/TelanganaToday

Friday, May 24, 2024 Price Rs. 6 HYDERABAD EDITION



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02 Telangana sees rapid decline in

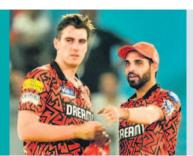


WORLD | PAGE 09

China launches 'punishment' drills surrounding Taiwan

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

Move in retaliation to self-ruled island's new President's pro-independence speech



SPORT | PAGE 10

Sunrisers, Royals to battle it out for place in finals

In a nutshell

Gowda 'warns' **Prajwal to return** BENGALURU: JD(S)

patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Thursday issued a 'stern warning' to his grandson and suspended party MP Prajwal Revanna, asking him to return and face a probe into sexual abuse allegations. He asserted that there will be no interference from him or the family in the inquiry.

4 workers buried alive in J'khand

LOHARDAGA: At least four labourers, including a woman, were buried alive while digging a well in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district on Thursday, police said. The incident took place around 11 am at Chitri Ambatoli village under the Senha police station area, around 80 km from the State capital Ranchi, when the workers were digging a well under an MGNREGA project, a senior officer said. PTI

3 B'luru hotels, LSR get bomb threats

BENGALURU/DELHI: Three five-star hotels in Bengaluru and Lady Sri Ram College (LSR) in Delhi received bomb threats on Thursday. The hotels reportedly received the threat via email, leading to exhaustive search operations. It later turned out to be a hoax. Additionally, Delhi University's LSR College received a bomb threat. Officials said they found nothing suspicious yet. PTI

Absconding AP MLA moves HC

AMARAVATI: YSRCP legislator Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, whom police are searching for after he was caught on camera smashing an EVM inside a polling booth in AP, has approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail. The MLA from Macherla Assembly constituency in Palnadu district filed a petition before the AP High Court through his lawyer. Reddy is the accused No. 1 in the case. NATION PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs.	140
Retail live	Rs.	162
With skin	Rs.	235
Skinless	Rs.	267
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs.	72

BRS leader axed to death in his sleep

Found murdered outside home; KTR wants Jupally out of Cabinet



BRS working president KT Rama Rao consoles the bereaved family of slain party leader Boddu Sridhar Reddy in Wanaparthy.

STATE BUREAU WANAPARTHY

In yet another political murder in Telangana, a 50-yearold BRS leader was axed to death by unidentified persons outside his house at Laxmipally village in Chinnambavi mandal of Wanaparthy district.

The incident occurred early on Thursday, when the victim, Boddu Sridhar Reddy, was sleeping outside his house. He died on the spot and was found dead by the local people in the morning. Sridhar Reddy was a bachelor and used to live with his elderly parents, while his brothers work in

Though the local people are tightlipped over the reasons behind the murder, indications are that it was po-

Recent attacks on BRS cadre

Army jawan and BRS acti Ch Mallesh murdered at Gantraopalli village in Peddakothapalli mandal, Nagarkurnool district

O JAN 1, 2024: BRS activist
Mahesh attacked by local
sarpanch and Congress leader
Joola Narsaiah and followers at
Komatipalli village in Jajigudem
mandal, Suryapet

MARCH 13: Group of women led by a Congress leader attacks BRS corporator Dedeepya Rao in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad APRIL 9: BRS activists attacked with sticks and knives by Congress cadre at Pandithapuram in Kamepally mandal, Khammam

Wanaparthy district limits, is, however, part of the Kollapur Assembly con-stituency limits. Sridhar Reddy was a close aide of

former BRS MLA Beeram

litically motivated. The vil- Harshavardhan Reddy. The brutai murder triggered an immediate reaction from the BRS, with working president KT Rama Rao rushing to Laxmipally to meet the bereaved family.

MAD LIBHS leader Shankar Goud attacked by Congress leaders Siva Kumar and Srinivas during May Day celebrations in Begumpet village of Peddapalli district

O MAY 13: Multiple attacks by Congress on BRS cadre on election duty during Lok Sabha polling in Nakrekal Assembly constituency, Nagaram village of Hanamkonda district, Allapadu

ally village in Sangareddy

'Land dispute. money matters behind murder'

HYDERABAD: Countering the BRS, which on Thursday said Minister Jupally Krishna Rao was involved in the murder of BRS leader B Sridhar Reddy at Lakshmipally village in Kollapur constituency, the Minister claimed that land disputes and financial matters were the reasons behind the crime.

