



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Queer artist uses paintings as medium for social change



WORLD | PAGE 09

Russia, North Korea vow to protect each other

Putin, Kim ink new pact which seems strongest since collapse of Soviet Union in 1991



SPORT | PAGE 10

India eager to take on giant slayer Afghanistan

In a nutshell

Cabinet meeting tomorrow
 HYDERABAD: The State Cabinet meeting will be chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat at 4 pm on Friday. The Cabinet is expected to discuss and finalise the modalities for crop loan waiver, implementation of Rythu Bharosa, new State Emblem and features of the new Telangana Thalli statue. The meeting will also discuss the State Budget for 2024-25.

YSRCP MP's daughter gets bail
 CHENNAI: Rajya Sabha MP from YSR Congress Party Beeda Masthan Rao's daughter Madhuri, who allegedly ran over a 21-year-old man sleeping on a footpath in Chennai, was arrested and later released on bail, police said. The deceased, 21-year-old Surya, succumbed to his injuries. He was working as a painter. Madhuri was arrested and released on station bail by the Chennai police on Tuesday. ANI

Education Ministry cancels UGC-NET
 NEW DELHI: The Education Ministry on Wednesday ordered the cancellation of UGC-NET conducted by the National Testing Agency following inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised and the matter has been handed over to the CBI for a thorough investigation. The decision comes amid a massive row on the medical entrance exam NEET over alleged irregularities. PTI (NATION PAGE 7)

Centre raises paddy MSP
 NEW DELHI: The Centre raised the MSP for paddy by 5.35 per cent to Rs 2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season. The hike comes despite the government sitting on surplus rice stocks, but it is significant ahead of elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said for 'A' grade variety it is hiked to Rs 2,320. PTI (NATION PAGE 7)

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 129
Retail live.....	Rs. 151
With skin.....	Rs. 219
Skinless.....	Rs. 249
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

Snake in Amazon package shocks Bengaluru couple

BENGALURU

A Bengaluru couple was shocked when they noticed a snake in their Amazon package. The snake, suspected to be a spectacled cobra, was stuck in the adhesive tape used for the packaging, said the couple, who had ordered an Xbox controller from the online retail giant. The couple, IT professionals from Sarjapur who wished not to be named, made a video which went viral. An Amazon India spokesperson said on Wednesday the company is investigating the incident.



The snake was stuck in the adhesive tape used for the packaging.

"The safety of our customers, employees and associates is a top priority for us. We work hard to provide customers with a trustwor-

thy shopping experience and it's our commitment to go above and beyond to make things right for them. We take all customer complaints seriously and are investigating this incident," the spokesperson said. The couple said they had ordered an Xbox controller recently from Amazon and received a live snake in the package. "The package was directly handed over to us by the delivery partner (not left outside). We live on Sarjapur road and captured the entire incident on camera, plus we have eyewitnesses to the same," they claimed in a statement. PTI

Lifetime free pass for child born at RTC bus depot

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

A girl child born at the Karimnagar bus station will be given a bus pass, which will allow her free travel in TGSRTC buses for life. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Wednesday announced a lifetime free bus pass to the girl child, continuing with the practice of giving lifetime free bus passes to children born in RTC buses and at bus stations. On June 16, Kumari and her husband came to Karimnagar bus station. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Crorepati' ryot shares recipe for success

T KARNAKAR REDDY Medak

Banswada Mahipal Reddy, who shot to fame after earning a few crores by selling tomatoes last year, says he has mastered the art of growing the crop in such a way that he gets the harvest when there is a shortage in the market. Reddy grows his crop in April-May, which helps him get the harvest in June, July and August — which is when there usually is a short supply of vegetables in the market. After reaping rich benefits from tomato farming in 2023, when the vegetable was sold at a record Rs 200 per kg, Reddy increased the



