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**Frauds in banking sector rise in FY24: RBI report**



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**Xi Jinping calls for more aid to Gaza**

Chinese President reiterates call for independent Palestine State



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**Pragg beats World No 1 Carlsen in classical chess**

**In a nutshell**

**Plastic ban in ATR from July 1**

**HYDERABAD:** A total ban on single use plastic, multi player plastic and pet bottles of one litre and below will be imposed in Amrabad Tiger Reserve from July 1 this year. For the convenience of visitors, alternate drinking water facilities would be provided at different locations inside the ATR limits, said Elusing Meru, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, in a order issued on Thursday.

STATE PAGE 5

**Farmers stage rasta roko**

**ADILABAD:** Mild tension prevailed for a while when cotton farmers staged a rasta-roko demanding action against a seed trader for diverting the seeds to Ichoda. Farmers, who were struggling to buy a variety of cotton seeds, caught a vehicle carrying seeds from Nikhil Traders to Echoda. They handed over the vehicle to police. They raised objections accusing trader of diverting the seeds.

STATE PAGE 5

**Agnibaan launch successful**

**NEW DELHI:** Chennai-based space startup Agnikul Cosmos successfully carried out a sub-orbital test-flight of its home-built 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket — Agnibaan — from its own launch pad at Sriharikota. After four unsuccessful attempts, the test flight of Agnibaan Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator on Thursday took place at 7.15 am without any live streaming.

NATION PAGE 7

**Engg student beaten to death**

**KOTHAGUDEM:** An engineering student was allegedly beaten to death close to the one-town police station in Kothagudem. The deceased, Gunadeep (21) was a B Tech final year student in a college in Hyderabad. According to eye-witness, he accompanied a youth, who consumed beer at a wine shop at Khammam bus stand in the town near head post office.

STATE PAGE 5

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm.....                | Rs. 137 |
| Retail live.....         | Rs. 159 |
| With skin.....           | Rs. 231 |
| Skinless.....            | Rs. 262 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 67  |



**Lucky Baskhar on Sept 27**

Will release in Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi and Tamil worldwide

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# New emblem plan on hold

State govt also postpones changes in design of Telangana Thalli statue

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

Faced with fierce criticism from different sections of people and the main opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), the State government has postponed the plans to make changes to the State emblem and Telangana Thalli statue.

Initially, the State government had planned to unveil the new emblem, Telangana Thalli statue and Telangana State song on June 2 as part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations.

However, the decision to release the State song on June 2 and postpone the changes in the State emblem were taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with representatives from different political parties at the Secretariat on Thursday.

The song was written by poet Ande Sri and composed by Oscar-winning music director MM Keeravani. There are two versions of the song — the complete version lasts 13.30 minutes and the shorter version is 2.30 minutes.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said as part of re-building Telangana, a few decisions, including replacing 'TS' with 'TG' for vehicle



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and others at the Charminar in Hyderabad on Thursday. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

registration number plates, were taken. This apart, the State government replaced TG in the departmental logos as well. "Jaya Jayahe Telangana" was declared a State song after the Cabinet approval. Similarly, a decision was also taken to make changes to the State emblem and Telangana Thalli statue. Already, over 500 designs were submitted by different

artists from the State and discussions were still in the initial stages, he said at the meeting. "The issue of finalising the State emblem and Telangana Thalli statue will be discussed in the Assembly and a decision will be taken accordingly. I appeal to the people not to fall prey to false campaigns," Revanth Reddy said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**KTR warns of protests across TS**

**HYDERABAD:** Coming down heavily on the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for what he termed as an ill-advised move to remove the historic symbols of Charminar and Kakatiya Kala Thoranam from Telangana State emblem, BRS working President KT Rama

Rao sounded a warning against implementation of such foolish decisions against the wishes of the people of the State. He said that the decision of the government had already triggered controversy and people were strongly opposing it across the State.

(REPORT PAGE 2)

**Modi first to lower gravity of PM office: Manmohan**

NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday accused him of lowering the dignity of public discourse and the gravity of the office of the PM by giving "hateful speeches" during the poll campaign.

In an appeal to voters of Punjab ahead of the seventh-phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Singh asserted that only the Congress can ensure growth-oriented progressive future where democracy and Constitution will be safeguarded. He also hit out at the BJP government for imposing an "ill-conceived" Agniveer scheme on the armed forces.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**'Cong strangled Constitution during Emergency'**

HOSHIARPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked the Congress for ranting about the Constitution when it was the one that strangled during the Emergency and not care about it when Sikhs were killed in the 1984 riots. "Sikhs were burnt after putting tyres around them. At that time, they did not care about the Constitution," Modi said in his last poll rally where invoked issues brought by him in meetings across the country.

