HYDERABAD EDITION



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Death toll in Mohali building collapse rises to two



WORLD | PAGE 09

Pope calls for truce, says 'let weapons fall silent'

Condemns 'cruelty' of bombing schools and hospitals in Ukraine and Gaza



SPORT | PAGE 10 Mandhana, Renuka blow away WI in first ODI

In a nutshell

One killed in **Andhra shootout**

RAYACHOTI: One person died, and another was injured in a suspected shootout in Annamayya district. Hanumanthu and Ramana, who earn a living by collecting hair, selling old silver articles, and rearing goats, informed their family members that they were "shot at" early Sunday near Rayachoti. Police said more clarity would emerge after postmortem, and a case was registered.

Modi to meet Christian leaders

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday attend the Christmas celebrations hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at the CBCI Centre here, his office said. Prime Minister Modi will interact with key leaders from the Christian community, including Cardinals, Bishops and prominent lay leaders of the Church, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said. PTI

22 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday killed at least 22 people, including five children, Palestinian officials said. Also on Sunday, Israeli authorities allowed Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa. the leader of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, to enter Gaza and celebrate a pre-Christmas Mass with members of the territory's small Christian community. **WORLD PAGE 9**

9 entities banned, Rs 21 cr seized

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has uncovered a front-running scheme involving PNB MetLife India Insurance Company equity dealer Sachin Bakul Dagli and eight other entities, who generated illegal gains of Rs 21.16 crore. The frontrunning by these entities continued for more than three years. Sebi prohibited Sachin Bakul Dagli and eight other entities from the securities market.

BUSINESS PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

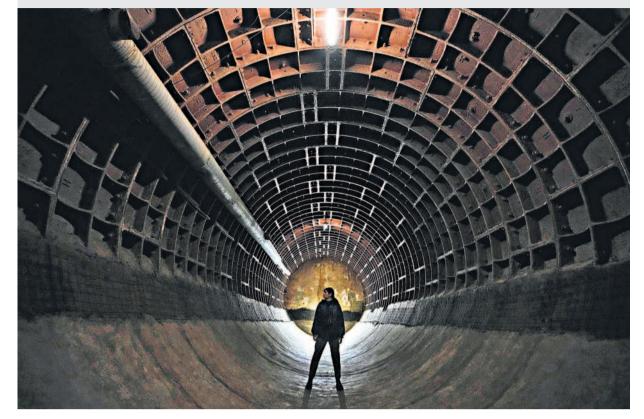
Farm	Rs. 91
Retail live	Rs. 113
With skin	Rs. 164
Skinless	Rs. 186
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 80



Ram Charan, Kiara flaunt dance moves

Makers released teaser of Dhop, fourth single from Game Changer

NUCLEAR-RESISTANT



A woman takes a tour of Bunker-703, a recently declassified nuclear-resistant bomb shelter built in 1961 at a depth of 141 feet for the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry archive, in Moscow on Sunday. — Photo: AP

CWC setback for KLIS expansion plans

STATE BUREAU

Upsetting the strategic plans laid out by the BRS regime for the optimum utilisation of Telangana's share of Godavari waters, the Central Water Commission reiected the Detailed Project Report for the add-on component of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme.

This component was intended to draw an additional one TMC of water per day from the Godavari River, increasing the existing capacity from two TMC to three TMC per day. The CWC's Rejects DPR for the add-on component of the project after repeated reminders and unanswered queries over the last ten months

decision, made after repeated reminders and unanswered queries over the last ten months, has temporarily halted the expansion plans of the Kaleshwaram project.
The project, one of the largest lift irrigation schemes in the world, had previously enjoyed priority clearances from the Ministry of Water Resources and

swift implementation by the

State government. The Congress party, which came to power one year ago, sought to prove it a failed project ever since two of the pillars in Medigadda barrage were found sagging.

