

**HYDERABAD**

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**Bail out farmers, BRS to Congress**



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**All in the family**

**Sharmila to take on cousin Avinash in Kadapa**



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**Trump to raise border issue**



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**Hardik has task cut out**

**MI captain vows to not give up despite three defeats**



**Ramzan Timings**  
**Iftar** Wednesday 6:34 PM  
**Saheer** Thursday 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

## PPA with NTPC unlikely

**Govt for renewable energy which is cheaper**

ANIL KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

Even as Opposition parties are criticising the State government for not signing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the NTPC-Ramagundam Phase-2 (3X800MW), it is learnt that the State government has decided against signing the PPA as power supplied by the NTPC is likely to be costlier than solar power available in the open market.

This might result in Telangana losing access to 85 per cent of the power generated by the NTPC Ramagundam Phase II. The NTPC had recently written to the State government asking it to sign the PPA for NTPC Phase-2 and warned that the failure to do so may result in the allocation of NTPC Phase-2 power to other Southern States.

According to power officials, currently the NTPC was supplying power at Rs.5.90 per unit to the State and once Phase-2 of the project was completed, the cost of power could be between Rs 8 to Rs 9 per unit, whereas the prices of solar power in the open market were Rs 2 to Rs 4 per unit. The State government, which is planning a major push for solar and similar renewable sources of power, is said to be of the opinion that if it signs a PPA with the NTPC for 25 years, it could burden consumers as they will have to pay more.

### Current situation

STATE WILL LOSE ACCESS TO 85% OF THE POWER GENERATED BY NTPC RAMAGUNDAM PHASE II

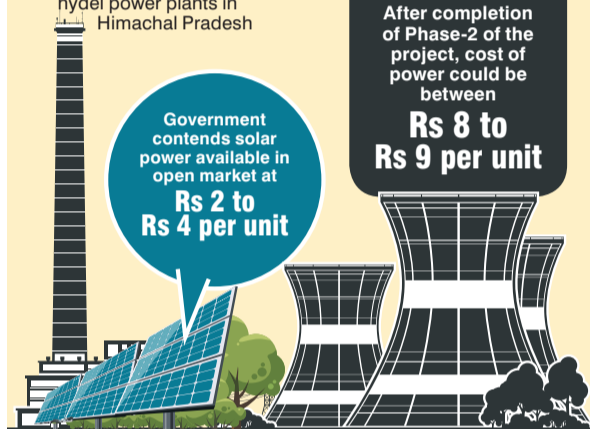
- State to bring out new policy on energy generation and power purchase
- Govt planning to set up solar projects in all the 33/11 KV substations and government lands
- State to buy power from private players who are ready to supply at cheaper rates
- Govt also mulling to set up hydel power plants in Himachal Pradesh

NTPC has warned it would sell the power to other States if PPA not signed

NTPC supplying power at Rs 5.90 per unit to the State

After completion of Phase-2 of the project, cost of power could be between Rs 8 to Rs 9 per unit

Government contends solar power available in open market at Rs 2 to Rs 4 per unit



The State government is reportedly of the opinion that if it concentrates on renewable energy sources and generates power through solar, wind and hydel sources, it could get power at a cheaper price than that purchased from the NTPC.

The 4,000 MW NTPC-Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant was an assurance under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and the first phase (2X800MW) of the project has been completed. The

balance 2,400 MW has to be completed in the second phase. As per NTPC's assessment, the project could take five to six years to be completed.

Sources said the State government had decided against signing the PPA with NTPC as it was also planning to implement a new policy on energy generation and power purchase. The policy would be prepared while taking the State's requirements till 2032 into consideration. (SEE PAGE 2)

## After ED's no objection, AAP MP gets bail in excise case

NEW DELHI

In a relief to AAP leader Sanjay Singh, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to him in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case after the ED conceded that it has no objections.

