

**HYDERABAD**

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**Krystyna Pyszkova recalls her days in the country**



**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 112
Retail live	Rs. 134
With skin	Rs. 194
Skinless	Rs. 221
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 56

## Litmus test for Revanth as '100 days' near

**With deadline on March 17, several components of Six Guarantees yet to be grounded**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has repeatedly been assuring the people in almost every meeting that he is a man of his word, and that every promise his party made prior to the Assembly elections would be kept.

With just seven days left for the 100-day timeframe Revanth Reddy set for his government to implement its poll promises, the next one week will be a test of the government's commitment levels. Interestingly, a major portion of the multiple components of the Six Guarantees (Abhaya Hastam) are yet to be grounded. So far, two of three components of Maha Lakshmi, the first of six guarantees, have been launched — LPG cylinders at Rs 500 and free travel for women in RTC buses.

The second guarantee of Rythu Bharosa of Rs 15,000 per acre to farmers and Rs 12,000 to agricultural labour every year is still on paper, while the third guarantee, Gruha Jyothi scheme with 200 units of free electricity, has been launched, albeit with riders that flush out a



**“If the promises are not fulfilled within the specified time, the Congress will bear people's brunt**

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS

sixth guarantee, has only one of two components, that of hiking the Rajiv Arogyasri health insurance being hiked from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, launched so far. Several other promises, right from the Warangal Rythu Declaration and the Hyderabad Youth Declaration to the Chevella SC/ST Declaration, the Minority Declaration and the Kamareddy BC Declaration, all remain promises.

Though the State government has been claiming credit for the recent job opportunities, it is a known fact that the appointment letters Revanth Reddy handed over to candidates were the last step of the recruitment process initiated by the previous BRS government. With just seven days left for all these to be launched, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday demanded the implementation of the six guarantees promised by the Congress within the 100-day timeframe, which concludes on March 17. If the promises are not delivered in time, BRS will launch a people's movement against the Congress, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

large number of beneficiaries. The fourth, Indiramma Housing, is set to be launched on Monday, while the second part of the same guarantee, house yards of 250 square yards for Telangana movement fighters, is yet to be launched.

Yuva Vikasam, the fifth guarantee is also still on paper, while Cheyutha, the

## Swiss watches, chocs to cost less

**India to phase out customs duties under \$100-billion EFTA pact**

NEW DELHI

Domestic customers will get access to high-quality Swiss products such as watches, chocolates, biscuits and clocks at lower prices as India will phase out customs duties under its trade pact with the EFTA bloc on these goods over a period of time. India and the four-European nation bloc EFTA signed a trade and economic partnership agreement (TEPA) on Sunday to boost trade and investments between the two regions.

Under the free trade agreement, New Delhi has received an investment commitment of \$100 billion over the next 15 years to facilitate the creation of one million jobs.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) mem-



**WATERSHED MOMENT, SAYS PM**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the signing of the trade agreement between India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA is a "watershed moment" as it symbolises a shared commitment to open, fair and equitable trade. He said India will extend all possible support to these countries and facilitate industry and businesses. "March 10, 2024, marks a new turn and a watershed moment in the bilateral relationship between India and EFTA countries," Modi said. PTI

bers are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It will take up to a year to implement the agreement

due to an elaborate ratification process of these pacts in different countries. "We are giving duty concessions

## 2 new ECs likely by March 15

NEW DELHI

Two Election Commissioners (ECs) are likely to be appointed by March 15 to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey and the surprise resignation of Arun Goel, sources said on Sunday.

Days before the poll panel is expected to announce the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls, Goel resigned on Friday morning. His resignation was accepted by President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday and the Law Ministry issued a notification to announce it. This leaves

**Sources say Arun Goel may have quit due to personal reasons, reject claims of differences with Rajiv Kumar**

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar as the sole member of the poll authority. Pandey had demitted office on February 14 on attaining the age of 65 years.

