



NATION | PAGE 08
Cyclone Remal:
 Over 1 lakh
 evacuated in
 West Bengal



WORLD | PAGE 09
Hamas claims capture of Israeli soldiers
 Israel denies; police fight with protestors demanding return of hostages



SPORT | PAGE 11
Sindhu loses to Wang Zhi Yi in Malaysia Masters final

In a nutshell
12 injured in turbulence
LONDON: Twelve people were injured when a Qatar Airways plane flying from Doha to Dublin on Sunday hit turbulence, airport authorities said. Eight of the injured were hospitalised. Dublin Airport said in a statement that flight QR017, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, landed safely as scheduled before 1 p.m. (1200 GMT). The airport said all passengers were assessed for injuries aboard the plane. AP

Army Chief's tenure extended
NEW DELHI: The government on Sunday extended the tenure of Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande for a period of one month. Gen Pande was to retire from service on May 31. Gen Pande was commissioned in December 1982 in the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers). He held the post of Vice Chief of the Army Staff before taking over the reins of the 1.2 million-strong force in April 2022. PTI

"Block incoming Int'l spoofed calls"
NEW DELHI: The government has directed telecom operators to block all incoming international spoofed calls that display Indian mobile numbers, an official statement said on Sunday. The Department of Telecom (DoT) said that it has been reported that fraudsters are making international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers to Indian citizens and committing cyber-crime and financial frauds. PTI

MLC bypoll today, results on June 5
HYDERABAD: Political parties in Telangana are gearing up for a fierce battle in the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduates constituency bypoll set to take place on Monday. The results of this crucial election will be announced on June 5. A total of 52 candidates are contesting, but the main competition is between the ruling Congress, the BRS and the BJP. STATE PAGE 5

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 125
Retail live.....	Rs. 147
With skin.....	Rs. 213
Skinless.....	Rs. 243
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 69



Triple treat for India at Cannes
 Best year yet for Indian filmmakers with three wins at the 77th edition

'Cong involved in Rs 1,100 cr rice scams'

Probe paddy sales, fine rice purchases: KTR

STATE BUREAU HYDERABAD
 BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday demanded a probe into scams worth over Rs 1,100 crore involving the Congress government, pertaining to paddy sales and fine rice purchases in Telangana. He wanted the State government to immediately cancel the tenders and initiate strict action against the companies involved, besides seeking an investigation by central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and Vigilance Department into the scams.

He said Congress leaders, who were collecting bribes from people from various sectors, had raised the curtains for the massive scam involving the Chief Minister's Office and senior Congress leaders from Delhi. He stated that despite the BRS exposing the scandal about 15 days ago, there was no response from either Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy or Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy in this regard.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan here on Sunday, Rama Rao said the first scam involved global tenders for the sale of 35 lakh tonnes of paddy, and the second was the purchase of 2.2 lakh tonnes of fine rice for residential welfare hostels. Both the scams amounted to Rs 1,100 crore. The timeline of the scam was outlined, a committee was appointed on January

“ Congress leaders, collecting bribes from people from various sectors, had raised curtains for the massive scam involving CM's Office and senior party leaders from Delhi

“ Companies are extorting money from rice millers and demanding Rs 2,230 per quintal under the pretense of covering various costs, including payments to Delhi leaders and the party's election expenditure

“ If Revanth Reddy has integrity, he must order an in-depth investigation into these tenders by a sitting judge. If the Centre, FCI, and State government do not respond, we will pursue legal action and also expose their nexus before the people

— **KT RAMA RAO**, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Charges baseless, says Uttam
HYDERABAD: Denying the charges levelled by BRS working president KT Rama Rao and also by the BJP against the Congress government in connection with the auction of procured paddy, Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday claimed that the process was conducted with integrity. (REPORT PAGE 5)

25, and the same day, guidelines were released and tenders were called, indicating corruption. “Though the local rice millers offered to buy paddy at Rs 2,100 per quintal, the eligibility rules were changed, and a conspiracy in the name of global tenders was initiated. Companies such as Kendriya Bhandar, LG Industries, Hindustan Company, and Naqaf won these tenders, quoting prices between Rs 1,885 and Rs 2,007 per quintal, lower than the local price by Rs 93 to Rs 200,” Rama Rao observed. The BRS working president charged these companies of extorting money

7 newborns die in Delhi blaze

Hospital operating illegally with 'expired' licence, owner held

NEW DELHI
 Seven newborns were killed and five injured in a massive fire at a private neonatal hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar that was allegedly operating illegally with an “expired” licence and no clearance from the Fire Department, according to officials. Police said on Sunday they arrested the hospital's owner Dr Naveen Khichi and Dr Aaksh, who was on duty at the time of the incident on Saturday night.

According to a report submitted by the District Magistrate (Shahdara) to the Delhi Divisional Commissioner, there were 12 babies admitted in the hospital at the time of the incident. While one died on the spot, 11 were shifted to a hospital in the vicinity where six were declared dead on arrival. The deceased children included four boys and three girls. All were 15 days old except one boy aged 25 days. The bodies have been shifted to the GTB Hospital for postmortem, the police said. A case has been registered at Vivek Vihar police station under IPC sections 336 (act endangering life and personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence), 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide).



