



HYDERABAD

Hyderabad among top 10 fastest-growing cities **page 3**

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'Undeclared emergency in country' **page 7**

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IAF's 'dark night airlift' rescues injured Army jawan **page 8**



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AAP fears Prez rule in Delhi



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Rising tensions
 Israel vows to hit back if attacked by Iran



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Rohit eyes 2027 ODI WC



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Return to B'wood
 Nidhi is all set to be seen in Dunk - Once Bitten...



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 146
Retail live	Rs. 168
With skin	Rs. 244
Skinless	Rs. 277
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 511

LS polls will witness hung verdict: KTR

Says BRS will play vital role in national politics

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the party will play a vital role in national politics with none of the national alliance parties securing a majority in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. He said neither the NDA alliance nor the I.N.D.I.A bloc are poised to get a complete majority and by winning a significant number of MP seats in Telangana, the BRS will become a decisive force at the Centre.

"There will be a hung Parliament. Neither the NDA nor the I.N.D.I.A bloc will achieve a clear-cut majority. If we win at least 10-12 seats, we will play a vital role in national politics," he said while addressing the party cadre meeting of the Bhongir parliamentary constituency at Ibrahimpatnam on Friday.

Rama Rao slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his utter failure to control the rising inflation that caused chaos in the lives of the people of the country. He pointed out that the LPG cylinder price skyrocketed from Rs 400 to Rs 1,200 under the BJP government. He said the Prime Minister and other BJP leaders only chant the name of

“The Prime Minister and other BJP leaders only chant the name of Lord Ram for votes but made zero contribution to the development of Telangana

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president



Lord Ram for votes but made zero contribution to the development of Telangana. He reminded that though former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao developed the Yadadri temple, he never misused it for political mileage. "Narendra Modi did nothing for Telangana. Neither did he sanction a Navodaya school nor a medical college. He also refused to purchase 3.5 crore tonnes of paddy produced by farmers

of Telangana, while his Cabinet Minister Piyush Goyal advised us to eat broken rice," he recalled.

Rama Rao reminded that the BJP-led Central government took away five mandals of erstwhile Khammam district and IT Investment Region, besides denying national project status for Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and Steel Plant at Bayyaram and other institutions promised under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

Dubbing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy a 'Mic Veerudu' for his rhetoric, the BRS working president said the former made false promises and cheated the people of Telangana. He said the Chief Minister lacked basic skills to run the State which was efficiently developed under the K Chandrashekhara Rao government. He stated that due to the inept administration of Congress government, all sectors including real estate in the State got ruined. "Revanth said that he was a synonym for real estate, but Cairnes went to Gujarat. We have no idea about the fate of Foxconn. We made all arrangements for the establishment of the Pharma City, but Revanth stalled it," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Myanmar on edge, India relocates staff



ON GUARD: Lightning illuminates the sky behind the gunner on a Thai military armoured vehicle, as he keeps watch along the Moei river, under the 2nd Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Mae Sot on Friday. (REPORT PAGE 8)

Healthcare under Modi govt fared poorly: Report

Says govt failed to deliver quality services

M SAI GOPAL
 Hyderabad

In a scathing attack, the premier medical science journal, The Lancet, on Friday criticised the Modi government for poor handling and the sorry state of affairs of public healthcare in India.

The science journal censured the Centre for failing to deliver quality healthcare services to people most in need. "Healthcare under Modi has fared poorly, as described in this week's World Report. Overall, gov-

ernment spending on health has fallen and now hovers around an abysmal 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product, out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare remains extremely high, and flagship initiatives on primary healthcare and universal health coverage have so far failed to deliver services to people most in need."

Titled 'India's elections: Why data transparency matter', The Lancet highlighted the Centre's reluctance to conduct major surveys that measure critical

healthcare indicators and provide accurate and up-to-date data, which is essential for health policy, planning and management.

"The collection and publication of such data in India have undergone serious setbacks. The 2021 census was delayed due to Covid, and for the first time in 150 years, a whole decade has gone by with no official comprehensive data on India or its people. The census is also the basis for all national and state-level health surveys," it said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Don't travel to Israel, Iran, MEA to Indians

NEW DELHI

India asked its citizens not to travel to Iran or Israel amid escalating tensions between the two countries following a strike on the Iranian consulate in Syria 11 days ago. Iran blamed Israel for the strike and there have been fears that Tehran may launch an attack on Israel soon.

In an advisory, the MEA also urged the Indians residing in Iran and Israel to exercise utmost precautions about their safety and restrict their movements to minimum. "All Indians are advised not to travel to Iran or Israel till further notice," it said. PTI

"Even Ambedkar can't abolish Constitution"

JAIPUR

Amid opposition charges that the BJP was out to destroy the Constitution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that his government revered it and even B a b a s a h e b Ambedkar would not be able to abolish it now.

He alleged that the Congress was standing with anti-national forces and hit out at the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc for "trying to weaken" the country. The rally was organised in support of BJP candidate and union Minister of State Kailash Chaudhary who is

contesting from the Barmer Lok Sabha seat.

"The Congress, which discriminated against SCs, STs and OBCs for decades, made Babasaheb lose elections, did not give him Bharat Ratna, and tried to abolish the Constitution by imposing emergency in the country, is today taking cover of the

Constitution to abuse Modi," he said. "The I.N.D.I.A bloc is telling lies in the name of the Constitution," he added.