The grant of bail to the Rajya Sabha member is a reprieve to the beleaguered Aam Aadmi Party in midst of Lok Sabha poll campaigning as its top leaders — national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia — are in jail in connection with the case. A Bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and P B Var-

### 'Asked to join BJP or face action'

NEW DELHI: Four senior AAP leaders, including herself, would be arrested soon, Delhi Minister Atishi said on Tuesday, claiming the BJP approached her through a "very close" person to join it or be prepared to be nabbed by the ED within a month. The BJP immediately reacted and its Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva asked the AAP leader to prove her charge or face legal action. Atishi claimed that she, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, MLA Durgesh Pathak and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha would be arrested. However, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva claimed that Atishi was "lying". (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)



ordered the release of Singh, observing that no money has been recovered from him. (SEE PAGE 2)

dia — are in jail in connection with the case. A Bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and P B Var-

## 'Wet-bulb temperature' life-threatening

M SAI GOPAL  
Hyderabad

While many are aware of health-related perils that come with heatwaves, which are expected to continue till May, not many are aware of their vulnerability to a very risky weather phenomenon known as wet-bulb temperature, a unique condition in which both air temperature and humidity significantly impact the human body.

When the wet bulb temperature reaches its critical limit of 35 degree Celsius, the human body can no longer effectively cool itself, leading to

### Causes & Effect

MODERATE HUMIDITY AND HIGH TEMPERATURE CAN PUSH WET BULB TEMP TO DANGEROUS LEVELS IN DRY PLACES

- Even if air is dry, high wet bulb temp will not allow body to cool itself, leading to major health risks
- Due to wet bulb temperature, body goes into hypothermia, leading to failure of heart and brain

Safe limit of wet bulb temperatures should be below 30 degree C and highest limit is 35 degree C

### WET BULB TEMPERATURE

Wet bulb temperature tells us how much heat and humidity together are affecting a person. It is used to depict the temperature at which our bodies will be unable to cool themselves down by sweating. This measure is a combination of temperature and humidity and can be measured by wrapping wet cloth around the bulb of a thermometer, with evaporation of water cooling the thermometer. This low temperature is wet-bulb temperature. In humid conditions, it becomes harder for people to cool down by sweating because water will evaporate slowly.

heatstroke and even death.

There are numerous studies, in the last few years, indicating that heatwaves are gradually pushing wet bulb temperatures closer to critical thresholds in the country. Unlike the regular temperature

we see in weather forecasts, wet bulb temperatures takes into account both the air temperature and humidity. Unfortunately, IMD and other weather agencies do not capture these details in their heatwave forecasts. Wet bulb temperatures re-

flect the human body's ability to cool itself through sweating. In situations when humidity and temperatures both are high, then the sweating doesn't take place and the body does not cool down adequately. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Israeli strike kills 7 aid workers

**Victims include citizens of Australia, Poland and UK**

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

An apparent Israeli airstrike killed six international aid workers with the World Central Kitchen charity and their Palestinian driver, the aid group said Tuesday, hours after it brought a new shipment of food into northern Gaza, which has been isolated and pushed to the brink of famine by Israel's offensive.

Footage showed the bodies of the dead at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah. Several of them wore protective gear with the charity's logo. The food charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés said early Tuesday that the seven killed include citizens of Australia, Poland, the United Kingdom and a U.S.-Canada dual citizen.

The food charity said it was immediately suspending operations in the region. "This is a tragedy. Humanitarian aid workers and civilians should NEVER be a target. EVER," WCK spokeswoman Linda Roth said in a statement. The source of fire late Monday could not be independently confirmed. The Israeli mili-



People inspect the site where World Central Kitchen workers were killed in Gaza Strip on Tuesday. The aid group suspended its operations in the region following the airstrike. — Photo: AP

tary said it was conducting a review "to understand the circumstances of this tragic incident." "Despite coordinating movements with the (Israeli army), the convoy was hit as it was leaving the Deir al-Balah warehouse," in central Gaza, the group said in a statement. It said the team had unloaded more than 100 tons of humanitarian food aid brought to Gaza on the maritime route. AP

