



HYDERABAD

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7 killed in Israeli airstrike on Iran's consulate in Damascus **page 9**



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Shah lashes out at Rahul



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Imran, wife get bail

Court suspends 14-year jail term in Toshakhana case



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Sinner wins Miami Open



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Shilpa's fun workout

Sector does challenging exercise with gym buddy



Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Tuesday 6:35 PM
 Saher Wednesday 4:46 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 127
Retail live	Rs. 149
With skin	Rs. 216
Skinless	Rs. 246
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

Heatwave to grip country

Central, western India expected to be worst-hit, says IMD



Roads were deserted on a scorching Monday afternoon as the mercury crossed 40°C in Hyderabad. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

NEW DELHI

India is set to experience extreme heat from April to June, with the central and western peninsular parts expected to face the worst impact, the IMD said on Monday as the country prepares for the seven-phase general elections starting April 19.

Union Minister for Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju said India is anticipated to experience extreme weather conditions in the upcoming two-and-a-half months and this coincides with the general elections in which around a billion people are expected to exercise their

April brings blistering heat to Hyd

HYDERABAD: The onset of April has brought intense heat to Hyderabad and several districts of Telangana, with temperatures soaring above normal levels for this time of the year. By Monday afternoon, the city was sweltering under the scorching sun, with the mercury hovering between 42°C and 43°C, before stabilising just under 42°C. Several localities in Hyderabad recorded temperatures exceeding 40°C, marking a sharp increase in the heat intensity. KPBB registered 41.9°C, while Khairatabad recorded 41.7°C. (REPORT PAGE 3)

franchise. "It is going to be very challenging for all of us. Since we are the most populous country in the world and face extreme weather conditions, it makes it ab-

solutely necessary for India to prepare in advance," he said. India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the anticipated in-

crease in outdoor activities during the 2024 general elections could heighten public vulnerability to heatwaves. With greater exposure, there's an elevated risk of heatwave-related health issues among the electorate and election staff, he said.

The IMD chief said above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in April-June, with a high probability over central and western India. Normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely over parts of western Himalayan region, Northeast and north Odisha, he said. PTI

'BRS lost polls as it failed to highlight achievements'

STATE BUREAU Nalgonda

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday said the party had lost the Assembly elections due to its failure to effectively communicate to the people its achievements in the development of the State and the welfare measures it had initiated.

While the BRS had focused on development and welfare politics, the Congress is focusing on propaganda politics, he said while speaking at the Nalgonda parliamentary constituency preparatory meeting here.

Rama Rao said despite significant efforts, including the recruitment for 1.6 lakh government jobs and a 73 per cent salary hike for employees, the BRS could not

“ Despite significant efforts, including the recruitment for 1.6 lakh government jobs and a 73 per cent salary hike for employees, the BRS could not effectively explain it to voters, especially students

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president



effectively explain it to the voters, especially students. He criticised the false claims of the Congress, particularly Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, of providing 30,000 jobs though the Congress government did not issue any notification, but took credit for the recruitment done during the BRS rule.

Highlighting the transformative initiatives undertaken by the previous K

Chandrashekhara Rao government, the BRS working president emphasised the unprecedented support extended to the farmers, including the remarkable growth in rice production, which positioned Nalgonda at the forefront.

He said the BRS government ended the fluorosis problem and sanctioned three medical colleges to the erstwhile Nalgonda district. (SEE PAGE 2)

Mahabubnagar MLC bypoll results on June 2

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Counting of votes polled in the Mahabubnagar Local Authorities constituency MLC bypoll has been postponed to June 2 in the wake of the Model Code of Conduct being in vogue for the Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, the counting was scheduled for Tuesday.

The by-election was held last Thursday amidst tight security.

Authorities said of the 1,439 voters, 1,437 exercised their franchise at 10 polling stations.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday said the administrative machinery involved in conducting the bypoll was also involved in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections too. (SEE PAGE 2)

KLIP saves the day for Cong

Govt uses it to supply water to Karimnagar

STATE BUREAU HYDERABAD

They ridiculed it in every way they could, from calling it a mammoth mistake, a waste of money, a scam to a flop show, flawed and useless. But when every other source failed to quench the thirst of people in erstwhile Karimnagar, the very people who derided the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) are now depending on it.

The water-starved people of Ramadugu, Malyala, Boinpalli and Gangadhara mandals, who were at their wit's end asking local authorities and elected representatives for water for several weeks, will testify to the significance of the Kaleshwaram project. They are now offering prayers expressing their gratitude to the Bahubali motors of the Gayatri pump house in Package 8 of the KLIP for ending their travails overnight.

People in a cluster of villages in the vicinity of Lakshimpur are celebrating the arrival of water in their ponds and tanks ahead of the peak summer. They are also hailing former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao for his farsightedness that went into the construction of the Gayatri pump house, which bailed them out from acute scarcity conditions today.

