

STATE

Ambitious crop loan waiver plan may hit roadblock page 5

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'I.N.D.I.A bloc will disintegrate after June 4' page 7

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Sandeshkhali woman lodges complaint, alleges abduction bid page 8

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Jagan confident of huge victory



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Xi, Putin hail ties

Say Russia-China relations stabilising factor for world



BRS takes to streets for paddy farmers

Demands Rs 500 bonus per quintal as promised by Cong during Assembly polls

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Protests erupted across Telangana with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) taking to the streets and staging blockades, demanding that the State government pay a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal to farmers for paddy, irrespective of varieties, as promised by the Congress during the Assembly polls.

The BRS cadre staged demonstrations in all Assembly constituencies following a call given by party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrabablu Naidu. Protesters, led by serving and former elected representatives, including MLAs and MLAs of the BRS, blocked roads and raised slogans against the anti-farmer decisions of the Congress government.

They highlighted its failure to procure paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and alleged that the Congress came to power by making promises but took



BRS cadre block a road during the State-wide protest, in Mahabubnagar on Thursday.

U-turn by giving the bonus to only fine-rice varieties.

Former Ministers P Sabitha Indra Reddy, Ch Malla Reddy, S Niranjani Reddy, G Jagadish Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar and others participated in the protests along with the party cadre and farmers. They wore black badges and took

part in rallies in several places. The BRS legislators said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was betraying farmers by restricting the bonus to only fine-rice varieties. They demanded that the government procure paddy at MSP and also pay a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for both fine- and coarse-rice

varieties. "Due to the delay in paddy procurement, unseasonal rains damaged harvested crops in several places. The State government must compensate by procuring the soaked paddy and accept it notwithstanding the humidity levels," they said. Later, they submitted representations to

the local revenue and agriculture officials.

Chandrabablu Naidu flayed the Congress government for reneging on its promise to provide a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal to all paddy farmers. He slammed the Chief Minister for taking a U-turn and making the bonus applicable to only fine-rice varieties, betraying farmers' trust.

Criticising the Congress for exploiting farmers for political gains, he said 90 per cent of farmers in Telangana cultivate coarse rice during Yasangi. "If this restriction had been announced before the elections, people would have taught the Congress a lesson. Now that the elections are over, the Congress has returned to its deceitful ways," he said. The BRS demanded that the government expedite procurement and initiate measures to procure paddy without removing wastage of 3-3.5 kg per quintal, to ensure justice to farmers for their produce.

Bail for Kejri: No exception made, says SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday steered clear of the political talk about it having made an exception for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in granting him interim bail for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls but said "critical analysis of the judgement is welcome".

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta refused to consider claims and counterclaims by advocates for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Kejriwal on statements related to the grant of interim bail to the AAP national convener. "We have not made any exception for anybody. We said in our order what we felt was justified," it said.

Appearing for the ED, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta objected to Kejriwal's speeches in poll rallies that if people voted for AAP, he would not have to go back to prison on June 2. "It is his assumption, we cannot say anything," the Bench told Mehta. It added, "Our order is very clear about when he has to sur-

ED to file prosecution complaint

NEW DELHI: The ED on Thursday told the SC it will soon file a prosecution complaint against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP in the money laundering case. Appearing for the ED, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju told a Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, "We are proposing to file the prosecution complaint (charge sheet) against Kejriwal and AAP. We will do it shortly. It is in the pipeline." PTI

render. It is the order of the Supreme Court. The rule of law shall be governed by this order." Mehta alleged that Kejriwal violated the bail condition by his assertion. "What is he trying to imply? It is like a slap on the institution," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Downpour wreaks havoc in State



A woman motorist wades through knee-deep water after passersby helped her with her two-wheeler, which got stuck on a flooded road in Himayatnagar, after heavy rain lashed Hyderabad on Thursday. —Photo: Anand Dharmana

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

After a short gap, rains lashed several parts of Telangana on Thursday evening, resulting in considerable respite from the sweltering heat.

While two persons were struck dead by lightning in Rajanna-Sircilla district, large trees were uprooted at

different places due to strong winds. Widespread crop damage was also reported in several areas, apart from disruption in power supply and other rain-related damage.

Apart from Hyderabad, rains were reported in Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Siddipet, Rajanna Sircilla and other districts. Exclud-

ing the State capital, among all districts, Medchal-Malkajgiri recorded the highest rainfall of 28.3 mm till 7 pm, followed by Rangareddy, which received 11.7 mm and Mahabubnagar 11.1 mm.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to stay alert and ensure there was no inconvenience to people. (SEE PAGE 2)

Heavy rains drench Hyd

HYDERABAD: A massive downpour accompanied by thunderstorms lashed Hyderabad, causing widespread flooding and disruption across the city. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Hyd eateries found selling expired food

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Task Force team conducted inspections at multiple food establishments in Jubilee Hills on Wednesday and found violations ranging from expired food products to storing meat and vegetarian products together.

At 36 Downton Brew Pub in Jubilee Hills, expired

food articles such as Sneha Chicken, Done's Button Mushroom, Hoisin Sauce and Knorr Chicken Saucing Powder worth Rs 4,000 were discarded.

Semi-prepared food articles, which were stored inside refrigerator without proper labels, were also found in the bar's kitchen. Further, dustbins were found open without lids and there were no medical fitness certificates for food handlers. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Side effects seen in 30% Covaxin takers'

NEW DELHI

Nearly one-third of the individuals, who received Bharat Biotech's anti-Covid vaccine Covaxin, reported "adverse events of special interest" (AESI), according to a one-year follow-up study conducted by a team of researchers at BHU.

Nearly 50 per cent of 926 participants in the study complained of infections during the follow-up period, predominated by viral

upper respiratory tract infections. Serious AESI, which included stroke and Guillain-Barre syndrome, was reported in one per cent of individuals, the study, which looked at the long-term safety of the BBV152 vaccine in adolescents and adults, claimed.

Meanwhile, Bharat Biotech, in a statement, said several studies on Covaxin have demonstrated an excellent safety track record. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

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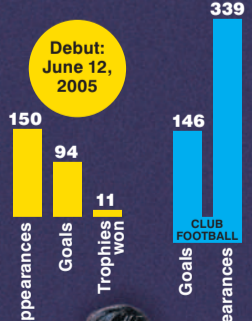
MI, LSG aim to end IPL with win



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Farm | Rs. 144 |
| Retail live | Rs. 166 |
| With skin | Rs. 241 |
| Skinless | Rs. 274 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs) | Rs. 72 |

Chhetri to retire



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