



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02
 Moscow opens its doors to global cinema at film fest



WORLD | PAGE 09
Americans ready to turn the page, says Harris
 Asserts that Trump pushing agenda which divides US, diminishes character of its people



SPORT | PAGE 10
 Paralympics: Shooting star Avani retains gold

In a nutshell
Vistara to fly into sunset on Nov 11
NEW DELHI/ SINGAPORE: The nearly 10-year-old Vistara will fly into the sunset on November 11 as part of the merger with Tata Group-owned Air India, with the deal moving closer to completion after the Indian government approved Singapore Airlines' Rs 2,058.5 crore foreign direct investment in the Air India Group. The merger will see Singapore Airlines snapping up a 25.1% in the group. **BUSINESS PAGE 8**

Champai Soren joins BJP
RANCHI: Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren joined the BJP on Friday, two days after he resigned from the JMM citing dissatisfaction with the party's style of functioning and "bitter humiliation". Soren and his supporters crossed over to the BJP at a ceremony attended by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. **NATION PAGE 7**

Cyclonic storm in Arabian Sea
NEW DELHI: A deep depression that triggered torrential rains and floods in Gujarat on Friday intensified into cyclone Asna off the coast of Kachchh and the adjoining areas of Pakistan, the IMD said in a statement. This is the first cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea in August since 1976. The name Asna, given by Pakistan, means 'the one to be acknowledged or praised'. **NATION PAGE 8**

'Mpox in Africa can end in 6 months'
GENEVA: The head of the WHO believes the ongoing mpox outbreaks in Africa might be stopped in the next six months, and said the agency's first shipment of vaccines should arrive in Congo within days. To date, Africa has received just a tiny fraction of the vaccines needed to slow the spread of the virus, especially in Congo. **AP**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm..... | Rs. 99 |
| Retail live..... | Rs. 121 |
| With skin..... | Rs. 175 |
| Skinless..... | Rs. 200 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 72 |

Bow my head at Shivaji's feet, PM on statue crash

PALGHAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday apologised to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and those hurt by the collapse of the warrior king's statue in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district. He also took a jibe at the Opposition, saying some people keep abusing freedom fighter and Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar, but are not ready to apologise for insulting him. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not just a name or a king. For us, he is our deity. Today, I bow my head at his feet and apologise to my deity," Modi said in his first public remarks on the collapse of the statue at the Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district's Malvan tehsil. **PTI**

Assam House scraps 2-hour break for namaz

GUWAHATI: The Assam Assembly will do away with a two-hour break provided on Fridays to facilitate Muslim legislators to offer namaz, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. The rule will be implemented from the next session, an Assembly official said. In a post on X, Sarma said, "By doing away with the 2 hour Jumma break, @AssamAssembly has prioritised productivity and shed another vestige of colonial baggage. This practice was introduced by Muslim League's Syed Saadulla in 1937." "My gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker Shri @BiswajitDaimar5 dangoriya and our legislators for this historical decision," Sarma added. **PTI**

KCR all set to hit the ground running again

Plans mass contact programme to expose Cong govt's failures

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Leader of Opposition and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrashekhara Rao is all set to move into agitation mode once again, with plans being drawn up for the former Chief Minister to soon tour the State and interact directly with the people.

The move, which will have the primary objective of exposing the double standards of the Congress party and the failures of the Congress government, will begin after a meeting with party leaders and cadre around September 10. It is likely to hinge on the growing resentment among the people against the State government on multiple counts, right from the botched up implementation of the crop loan waiver, the neglect of the agriculture sector and other issues that have a direct bearing on the lives of the common man in Telangana. The delay in launching the Rythu Bharosa farm input assistance and farmers struggling to get irrigation



water, too, will figure among issues the BRS president will highlight during his mass contact programme, which is likely to see him travel across the State by bus, much on the lines of his election campaign prior to

the Lok Sabha elections. Chandrashekhara Rao, according to party sources, has already held interactions with party leaders on launching a movement or agitation on the farm loan waiver issue, which is seeing

farmers protesting on the streets in almost every district. Though he has already collected information on what is happening on the ground level, the next effort is to meet the affected farmers and the general public to get direct feedback from them, assure them of his support and instill confidence in them that the party would pressure the State government to ensure that every eligible farmer got the loan waiver.

Party sources said there could be public meetings that Chandrashekhara Rao would address during the proposed tour, though the plans are still being finalised by him. The move will also include his efforts to rejuvenate the party and build confidence among the cadre that though the party was on the back foot, it could never be written off.

BRS leaders have already been interacting with farmers and gathering data on how many were left out of the waiver list. The move is also expected to inject some vigour into the party ahead of the local body polls.

'Uttam as CM' triggers turmoil

STATE BUREAU
 Nalgonda

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy's comments that Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy would become the next Chief Minister have triggered turmoil in the State unit of the Congress.

The Irrigation Minister had conducted a review meeting on irrigation projects in the erstwhile district here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Munugode MLA said the Irrigation Minister had all the qualities to become the next Chief Minister. "Very soon, we will all be calling him Chief Minister. In future, you will become the Chief Minister. I have moles on my tongue and whatever I profess turns true. I am not saying this for fun," Rajgopal Reddy said.

