



HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

Over 9,000 engineering aspirants left without seats



NATION | PAGE 07

Islamic State seeks to recruit lone actors in India: Report

Releases booklet in Urdu magnifying Hindu-Muslim antagonism, states UN report



SPORT | PAGE 10

Lakshya stuns Christie, enters men's singles pre-quarterfinal

In a nutshell

Cop gets 5 yrs in jail for taking bribe

KARIMNAGAR: The Karimnagar ACB Special Court sentenced an Inspector of Police, who was trapped by the Anti-Corruption Bureau while taking a bribe of Rs 10,000, to five years of rigorous imprisonment. Special Judge for trial for SPE & ACB cases court, Karimnagar, Kumar Vivek on Wednesday pronounced the judgment and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on Chinthapatla Lachanna.

Five-yr-old boy shoots at student

SUPAUL: A five-year-old boy in Bihar reached his school with a handgun on Wednesday and opened fire on another child, leaving the Class III student injured, police said. The shocking incident took place in the north Bihar district of Supaul where the boy, a nursery student, had gone to school with the firearm hidden in his bag. SP Shaishav Yadav said, "We are trying to find out how the boy got the firearm." PTI

Anshuman Gaekwad no more

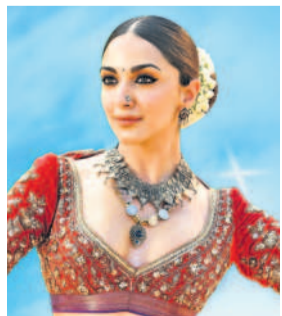
NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad died on Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. He was 71. He played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs for India. He was also the coach of the Indian team that finished runners-up at the 2000 ICC Champions Trophy. He was undergoing treatment for blood cancer at Kings College Hospital, London. PTI

Preeti Sudan new UPSC chairperson

NEW DELHI: The Centre has appointed former Health Secretary Preeti Sudan chairperson of the union Public Service Commission after Manoj Soni resigned from the UPSC's top post earlier this month. Sudan, currently a member of the UPSC, will take charge on Thursday. A 1983-batch IAS officer of the AP cadre, Sudan has served in various capacities, including as Union Health Secretary for three years till 2020. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 94
Retail live.....	Rs. 116
With skin.....	Rs. 168
Skinless.....	Rs. 191
Egg Rates (2 eggs).....	Rs. 62



Kiara turns 33, co-stars shower love

Game Changer team wishes actor by unveiling radiant poster

12

Wayanad landslides toll rises to 167, rescue ops stepped up

People in low-lying areas told to evacuate as rains lash region



Rescue operations under way following landslides triggered by heavy rain at Chooralmala in Wayanad on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

WAYANAD

As many as 167 people have died and over 200 injured in the massive landslides that hit the northern Kerala district of Wayanad a day ago, with the numbers expected to increase as rescuers unearth debris, the district administration said on Wednesday.

The 167 dead include 22 children, it said. It also said 96 bodies were identified and post-mortem of 166 were completed. Out of 61 body parts recovered, the post-mortem of 49 was completed, it said. Of the 167 bodies, 75 were handed over to relatives or next of kin, it

VIJAYAN REFUTES SHAH'S CLAIM OF KERALA IGNORING CALAMITY WARNING

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan termed as "baseless" Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that the State government did not heed the Centre's warning regarding a possible natural calamity in Wayanad due to heavy rains. Vijayan said the IMD had only issued an orange alert in the district ahead of the landslides. However, the district received over 572 mm of rainfall, which was extremely higher than what was predicted by the IMD. PTI

further said. It also said 219 people were admitted to hospitals from the disaster-hit areas and of them, 78 are still undergoing treatment. Rescue teams comprising the Army, Navy and NDRF

are collectively looking for survivors by unearthing the debris and breaking into the remains of houses destroyed or covered up with mud in the landslides. The construction of a Bailey bridge

to connect the landslide-hit areas, where several people are believed to be stranded, alongside the deployment of sniffer dogs and over 1,000 rescuers from Central and State emergency response teams conducting massive search operations, constitutes one of the largest rescue efforts in Wayanad. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the rescue operations ensured that over 1,500 people were saved but 191 are still missing. As rains continued to lash Wayanad, authorities told people in landslide-prone areas to move to safer places. AGENCIES (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Don't curse, malign our own State: KTR to Cong

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Presenting facts and figures in the Assembly, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday exposed the State government's claims of Telangana being debt-ridden and argued that on the contrary, the State was healthy as far as its finances were concerned.

