



**NATION | PAGE 08**  
**Eminent economist Bibek Debroy passes away**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**24 killed in airstrikes on southern Lebanon**  
 19 others injured as Israeli warplanes carry out 35 airstrikes



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**Mumbai Test: Indian batters lose the plot yet again**

**In a nutshell**  
**Half-day for primary schools**  
**HYDERABAD:** The State government announced half-day timing for the primary schools, which will function from 9 am to 1 pm starting November 6. This is applicable to the government, local body and aided primary schools as teachers from these schools are set to hold caste census for three weeks. The schools have been asked to let off students after serving mid-day meals as per schedule.  
**HYDERABAD PAGE 4**

**Over 60 injured in Diwali celebrations**  
**HYDERABAD:** At least 60 individuals in Hyderabad and surrounding districts suffered injuries while bursting crackers and had to be rushed to Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Gandhi and Osmania General Hospitals for treatment. At SD Eye Hospital, 57 persons with eye injuries received treatment. Children continued to form a considerable chunk, with 20 of them reporting to SD Eye Hospital.  
**HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

**Man tries to end life at Warangal PS**  
**WARANGAL:** A street vendor tried to end his life at Mattewada Police Station, allegedly due to harassment by a Sub-Inspector in Warangal. According to reports, Sridhar doused himself with petrol at the police station, alleging that he had been harassed by the SI, Vittal, for the past month. Meanwhile, the authorities have reportedly ordered an internal inquiry.

**Momo row: Six arrested**  
**HYDERABAD:** Following the death of a woman and hospitalisation of several others after eating momos from a stall in Banjara Hills, police arrested six persons who were running the eatery. The arrested were Almas, Sajid Hussain, Md Raees, Md Sharukh, Md Hanef and Md Rajik — all residents of Khairatabad and natives of Bihar.  
**HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 115
Retail live.....	Rs. 137
With skin.....	Rs. 199
Skinless.....	Rs. 226
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 74

## India, China agreement silent on 'Finger' points

There is now an atmosphere of excitement in the corridors of power in New Delhi. Military disengagement with China in eastern Ladakh has taken place. Armies of China and India have reportedly pulled back in Depsang and Demchok. This is good. But there is still a veil of silence over the 'Finger' points in the Pangong Tso Lake area. Previously, India used to patrol till Finger 8. After the Chinese incursion, this came down to Finger 4. What will happen here? Would India have to cede the area between the two Fingers mentioned above? Till now, no clear-cut official standpoint is available.

So, causes of worry remain. At the same time, there are glimmers of hope also. Xu Feihong, the Chinese envoy to New Delhi, expressed that the relations between China and India are now standing at a new starting point with new development opportunities.

Is it really so? In 1962 also, Chou en Lai, the then Chinese Premier, said many such pious words before his army swooped down on North Eastern India and reached up to Bomdilla, situated deep in Arunachal Pradesh and right up to the borders of Assam. New Delhi must always remember that in Chinese geopolitical interests, Arunachal Pradesh is much more im-

portant to them than Ladakh sector where, in many stretches, "not even a blade of grass grows".

By a blitzkrieg in this sector, they can overrun Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), India's last military post on the foot of the Karakoram Pass and cut off the Siachin glacier. But how much China can gain by doing this? The DBO outpost can hardly threaten the China-controlled Aksai Chin, which is five miles to the East. On the other hand, China is already in Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor coming through Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. So, strategically the impor-

tance of the western Himalayas is much less to China than what it is in regard to eastern Himalayas.

Why is it so? The principal reason is China's burgeoning water shortage and at the same time, increasing demands for electricity. To overcome it, Beijing is building hydroelectric dams on the Brahmaputra in Tibet, thereby blocking the free flow of the river water to India. Now, the river valleys of Arunachal Pradesh have immense hydro-power potential, currently estimated at 50,328 MW or approximately 22 per cent of India's power-generating capacity. Control over this State would give China im-

mense strategic security.

Interestingly, we have not heard anything from China in recent times regarding settling border problems in the eastern Himalayas, particularly in the McMahon Line sector that involves Arunachal Pradesh. On the contrary, it 'renamed' 30 places in this Indian State this year. On several occasions, China included Arunachal Pradesh on its map.