However, his comments triggered turmoil in the Congress. Rajgopal Reddy

Very soon, we will all be calling him (Uttam) CM. I have moles on my tongue, whatever I profess turns true

— KOMATIREDDY RAJGOPAL REDDY, MUNUGODE MLA

has been eyeing a Cabinet berth and had even claimed that the high command would allot him the Home Ministry portfolio, which was currently being held by CM A Revanth Reddy.

It may be recalled that Revanth Reddy, during the Lok Sabha election campaign at Bhongir in April this year, had said Roads and Building Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had all the qualities to become the Chief Minister.

Revanth wants another zoo on Hyd outskirts

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to initiate measures to establish another zoo park outside Hyderabad in over 1,000 acres. Wild animals and birds should be sourced from different areas and kept in the new zoo park. Urban forests should be developed extensively, he said at a meeting with officials on Friday.

Referring to Anant Ambani's Vantara, an animal shelter spread across 3,000 acres in Jamnagar, the Chief Minister said industrialists and organisations, which come forward with such initiatives, should be invited. He also instructed the officials to utilise the 200 acres of government land at Ananthagiri for the development of health tourism. He told officials to set up the Yadagirigutta Temple Board too.

Hidden cams in AP women's hostel

Naidu orders probe into incident at engineering college

GUDLAVALLERU

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday ordered an investigation after an alleged hidden camera was detected in a women's hostel washroom at an engineering college in Krishna district, which sparked an outrage.

Naidu also ordered District Minister Kollu Ravindra, the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police to visit the college.

Women students of an engineering college here complained to Mines Minister K Ravindra on Friday that the management attempted to hush up the issue of hidden cameras allegedly found in a women's washroom and also went to the extent of threatening students who lodge a complaint. Hundreds of students have been staging protests at the SR Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district since Thursday night over the alleged inci-



Students protesting at the SR Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. — Photo: X

dent. They poured out their woes to Ravindra, who reached the college with the District Collector and Superintendent of Police.

"We (students) don't have faith in the college management as it has been trying to hush up the matter (alleged hidden cameras issue) for the past three days. The college management threatened to act against us if we complain over this issue," said an official statement, quoting the students' complaint to Ravindra. Demanding justice at any cost, the students vowed not to attend classes until then, while the Minister said the truth would

come out and the culprits would be punished.

Meanwhile, Naidu said if the crime of capturing videos through hidden cameras is proven, the officials will take stringent action against the culprits, according to an official statement. In the event of students possessing any evidence regarding the incident, he urged them to share it with him. A case was registered but the police maintained that there were no such hidden cameras found in the washroom. "No hidden cameras or evidence were found. There is no need for the girls to worry," said an official statement. **PTI**

OF GRIT & PASSION



Switzerland's Manuela Schaefer (C) leads the field during the Para Athletics women's 5,000 m T54 Round 1 Heat 2 event at Stade de France, Saint-Denis, north of Paris on Friday. — Photo: AFP/The International Olympic Committee

Are Deccan centipedes originally from Australia?

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The long-legged, fleet-footed centipedes, often mistaken for spiders from Peninsular India (Deccan plateau), took a passage through India all the way to Australia millions of years ago! Also known as scutigermorphs, are the centipedes from the Deccan plateau a distinct cousin of its counterpart in Australia?

Researchers from Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), who have undertaken a fascinating journey to discover from where the organisms found in Peninsular India come from, in a study found that the Indian scutigermorphs (centipedes) originated in Gond-



wana, the supercontinent, which consisted of present-day Africa, Antarctica, Australia and South America merged together, approximately 200 million years ago. "Perhaps, the scutigermorphs took a

passage through India' from Gondwana all the way to Australia," says Maya Manivannan, a scientist from CCMB and the first author of the paper, published recently in the Journal of Biogeography. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

TG turns rehab for AP leaders, officials

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Is Telangana becoming a rehabilitation centre for officials and Congress leaders from Andhra Pradesh? Considering some of the recent government and party appointments in the State, this could be quite true.

The appointment of Anila Vavilla as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO) on Tuesday is the latest in the trend. There is buzz on social media that she is a native of Ananthapuram in AP. There are also reports that senior officials in the department are unhappy over her appointment as the VC&MD of TGREDCO. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

This is not an isolated case. The appointment of retired IAS officer and former AP Chief Secretary Adityanath Das as Advisor to the Telangana government (Irrigation and Water Resources) had triggered an uproar in the State. Das was heading the Irrigation Department in the undivided State and became the Chief Secretary of AP after bifurcation. He had also taken up many issues with the Krishna River Management Board, which had a bearing on river water sharing from Telangana's perspective.

Though a Central government institution, the appointment of retired IAS officer Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar as Director-General of Administrative Staff College of India also sparked discussions. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

KTR alerts Kharge about 'bulldozer raj'

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Drawing the attention of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to the Congress government in Telangana going on a demolition spree, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday wanted the Congress leadership to ensure that its rule in the State would not unfold yet another 'bulldozer raj' in India.

Posting a video of 75 houses of the poor demolished in Mahabubnagar, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's own district, at 3 am recently, making several destitute families shelterless without any prior notice, he said 25 of the houses razed to the ground were those of differently abled persons. **(SEE PAGE 2)**