



NATION | PAGE 05

Thousands rally against AFSPA in Manipur



WORLD | PAGE 07

Russia bombards Ukraine's power infrastructure

Fires over 200 missiles; power supply to one million homes in Ukraine disrupted



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 10

Ananya won't compromise in a relationship now

In a nutshell

NIA conducts raids in six States

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency conducted searches at 22 locations in six States to probe a human trafficking syndicate luring youth to work in call centres engaged in cyber frauds. The case, which was registered by police in Gopalganj in Bihar, relates to an organised syndicate luring and trafficking Indians to foreign countries on the pretext of jobs and forcing them to work in fake call centres engaged in cyber fraud. **PTI**

Priyanka Gandhi takes oath as MP

NEW DELHI: Holding up a copy of the Constitution, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday took oath as a Lok Sabha MP to begin her journey as an elected representative of the people five years after she joined active politics. The debutant MP, whose entry has long been a subject of speculation, said her priority would be to raise important issues concerning the nation. **NATION PAGE 5**

Great progress in border deal: China

BEIJING: The Chinese military said that "great progress" has been made in implementing the border agreement with India to end the over standoff at eastern Ladakh and termed the meeting between the Defence Ministers of the two sides as positive and constructive. "We also look forward to harmonious dance between the Chinese dragon and Indian Elephant with concerted steps," Defence Ministry spokesman Sr Col Wu Qian said. **PTI**

Aus Senate passes social media ban

MELBOURNE: A social media ban for children under 16 passed the Australian Senate on Thursday and will soon become a world-first law. The law will make platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram liable for fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$ 33 million) for systemic failures to prevent children younger than 16 from holding accounts. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 105
Retail live.....	Rs. 127
With skin.....	Rs. 187
Skinless.....	Rs. 210
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 82

CM finds the going tough

Major portfolios which Revanth retained are in the news for all the wrong reasons

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

It is not easy being A Revanth Reddy these days, especially when each of the major portfolios which he retained are in the news almost every day for all the wrong reasons.

From the Home Department, which is facing flak for the deterioration of the law and order situation in the State, the Education Department, which is under fire after the frequent incidents of food poisoning and subsequent deaths of students, to the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, which has been in the news for the protests against land acquisitions, demolitions by HYDRAA and the controversies over the Musi riverfront development project - all are under Revanth Reddy, with the non-stop controversies posing a question on his capabilities as an administrator.

To begin with, the desecration of idols in different temples, especially those in Hyderabad and other parts, are a poor reflection of the law and order situation in the State. Since August 26, at least nine incidents of idols desecrated in temples and vandalising of places of worship have been reported

Desecration of idols in temples, especially those in Hyderabad, are a poor reflection of the law and order situation in the State

in the State capital and its suburbs alone. As if these were not enough, the alleged attack on Vikarabad Collector Prateek Jain and officials, the one on Nirmal RDO Ratna Kalyani and frequent complaints of police highhandedness and custodial torture, some of these even leading to suicides and suicide attempts in some districts, have all botched up the image of the Home Department.

As for the Education Department, frequent incidents of food poisoning in government-run schools, residential and otherwise too, across the State have become a major issue. Shockingly, there were three food poisoning cases in the same Zilla Parishad High School at Maganoor within one week! Sixteen-year-old C Shailaja from Wankidi of Asifabad and 13-year-old Ch Prashant from Bhongir are just two among the lives claimed by what the Telangana High Court called 'utter callousness' on

the part of the State government.

The fact that these happened under the watch of Revanth Reddy, and more significantly, many of those in his home district of Mahabubnagar, raises concern over the manner in which the department is being managed.

On the other hand, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAP) demolishing residential structures in and around Hyderabad evoked sharp criticism, with the High Court too rapping the agency for 'selective demolition'. Demolitions of huts and homes of low and middle-income groups, while palatial buildings of VIPs, including that of the Chief Minister brother Tirupati Reddy, were spared and the razing of poor people's houses along the River Musi riverbed as part of the riverfront project all saw the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ministry held by the Chief Minister coming under fire.

As he completes one year holding these ministries, whether Revanth Reddy can undo the damage that has alienated his government from the public, despite its claims of 'Prajapalana' remains a question worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

KCR felicitates former MLC

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao on Thursday honoured former MLC Professor Srinivas Reddy in recognition of his two decades of dedicated service as the in-charge of Telangana Bhavan. The event was marked by a warm and respectful tribute to Prof Reddy and his family, with Prof Reddy all set to leave for the United States soon.

Chandrashekhar Rao and his wife draped a shawl over Prof Reddy and his wife, symbolising their deep respect and appreciation for Prof Reddy, who was a long-time associate of Chandrashekhar Rao and one of his strongest aides in the Telangana Statehood movement. The ceremony included a warm embrace from the BRS chief followed



BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao with former MLC Professor Srinivas Reddy, on Thursday.

by a courteous farewell. The BRS chief personally escorted Prof Reddy to his vehicle, after presenting him with a personally signed book as a memento.

BRS to observe Deeksha Divas today
The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will observe the Deeksha Divas on Friday commemorating the his-

toric hunger strike led by party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in 2009, which played a pivotal role in the formation of Telangana. The occasion will be marked by various events across all 33 districts of Telangana, with senior leaders assigned as in-charges for each district.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao will take part in the Deeksha Divas at Telangana Bhavan at 4 pm on the day after returning from Karimnagar, where he will be participating in party programmes including a motorcycle rally marking the occasion. The BRS will also organise an 'anna danam' and other commemorative activities at NIMS Hospital, which served as the centre stage of the fight for Statehood during the final stages of the movement.