With a certain motive, China is increasing its military capacity in the depth areas across Arunachal. It is now well known that four sectors of State — namely Asaphila, Tuting Axis, Chang Tze and Fishtail 2 — are under some kind of Chinese threat. There is no scope for satisfaction on the part of New Delhi over Beijing's future moves vis-a-vis Arunachal. It is because the Tawang monastery of the State is invaluable to China for control over Tibetan Buddhism which in turn means complete control over Tibet, an area now occupying the central position in China's foreign policy.

What would be New Delhi's approach now? Confabulations over the proper alignment of the McMahon Line are welcome. But at the same time, New Delhi should always be prepared for some surprises.

— Amitava Mukherjee  
 (Author is a senior journalist and commentator)

## KTR to take up State-wide padayatra

**Responds positively to netizens' requests; takes govt to task**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao responded positively to requests to take out a State-wide padayatra (walkathon) to learn people's problems first-hand and take the government to the cleaners. With netizens repeatedly requesting him to launch an extensive padayatra, he stated that as people appear to be keen about it, he needs to work on strengthening himself first.

"Who knows what the future has in store?" he remarked cryptically. Further, he announced that BRS supremo and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who kept a low profile following surgery last year, is set to return to public life in 2025. He informed that Chandrashekar Rao, who is in perfect health, deliberately allowed the Congress government one year time to settle and fulfil its electoral promises.

"He is perfectly healthy and guides us daily. As a responsible opposition leader, he is giving the Congress government enough time to deliver on their '420' promises," he said while interact-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao interacted with netizens on X during #AskKTR and talked on a host of issues.

ing with the netizens during a 90-minute Q&A session on social media platform X (#AskKTR) on Thursday.

Countering the recent statements by Chief Minis-

ter A Revanth Reddy suggesting Chandrashekar Rao's political end, the former Minister asserted that the BRS supremo's legacy would remain indelible in

Telangana's political sphere. "As long as Telangana exists, the legend named K Chandrashekar Rao will live on," he said.

Reflecting on the BRS' recent electoral setback, Rama Rao pointed to the party's failure in perception management, people management and effective communication of development and welfare initiatives, as factors for the party's defeat. He also attributed it to general voter fatigue and anti-incumbency as well as a vertical polarisation between NDA and I.N.D.I.A camps.

"On top of that, Congress, through its false promises created a false hope which was key. People in districts believed Congress' fake promises and propaganda," he said. However, he noted that it would be unfair to solely blame MLAs, as multiple factors contributed to the election outcome.

Determined to hold the Congress accountable, the BRS working president vowed that the party would intensify its focus on ensuring the Congress government delivers on its commitments, including the Six Guarantees promised in Telangana. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

## CARNIVAL OF BUFFALOES



A man performs a stunt with a buffalo as part of Sadar festivities, near the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Friday.

## Apologise for misleading TG voters, BRS to Kharge

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao trained his guns at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Telangana Congress leadership for misleading Telangana voters with impractical guarantees and pushing the State toward economic turmoil.

He demanded the Congress leaders apologise to the people of Telangana for betraying their trust and not delivering the Six Guarantees. He was reacting to Kharge's caution to the Karnataka Congress that an unplanned approach could lead to financial problems, including bankruptcy and impact on future generations.

In a statement, Rama Rao expressed concern over Congress' track record of "guarantees" in Karnataka,

### PM TAKES A DIG, SAYS CONG BADLY EXPOSED IN FRONT OF PEOPLE

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of people for promising to them what the party knows it will never be able to deliver. "The Congress is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible. Campaign after campaign they promise things to the people which they also know they will never be able to deliver," he said. He said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is turning from bad to worse. PTI (REPORT PAGE 8)

warning that similar actions in Telangana could have far-reaching negative impacts on future generations. "Dear Kharge ji, do you understand now that empty guarantees lead to financial ruin?" he asked, citing the Karnataka government's plans to review one of its five guarantees due to financial strain.