The State government handed over the investigation of structural issues reported in the Medigadda barrage, generalised the concerns, and halted regular

operations at all three barrages — Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla. Consequently, water received from the Godavari and Pranahita rivers was left to flow unutilised, with the deliberately barrages drained under the pretext of investigations, leaving the ayacut high and dry.

The future of the Kaleshwaram project's expansion now remains uncertain. The DPR, created with thorough planning and accurate data, has been returned to the State Irrigation Department by the Union Jal Shakti Min-

Fight back, KTR tells farmers

BRS leader urges ryots to unite against deceptive moves to dilute Rythu Bharosa

STATE BUREAU HYDERARAD

Pointing out that the Congress government was making deceptive moves to di-lute the Rythu Bharosa scheme, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday made a passionate appeal to the farming community, urging them to fight back what he described as fraudulent attempts to evade farmers of their due.

In a strongly worded open letter, he called upon the farmers in Telangana to unite and beat back the deceptive moves to dilute the Rythu Bharosa scheme. Pointing out that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had avoided critical questions on the scheme during the recent Assembly session, Rama Rao said instead of addressing the concerns of farmers, Revanth Reddy diverted the discussion to irrelevant issues to evade accountability.

He expressed concern over the Congress government's plans to align Rythu Bharosa with the central guidelines, PM-Kisan which, he said, would exclude over half of Telangana's farmers from receiving benefits. "This is a deliberate attempt to cut benefits and betray the farming community," he said, cautioning farmers to be vigilant and protest the

Question their broken promises, challenge their leaders in your villages. Farmers must ensure that no injustice is done to them

- KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

new guidelines being laid down for restricting investment support. He stressed that if they did not act now, they would be left without insurance and face serious hardships.
Highlighting the achieve-

ments of the previous BRS government under K Chandrashekhar Rao, he said Rythu Bandhu had revolutionised Telangana's agri-culture sector, turning farming into the most remunerative activity. Over Rs 73,000 crore was credited directly to farmers' accounts across 11 seasons, ensuring transparency and eliminating corruption. He also pointed out that Rs 28,000 crore was allocated for loan waivers, resulting in nearly Rs 1 lakh crore being pumped into the hands of farmers to rejuvenate agri-

culture in the State. Criticising the Congress for failing to fulfil its preelection promise of Rs 15,000 per acre annually under Rythu Bharosa, he said it was a year since the promise, but instead of delivering, the Congress government had slashed the

amount and imposed unnecessary conditions, betraying the farmers once again. Dismissing Congress' allegations that funds from Rythu Bandhu were diverted to real estate as baseless propaganda aimed at discrediting farmers and the previous government's initiatives, Rama Rao urged farmers across Telangana to rise against what he called Congress' duplicity.

"Question their broken promises, challenge their leaders in your villages, and demand accountability. Farmers must unite to protect their rights and ensure that no injustice is done to them," he stated, concluding the open letter with a call to farmers to reject the attempts of Congress to dismantle the support systems provided by the BRS government.

"Let's protect the shields of support under KCR's leadership and resist Congress' betrayal," he asserted. stressing that the Congress government strategy would leave many farmers without necessary support for crop investment.

Allu Arjun's house

CITY BUREAU

A group of people, claiming to be students of Osmania University, barged into the house of Allu Arjun at Jubilee Hills and damaged flower pots, holding him responsible for the death of a woman in a stampede at Sandhya theatre during the screening of premier show of *Pushpa -2* movie.

According to reports, the attackers were Congress workers and close to the top leaders of the party. The incident happened around noon when a group of people, carrying placards, rushed into the house of the actor and broke the pots. They raised slogans against

Drug smuggler caught during Pushpa 2 show

NAGPUR: Police caught a man wanted in murder and drug cases during Pushpa 2 show. The gangaster, Vishal Meshram, who was on the run for 10 months had 27 cases against

the actor and shouted that Allu Arjun was responsible for the death of a woman, Revathi, and the present health condition of her son, Sai Teja, who is undergoing treatment at a private hos-

