/TelanganaToday
@TelanganaToday
t.me/TelanganaToday
/TelanganaToday

Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

Monday, August 12, 2024
Price Rs. 6
HYDERABAD EDITION
Vol. 8 | No. 241 | Pages 12

NATION | PAGE 08

PM Modi launches high-yielding seed varieties

WORLD | PAGE 09

Hasina's undelivered speech hints at US role in ouster

Says she could have remained in power if she had 'surrendered' Saint Martin Island

SPORT | PAGE 10

Abhinav Bindra awarded prestigious Olympic Order

In a nutshell

Four killed in Manipur gunfight

IMPHAL: Four armed men were killed in a shootout between militants and village volunteers in Manipur's Tengnoupal district. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front and three village volunteers of the same community were killed in the gunfight in Molnom area on Friday. In retaliation to the killings, village volunteers set ablaze residence of UKLF self-styled chairman S S Haokip. PTI

Civilian dies in J&K encounter

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Sunday intensified their operation to flush out terrorists from the forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on the second day of encounter that has left two soldiers and a civilian dead. Officials said additional personnel have been rushed to the Ahlan Gagarmandu forest area to eliminate terrorists — believed to be three to four in number.

NATION PAGE 7

Former EAM Natwar Singh dies

NEW DELHI: Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks. During his distinguished career, he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984. PTI

Gold worth Rs 1 cr seized at RGIA

HYDERABAD: Sleuths of the DRI Hyderabad zone seized 1,390 grams of gold worth more than Rs 1 crore from a passenger who was trying to smuggle it through the RGI Airport. On specific information, the DRI officials intercepted a passenger who had arrived from Dubai on Friday. The total weight of the recovered gold was 1,390.850 grams valued at Rs 1,00,06,909. The man was arrested.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 80
Retail live	Rs. 102
With skin	Rs. 148
Skinless	Rs. 168
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 56

Art an act of affirming life: SRK

Receives career achievement award at Locarno Film Fest

12

Agri operations take a hit

Situation attributed to uncertainty over irrigation water, Rythu Bharosa aid

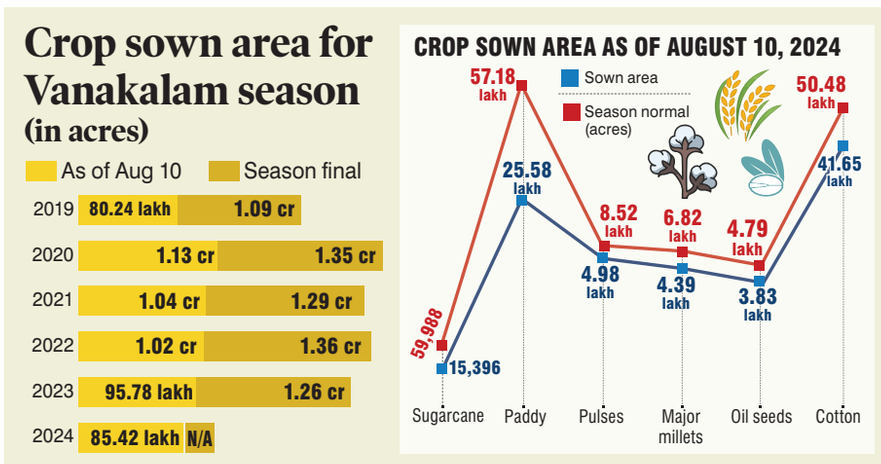
PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Agricultural operations have taken a severe hit in Telangana this Vanakalam (Kharif) season. Due to uncertainty over irrigation water and the absence of Rythu Bharosa investment support under the Congress regime, crop production is likely to be affected. With less than 50 days remaining in the season, the cultivation of major crops such as paddy, cotton, and pulses is in jeopardy.

As of August 10, sowing operations have been taken up in only 84.6 lakh acres, just 65.4 per cent of the normal cultivation area of 1.29 crore acres for the current Vanakalam season. This is a stark contrast to the corresponding period last year, when sowing was completed in 99.9 lakh acres, eventually covering 1.26 crore acres for the entire crop season. The decline marks a significant departure from the previous years under the BRS government when improved irrigation water supplies and the Rythu Bandhu farm investment support spurred agricultural growth. In comparison, the crop sown area as of August 10, was an estimated 80.24 lakh acres in 2019, 1.13 crore acres in 2020, 1.04 crore in 2021, 1.02 crore acres in 2022, 95.78 lakh acres in 2023.