### Iran vows to hit back

TEHRAN: Iran and one of its key proxies vowed Tuesday to respond to a strike widely attributed to Israel that demolished Iran's consulate in the Syrian capital of Damascus and killed seven, including two Iranian generals. Iran's state TV reported Tuesday that the country's Supreme National Security Council, a key decision-making body, met late Monday and decided on a "required" response to the strike. The report said the meeting was chaired by President Ebrahim Raisi, but provided no further details. Israel has repeatedly targeted military officials from Iran, which supports militant groups fighting Israel in Gaza, and along its border with Lebanon. Monday's strike in Damascus signalled an escalation because it struck an Iranian diplomatic mission. It was not clear if Iran would respond itself, risking a dangerous confrontation with Israel and its ally the United States. (REPORT PAGE 9)

## SSC results on May 2 or 3

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Results of the SSC Public Examinations that concluded on Tuesday are expected to be released around May 2 or 3. The exams ended with the OSSC Main Language paper - II (Sanskrit and Arabic). Spot evaluation of the answer scripts will commence at 19 spot evaluation centres across the State from Wednesday. The evaluation is expected to conclude in the second week of this month. Following this Directorate of Government Examinations will undertake the results processing, which will take about two weeks. "It will take a month from the date of completion of the exams to announce the results. So, the results are expected to be released in the first week of May," an official told *Telangana Today*. Meanwhile, out of 91 students registered for the OSSC paper - II 87 took the exam, which was conducted smoothly. Overall, 5,08,385 students registered for exams conducted from March 18 to April 2.

## BJP uses Lord Ram to gain political mileage: KTR

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao emphasised the need for job opportunities and development over emotional rhetoric. Criticising the BJP's reliance on slogans of 'Jai Sri Ram' for political mileage, without addressing issues such as unemployment and economic development, he asserted that the BRS was a committed secular party which prioritised people's welfare regardless of caste and religion.

Addressing the party cadre at the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency preparatory meeting in Medchal on Tuesday, Rama Rao compared the govern-

**"We too are Hindus and give slogan of 'Jai Sri Ram'. But unlike the BJP, we never did politics in the name of religion. A true Hindu will follow his/her 'Dharma', but will not seek political mileage in name of religion"**

— K T RAMA RAO, BRS working president



nance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao over the past decade. He said Chandrashekhar Rao's initiatives in Telangana benefited numerous families through welfare schemes. He challenged BJP's candidate Etala Rajender to name Modi's

contributions to Malkajgiri constituency.

"The slogan 'Jai Sri Ram' will not ensure our livelihood. We too are Hindus and give slogan of 'Jai Sri Ram,'" he said, urging voters to demand accountability from BJP regarding development projects in the constituency. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Vistara cancels 50 flights, DGCA seeks daily report

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked Vistara to submit a daily report on flight cancellations and delays as the Tata group airline cancelled more than 50 flights for the second straight day on Tuesday amid non-availability of pilots.

The Civil Aviation Ministry is also monitoring the situation of flight cancellations at Vistara, which saw resignations of at least 15 senior first officers in the re-

cent past. The airline cancelled over 50 flights on Tuesday, according to a source. As per the summer schedule, which started from March 31, the airline is to operate a little over 300 flights daily. It has around 800 pilots. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday said in view of various flight disruptions of Vistara, it has asked the airline to submit daily information and details of flights that are being cancelled and delayed.

## BRS urges State to help ryots

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The BRS demanded that the State government initiate immediate measures to support farmers distressed over their crop loss due to lack of irrigation water supply and unseasonal rains. Accordingly, the main opposition party sought a

compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre towards crop loss, Rs 500 per quintal bonus of paddy in addition to Minimum Support Price, disbursement of Rythu Bharosa investment support and also crop loan waiver upto Rs 2 lakh, as promised by the Congress during the Assembly elections. (SEE PAGES 4, 5)

## April Fool's Day prank goes wrong

INDORE

April Fool's Day prank turned into a tragedy after an 18-year-old student lost his life while pretending to commit suicide by hanging during a video call to a friend at Indore in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at the victim's residence here on Monday and he was identified as Abhishek Raghuvanshi, an official said. April 1 is celebrated as an April Fool's Day with people playing tricks on their friends, family and colleagues. "Raghuvanshi made a video call to one of his friends on Monday with a noose around his neck in order to fool him by faking his suicide. But during this prank, the stool on which he was standing accidentally slipped and he started hanging in the air with the noose tightened around his neck, leading to his death," Additional DCP Rajesh Dandotia said.