"The murder was ences, but BRS was trying to project it as a politically instigated murder," he said in a statement. (SEE PAGE 2)

Cong creating confusion over paddy bonus?

Contradictory statements leave ryots puzzled

STATE BUREAU

When it comes to dissonance, none can beat the Congress.

And the controversy over the bonus of Rs 500 per quintal of paddy, promised by the Congress during the recent election campaigns, has led to a classic situation for the party's leaders, from the Chief Minister to his Cabicolleagues, prove this.

Contradictory and confusing statements from them show that they are masters at the art of confusing the public — in this case, farmers. Whether this is a purposeful jugglery of words to confuse people or whether the Congress government is actually not certain on what variety of rice will get the bonus, remains unknown.

It all started with the Congress manifesto ahead of the Assembly elections, when it promised in clear terms, to quote from the manifesto document, "a bonus of Rs 500 for paddy per quintal" as part Rythu Bharosa. There was no mention of any paddy variety.

(RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)



BRS leader T Harish Rao at a paddy procurement centre in Pudur of Kodimyal mandal, Jagtial district, on Thursday

Harish slams government for shoddy procurement process

STATE BUREAU

Senior BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao sharply criticised the Congress government and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for the shoddy handling of the paddy procurement

During a surprise visit to a paddy procurement cen-tre at Pudur in Kodimyal mandal of Jagtial district on Thursday, Harish interacted with farmers and heard their grievances. Sharing their experiences, farmers informed him that

they brought their paddy to the procurement centre a month ago but were made to wait as officials refused to purchase their yield. They said rain damaged their stocks, causing huge losses.

Many of the farmers were waiting for weeks, some for as long as 40 days, to sell their produce. Vexed with the government's apathy, some of them were forced to sell their crop to middlemen and traders for lower prices, they told the former Minister. Harish said farmers were facing serious difficulties at procurement cen-

7 naxals killed in encounter

NARAYANPUR

Seven naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in a forest along the Narayanpur-Bijapur inter-district border in Chhattisgarh on Thursday,

The gunfight broke out around 11 am when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-naxal operation and intermittent firing was still under way,

Narayanpur Superintendent of Police (SP) Prabhat Kumar said. Seven naxalites,

"Maoist uniform", have been gunned down in the exchange of fire so far, said the SP. The operation, inersonnel belong ing to the District Reserve Guard from Dantewada, Narayanpur and Bastar districts, Bastar Fighters and Special Task Force — all units of State Police — was launched based on inputs about the presence of cadres from Maoists' Indravati Area Committee and Platoon No. 16, he said.

Altogether seven firearms have been recovered from the encounter site, he said. The operation is still unde way and further details were awaited, he added.

With this incident, 112 naxalites have been killed so far this year in separate en-

8 dead, 60 injured in Thane factory blast

As many as eight persons were killed and over 60 others injured following an explosion at a chemical facin Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday afternoon, officials said.

As a boiler exploded at Amudan Chemicals located in Phase 2 of the Dombivli MIDC area around 1.40 pm, the impact of the explosion and the resultant blaze affected adjacent factories and houses, they said. The factory produces food colours and uses peroxides that are highly reactive and unstable chemicals, the National Disaster Response Force said.

The blast was so loud that it was heard a kilometre away, an eyewitness said. Six men and two women were killed but their bodies were charred beyond recognition, said an official. Those killed were working in neighbouring factories. PTI

AP student dies in NY accident

NEW YORK

An Indian student died after he met with a bike accident in New York. Shri Belem Atchyuth from Andhra Pradesh was a student at The State University of New York and passed away in a bike accident on Wednesday.