Firefighters dousing the blaze at the New Born Baby Care Hospital in Vivek Vihar, New Delhi. — Photo: ANI

The initial cause of the fire is stated to be a short circuit but a probe is on, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Surendra Choudhary said. The Delhi government has ordered a magisterial probe into the fire tragedy. In an order, Divisional Commissioner Ash-

wani Kumar directed the district magistrate of Shahdara to inquire into the incident. The police said besides an expired licence, the hospital also did not have qualified doctors and had no clearance from the fire department. “The licence issued to the Baby Care New Born Child Hospital by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Government of Delhi, had already expired on March 31. “Even the expired licence issued to the said hospital allowed for five beds only,” DCP Surendra Choudhary said. “During the investigations, we got to know that the doctors are not qualified/competent to treat the newborn children in need of neonatal intensive care, as they are BAMS degree holders only,” said the DCP. The police said that there was no fire extinguisher installed in the hospital for any emergency in case of fire and there was no emergency exit. Officials of the Fire Department said that the hospital did not have a clearance from the department. PTI

DESERVING CHAMPIONS



KKR captain Shreyas Iyer with teammate Venkatesh Iyer celebrate after winning the IPL final against Sunrisers Hyderabad, in Chennai on Sunday. — Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 10)

BJP firm on simultaneous polls, UCC, says Shah

NEW DELHI
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Uniform Civil Code for the entire country will be implemented within the next five years after extensive consultations with all stakeholders if BJP returns to power. In a wide-ranging interview, Shah said the Modi government in its next term will also implement 'One Nation, One Election' as the time has come for the elections to be held simultaneously in the country. The senior BJP leader further said the simultaneous elections will also bring down costs. Asked about the possibility of moving elections to winter or some other time of the year as against the current one being held in scorching heat, Shah said, “We can think over it. If we prepone one election, it can be done. It should be done. This is also the time of students' vacation. It creates lots of problems too. Over time, the election (Lok Sabha) gradually moved to this period (during summer).” Talking about the UCC, he said, “It is a responsibility left to us, our Parliament and State Legislatures since independence by the makers of our Constitution. (SEE PAGE 2)

Rains claim 8 lives across State



A tree which got uprooted following heavy rains and strong winds at Vanasthalipuram in Hyderabad on Sunday.

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad/Nagarkurnool
 Eight people, including a 10-year-old boy, were killed in separate incidents as rains lashed different parts of the State on Sunday. At Indrakal village of Tandur suburb in Nagarkurnool district, four people were killed when an under-construction chicken farm shed collapsed on them. The condition of two others was stated to be critical. According to reports, the under-construction shed,

which had a sheet roof, collapsed due to strong winds that blew on Sunday evening. The owner of the shed, Mallesh, a 10-year-old boy and two labourers lost their lives in the incident. About six labourers were working at the site at the time of the incident. Locals, who noticed the incident, immediately rushed to rescue the people trapped under the shed. However, four of them died on the spot and two others sustained grievous injuries. In another incident, two

persons were killed when a tree fell on them at Keesara on Hyderabad outskirts on Sunday. The incident occurred when Nagireddy Ram Reddy, a farmer, along with his friend Dharma Reddy, were going on a bike from Thimmaipally to Shamirpet. “When they reached Venugopal Swamy Road, a big tree got uprooted due to heavy gales and fell on the duo. They were crushed under the tree and sustained injuries,” said Keesara Sub Inspector U

Medigadda pumping ops likely to resume

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad
 Even as interim works taken up on the Medigadda barrage gained momentum, pumping operations are likely to be resumed to lift water from Godavari well before the completion of these works. Medigadda barrage, an integral component of the Kaleshwaram project, in its present condition may not allow the lifting of water at the designed capacity of two tmc a day. But at least partial restoration of the pumping operation from Medigadda will be made possible by the June end, according to officials. In the event of a normal monsoon in the catchment of Godavari, there would not be any need to lift water from Medigadda. Otherwise, farmers, who were already deprived of water for the Rabi crop, might need water. (SEE PAGE 2)

Transgenders to run fuel outlet

RAGHU PAITHARI Rajanna-Sircilla
 Perhaps the first-of-its-kind in these parts of the country, a fuel station managed by transgender persons will soon begin operations in the district. The Rajanna-Sircilla district administration is making all arrangements to set up the fuel station at the district headquarters. As part of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019, governments are introducing self-employment programmes to provide employment to transgenders, besides issuing identity cards. To provide an opportunity to lead a dignified life, a few transgender persons have already been sanctioned loans with a hundred per cent subsidy to establish different self-employment units. While some of them established photo studios and other units, a few others purchased taxi vehicles. Going a step ahead of such conventional employment units, the district administration came up with the idea of operating a fuel station with transgender persons and prepared proposals in January this year. Besides discussing the project in review meeting held in February, Collector Anurag Jayanthi passed instructions to officials to take steps for the establishment of the fuel station. For this purpose, 10 gun-tas of government land was identified in the second by-pass road in front of the medical college on the outskirts of Sircilla town and was issued a No Objection Certificate. (SEE PAGE 2)