People barge into India, Kuwait ink defence deal

Elevate ties to strategic partnership following talks



Besides the Emir, Modi held separate talks with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with a focus on giving new momentum to the overall bilateral ties. The two sides signed



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with Kuwait's highest honour, 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer', by Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah.

the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence. The other pacts will provide for cooperation in areas of four agreements, including sports, culture and solar en-

ergy. In their delegationlevel talks, the two prime ministers discussed roadmap to strengthen the strategic partnership

areas of trade, investment, energy, defence, security, health, education, technology, cultural, and people-topeople ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The MoU on defence will provide for cooperation in the areas of de-fence industries, supply of defence equipment, joint exercises, training, exchange of personnel and experts and collaboration in research and development, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (Overseas Indian Affairs) in the MEA, said at a media briefing. In a post on X, Modi described his talks with the Kuwaiti counterpart as "fruitful".

(SEE PAGE 2)

Temple desecrated at Moinabad

CITY BUREAU

Unidentified persons allegedly desecrated a temple and damaged Hanuman idol at Moinabad late on Saturday. According to the police, the miscreants entered the temple premises located at Tulkatta Gate and damaged the idol.

The incident came to light on Sunday morning after the locals noticed it and alerted the police. The police reached the spot and sealed the area. The clues team arrived at the place and assisted the police in identifying the offenders. The police are checking the footage of CCTV in the surroundings for clues.

Crime rate up 41% under Congress rule

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad city witnessed an abnormal increase in crime rate from a mere two per cent in 2023, to a whopping 41 per cent in 2024.

Incidentally, during the BRS regime in 2022, a total of 24,220 cases were reported. The following year, 24,821 cases were registered, there by recording an in-

crease of two per cent In 2024, the Hyderabad Police registered 35,944 cases. The total bodily crime cases registered were 8,447 this year, while last year, 5,098 cases were booked. Also, 5,328 property crime cases were registered this year, compared to the previous year when 3,551 cases were booked. Although an



We are maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for any crime. Cases are registered for cell-phone-snatching and even small crimes

> - CV ANAND, CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER

abnormal increase, City Police Commissioner CV Anand attributed the rise in numbers to the police registering the First Information Report (FIR) in all offences and investigating it. "For every small crime a case is booked and investigation

done. We are maintaining a zero tolerance policy for any crime," said CV Anand.

The police official said all the wings of the city police are seriously following the cases. "Cases are registered for cell phone snatching and even small crimes. Dedi-

cated teams are apprehending and arresting the offenders. Organised crimes have come down in the city and activities of all the rowdy sheeters are under surveillance and control," said CV (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

Hyd CP warns bouncers

CITY BUREAU

The Hyderabad Police warned agencies providing the services of bouncers of strict action if they are found violating laws. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand said the police have been coming across instances of bouncers misbehaving with the public at gatherings during the visits of celebrities and politicians.

"In fact, the bouncers are pushing the police personnel who are on duty and themselves trying to take control of the security. There is law and order police for the job, and such things will not be tolerated," he said.

Tributes paid to Kargil informant

The Ladakhi shepherd, Tashi Namgyal, who played a crucial role in alerting the Indian Army about Pakistani intrusion in the Kargil sector in 1999, was given a hero's farewell at his funeral on Sunday.

The Fire & Fury Corps of the Army said on X, "Final Farewell To A Hero - Shree Tashi Namgyal Fire and Fury Corps extends heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Tashi Namgyal -The first informant of Kargil intrusion leading to the War. Immediate assistance has been provided to the family and continued support assured. Shree Tashi Namgyal is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. Army shall remain indebted to his contribution to the Nation and his selfless sacrifice shall forever be remembered."

Bunkers

Tashi Namgyal created history while searching for his missing Yaks in May 1999. He spotted Pakistani soldiers in Pathani attire digging bunkers atop the Batalik mountain range in early May 1999. Realising the gravity of the situation, he promptly informed the Indian Army, a timely warning that played a pivotal role in shaping India's military response. IANS