The Congress government, while indulging in petty politics, should not curse or malign the State, which was achieved after a long tough struggle.

Speaking on the Appropriation Bill, Rama Rao pointed out that in 2014, the revenue surplus was Rs 369 crore and the same had grown to Rs 5,944 crore in 2022-23. Even in the Budget presented by the State government, the revenue surplus was Rs 297 crore, which disproved the false campaign of the Congress

Bare facts

BRS WORKING PRESIDENT KT RAMA RAO EXPOSES CONG GOVT'S CLAIMS OF TS BEING DEBT-RIDDEN. HERE'S WHAT HE SAID IN THE ASSEMBLY

- In 2014, revenue surplus was Rs 369 cr, which grew to Rs 5,944 cr in 2022-23
- Even in the Budget presented by the State govt, revenue surplus is Rs 297 crore, which disproves the false campaign of Congress that State is debt-ridden
- Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had said in the House that govt was forced to take loans to pay salaries. In that case, was revenue surplus of Rs 297 cr mentioned in Budget fake or was it Cong's narrative that was false?
- Telangana ranks among top 3 States with 84% SOTR. This means it is not dependent on others or the Centre for grants
- GDP soared from Rs 4 lakh cr in 2014 to Rs 14,64 lakh cr in 2023-24
- Per Capita Income grew from Rs 1.24 lakh in 2014-15 to Rs 3.47 lakh in 2023-24, which was Rs 1.64 lakh higher than national per capita income
- Telangana largest State with highest per capita income in the country
- Its contribution to the GDP increased from 4.1% in 2014 to 5% in 2023-24
- With 74% development expenditure, TS number one in the country
- Debt to GDP ratio only 27.8%, while there are about 15 States that have higher debt-GSDP ratio. Even Centre's debt-GDP ratio is 59%

that the State was debt-ridden. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had said in the House that the State government was forced to take loans to pay salaries. In that case, was the revenue surplus of Rs 297 crore mentioned in the Budget fake or was it the Congress narrative that was false, Rama Rao asked. (SEE PAGE 2)

Gadkari urges FM to scrap 18% GST on life, medical insurance

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has requested Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent GST on life and medical insurance premiums. In his letter to the Finance Minister, he raised concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Cor-

poration Employees Union, which had submitted to him a memorandum regarding the issues of the insurance industry. Referring to the memo, the Minister said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life. The union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premiums to purchase cover against this risk." Further, he added that the main issue raised by the union is related to the withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums. He further said GST on insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the sector's growth. PTI

"CM's remarks in bad taste"

Chaos erupts in House, BRS seeks apology

STATE BUREAU HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy apparently shot himself in the foot on Wednesday with his remarks on two women BRS MLAs, with the party launching a vociferous protest that continued through the day and will continue on Thursday as well. The party also plans to burn the Chief Minister's effigies across the State, demanding an unconditional apology from him.

The unsavoury episode began to unfold during the discussion on the Appropriation Bill, with the furore over Revanth Reddy's comments rocking the House for nearly 45 minutes, eventually forcing Speaker G Prasad Kumar to adjourn the House for a while.

Earlier, BRS working president KT Rama Rao was making a few suggestions to the government over the Pharma City, stating that some officials were misleading the government over investments from Davos as well. Intervening, the Chief Minister asked him not to believe others, especially those who joined the BRS from other parties.

"The sisters sitting behind you were earlier seated here and came over there after ditching the Congress. If you listen to what they say, you will end up sitting at the Jubilee Bus Station," Revanth Reddy said, hinting at former Ministers P Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Laxma Reddy, who were seated behind Rama



“When Revanth Reddy wanted to join the Congress, as a sister, I blessed him saying you will become CM in future. Yet, he has been personally targeting me...”

