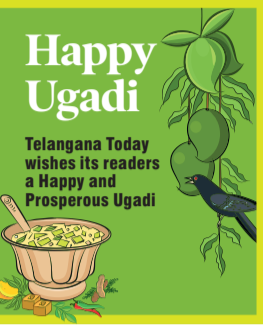


HYDERABAD
Kanti Velugu patients stare at uncertainty as initiative on hold **page 3**

NATION
Congress overlooked needs of poor: PM **page 7**

WORLD
90 dead in ferry disaster as makeshift boat sinks off Mozambique **page 9**



Tenant farmers stare at losses

Worried about crop loss, no Rythu Bharosa

S SANDEEP KUMAR
 HYDERABAD

There was a time when the farmer was king in Telangana. Those days appear to have become a thing of the past, with not just regular farmers but even tenant farmers now in dire straits in the State.

Even as farmers in several districts are fighting severe shortage of water and damages caused by unseasonal rains, about 20 lakh tenant farmers in Telangana are facing an uncertain future after having invested heavily in cultivation. It is not just the loss of crops but also mounting debts that are giving them sleepless nights.

Many of the tenant farmers, who were happy after the Congress government promised to include them in the Rythu Bharosa scheme, were now staring at losses, with no word of assurance or help from the State government. Shankar, a tenant farmer, had taken 10 acres on lease in Irukulla village under the Karimnagar rural mandal. The deal was to pay Rs 20,000 as lease amount

In dire straits

TELANGANA HAS ABOUT 20 LAKH TENANT FARMERS

- They take land on lease for cultivation from landowners
- Lease amounts are apart from cultivation expenses
- Tenant farmers were expecting assistance under Rythu Bharosa
- They are now battling water shortage, unseasonal rains, drying crops
- State government is yet to hear out their issues

Deals are struck for lease amounts of **Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000** per acre

per acre to the landowner. Having reaped good profits last year, Shankar raised paddy in the fields, investing nearly Rs 40,000 per acre. However, this season, the crop in all 10 acres has withered due to insufficient water supply. This has resulted in heavy loss, he says. "Apart from the investment of Rs 40,000, I have to pay Rs 20,000 per acre as lease to the owner. Given the poor yield, how can I pay the lease to the landowner, who is demanding the payment before harvesting the crops?" he asks.

Similar is the situation of M Reddy, another farmer in the neighbouring Jubilee Nagar village.

"I took four acres on lease. Hoping that the government would offer financial assistance under Rythu Bharosa, I raised paddy but it has turned out to be a futile exercise," he says. "Leave aside Rythu Bharosa, the government has failed to supply water this season. Had the government made any prior announcement, I would not have cultivated paddy this season," he says. (SEE PAGE 2)

Tradition continues



SMALL JOYS: Children carry toys during the Kandhei Melan procession at Bhagabanpur village in Bhubaneswar on Monday. A decades-old event, Kandhei Melan draws huge crowds every year, wherein children decorate their toys, place them in palanquins along with idols of deities and take out a procession. — Photo: ANI

NATION | PAGE 08
'Joint culture in forces'

WORLD | PAGE 09

Trump on abortion
 Declines to back ban, says it should be left to States



SPORT | PAGE 10
SRH run into shaky Kings



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12
Bunny turns 42
 Celebs wish Pushpa star on his birthday



Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Tuesday 6:36 PM
 Saher Wednesday 4:40 AM

Hyd cab drivers launch 'No AC' campaign

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) on Monday announced the launch of a 'No AC' campaign in response to the challenges being faced by drivers working with Uber, Ola and Rapido. The campaign urges customers of Hyderabad to understand the financial challenges faced by cab drivers and consider tipping them generously if they wish to use AC during rides.

Shaik Salauddin, founder-president of TGPWU, highlighted the inability of drivers to switch on the air conditioning (AC) in cabs due to diminishing per-km fares. "Operating the AC significantly raises fuel and maintenance costs, which are estimated at Rs 16-18 per km. After factoring in commissions to Uber, Ola and Rapido, drivers earn around Rs 10 per km. This financial strain has led to a decline in the quality of rides offered," Salauddin said.

The TGPWU has called upon the State government



PASSENGERS URGED TO UNDERSTAND FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FACED BY CAB DRIVERS AND CONSIDER TIPPING THEM IF THEY WISH TO USE AC

to implement uniform fares per kilometer for all app-based taxis and ensure platform companies' compliance with government regulations.

The union highlighted that while inconvenience is not their intention, the lack of response to their requests has left them with no choice but to launch this campaign. If their demands are not met, the TGPWU has warned of potential nationwide action.

