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Post poll rout, Uddhav meets Maharashtra Chief Minister



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Israeli strike in Gaza kills eight of a family
 According to Palestinian medics, most of the deceased are women and children



SPORT | PAGE 10
Brave tailenders stand tall in Gabba Test

In a nutshell

Doval to attend India-China talks

BEIJING: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval arrived here on Tuesday to take part in the India-China Special Representatives' talks to be held on Wednesday aimed at restoring the bilateral ties stalled for over four years due to the military standoff in eastern Ladakh. Doval will hold the 23rd round of the Special Representatives' (SR) talks with his Chinese counterpart and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. **PTI**

Ukraine kills Russian General

MOSCOW: A senior Russian General was killed by a bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow, a day after Ukraine's security service levelled criminal charges against him. A Ukrainian official said the service carried out the attack. Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, the chief of the military's nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces, was killed as he left for his office. **WORLD PAGE 9**

Pope may visit India after 2025

KOCHI: Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad said that Pope Francis' visit to India will most likely be after 2025, which has been announced as the 'Jubilee Year' by the Catholic Church, due to celebrations in Rome that year. Fifty-one-year-old Koovakad was elevated to the rank of cardinal by Pope Francis on December 7. On his arrival in Kerala, he thanked everyone who showed up to greet him at the airport here. **PTI**

Another temple unlocked in UP

SAMBHAL: Following the recent discovery of a Shiva temple in Khaggu Sarai area of Sambhal, another temple, which remained closed for several years, has been reopened in Sarayatareen. Known as Radha Krishna temple, this religious site was previously accessible only during occasional festival worship. The temple came to light after officials received information about its existence. **NATION PAGE 8**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 96
Retail live.....	Rs. 118
With skin.....	Rs. 171
Skinless.....	Rs. 195
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85



It's 'prep time' for Shahid

The actor is all set to play an 'edgy and nasty' character

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Khammam shocker! Rat bites paralyse student

Class X girl bitten by rats 15 times at BC Welfare Hostel

STATE BUREAU
 KHAMMAM

In yet another shocker from State-run hostels in Telangana, a Class 10 student at the BC Welfare Hostel at Danavaigudem in Khammam was bitten by rats multiple times, with both her legs being paralysed now.

The student, Lakshmi Bhavani Keerthy, was said to have been bitten 15 times by rats, and she was administered anti-rabies vaccine each time she was bitten from March to November. This resulted in paralysis, family members alleged.

She was shifted to the Mamata General Hospital in Khammam as the hospital came forward to provide free treatment to the student at the directions of former Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar. The doctors said the student was currently recovering but suffering from neurological problems.

Responding to the incident, BRS MLA T Harish Rao expressed concern over the condition of the student and accused the government of acting negligently towards students studying



BRS leaders S Venkata Veeraiah and others enquiring about the health condition of the Class X student who is undergoing treatment at Mamata General Hospital in Khammam on Tuesday.

in government residential schools. It was worrisome that the students, who were supposed to be studying in schools, were falling sick and ending up in hospital beds under Congress rule. What did the authorities do when a student was bitten by rats 15 times, and why was she not given proper treatment even after visiting the hospital many times, he asked. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Five students hospitalised in Nirmal

NIRMAL: Five students from a Telangana Minority Residential School fell sick, reportedly due to food poisoning, at Chincholi village in Sarangapur mandal on Tuesday. Sources said that the students complained of stomachache after dinner at the school on Monday and were admitted to a government general hospital in the district headquarters. They were discharged by evening. They were hospitalised due to food poisoning at the hostel. The principal of the school was unavailable for comment.

Bring it on, KTR on arrest threats

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Amid speculations of his arrest in connection with the Formula-E case, BRS working president KT Rama Rao wished the best for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. "Good luck Chitti Naidu and Co. Will face you legally. Bring it on," he posted on X.

Referring to the reported nod from Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to arrest him, Rama Rao observed that Revanth Reddy appeared to have got the desired result after falling at the feet of the BJP leadership in Delhi and holding secret meetings with industrialist Gautam Adani in Jaipur.

"Despite conducting 30 trips to Delhi, you could not get three paise for the State. If you want to draw psy-

If you want to draw psychotic pleasure by filing three cases and put me in jail, that is your headache, says BRS leader to Revanth

chotic pleasure by filing three cases and put me in jail, that is your headache," he said. In another post, he took a dig at the Congress, sharing the post of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah boasting about showcasing Bengaluru through motor-sports and promoting the Formula 4 car race. "Wow, Nice! So is this also a scam? I wonder!" he said, amid the Telangana Congress leaders projecting the Formula E racing event held under the BRS regime as a major scam.

Cops issue notice to Sandhya Theatre

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Police issued a show cause notice to the management of Sandhya Theatre asking why the 'cinematography licence' issued to the theatre should not be cancelled.