Referring to Telangana's robust decade of progress under the BRS, he accused the Congress of jeopardising this growth with unrealistic promises aimed solely at gaining power. "The juggling act of Congress guarantees has brought Telangana to a standstill within a year," he added. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Liquor may get costlier in State

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The State government is reportedly planning to increase liquor prices to overcome its revenue deficit. The government is likely to increase liquor prices by 10-15%, with 20% being the outer limit on all varieties of liquor — ordinary, medium and premium.

Sources say the government's Budget Estimates for 2024-25 predicted Rs 25,617.53 crore in revenue from excise. However, the actual collections fell short by Rs 2,000 crore, thus creating a pressing need for revenue-raising measures. During the previous fiscal year, while the government

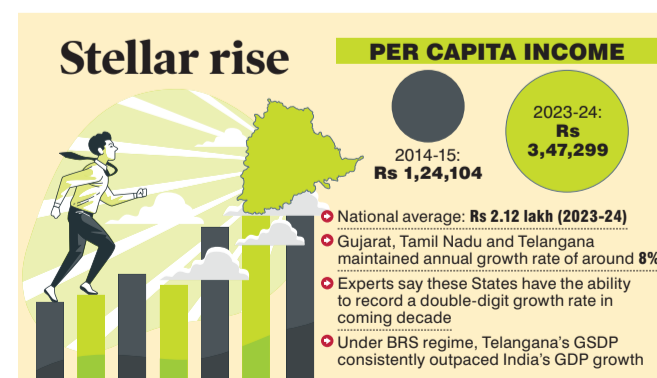
estimated a revenue of Rs 17,482.19 crore, it actually collected Rs 18,470.45 crore. However, this time, with a revenue deficit of Rs 2,000 crore, the government is not expecting to reach the target without increasing the prices of liquor. Hence, a price increase was being seen as one of the most immediate solution, sources added. The rate fixation committee was expected to make its recommendations soon, following which a final decision would be made, sources said, adding that the government was planning to increase the prices of beer by Rs 20 and quarter bottle liquor by at least Rs 20 to Rs 70. (SEE PAGE 2)

## TG growth under BRS draws praise

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

In the decade since Telangana's formation in 2014, the State's economic growth earned widespread recognition, with its Per Capita Income (PCI) more than doubling, from Rs 1,24,104 in 2014-15 to Rs 3,47,299 in 2023-24. Telangana's PCI is now the highest among major Indian States, far surpassing the national average of Rs 2.12 lakh for 2023-24. This growth rate is the fastest among southern States as well.

Highlighting Telangana's economic strides, Saurabh Mukherjee and Nandita Rajhans's new book 'Behold the Leviathan: The Unusual Rise of Modern India' attributes much of this success to Telangana's strategic invest-



ments and reforms. Mukherjee, the founder of Marcellus Investment Advisors, commends Telangana for achieving the PCI doubling milestone within just six years, a phenomenal achievement by any standard.

The growth story under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is

often cited as a model for rapid urban and economic development, particularly in Hyderabad. Experts believe a third term under K Chandrashekar Rao could have continued this trajectory, propelling Telangana to even greater heights in economic performance and development. Certified Fi-

nance Planner D Muthukrishnan, who regularly posts on the fiscal performance of different States, is one of those who believe this. "Saurabh Mukherjee, in his latest book, states that Telangana doubled its per capita income in the last 6 years," he posted on X. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Rs 7 cr worth drugs seized at RGIA

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Two international passengers who attempted to smuggle drugs worth Rs 7 crore hidden in cornflake packets were intercepted and arrested at the Hyderabad airport.

Based on specific inputs, the DRI seized the drugs — around 7.09 kg of hydroponic weed — from two Indian passengers who arrived from Bangkok at the RGIA here. The officials put the value of the drugs in the illicit market at Rs 7 crore.

After intercepting the passengers, a systematic search of their check-in luggage revealed 13 vacuum-packed packets inside corn-

flake packets, and a field test kit revealed it to be hydroponic weed. The passengers were arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, and sent to judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau seized 155 grams of MDMA and arrested a peddler hailing from Rajasthan on Thursday carried MDMA with him and acting on specific information, Anti-Narcotics Bureau officials arrested him at Lingampalli. The seized drug is estimated to be valued at Rs 18 lakh.