Earlier on Sunday, with mounting pressure following repeated protests by the public and farmers, the State government issued special instructions to initiate steps to augment the supply of drinking water in different gram panchayats where people were up in arms for water. The Lakshimpur underground pumping station (Gayatri pump

Gayatri pump house comes in handy

BAHUBALI MOTORS OF GAYATRI PUMP HOUSE IN KLIP'S PACKAGE 8 END TRAVAILS OF WATER-STARVED PEOPLE OF RAMADUGU, MALYALA, BOINPALLI, GANGADHARA MANDALS

- Only 1 of 7 pumps was switched on around 4 pm on Sunday
- Pump house known for its highest pumping and motor capacity in the world

EMERGENCY SUPPLY

- Water lifted to Sriramsagar Flood Flow Canal
- Many drinking water supply sources up to Mid Manair project filled
- Operation completed in 3 hrs
- Water sourced from Sripada Yellampalli project

SRIPADA YELLAMPALLI RESERVOIR
 GODAVARI RIVER
 Lakshmi Narasimha Sagar Pattapaka Reservoir
 MIDMANAIR RESERVOIR

7 Bahubali motors of 139 MW capacity each can lift 3 tmc of water a day

house) came in handy for them. The Gayatri pump house, equipped with seven Bahubali motors of 139 MW capacity each, will lift 3 tmc of water a day. Known for its highest pumping and motor capacity in the world and its support of the largest surge pool facilities, just one of the seven pumps was switched on, resuming its operation around 4 pm on Sunday.

Water was lifted to the Sriramsagar Flood Flow Canal. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

KTR blasts Congress govt

NALGONDA: Holding the Congress-led government responsible for the drought-like crisis in Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the government's failure to utilise the KLIP effectively has led to water scarcity in State. Despite previous criticisms of the project's efficacy, he noted the sudden release of water to Karimnagar, indicating political manoeuvring rather than genuine concern for farmers' welfare. (FULL REPORT PAGE 5)

Beware of fake IPL tickets in Hyderabad!

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) on Monday issued a warning regarding fake IPL tickets circulating on several social media platforms for the upcoming marquee T20 match between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) sched-

uled for Friday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal. HCA president Jagan Mohan Rao urged the people to remain cautious and not fall for fraudulent ticket offers. "Beware! Don't fall for it! There are reports of fake IPL tickets for SRH vs CSK match, which are circulating on social media," he wrote on X. (SEE PAGE 2)

China releases 30 new names of places in Arunachal

BEIJING

China has released a fourth list of 30 new names of various places in Arunachal Pradesh amid Beijing's stepped-up assertions in recent weeks to re-emphasise its claim over the Indian State.

India has been rejecting China renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the State is an integral part of the country and assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality. The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs released the fourth list of standardised geographical names in Zangnan, the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet, *Global Times* reported. The Ministry website posted 30 additional names for the region.

Set to take effect from May 1, the implementation measures stipulate in Article 13 that "place names in foreign languages that may harm China's territorial claims and sovereignty rights shall not be directly quoted or translated without authorisation," the report said. PTI

Kejri in custody till April 15, sent to Tihar

NEW DELHI

The judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested on March 21 in connection with the excise policy case, was on Monday extended till April 15 and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor will now be lodged in Tihar Jail — a development that is expected to further complicate the process of running government from prison.

According to sources, Kejriwal will be lodged in Tihar's Jail No. 2 and will be permitted to meet Delhi government officials for

Kavitha's plea to be heard on April 4

The Rouse Avenue Court on Monday adjourned further hearings on the interim bail petition moved by BRS MLC K Kavitha to April 4. It asked senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi to decide whether he wanted to argue on interim or final bail. ED also filed a reply Kavitha's bail. ANI

work as per names approved and submitted to court. He can also meet family twice a week. (SEE PAGE 2)

Gold hits record high of Rs 69,380 in city

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

Gold prices in Hyderabad soared to a record high on Monday, with the precious metal retailing at Rs 69,380 for 24 carat per 10 grams. This marks the highest price recorded in the city in the past year.

On March 31, the previous day, the price of 24 carat gold per 10 grams was Rs 68,450 in Hyderabad, indicating a significant increase within a day.

Industry experts attribute this surge to escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly in Central Asia. The recent signal from the United States Federal Reserve indicating a poten-



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tial rate cut has also contributed to the bullish trend in gold markets. According to analysts, rising

geopolitical risks globally, coupled with substantial buying by central banks, notably led by China, have further fueled the upward trajectory of gold prices.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and the extension of the Israel-Hamas war to the Red Sea region have intensified geopolitical uncertainty. In such an environment, gold is increasingly perceived as a safe haven asset by investors, driving up demand and prices. Experts anticipate continued volatility in gold markets as investors seek refuge amid geopolitical turmoil.