Tomato farmer Mahipal Reddy

must take utmost care while growing tomatoes in the summer as the crop's survival is difficult in April-May. Apart from growing the crop under a shade net, Reddy said the farmers need to go for staking, besides giving additional water and fertilizer, following the advice of horticulture officials. He said farmers would need to invest nearly Rs 3 lakh on each acre of the crop — from buying seed to labour, tilling, fertilizer, pesticide and others. Usually, farmers would invest less than Rs 2 lakh on an acre of tomato crop in the monsoon and winter. He said they usually get 35 tonnes of yield per acre in monsoon and winter, but the yield drops

to as low as 17 tonnes during this period. After the hot summer, the horticulture farmer said the crop needs to withstand the heavy monsoon rain. The tomato flower would wither and fall unless there was a shade net to protect the crop from the sweltering heat. Unlike most vegetable crops, which would give harvest from 30-45 days, tomatoes start giving yield after 70 days, and peak after 90 days. Another horticulture farmer, MD Haneef, who has been cultivating vegetable crops for the last two decades, said he decided not to take up tomato cultivation as it involves a lot of risk. (SEE PAGE 2)

Brutal heatwave claims over 26 lives in Delhi

Nadda directs Central govt-run hospitals to set up special heatwave units

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Hospitals in Delhi are witnessing a spike in casualties and heatstroke cases as a brutal heatwave continues to batter the national capital, officials of health facilities said on Wednesday. A senior police officer also said bodies of over 26 people belonging to underprivileged socioeconomic backgrounds have been found in five districts of the national capital in the last 48 hours, even as the cause of deaths is yet to be ascertained. Union Health Minister JP Nadda directed for special heatwave units to be set up in all Central government hospitals. Following his directions, the Ministry issued an advisory for State health departments. The advisory asked State nodal officers under the National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health to submit daily data on heatstroke cases and deaths. It also directed for the submission of data on total fatalities since March 1, besides reporting cases of heat-related illness and death surveillance. To ensure immediate cooling of the body, the Centre-run RML Hospital has set up a first-of-its-kind heatstroke unit. "The unit



A man quenches his thirst on a hot summer day at Sangam in Prayagraj, UP, on Wednesday. Swathes of northern and eastern India are grappling with punishing heatwave conditions. — Photo: ANI

has cooling technology and the patients are kept in baths filled with ice and water. When their body temperature goes below 102 degrees F, they are monitored. If they are stable, they are shifted to the ward. Otherwise, they are put on ventilator. Most of the patients who are admitted are labourers," an official said. The heatwave is causing an increase in the prevalence of lupus that affects the skin, joints and kidneys, among other organs. People

who have lupus frequently experience flare-ups and increased symptoms as the temperature rises. Six to 10 cases of lupus were detected due to the heatwave. Delhi experienced the warmest night in 12 years with the minimum temperature on Wednesday settling at 35.2 degrees C, eight notches above normal, the weather office said. The maximum day temperature was recorded at 43.6 degrees C, 4.8 notches above the season's average. According to

the IMD, swathes of northern and eastern India grappled with punishing heatwave conditions, and a western disturbance may provide much-needed relief, though only marginally, over the next few days. Bats drop dead in Kanpur Several bats were found dead at Nana Rao Park here due to the intense heatwave. Locals said they encountered bats falling from the trees, writhing in pain before dying.

68 Indians die due to intense heat during Haj

NEW DELHI/MECCA

At least 68 Indians have been confirmed dead during this year's Haj pilgrimage, according reports. Several Indians are reported missing too. This comes amid record-high temperatures in the Saudi holy city of Mecca, and the deaths of 550 pilgrims this year. "We have confirmed around 68 dead... Some are because of natural causes and we had many old-aged pilgrims. And some are due to the weather conditions, that's what we assume," a diplomat told a news agency. Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, nor offered any causes for those who died. One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Hajj. A medic said the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility. The list offered no cause of death. AGENCIES