"Saddened to learn about the untimely demise of Shri Belem Atchyuth," the Consulate General of India said on X. The Consulate is in touch with the "bereaved family & local agencies". PTI

MAHENDRAGARH/PATIALA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday claimed that the I.N.D.I.A bloc is

talking about having five PMs over the next five years and said the fight over 'ghee' has broken out in the alliance, even before the cow has given milk.

Hours before campaigning for the sixth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls came to an end, Modi at a rally in Haryana's Mahendragarh asserted that till he is alive, no one can snatch

Woman's novel protest to fix potholes

Till I am alive, no one can snatch quota for Dalits and tribals... This election, you will not only choose the PM but also decide the country's future — NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

'I.N.D.I.A plans to have 5 PMs in 5 yrs'

the reservation for Dalits and tribals. In this election, "you will not only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future", the Prime Minister told the gathering. "On one hand is your tried and tested 'sevak' Modi. Who is on the other

side, one does not know," he said, targeting the I.N.D.I.A bloc that has as its constituents opposition parties, including the Congress, AAP, TMC and DMK.

The I.N.D.IA bloc is "extremely communal, casteist and nepotist", he said.

Calls Mann 'kagzi CM' Meanwhile, Modi launched

a fierce attack on ruling AAP in Punjab, saying that drug trade is flourishing in the State and the government is in debt. Addressing his first election rally in the State for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, he said Punjab has given leadership to the country in various sectors — from agriculture to industry. He then attacked the AAP, saying industries are now leaving Punjab while drug trade is growing. PTI

Triple amputee climbs Mt Everest base camp

Tinkesh Kaushik, a 30-yearold man from Goa, has become the world's first triple amputee to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp located 17,598 feet above sea level, a private disability rights body has claimed.

Kaushik, who completed the challenging Everest Base Camp journey on May 11, said despite his physical disabilities, he managed to achieve the feat due to his mental strength.

The man lost his both limbs below knees and a hand following an electrocution accident in Haryana when he was 9 years old. The amputee, who uses

prosthetic limbs, moved to Goa a few years back and has been working as a fitness coach. Kaushik has made Goa proud with his achievements, Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) chief Avelino D'Souza said.

On the occasion, Kaushik said he initially thought the trek would be easy as he is a fitness coach but realised the challenges when he started preparing for it. "I did not have any prior experience in mountaineering. I prepared for that before going for the base camp. I am a fitness coach by profession and thought it will be an easy trek for me," he said. PTI

CITY BUREAU

Frustrated with the substandard state of roads along the Nagole and Uppal stretch in the city, a woman on Thursday registered her protest by sitting in a waterlogged pothole. Grabbing eyeballs both on the road and online, she demanded that the roads be repaired

immediately. Videos of the incident went viral on social media platforms, which showed traffic police constables persuading her to cease her demonstration. However, soon others joined her with placards that read: 'We want safe roads. Don't you?'

Maintaining that the protest did not hinder the

Circle Inspector said the unidentified woman was there for less than five minutes. "She staged the protest for a short time and we have no details of her identity. We suspect her to be a local resident," he added.

Speaking to media soon after, the woman lamented that her children fell into those potholes a couple of times. "This is not just today, we face this problem every day. I have counted; there are 30 potholes on this road. We just want this fixed," she said, adding that she spoke to the Commissioner, who told her that a budget was allocated. She asked for a timeline for when the work would be completed.



The woman registering her protest by sitting in a waterlogged pothole at Nagole in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Rave party: Actors test +ve for drugs

Telugu actors Hema and Ashi Roy's blood samples have tested positive for the consumption of drugs at a rave party in Bengaluru.

The rave party bust happened near Electronics City in Bengaluru. The blood samples of the attendees at the busted rave party were sent to a laboratory for testing, as per Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda.

The blood samples of 59 men tested positive for drugs, while those of 27 women tested positive. Both Hema and Roy were present at the party. Hema, who was detained by cops,



and Ashi Rov.

used the excuse of going to the washroom to record a misleading video. She reportedly pleaded with police not to arrest her and keep her identity concealed.

The rave party case, which was initially handled by the Electronic City Police, was transferred to the Hebbagodi police station before being taken over by Central Crime Branch. IANS