The police cited the lapses that led to the stampede on December 4 night, during the premiere show of the *Pushpa-2* movie. The notice was issued to Renuka Devi of Sandhya 70 mm theatre. In the two-page notice, issued by Hyderabad CP CV Anand, the police pointed out several alleged lapses including, the absence of women security personnel, no frisking and improper security arrangements. The police asked the management to reply to the notice within ten days of receiving it.

Assembly on the boil over State's mounting debts



BRS legislators wearing black clothes and handcuffs stage a protest against the imprisonment of Lagacherla farmers and handcuffing of one of the arrested farmers who was taken to hospital for treatment, on the Assembly premises on Tuesday.

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Legislative Assembly witnessed heated exchanges between the treasury and the opposition benches over the State's mounting debts.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and former Finance Minister T Harish Rao sparred over the fiscal management of the Congress government's first year in power. While Bhatti Vikramarka claimed that the State government raised loans of

around Rs 51,277 crore, Harish Rao countered that the State debts as of Tuesday had escalated to a whopping Rs 1.27 lakh crore, including both guaranteed and non-guaranteed loans.

The row began during Question Hour when Bhatti informed the House that in the first year after coming to power till November 30 this year, the Congress obtained Rs 52,118 crore under FRBM, Rs 61,991.14 crore under non-FRBM loans obtained by various corporations, public sector undertakings and special purpose vehicles with gov-

ernment guarantees and another Rs 10,099.7 crore loans without guarantees.

Harish countered with a detailed breakdown, charging the Congress with incurring Rs 1.27 lakh crore in loans, including Rs 61,991 crore under corporate guarantees and Rs 10,099 crore without guarantees as well as Rs 3,000 crore fresh loan obtained as of Tuesday. "If this trend continues, Telangana's debt will surge to Rs 6.36 lakh crore in the Congress government's five-year term," he warned. He also dismissed Congress' claim

that Rs 6.71 lakh crore was borrowed during the BRS regime, asserting the total was Rs 4.17 lakh crore. "The Congress presented a white paper to mislead the public. Despite obtaining record loans and enjoying robust revenue, pending bills remain unpaid, and no new schemes have been launched," he said, condemning the attempts to inflate the debts obtained under the previous BRS regime to blame it for the Congress government's shortcomings. **(SEE PAGE 2)** **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)**

76 villages face water crisis

STATE BUREAU
 Sangareddy

Supply of drinking water to 76 villages in Nyalkal, Jharasangam, and Raikode mandals has stopped since November 22, after 26 Mission Bhagiratha operators and linemen went on strike over being denied their salaries for the last 10 months.

The Raghavapur filter bed, from where water is being supplied to these villages, has stopped function-

ing since then. These operators have worked with Mission Bhagiratha in these villages for eight to 10 years.

They were being paid Rs 9,500 per month. However, they last got their salaries a year ago. When they launched the protest on November 22, the contractor assured them to pay the entire pending salaries by December 10. Still, the contractor failed to keep the promise, forcing them to continue the protest. Several villagers in these man-

dals are facing acute water shortage. While some officials made alternative arrangements, such as supplying water by arranging tanks, residents in other villages were fetching water at their own expense. Gopal Reddy, a lineman, urged the district administration and State government to intervene in the matter to end their struggles. He said they were ready to resume their work if the contractors paid the pending salaries. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Class VII student ends life

HYDERABAD: A Class VII student died by suicide in his hostel room at a residential school in Hayathnagar in the early hours of Tuesday. The 12-year-old, who was staying in the hostel located on the school campus, was upset over an issue and took the extreme step. According to police officials, on Monday, in the absence of his roommate, the boy restored to the extreme step. His friends grew suspicious when there was no response from inside even after repeated knocking on the door. They alerted the hostel authorities, who used force to break open the door, only to find the boy dead. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Over 3 lakh candidates skip Group-II exam

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Over 3 lakh candidates skipped the Telangana Group-II recruitment examination that concluded in the State on Sunday. A significant reason for such substantial absenteeism by can-

didates was the allotment of centres, many of which were located at far-flung places. Some students were also turned away for arriving just minutes late.

For reasons best known to them, the Telangana Public Service Commission allotted examination centres 30

to 50 km away from where the aspirants reside. Many candidates from Hyderabad were assigned centres in Ibrahimpatnam and Ghatkesar, requiring a long commute. "I was allotted a centre in Guru Nanak educational institutions in Ibrahimpatnam, while I re-

side in Khairatabad. Who would travel for such a long distance for two days? Hence, I decided to drop," said a Group aspirant.

After commuting long distances to reach the centre, several students were denied entry into the examination hall as they were late by just a

minute. Candidates' repeated pleas to centre officials did not yield any response, forcing students to return without writing the examination for which they prepared for several years. The Group-II notification for 783 vacancies attracted 5,51,855 registrations. **(SEE PAGE 2)**