A search committee under Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and comprising the Home Secretary and

the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) Secretary will first prepare two separate panels of five names each for the two posts. A selection committee headed by the Prime Minister and comprising a Union Minister and Leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will name two persons for appointment as ECs. The ECs will be appointed by the President.

The PM-chaired committee will meet on March 15 to finalise the names of new Election Commissioners, the sources said. PTI

## Poll bonds: SC to hear SBI plea today

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear the application filed by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking an extension till June 30 to disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties before the scheme was scrapped last month.

The apex court Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, will assemble at 10.30 am. PTI

## Wine dealers left high and dry

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
Hyderabad

An apparent lack of communication and coordination between government departments is allegedly leading to harassment of wine dealers in Telangana.

The issue arose with the Commercial Tax Department insisting on e-way bills from the dealers and the Excise Department, which has to issue the e-way bill, not doing the same.

Using the pretext of the absence of e-way bills, Commercial Tax officers are allegedly intercepting vehicles carrying liquor to wine shops and seizing them. The vehicles were being held at police stations, with the "harassment" affecting the entire liquor trade in the State, wine dealers said.

Generally, e-way bills are issued by a wholesaler or distributor to a retailer on the purchase of any goods. In this context, if the e-way bill is made mandatory for wine dealers, the Excise Department has to issue the same to dealers as they purchase stocks from the department depots after paying the requisite amount, Telangana State Wine Dealers Association president D Venkateshwara Rao said.

While purchasing stocks from the Excise Department, dealers pay all taxes, including Special Excise Cess and TCS. Only after this is paid, they can download bills and transport permits for vehicles to shift the stocks, he said. "Since wine dealers sell the stocks to consumers in retail, why should we obtain the e-way bill?" Rao argued. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Season's special



**FUN TIME:** Tourists enjoy skiing in the snow-covered Solang Valley, in Manali on Sunday. — Photo: ANI

## Work up an appetite, it's time for haleem!

ASIF YAR KHAN  
Hyderabad

The month of Ramzan is around the corner and restaurants across the city are all geared up to prepare and offer mouth-watering haleem.

Ubiquitous during Ramzan, haleem attracts people from all walks of life to restaurants that spend eight to nine hours preparing the dish, which originated in Iran. It was first introduced to the city by Madina Hotel located



A man sets up a 'bhatti' for making haleem ahead of the Ramzan month, in Hyderabad. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

in the Madina Building, Old City, and gradually other restaurants started preparing it during

Ramzan. Haleem is prepared using chicken, mutton or beef meat, ghee, wheat, spices, dry fruits

and other ingredients. A plate of mutton haleem is priced between Rs 220 and Rs 270 in Hyderabad. Mohd Majeed, the owner of Pista House, said the cost of ingredients has increased significantly in the last one year and wages of workers and transportation cost too have shot up. "Nevertheless, we are not going for a major hike. A decision on the price will be taken in a day or two and we assure it will not affect our customers," he told *Telangana Today*. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Lemon sold for Rs 35,000

ERODE

A single lemon fetched Rs 35,000 at an auction held at a private temple in a village near here, the temple authorities said.

As per custom, the lemon and other items, including fruits offered to Lord Shiva during Mahasivarathiri at the Pazhapoo-saian temple near Sivagiri village, 35 km from here, were auctioned. Fifteen devotees participated in the auction and a lemon was sold to one of them for Rs 35,000. PTI

## BRS-BSP close to striking seat deal

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Putting an end to speculations, BSP national president Mayawati on Sunday confirmed the party's alliance with the BRS in Telangana for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

BSP Telangana president RS Praveen Kumar made an announcement in this regard and thanked the BSP national president for agreeing to hold further discussions to finalise seat-sharing.

Praveen Kumar said BSP central coordinator and MP Ramji Gautam was tasked to hold further discussions with BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao to finalise the seat sharing in a couple of days. "As BRS is not part of any national alliance, the BSP high command has no reservations to ally with the BRS," Praveen Kumar posted on X.

He urged people not to believe false propaganda and rumours being spread against the alliance with political motives. (SEE PAGE 2)