (SEE PAGE 2)

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