SI sacked for raping cop at gunpoint

STATE BUREAU Warangal

The Kaleswaram police on Wednesday arrested a Sub-Inspector on charges of raping a woman police constable at gunpoint in Kaleswaram of Mahadevpur mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. Senior officials investigating the complaint are learnt to have found that he threatened at least three other women police constables and sexually assaulted them as well. The SI, PVS Bhavani Sen Goud, was booked under Sections 376(2) (A) (B), 324, 449, 506 and 27 of the Arms Act, based on a complaint by the victim. Following instructions from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the State government dismissed him from service under Article 311 of the Constitution. His service revolver was also confiscated. According to reports, Goud allegedly raped the women constable multiple times, threatening her with his service revolver to ensure her silence. The constable, who had been living

in fear, was planning to die by suicide due to his increased harassment. However, she gathered courage and approached Bhupalpally Superintendent of Police Kiran Khare on Tuesday. Reacting swiftly to the complaint, higher officials registered a case against Goud. He was arrested late on Tuesday and taken to the Bhupalpally police station for interrogation. The officials reported that the SI had indeed used his revolver to intimidate and sexually assault the constable. In her complaint, the constable informed how Goud repeatedly assaulted and raped her by threatening her with dire consequences. She said the SI committed the heinous crime inside the old police station building near the Lakshmi pumphouse of the Kaleswaram project. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) A Sampath Rao confirmed that an FIR was filed and that an investigation was under way. Sources said the SI also harassed other women constables at the Kaleswaram police station. (SEE PAGE 2)



BHAVANI SEN GOUD THREATENED AT LEAST THREE OTHER WOMEN CONSTABLES AND SEXUALLY ASSAULTED THEM AS WELL

Porn addict kills teen daughter for refusing sex

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

A porn addict, who allegedly killed his teenage daughter after she refused to surrender herself to satiate his carnal desires, was nabbed by the Telangana police on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Naresh of Nadigadda thanda in Miyapur on the outskirts of Hyderabad, had attempted to mislead the police by lodging a false complaint of his daughter missing on June 7. Subsequently, the body of an unidentified girl was found in a forest area, according to the police. Naresh and his wife had identified it as that of their daughter. It was at this stage that the Miyapur police intensified their probe into the missing case, which turned into a kidnap-cum-murder. (SEE PAGE 2)

Law and order failing in TS: Harish

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Senior BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Telangana. He cited several violent incidents across the State over the last couple of days, raising alarm about the State's law and order situation. In a statement, Harish Rao pointed to the brutal killing of G Sanjeev in Utkuru mandal of Narayanpet district, and the public stabbing of Sameer in Hyderabad's Balapur as alarming examples of increasing violence. He also mentioned the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl in Peddapalli district and the heinous incident in Kaleswaram of Bhupalpally district where a police Sub-Inspector allegedly assaulted a fellow woman constable and raped

In the past week alone, we witnessed horrifying incidents that have shocked the people of Telangana

— HARISH RAO, BRS

her. "In the past week alone, we witnessed horrifying incidents that have shocked the people of Telangana," he said, strongly condemning these incidents and demanding immediate legal action against the accused. He criticised the Congress government, stating that Telangana, which had become synonymous with peace and security, was now seeing a sharp decline in safety within six months of the new administration.

US lawmakers back Tibetan cause

DHARAMSALA

Tibetans have the right to self-determination and should be allowed to practise their religion freely, US House Foreign Affairs Committee chair Michael McCaul said on Wednesday after he led a delegation here to meet spiritual leader Dalai Lama. The visit by the delegation, which included former US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, comes days after the US Congress passed the Resolve Tibet Bill, calling for a peaceful resolution on the status of Tibet. China has warned that it would take "resolute measures" if US President Joe Biden signs the Bill into law. Taking a dig at Chinese premier Xi Jinping, Pelosi said: "His Holiness Dalai Lama, with his message of knowledge, tradition, compassion, purity of soul and love, will live a long time and his legacy will live forever. But you, the President



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama being greeted by former US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi at his residence in Dharamsala on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

of China, you'll be gone and nobody will give you credit for anything..." At a felicitation ceremony held after the seven US Congress members met the Ti-

betan leader, McCaul said the delegation had defied a warning from the Chinese Communist Party. "The Tibetan people possess a distant religion, culture and

historic identity and they should have a say in their own future. You should be able to freely practise your religion..." he said. (SEE PAGE 2)