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Final phase: 904 candidates, including PM Modi, in fray



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US-UK attack on Yemen kills 16, injures 35
 Aggression against Yemen is punishment for its support for Gaza, say Houthis



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Rohit hopes for quick acclimatisation of NY pitch

In a nutshell
Kejri's aide sent to judicial custody
NEW DELHI: A court remanded Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in judicial custody for 14 days, saying the investigation was still at a nascent stage and completing it would require time. "I feel that investigation is at nascent stage and would require time to complete the investigation. Accused Bibhav Kumar be remanded to judicial custody for 14 days," the judge further said. PTI

Heatwave claims 40 lives
PATNA: India on Friday reported at least 40 suspected heat-related deaths, 25 of them of staff deployed on poll duty in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as heatwave conditions gripped a large swathe of the country. According to officials, heat-related deaths were reported from Odisha (10), Bihar (8), Jharkhand (4) and Uttar Pradesh (1). Rajasthan has reported at least five heat-related deaths so far. PTI

Indian economy grows at 8.2%
NEW DELHI: India's economy grew by 8.2% in the fiscal year that ended in March, cementing the country's position as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 7% in the previous 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) fiscal. The Reserve Bank of India has forecast that the economy will expand by 7 per cent in the current fiscal year. NATION PAGE 5

DEO directive to private schools
HYDERABAD: With hardly a fortnight left for schools to reopen, the Hyderabad District Educational Office (DEO) appears to have woken up from slumber and issued an order regulating sale of uniforms and stationery etc., in private schools. However, the efforts of the DEO to regulate has come 'a stitch too late', as nearly 80% of private schools have already emptied their shelves. HYDERABAD PAGE 2

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 142
Retail live.....	Rs. 164
With skin.....	Rs. 238
Skinless.....	Rs. 271
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67

'Not a personal achievement'
ANASIYA SENGUPTA says the whole country is feeling a sense of pride

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Fisherfolk caught in net of uncertainty

Govt yet to start tender process for procuring fishlings, shrimp

PS DILEEP
 HYDERABAD

Uncertainty looms large over the fate of the free fish distribution scheme in Telangana, posing a threat to the livelihood of fishermen in the State. While the Southwest monsoon is likely to arrive in the State over the next couple of days, the State government has yet to initiate the tender process for procuring fishlings and shrimp for release into water bodies across Telangana.

Last year, the State government released an impressive 85.60 crore fishlings into 26,357 water bodies and 25.99 crore shrimp into 300 water bodies at an estimated cost of Rs 107 crore, boosting the income of fishermen. The scheme was initiated by the previous BRS government in 2017-18 to improve the livelihood opportunities for fishermen.

Traditionally, tenders for the supply of fishlings and shrimp are invited before the monsoon, with the distribution completed between July and September.

At crossroads

RANKED FIFTH IN FRESHWATER FISH PRODUCTION, SURGING FROM 1,93,732 TONNES IN 2016-17 TO 4,24,327 TONNES IN 2022-23

- Fish production value increased from **Rs 2,111 cr in 2016-17 to Rs 6,191 cr** in 2022-23
- Prawn production up from **7,783 tonnes** in 2017-18 to **14,142 tonnes** in 2022-23
- Prawn production value escalated from **Rs 171.23 crore** in 2017-18 to **Rs 465 crore** in 2022-23
- Southwest monsoon likely to arrive in State over next couple of days
- State govt yet to initiate tender process for procuring fishlings, shrimp for release into water bodies across Telangana

“We have no instructions to initiate the tender process till now. If the government intends to continue, we can complete the entire process and commence the release of fishlings by July-August”

— OFFICIAL, Fisheries Department



This process has historically provided substantial financial support to fishermen. However, despite the end of May, this year's tendering process has not yet begun, casting doubt on the continuation of the fish distribution scheme. In addition to the government-

provided seedlings, fishermen often purchased additional fishlings through their cooperative societies, leading to substantial income.

Telangana boasts of the country's third largest inland water spread, covering an area of 5.73 lakh square km across various water

bodies, including reservoirs. Currently, Telangana ranks fifth in terms of freshwater fish production, valued at an estimated Rs 6,191 crore in the year 2022-23. This represents a three-fold growth compared to the fish production worth Rs 2,111 crore recorded in 2016-17. (SEE PAGE 2)

India moves 100 tn of gold from UK

MUMBAI

India has moved 100 tonnes of its gold stored in the UK to domestic vaults in FY24, sources said on Friday. This is one of the biggest movements of gold undertaken by the country since 1991, when pledging a substantial part of the gold holding to tide over a foreign exchange crisis resulted in its movement out of vaults.

The country's overall gold holding increased 27.46 tonnes in FY24 and it stands at 822 tonnes, as per official data. A substantial part of the precious commodity is stored abroad, the sources said, adding that India also had its holding with the Bank of England like other countries.

The movement of 100 tonnes into India has taken the overall quantity stored locally to over 408 tonnes of gold, which means the local and foreign holding is now split almost evenly. As per the annual report of the central bank for FY24, over 308



The country's overall gold holding increased 27.46 tonnes in FY24 and it stands at 822 tonnes, as per official data

tonnes of gold is held in India as backing for notes issued, while another 100.28 tonnes is held locally as an asset of banking department.

Officials from the Ministry of Finance, the RBI and other agencies took care of the movement of gold in complete secrecy given the high value, as per the sources. PTI

'Congress responsible for death of Telangana youth'

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Ahead of the 10th Telangana State Formation Day on June 2, BRS working president KT Rama Rao held the Congress responsible for the deaths of scores of Telangana youth and the repression of statehood aspirations for decades. He reminded that the Congress should be blamed for the backwardness of Telangana and the sufferings of its people in undivided Andhra Pradesh over the decades.