These included reservation, corruption and the Ram temple. Modi said he has toured the entire nation and people have decided to form the Modi government for a third time.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**22 killed as bus falls into gorge**

JAMMU

Twenty-two people, including nine women and two children, were killed and 57 injured after a bus carrying pilgrims skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Jammu district on Thursday, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has expressed anguish at the loss of lives in the accident and announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased. The accident took place at the Tungji-Morh in the Chowki Chora belt of the district, officials said.

(REPORT PAGE 7)

# 8 mandals across State reel under heat wave



A woman uses umbrella to protect herself from the scorching heat in Hyderabad on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Heat wave conditions prevailed in eight mandals across the State on Thursday, with Bheemaram in Mancherial recording the highest temperature of 47.2 degrees Celsius. Nearly 20 mandals, especially those in the Northern Telangana, recorded over 45.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Heat wave conditions also prevailed in Kagaznagar, Asifabad, Vemanpally, Bellampally, Hajipur, Kasipet, Kamanpur and Sultanabad mandals as temperatures

soared to over 45.7 degrees Celsius in these mandals, Telangana State Development Planning Society said in its report released at 5 pm.

Generally, a heat wave criterion is considered when the maximum temperature of a station reaches more than 40 degrees Celsius. In case the maximum temperature departure is 4.5 degrees Celsius to 6.4 degrees Celsius from the normal temperature recorded during this time of the year, it is also considered a heat wave. Similarly, when the actual

temperature exceeds more than 45 degrees Celsius, it is also considered a heat wave condition. In May, the average maximum temperature in the State was 40.3 degrees Celsius and the highest maximum temperature of 48.9 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dandepalle in Mancherial on May 30, 2015.

Met department, in its report, said the maximum temperature is likely to hover between 41 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius at several places in the State on Friday.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

# No pay for NHM staff since 2 months

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Field-level workers implementing various public health schemes under National Health Mission (NHM) in Telangana were yet to receive their salaries for two months.

Inordinate delay in release of salaries was impacting public health initiatives, as NHM workers were finding it difficult to focus on implementing the schemes while they remain unpaid for nearly 60 days, former Health Minister T Harish Rao said on Thursday.

Govt should wake up from its slumber and make arrangements for the quick payment of salaries of all the NHM employees

— T HARISH RAO, FORMER MINISTER

On one hand, the Congress-led government boasts that it releases salaries for all government employees on the first day of every month. However, in reality, it was quite different, as evident from the travails of the NHM workers, he said. The NHM workers are employed in all UPHCs, PHCs, Basthi

Dawakhanas and T-Diagnostic centres. A total of 17,541 NHM employees were discharging duties in 78 different health departments. "All of them have not received their salaries for the past two months. The government should wake up from its slumber and make arrangements for the quick

**Frustrated man makes bomb threat to Praja Bhavan**

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

It was an alcoholic, frustrated with his wife for not taking his phone calls, made the Praja Bhavan hoax bomb call that sent security personnel into a tizzy.

The Punjagutta police arrested Shiva Kumar, a resident of Malkajgiri, who on Tuesday called up the po-

lice control room and warned about a bomb placed at Praja Bhavan in Somajiguda.

On receiving the call, the officials at the control room flashed the message to all police personnel concerned, and a thorough check was conducted with the help of bomb detection equipment and a sniffer dog.

(SEE PAGE 2)

# Monsoon sets in over Kerala, northeast: IMD



High tide waves crash at Kovalam beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI

Spurred by cyclone Remal, the southwest monsoon set in over the Kerala coast and parts of the northeast than forecast by the weather office.

Weather scientists said the cyclone, which ripped through West Bengal and Bangladesh on Sunday, had pulled the monsoonal flow

to the Bay of Bengal, which could be one of the reasons for early onset over the northeast.

"Southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala and advanced into most parts of northeast India today, the 30th May, 2024," the India Meteorological Department said. On May 15, the weather office announced the onset of monsoon over Kerala by May 31. Kerala has been re-

ceiving heavy rains for the past few days resulting in a surplus May rainfall, the weather office data showed.

The normal monsoon onset date for Kerala is June 1 and for Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Assam is June 5. El Nino conditions are prevailing at present, and La Nina may set in by August-September, scientists said.

PTI