Kavitha denied interim bail

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Delhi Rouse Avenue court has denied interim bail to BRS MLC K Kavitha in connection with the money laundering case registered against her by the ED.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja dismissed the plea on Monday, saying the "stage was not right to enlarge her on interim bail". Her main bail plea has been posted for hearing on April 20. Kavitha, who is currently in judicial custody, sought interim bail pleading to the court. (SEE PAGE 2)

Boy found dead in car

STATE BUREAU
 Nizamabad

A six-year-old boy, who went missing two days ago, was found dead in a car in Rakasipet of Bodhan town on Monday.

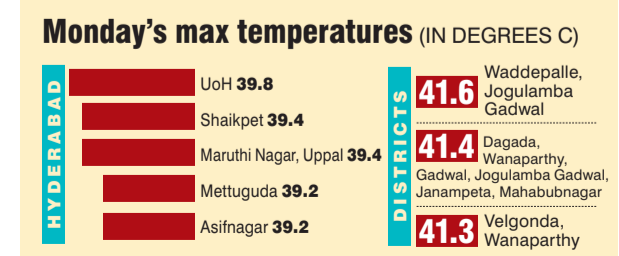
According to reports, the boy got inside the car parked on the roadside and the owner locked the vehicle without noticing him. The police suspect that the boy might have died of suffocation and heat after being trapped inside the car. Police have registered a case.

Relief from scorching heat

SOWMYA SANGAM
 Hyderabad

After braving scorching temperatures for 12 days, Monday brought a slight reprieve for Hyderabad as maximum temperatures across most areas dropped below 40°C. But the high humidity levels left people perspiring despite the relatively lower temperatures.

While some districts in the State experienced intense heat, the situation was notably less severe com-



pared to the previous days. Waddpalle in Jogulamba Gadwal district recorded the highest temperature on Monday at 41.6°C. As for

Tuesday, a yellow alert has been issued, indicating the possibility of thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds. (SEE PAGE 2)

ED questions Kejriwal's PA, AAP MLA

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday questioned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar and AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak in the excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said. Their statement is being recorded under the

provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. Both have been questioned in this case earlier too by the ED.

Sources said Kumar's questioning was essential in connection with the engagements of Kejriwal. The agency had alleged in its earlier charge sheets that at least 36 accused, including

former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Kumar, "destroyed, used or changed" 170 phones to conceal evidence of "kickbacks" worth thousands of crores in the alleged scam.

The IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) of Bibhav's mobile number is stated to have been changed four times between

September 2021 and July 2022, according to the ED charge sheet filed before a local court last year.

Pathak, AAP MLA from Rajinder Nagar, is understood to have been called by the agency for questioning in connection with the party's 2021-22 poll campaign for the Goa Assembly polls. (SEE PAGES 2, 8)

Light up your Ugadi! celebrations!

Book your Honda with exciting benefits.

<p>Honda Amaze Benefits up to ₹83 000*</p>	<p>Honda City e:HEV Benefits up to ₹65 000*</p>	<p>Honda Elevate Limited-period Celebration Offer up to ₹19 000*</p>	<p>Honda City Benefits up to ₹71 500*</p>
--	---	--	---

Models available through GeM & CSD. T&C Apply. For more information contact your nearest Honda dealership today.

Intelligent ADAS Technology

10 YEAR ANYTIME WARRANTY

3 Year / 100,000 Kilometers Standard Warranty

3 Year / 100,000 Kilometers Extended Warranty

8 YEAR WARRANTY LITHIUM ION BATTERY

*Terms and conditions applicable. Benefits available for limited period on select model, edition and in select cities. Stock without benefits is also available. Images and depictions shown above are computer generated / enhanced for illustrative and representational purpose only. Actual colour, feature and any other specification as shown may not be part of standard fitment and may differ from actual product. Appearance of black shade on glass of vehicle is due to lighting effect. All colours, features and specifications are grade specific and subject to change without prior notice. **Standard warranty on lithium-ion battery is 8 years / 160,000 kms (whichever is earlier from the date of first sale of new car). **10 year Anytime Warranty is extendable up to the maximum age of 10 years / 1,20,000 kilometers by renewing every year and is applicable from the date of purchase of car. *Honda SENSING is Honda's exclusive Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) and available in select models / variants only. Honda SENSING cannot substitute human acumen and vigilance. Honda Cars India Limited urges drivers to follow traffic rules which are meant to keep them safe on roads. For more information, please visit our authorized Honda car dealership or www.hondacarindia.com. For corporate sales enquiry please write to corporatesales@hondacarindia.com.

Metro Honda Bowenpally 95814 56800	Pride Honda Banjara Hills 76718 11445	Sundaram Honda Ranigunj 91213 18881	Green Honda LB Nagar 77990 19401
---	--	--	---