The unpredictability of the water supply, coupled with the lack of Rythu Bharosa investment support, discouraged many farmers from sowing. Those in districts largely dependent on irrigation water supply, which has been uncertain, have mostly refrained from cultivation. Compounding these issues is the depletion of groundwater levels, which have dropped by 2.08 metres below ground level (mbgl) from 6.17 mbgl in July last year to 8.25 mbgl this year, only worsening the situation for farmers. While sowing operations in the erstwhile districts of Adilabad, Nizamabad and Karimnagar have been relatively stable, covering around 80 per cent of the normal cultivation area, the situation is dire in the erstwhile districts of Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar.

These areas, which depend heavily on Krishna River water, have seen less than 60% of land cultivated. The truncated Nalgonda district, with the largest cropping area of around 11 lakh acres, has only 6.12 lakh acres under cultivation. Agricultural scientists fear that this could be Telangana's lowest crop sown area for the Vanakalamin the last five years, resulting in a significant drop in overall crop production. Sugarcane, paddy, pulses, major millets, oilseeds, and cotton are among worst affected crops.



Hindenburg report rubbish, says Sebi chief

Our life, finances open book: Madhabi Buch

NEW DELHI

US short-seller Hindenburg Research alleged that it suspects Sebi's unwillingness to act against Adani Group may be because of its head Madhabi Puri Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate — an allegation slammed by the Sebi head as "baseless" while Adani Group said it never had any commercial relations with Buch.

Hindenburg alleged that Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani — the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani — to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices. Sebi in October 2020 began a probe into the shareholding structure of Adani Group companies after red flags were raised over the high concentration of foreign holdings in conglomerate's listed companies.

Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in a joint statement strongly denied the "baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report". The same, they said, "are devoid of any truth". "Our life and finances are an open book," they said. "It is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research against whom SEBI has taken an enforcement action and issued a show cause notice has chosen to attempt character assassination in response to the same." Buchs further said they have no hesitation in disclosing any and all financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them. While the statement did not talk on the questions Hindenburg raised over Sebi probe, the duo promised to come out with a detailed response.

(SEE PAGES 4, 8)

HINDENBURG HAS BEEN SERVED A SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR A VARIETY OF VIOLATIONS. INSTEAD OF REPLYING TO THEM, THEY CHOSE TO ATTACK CREDIBILITY OF SEBI AND RESORTING TO CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

— MADHABI PURI BUCH, SEBI CHAIRPERSON

KTR urges govt to protect 'Brand TG'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao voiced serious concerns over the potential exit of the Amara Raja Group from Telangana, warning that the State's economic reputation was at stake. He urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to prioritise policy continuity and avoid jeopardising 'Brand Telangana' due to political differences.

Rama Rao made the appeal in the wake of Amara Raja Group chairman Jayadev Galla's comments on Saturday, indicating that the company might consider expanding elsewhere if the Telangana government did not honour its commitments.

"We worked very hard to convince Amara Raja to invest Rs 9,500 crore in Telangana. The government is an institution that must ensure policy continuity," Rama Rao said on X. He reminded the recent loss of other major investments, including Kaynes Technology, which moved to Gujarat, and the Corning plant, which relocated to Chennai. "If Amara Raja leaves now, it would be a disaster," he warned. Rama Rao asserted that Telangana's economic growth should not be undermined by political differences.

(SEE PAGE 2)

> We worked hard to convince Amara Raja to invest Rs 9,500 cr. If the firm leaves now, it will be a disaster
>
> — KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Cops thrash 3 in custody

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a shocking incident, three people were allegedly subjected to third-degree torture by the City Police following an issue during Bonalu festivities held recently in Jubilee Hills.

