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 'BJP all set to make gains in east and south India'



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
 Israel's military seizes control of key corridor  
 Offensive deepens as corridor runs along length of Gaza side border with Egypt



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
 Last chance for Kohli, Rohit to break the jinx

**In a nutshell**

**Rudra missile flight-tested**  
**BALASORE:** India on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile off the coast of Odisha, defence sources said. The flight test met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control & guidance algorithm, they said. RudraM-II role is to neutralise various types of enemy assets. The missile was flight-tested from the Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force. **PTI**

**India allowed consular access**  
**ISLAMABAD:** Officials from the Indian High Commission in Pakistan met with two Indian nationals, who were arrested on charges of espionage four years ago, at the high-security Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi, media reports said here. Two youths, 29-year-old Feroze Ahmad Lone and 24-year-old Noor Muhammad Wani, both from the Goretz area in Jammu and Kashmir, were arrested in Pok in 2020, reports said. **PTI**

**Two naxals killed in encounter**  
**BIJAPUR:** Two Naxalites, including a woman cadre involved in over a dozen murders and carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, police said. The gunfight took place in the forest of Koranjed-Bandepara villages under Madded police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard was out on an anti-Naxal operation. **PTI**

**16 bulls die of suffocation**  
**SURYAPET:** Sixteen bulls died of suffocation in the container in which they were being transported from Tamil Nadu to Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. The police arrested four persons from Tamil Nadu, who were illegally transporting bulls, at Mattapalli check post of Mathampalli mandal. They shifted another nine bulls to Goshala. Post-mortem was taken up and case registered.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 133
Retail live.....	Rs. 155
With skin.....	Rs. 225
Skinless.....	Rs. 256
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67



**'Sooseki' track oozes charm**

Allu Arjun, Rashmika share cute chemistry in the 'pushpa 2' song

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## Seeding trouble for ryots

Shortage in many districts; Mandatory AEO nod to buy seed irks ryots



Braving the hot weather, farmers line up outside a seed outlet in Adilabad. Similar scenes were witnessed in many parts of the State on Wednesday.

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

The predicament of the farmers continues to worsen with the government machinery turning Nelson's eye to their problems in procuring seeds, as an artificial scarcity seems to have been created by unscrupulous traders across all districts of Telangana. Farmers are now asked to get an endorsement from Agriculture Department officials to buy seeds in Jagtial district.

Farmers in many districts were seen queuing up in front of seed seller shops, a sight not seen for the last ten years. In many places, farmers were keeping their belongings like footwear or towels in queues as they were unable to face the oppressive heat. On Tuesday, police had to use force to control the angry farmers, as the seed sellers limited the

### KTR slams government for poor management

**HYDERABAD:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government for failing to provide seed to farmers in Telangana, despite them standing in serpentine queues in scorching summer for more than 10 hours without food and water. He castigated the government for its poor management of the agriculture sector. Sharing the videos of farmers expressing their ire on X, Rama Rao stated that farmers who struggled to sell their produce till

recently, were finding it hard to get seed now under the Congress regime. He demanded that the State government ensure the availability of adequate stock of seed and prevent their diversion to the black market. "If the government fails to act, it will face the wrath of farmers," he warned. The BRS working president questioned the competence of the current administration, asking where the Agriculture Minister and the Chief Minister were during this crisis.

sale of cotton seeds to two packets per person leading to arguments and police intervention. On Wednesday, similar scenes were witnessed in Medak, Sangareddy, Jagtial, Adilabad, and other districts

too. In Jagtial district, farmers were keeping their patadar passbooks in the queue to reserve their places for buying green manure seeds (Jeeluga and Janumu). Farmers are facing severe hardships at distribution

centres due to the shortfall of green manure seed in the State. At the Agro Rythu Seva Kendram in Jagtial town, farmers began lining up in the early morning on Wednesday as there was a shortage of seed. For the first time, agriculture officials asked farmers to get approval (signature) from the agriculture extension officer (AEO) if they wanted to buy seed bags.

Coming down heavily on agriculture officials, farmers said that Jagtial officials had introduced the new system of getting approval (signatures) from AEO to give seed. Earlier, there was no such condition. **(SEE PAGE 2, 5)**

## Sex videos: Prajwal bail plea rejected

BENGALURU

A Special Court here on Wednesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna, who is facing allegations of sexually abusing several women, in a rape case.

The special court for Elected Representative dismissed the bail application moved by his advocate Arun. According to official sources, Prajwal has booked a return flight ticket to Bengaluru from Munich on May 30 and is expected to land in the city in the small hours of May 31.

Prajwal, grandson of JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda, is accused in an alleged rape and sexual harassment case involving a 47-year-old woman. He reportedly left for Germany on April 27, a day

after Hassan Lok Sabha segment went to polls, and is still at large.