— SABITHA INDR A REDDY, BRS MLA



“The sisters sitting behind you (KTR) were earlier seated here and came there after ditching the Congress. If you listen to what they say, you will end up at Jubilee Bus Station”

— REVANTH REDDY, Chief Minister

BRS calls for Statewide protest

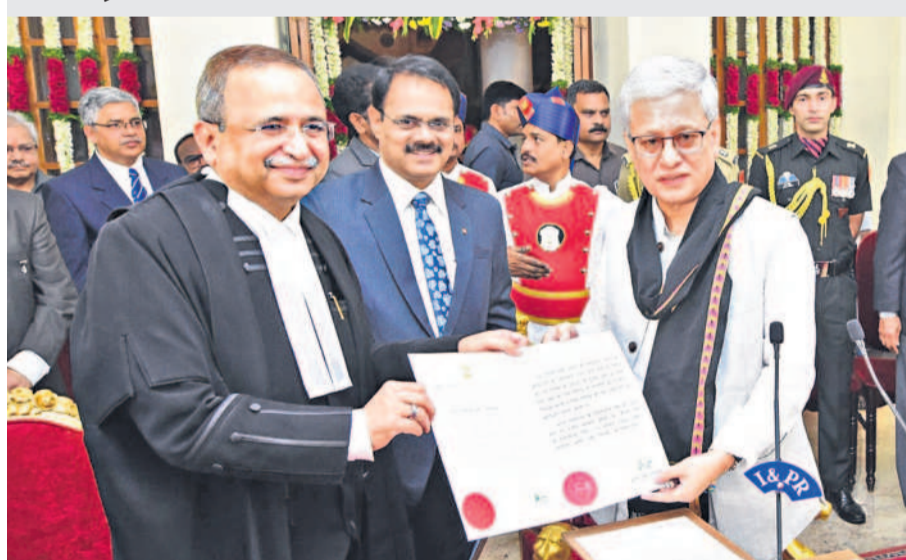
HYDERABAD: The BRS has called for the burning of effigies of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at all district headquarters on Thursday in protest against the latter's derogatory remarks against senior women legislators P Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma

Reddy in the Assembly. The party has also demanded that the CM retract his comments immediately and issue an unconditional apology to the girls and women of Telangana. BRS working president KT Rama Rao urged the people to condemn the remarks. (SEE PAGE 2)

Rao. Taking serious objection to the Chief Minister's comments, BRS members approached the Well, shouting slogans against the Chief Minister. Intervening, Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu defended the Chief Minister saying he had not dropped any names.

All he said was not to believe the people behind you. It could mean anybody, even those outside the House, the Minister said. (SEE PAGE 2)
 (CM HAS NO RESPECT FOR WOMEN: SABITHA PAGE 5)
 (SAID NOTHING UNPARLIAMENTARY: CM PAGE 5)

JISHNU DEV SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR



Former Tripura Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma being sworn in as Governor of Telangana by High Court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe in Hyderabad on Wednesday. (REPORT PAGE 5)

UPSC cancels Puja Khedkar's candidature

NEW DELHI

The UPSC on Wednesday said it has cancelled the provisional candidature of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar and debarred her from all future examinations or selections. "The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules," the UPSC said. It said the provisional candidature of the 2023 batch probationary IAS officer for the CSE-2022 (Civil Services Examination-2022) has been "cancelled". PTI (RELATED REPORT PAGE 7)

Hamas leader killed in Iran

BEIRUT

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in a pre-dawn airstrike in the Iranian capital on Wednesday, Iran and the militant group said, blaming Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the US and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war. Iran's supreme leader vowed revenge against Israel. Without mentioning the killing, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel "will exact a heavy price from any aggression against us on any front". Israel had pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the



Ismail Haniyeh

group's October 7 attack in which the Palestinian militant group killed 1,200 people and took some 250 others hostage. The strike came just after Haniyeh had attended the inauguration of Iran's new President in Tehran — and only hours after Israel tar-

geted a top commander in Iran's ally Hezbollah in the Lebanese capital Beirut. The dramatic assassination of Hamas's top political leader threatened to reverberate throughout the region's intertwined conflicts. Most explosively, the strike in Tehran could push Iran and Israel into direct conflict if Iran retaliates. "We consider his revenge as our duty," Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said. He said Israel had "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home". The killing could also prompt Hamas to pull out of negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage release deal. AP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)