Taking to X, Rama Rao bombarded the Congress asking who was responsible for the deaths of thousands of people of Telangana, which led to the need for the construction of the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park opposite the State Legislative Assembly which stands as a testimonial for the Congress' atrocities against Telangana.

He recalled the tragic events of 1952, when the po-

KCR to flag off massive candlelight rally today

HYDERABAD: Marking the completion of 10 years of Telangana State formation on June 2, the main opposition, BRS, will kick start grand three-day festivities across the State on Saturday. The party planned a series of events from June 1 to June 3 to commemorate the State's formation and its achievements over the past decade. Party president K Chandrashekar Rao will pay floral tributes to people who sacrificed their lives during the statehood movement at Telangana Martyrs' Memorial in Gun Park at 7 pm on Saturday.

Later, he will flag off a candlelight rally to be taken out from Gun Park to Amara Jyothi memorial near Tank Bund. Nearly 10,000 people from BRS, along with people from various walks of life, will participate in the massive rally. (SEE PAGE 2)

lice forces, under the then Congress government, fired at students near City College, killing six who were opposing the merger with Andhra State to keep Hyderabad as a separate State.

He also highlighted the massacre of 370 Telangana youth during the initial stages of the statehood movement from 1969 to 1971, laying the blame squarely on the Congress government. "When the Telangana Praja Samiti party won 11 out of 14 seats in the 1971 parliamentary elections in Telangana, who destroyed that party? The Congress government," he charged, alleging systematic political suppression by Congress. (SEE PAGE 2)

30-hour ordeal for US-bound AI flyers

NEW DELHI

More than 200 passengers of a San Francisco-bound Air India flight faced an ordeal in the national capital due to a delay of over 30 hours caused by a technical glitch, the aircraft's non-functional air conditioning system and payload issues.

After being rescheduled multiple times since Thursday evening, flight AI 1183 took off from the Delhi airport at around 2155 hours, capping a long wait for the passengers, including aged people and children, sources in the know said.

While there were more than 200 passengers, 21 of them decided to deboard the flight on Friday night, the sources added. Since there are night landing restrictions at San Francisco, the sources said Air India officials have done the work for requisite permission to land there. The Delhi-San Francisco flight duration is around 16 hours and by the time it lands in the Ameri-

can city, it would be night. The flight, which was originally scheduled to take off at around 1530 hours on Thursday, was delayed for nearly 6 hours before being rescheduled for Friday.

On Friday, the flight, to be operated with a Boeing 777 aircraft, was first scheduled for around 1100 hours departure which was changed to 1500 hours and after finally pushing back at around 1745 hours, the plane came back to the bay, the sources said. Initially, a technical glitch was suspected and later payload issues were noticed.

The airline is expected to offload some cargo and then depart for San Francisco, the sources added. One of the sources said an announcement was made that due to temperature issues, the flight could not take off, and added that the air conditioning was also switched off. There has been no official statement from Air India on the inordinate flight delay. PTI

Prajwal held, sent to police custody

BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna, the suspended JD(S) MP facing sexual abuse allegations, was arrested on Friday upon his return from Germany, a month after he left the country in the wake of explicit videos of his alleged actions doing the rounds in Karnataka's Hasnan. A special court in the city remanded him to police custody till June 6.

In a clear messaging early in the day, a team of women police personnel 'welcomed' Prajwal upon his arrival, as they were deputised to execute a warrant and take him to the CID office for interrogation. He landed here past midnight from Munich, only to be arrested by the SIT minutes later. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Denied phone, woman gives 'shock' to husband

MAINPURI

In a 'shocking' incident in Mainpuri, a woman gave electric shocks to her husband who had taken away her mobile phone, claiming that she was spending too much screen time on it, the police said.

The 33-year-old woman first sedated the husband and tied him to the bed. She went on to thrash him and give electric shock. When their 14-year-old son tried to save his father, he too was beaten.

The husband, Pradeep Singh, is undergoing treatment at Saifai Medical College, officials said. Singh got married to Baby Yadav, the daughter of Diwan Singh from Aurraya, in 2007. In

his complaint, he alleged, "My wife used to talk to someone every day on her mobile phone. I objected to it and informed her family. At their request, I took her mobile phone. This made her angry, and she threatened to kill me and my son. Last weekend, she sedated me and subjected me to brutal torture. She repeatedly struck me with a cricket bat, causing severe injuries on my head and body. She also gave me electric shocks. When my son attempted to intervene and save me, she assaulted him as well."

A case under IPC sections 307, 328 and 506 has been registered against the accused woman, who is now absconding, said police officials. IANS

State may get respite from heatwave

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

People in Hyderabad and districts, who endured yet another day of severe heatwave with temperatures consistently hovering between 40 degrees Celsius and 47 degrees Celsius, can now look forward to some relief in the form of heavy rains on Sunday, according to the forecast from IMD-Hyderabad.

Overall, on Friday, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 41 degrees Celsius, the IMD-Hyderabad said. Based on the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) data, temperatures across the city ranged from 40 to 43 degrees Celsius.

Localities, including Musheerabad, Himayatna-



An elephant getting a shower on a hot summer afternoon at Nehru Zoo. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

gar, Khairatabad, and Marredpally experienced the highest temperature of 43 degrees Celsius, while Se-

cunderabad and Amberpet recorded 42.9 degrees Celsius. In Telangana, temperatures soared above 47 de-

grees Celsius, with Peddapalli and Mancherial reaching 47.1 degrees Celsius. (SEE PAGE 2)