All eyes are on Kempegowda International Airport where Prajwal is expected to arrive on May 31, and the SIT is likely to arrest him the moment he lands. Meanwhile, Prajwal's mother Bhavani



Revanna has filed an anticipatory bail in the special court for elected representatives fearing arrest in the kidnap case linked to her husband. The SIT filed objections to granting the anticipatory bail to her and also sought to cancel the interim anticipatory bail issued to H D Revanna in the same case. Bhavani Revanna's anticipatory bail order is reserved for May 31. Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said Prajwal, will be arrested as soon as he arrives at the airport here. **PTI**

## Phone tapping: BRS warns of legal action

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

BRS senior leader and former Minister S Niranjan Reddy dismissed allegations of phone tapping during the BRS regime, calling them baseless and legally unsound. He warned the Congress government of legal action if such leaks continued in an attempt to run a media trial.

"Phone tapping case is a nonsense with no legal validity. They are leaking news and deciding the masterminds and culprits, with no concrete evidence. Such allegations without evidence, will not stand legal scrutiny," he said.

Speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan here on Wednesday, Niranjan Reddy criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of using leaks to divert attention from his administration's failures. He reminded that the State government attempted to make an issue out of Medigadda barrage. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Delhi roasts at 52.3° Celsius

Highest ever in 79 years; outskirts hit by hot winds from Rajasthan

NEW DELHI

Delhi's Mungeshpur area Wednesday logged a maximum of 52.3 degrees Celsius, the highest ever temperature recorded in the city, officials said.

On Tuesday, the weather station in the northwest Delhi locality recorded 49.9 degrees Celsius. A day later, the temperature rose further with the weather station recording a maximum temperature of 52.3 degrees Celsius at 4.14 pm, according to the website. An IMD official said, this is the highest ever maximum temperature recorded so far in Delhi. Explaining the reason behind the rising mercury, IMD regional head Kuldeep Srivastava said the city's outskirts are the first areas to be hit by hot winds from Rajasthan. "Parts of Delhi are particularly susceptible to the early arrival of these hot winds, worsening the already severe weather. Areas like Mungeshpur, Narela and Najafgarh are the first to experience the full force of these hot winds," he said. Maresh Palawat, the vice president of Meteorology and Climate Change at Skymet Weather, said, "In open areas with vacant land, there is increased radiation. Direct sunlight and lack of shade make these regions exceptionally hot." "When wind blows from the west, it affects these areas first. As they are on the outskirts, temperatures rise rapidly," Palawat added. Open areas and barren land are contributing to higher temperatures due to increased radiation, said IMD's Charan Singh. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



A woman splashes water on her face on a hot summer day amid heatwave, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Severe heatwave conditions will prevail for a few more days. — Photo: PTI

## Four from Hyd drown in AP rivulet

VIJAYAWADA

Four youngsters, all of the same family in Hyderabad, were washed away in a rivulet in Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla district on Wednesday, police said. According to police, a group of six youths from the Kukatapally went to Suryalanka beach, a popular tourist site, on Wednesday morning. While returning to Hyderabad, they stopped at Nallamada Vagu to take a bath. One of them was swept away in the strong water current, and the three others, trying to save him, were also washed away. The bodies of two youths, Sunny and Sunil, were recovered. **IANS**

## Will probe Naveen's failing health: Modi

BARIPADA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday promised that if the BJP formed the government in Odisha, it would constitute a committee to ascertain the reason behind the "sudden" deterioration of the health condition of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, hinting at a "conspiracy" behind it.

Modi asserted that after a gap of five decades, a full majority government would be formed at the Centre for the third consecutive term. Addressing an election rally here, he said, "Is there a conspiracy behind the deterioration of Patnaik's health? Is the lobby that is

### I'm hale and hearty: CM

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday said that he was in good health and campaigning for the elections for the past one month. "He has stated publicly earlier that I am his good friend. All he had to do was pick up a telephone and ask me about my health," he said. **PTI**

currently running the Patnaik government responsible for his health condition?" **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Vande Bharat sleeper from Hyd

C. ROMEO  
 Hyderabad

Indian Railway which is planning to roll out Vande Bharat sleeper trains later this year, is likely to introduce the service from the city between Secunderabad and Pune.

The Vande Bharat sleeper trains are being planned to enhance long-distance travel comfort and speed. These new trains are set to roll out later this year and are being manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).

These sleeper trains will feature modern amenities, including inter-communicative automatic doors, improved soundproofing, sensor-based lighting, and small



The Vande Bharat sleeper trains are likely to be introduced between Secunderabad and Pune. The train will feature modern amenities, including inter-communicative automatic doors among others.

pantries in each coach. Additionally, they will have bunk beds designed for comfort, disabled-friendly berths, and restrooms equipped with odour control and anti-spill wash-basins. The Vande Bharat trains are part of a broader effort by the Indian Railway

to expand their semi-high-speed train services across the country, improving passenger comfort and reducing travel time. For Secunderabad, the new sleeper train service is part of a broader initiative to upgrade and expand the Vande Bharat fleet, offering a more

comfortable and efficient travel option. The new service could replace Shatabdi Express on the same route, which currently takes about 8 hours and 25 minutes to complete the journey, with the passengers reaching their destinations, at least an hour prior.