The trio — Shiva, Anil, and Nagendar — associates of Naveen Yadav, who joined the Congress during the recent Assembly elections, alleged that a rowdy sheeter was sitting in a jeep in front of Naveen Yadav's house during the Bonalu festival. "As the man was sitting and smoking hookah in the jeep, we asked the jeep driver to move away from the place. It led to an argument, and the man abused us," they alleged. The jeep driver then lodged a complaint with Madhuranagar police station, and a case was registered against Shiva, Anil, and Nagendar. The trio was allegedly taken to ACP Punjagutta office and subjected to third-degree torture by the police officials. After two days, they were produced before the court.

"We were repeatedly thrashed by the police with belts and lathis in the ACP office. Due to this, we sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment at a hospital," they alleged.

(SEE PAGE 2)

> **Trio alleged that police subjected them to third-degree torture following an issue during Bonalu festivities**

SEE YOU IN LA 2028!

Kimberley Woods of Britain competes in the women's kayak cross time trial at the Paris Olympics 2024 in Vaires-sur-Marne, France. The over two-week sporting extravaganza concluded on Sunday. — Photo: AP (REPORTS PAGE 10)

Three of family run over by train

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A railway keyman and his two daughters were killed when a train ran over them at Gowdavalli railway station in Medchal on Sunday. The victims were identified as T Krishna (38), Varshita (11) and Varini (5), residents of Sri Sai Nilayam, Raghavendranagar.

According to the Government Railway Police, Secunderabad, Krishna worked as a keyman and had come for duty near the Gowdavalli railway station on Sunday afternoon.

"While Krishna was doing his routine work, the girls came onto the tracks. Meanwhile, on noticing the Rayalaseema Express coming at a high speed, Krishna rushed to save his daughters but the trio were run over by the train," Government Railway Police Secunderabad Inspector Sai Eshwar Goud. The railway police shifted the bodies to the Gandhi Hospital mortuary for post-mortem.

Telangana NRIs upset with Revanth

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

After the Friends of Congress USA, Telugu associations raised concerns over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's visit to the US, especially over the lack of inclusivity and transparency.

While NRIs from AP got a chance to meet the Telangana Chief Minister, those from Telangana were left disappointed. Satish Pasupulate, Director Board member of the Telangana American Telugu Association, posted on Facebook sharing the concerns of the community regarding the visit to Bay Area California.

"Many members of our Telangana Associations, who travelled long distances (from LA, Seattle, Sacramento, Pheonix) with the hope of meeting the Chief Minister were deeply disappointed by the restrictions imposed by the CGI Office, particularly by the Social Secretary," he alleged.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Cyber crooks short circuit TGSPDCL plans!

ANIL KUMAR
Hyderabad

With the growing number of cyber fraud incidents targeting electricity consumers, the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), which announced last month that it would issue energy bills to its consumers with a QR code, has put the facility on hold.

The idea was to ensure hassle-free payment without the need for entering the Unique Service Connection (USC) number in the utility's website or app following the discontinuation of direct payment through third-party UPI apps from August. However, SPDCL dropped the idea, fearing cyber fraudsters may misuse the facility.

On July 1, the officials of the southern discom announced that due to the implementation of RBI guidelines, consumers would not be able to make the payment of their monthly energy bills through third-party apps and that the consumers have to pay their bills only through the utility's website or app in addition to the bill collection centres and counters.

Security aspect

According to SPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Musharraf Ali Faruqui, the company decided against issuing QR codes along with the bills as cyber fraudsters might use the facility to dupe consumers. "Keeping the security aspect in mind, we have decided not to issue QR codes along with the power bills. Cyber fraudsters may clone the QR codes and loot the gullible consumers. This may turn into a big scam. Hence, we decided against issuing QR codes," he said.

The decision was taken as citizens reported some cases of fraudsters using SMS and WhatsApp messages related to electricity KYC updates and malicious APK files to manipulate and gain control over victims' devices, he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

'Rescue Sircilla native stuck in Bahrain jail'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao stepped in to assist 62-year-old Narsaiah, a resident of Cheerlavancha village in Sircilla district, who has been languishing in a Bahrain jail after losing his passport.

He wrote a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, urging immediate action to facilitate Narsaiah's return to India. Narsaiah, who was untraceable for several years, was found to be in prison due to issues with his passport and work permit. He went to Bahrain in 1996 to work as a mason with The Arab Engineering and Contracting Company. Despite his work permit expiring in 1999, he continued working in the country.

(SEE PAGES 2, 4)