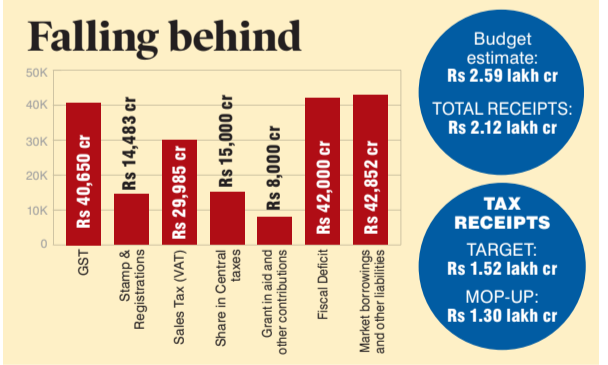
Modi said his government came up with the idea of celebrating Constitution Day, which was opposed by the Congress. PTI

Telangana grapples with revenue shortfall

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The State government was confronted with a substantial revenue shortfall during the 2023-24 financial year. In a bid to mitigate the financial strain, the authorities have directed all departments to ramp up revenue collection efforts significantly in new financial year.

The fiscal year 2023-24 concluded with tax revenue falling short of the targets outlined in the Budget. According to the Finance Department sources, Telangana secured Rs 2.12 lakh crore against Budget estimates of Rs 2.59 lakh crore, realising only 80 per cent of its total receipts for the fi-



nanical year of 2023-24. Through tax receipts estimated at Rs 1.52 lakh crore, the officials could mop up Rs 1.3 lakh crore at the end of the fiscal. The final statistics are expected to be released after auditing in May-

June. Despite increased usage of vehicles and alcohol consumption in the months leading up to the elections, tax revenue from fuel and alcohol sales failed to surge as expected. (SEE PAGE 2)

2 held with 'Children Bank of India' notes

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

On the face of it, they look just like regular currency, a Rs 500 note to be precise. However, a closer look reveals the differences. And the most glaring one is instead of the Reserve Bank of India, these ones are from the Children Bank of India! One does come across dummy currency notes that are used for fun playing by children.

However, such dummy prints are also being used by counterfeit currency gangs to cheat gullible people. The Cyberabad SOT along with Mailardevally police arrested two conmen who tried to cheat an eatery by paying notes issued by the 'Children Bank of India'. Officials seized 10 bundles of such notes valued with a face value of Rs 6.6 lakh from them. Gangaraju and Abhinandan, residents of Punganur of Chittoor, allegedly were cheating people by keeping fake notes among the original Rs 500 currency notes and exchanging them. (SEE PAGE 2)



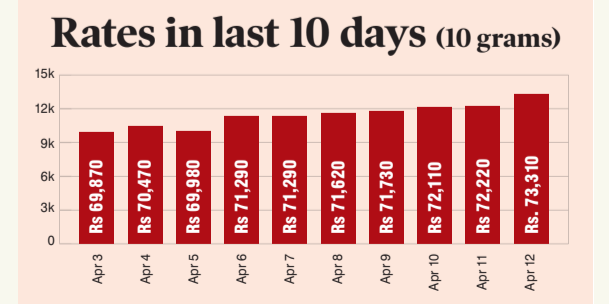
(Top) Rs 500 fake note with 'Children Bank of India' (below) original currency.

Gold glitters at record high of Rs 73,310

SOWMYA SANGAM
 Hyderabad

Amidst the surge in gold prices, experts in the city have stressed the need to stay calm. With the surge being too fast, exercising patience before making substantial purchases is what is being advised.

"The price rise is happening too rapidly. It's advisable to exercise patience before making substantial purchases," said Praveen Kumar, the secretary of the Twin Cities Jewellers Association.



The rise in gold prices had continued its upward trajectory, reaching a peak on Friday. The price of 24-carat gold per 10 grams soared to an un-

precedented Rs 73,310 in retail markets across the city. This surge reflects a global trend, with gold prices witnessing a steady rise across international

markets. In just a month in Hyderabad, the price of 24-carat gold per 10 grams escalated from Rs 66,260 on March 12 to the current record high of Rs 73,310 on April 12, according to industry reports.

Kumar points out that there would be a correction for sure, but the extent of the correction remains uncertain. "This surge has made gold a more expensive investment for the future, with Rs 68,000 now becoming a benchmark for hesitant buyers," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

2 held in B'luru cafe blast case

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency on Friday arrested two accused, including the mastermind, in Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast case, officials said. Mussavir Hussain Shazib and Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa were traced to their hideout near Kolkata and apprehended by an NIA team, they said.

Shazib was the one who placed the IED at the cafe and Taahaa was the mastermind behind the planning and execution of the blast, the officials said. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 7)

BRS names Sudhir Kumar for Warangal LS seat

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao announced Dr Marepalli Sudhir Kumar as the party candidate from Warangal constituency in the ensuing

Lok Sabha elections. Sudhir Kumar, a native of Hanamkonda district, is currently serving as the Zilla Parishad chairman. Sudhir Kumar, a loyal party activist, hails from the Madiga community. (SEE PAGE 2)