B'desh HC refuses to ban ISKCON

DHAKA

Bangladesh High Court on Thursday rejected a petition seeking a ban on ISKCON's activities in the country, days after a lawyer was killed in a clash between security personnel and supporters of a Hindu leader, previously linked to the religious group.

A lawyer had sought a ban on the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) after placing some newspaper reports related to the organisation. "The two-member High Court Bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and De-

Hindu Americans urge US to impose sanctions on Bangladesh

WASHINGTON: Condemning attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, several Hindu American groups have sought that US aid for the South Asian country be made contingent on its government taking measurable action to protect these populations. Vishva Hindu Parishad America (VHPA) president Ajay Shah said the news of Das' arrest, vandalism of Kali Mandir in Chittagong and the rising attacks on Hindus across Bangladesh are disconcerting. "Is this the human rights legacy the Biden administration wants to be remembered for," he asked. **PTI**

bashish Roy Chowdhury on Thursday declined to ban the ISKCON activities in Bangladesh," a spokesman

of the attorney general's office said. He said the Bench made the decision after the attorney general's office

submitted a report on the action taken by the government regarding the death of assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif in the northeastern port city of Chattogram earlier this week. Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachary, arrested earlier this week, was sent to jail by a Chattogram court on sedition charges, sparking a violent protest during which advocate Alif was killed. "Right at this moment, the situation does not warrant the intervention as the State is carrying out its job," Justice Mahbub was quoted as saying. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Revanth misleading ryots: KTR

Accuses Congress government of failing to deliver on Rythu Bharosa scheme

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a scathing attack on the Congress government in the State, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday faulted the administration on the way it was handling farmers' issues. He accused the Congress government of failing to deliver on the Rythu Bharosa scheme and misleading farmers with promises of debt waivers.

He pointed out that the government had not fulfilled its commitment to purchase paddy and failed to provide the promised Rs 500 bonus per quintal of grain. He also mentioned incidents of police brutality in Dilawarpur and Ramannapet, where farmers were detained and jailed, and questioned whether the government could derive some pleasure



BRS working president KT Rama Rao, party senior leader T Harish Rao and others at the canteen of Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.

in such actions. Taking to X, he further criticised the government for celebrating 'Rythu Panduga' while farmers struggled to be en-

meshed in a web of miseries. He accused the government of making false promises and failing to fulfil them. He highlighted the plight of

farmers who, due to the government's failure to purchase their produce, were forced to sell it to middlemen for a song. He called on

the people of Telangana to wake up and realise what the government is, in the backdrop of its shortcomings. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'Cong betrayed its poll manifesto'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Raising serious concern over the state of the education sector in Telangana, BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao took strong exception to the Congress government's alleged plan to close 6,200 schools in Telangana. He accused the government of betraying its manifesto promise to establish primary schools in every small village and upper primary and high schools in every revenue village.

Harish Rao highlighted that within a year of coming to power, the Congress government labelled 1,899 schools as "zero schools" and plans to permanently close 4,314 schools with fewer than ten students, totalling 6,213 schools. As part of this plan, 5,741 teachers from these schools are

being transferred. He contrasted this with the previous KCR government's efforts to strengthen government schools with initiatives such as the Rs 7,289 crore 'Mana Ooru - Mana Badi' programme, which provided nutritious meals including breakfast and lunch with fine rice.

The BRS leader criticised the Revanth Reddy-led government for cancelling the CM Breakfast Scheme, not continuing the 'Mana Ooru - Mana Badi' programme and providing substandard midday meals, which he claims have led to a decline in the reputation and enrollment of government schools.

He lamented that within just one year, the Revanth Reddy government brought about the closure of 6,213 government schools, marking a serious setback for the State's education system.

Key LeT member extradited to India

NEW DELHI

A member of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) facing an Interpol Red Notice was extradited to India from Rwanda on Thursday in an operation coordinated by the NIA and the CBI.

Salman Rehman Khan, an alleged member of the internationally proscribed terrorist organisation, assisted in providing arms, ammunition and explosives to further terrorist activities in Bengaluru, they said. The

NIA lodged a case in 2023 related to the criminal conspiracy to spread terror in Bengaluru in which Khan was suspect. An FIR was also registered against him in Bengaluru. Khan, who was previously imprisoned in a POCSO case, allegedly facilitated the collection and distribution of explosives for other terror accused after being radicalised and recruited during his incarceration by T Naseer, a life convict in a terror case, according to the NIA probe. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Pannun threatens to disrupt DGPs meet in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR

The US-based pro-Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun has issued a threat video to disrupt the three-day Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police Conference-2024 going to be held in Bhubaneswar from Friday.

The founder of the banned Sikhs for Justice outfit, in a video, called the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister the "axis of evil who are bringing the biggest security threat to Bhubaneswar". **(SEE PAGE 2)**

UGC rolls out flexible UG option

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Students will soon be able to shorten or extend the duration of their undergraduate depending on the programme, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday rolling out new programmes — accelerated degree programme (ADP) and extended degree programme (EDP).

These programmes are in addition to the existing three and four-year UG programmes with standard duration. The ADP, which follows the same curriculum



content and total credits prescribed for the standard duration, will enable students to shorten their course duration by one or

two semesters by allowing them to earn additional credits per semester starting the second or third semester. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

TG scraps grading system in SSC

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a major decision, the State government scrapped the grading system for the SSC Public Examinations, starting academic year 2024-25.

Students will be awarded 100 per cent of the marks considering their external assessment without taking their internal assessment into the count. The government also scrapped the continuous and comprehensive evaluation system that assess overall development of students at schools.

Total credits
Similarly, in a four-year undergraduate programme, students can shorten course duration by one semester or a maximum of two semesters, i.e., total credits required for a four-year undergraduate programme can be secured in six or seven semesters. **(SEE PAGE 2)**