



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02
Overcast skies make Hyderabad feel like monsoon



WORLD | PAGE 09
Ambush in Syria kills 14 interim govt officers
Interior Minister describes the attackers as "remnants" of the former government



SPORT | PAGE 10
India eye clean sweep against West Indies

In a nutshell
30% interest on credit card dues
NEW DELHI: Banks can charge over 30% interest on credit card dues from customers after the Supreme Court set aside a 16-year-old National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission verdict, which held charging excessive interest amounted to an unfair trade practice. SC said the ruling was contrary to the legislative intent of Banking Regulation Act. **BUSINESS PAGE 8**

Kohli fined, handed demerit point

MELBOURNE: Virat Kohli and Australian youngster Sam Konstas were involved in a physical altercation because of which the Indian superstar was fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point even though it was played down as an accidental bump by the 19-year-old debutant. The brief showdown took place after the 10th over of the Australian innings on the opening day of the fourth Test when the players were crossing over. **SPORT PAGE 10**

6,000 escape from Mozambique jail

MAPUTO: At least 6,000 inmates escaped from a high-security prison in Mozambique's capital on Christmas Day after a rebellion, the country's police chief said, as widespread post-election riots and violence continue to engulf the country. Thirty-three prisoners died and 15 others were injured during a confrontation with the security forces, the police chief added. The escape started around midday Wednesday. **AP**

Strike in Gaza kills five journalists

DEIR AL-BALAH: An Israeli strike killed five Palestinian journalists outside a hospital in the Gaza Strip, the Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said it had targeted a group of militants. The strike hit a car outside the Al-Awda Hospital in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in the central part of the territory. The journalists were working for the local Quds News Network, which also reported the strike. **WORLD PAGE 9**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 103
Retail live.....	Rs. 125
With skin.....	Rs. 181
Skinless.....	Rs. 206
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 80

AAP wants Cong out of I.N.D.I.A

Says it will push for party's expulsion from the bloc if it fails to take action against its leaders

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said it will push for the Congress' expulsion from the I.N.D.I.A bloc if it fails to take any disciplinary action against its senior leaders within 24 hours. Launched a scathing attack on the Congress, AAP accusing it of colluding with the BJP for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls to harm the prospects of the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Rajya Sabha AAP MP Sanjay Singh alleged at a press conference here that the actions of the Congress are damaging the unity of the I.N.D.I.A bloc. He said sincere efforts were made by AAP during the Haryana elections to form an alliance with the Congress.

"We made every effort to join forces and fight together but the Congress was not willing to do so. Even when we contested the elections independently — with many senior AAP leaders including Arvind Kejriwal, Atishi and Manish Sisodia campaigning — we refrained from making any offensive or critical remarks against the Congress or its leaders," Singh said.

He said yet the Congress seems to be reading out from the BJP's script. "Its list of candidates looks as if it was finalised at the BJP office," he added.

Singh accused Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Sandeep Dixit of targeting AAP instead of focusing on the BJP. "Ajay Maken has crossed all limits by calling Arvind Kejriwal anti-national. Despite campaigning



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and AAP leader Sanjay Singh addressing the press conference, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The Congress seems to be reading out from the BJP's script. Its list of candidates looks as if it was finalised at the BJP office.

— SANJAY SINGH, AAP MP

for the Congress in the past elections, Kejriwal now faces an FIR while the Congress had never filed a single FIR against any BJP leader," Singh said.

Atishi echoed similar sentiments, claiming that Congress is actively undermining the AAP. "I want to ask the Congress — have you ever made such allegations against any BJP leader? Have you ever raised such questions against them? Yet today, you choose to accuse AAP and Arvind Kejriwal of being anti-national," Atishi said. She alleged that Congress candidates such as Sandeep Dixit and Farhad Suri are receiving support from the BJP. "This collusion raises questions about the Congress' commitment to the I.N.D.I.A alliance," she added.

The AAP demanded disciplinary action against

Maken and other Congress leaders within 24 hours and said if no step is taken, it will push for the grand old party's expulsion from the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

"If the Congress fails to act against its leaders, AAP will be compelled to approach the other constituents of the I.N.D.I.A bloc to reconsider whether it is feasible to remain in an alliance with Congress. It is evident that the Congress is working to aid the BJP in contesting elections in Delhi," Atishi said.

In another development, Sanjay Singh on Thursday lodged a complaint with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against two BJP leaders for allegedly distributing cash to people ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls. The Delhi Assembly polls are due in February.

BRS leader arrested, gets bail

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The police on Thursday arrested former chairman of State SC and ST Commission Errolla Srinivas from his residence in West Marredpally for allegedly obstructing the Jubilee Hills inspector from performing his duties last month.

The police produced him before the Nampally court, which later granted him conditional bail on a surety of Rs 5,000 and directed him to cooperate with the police in the investigation.

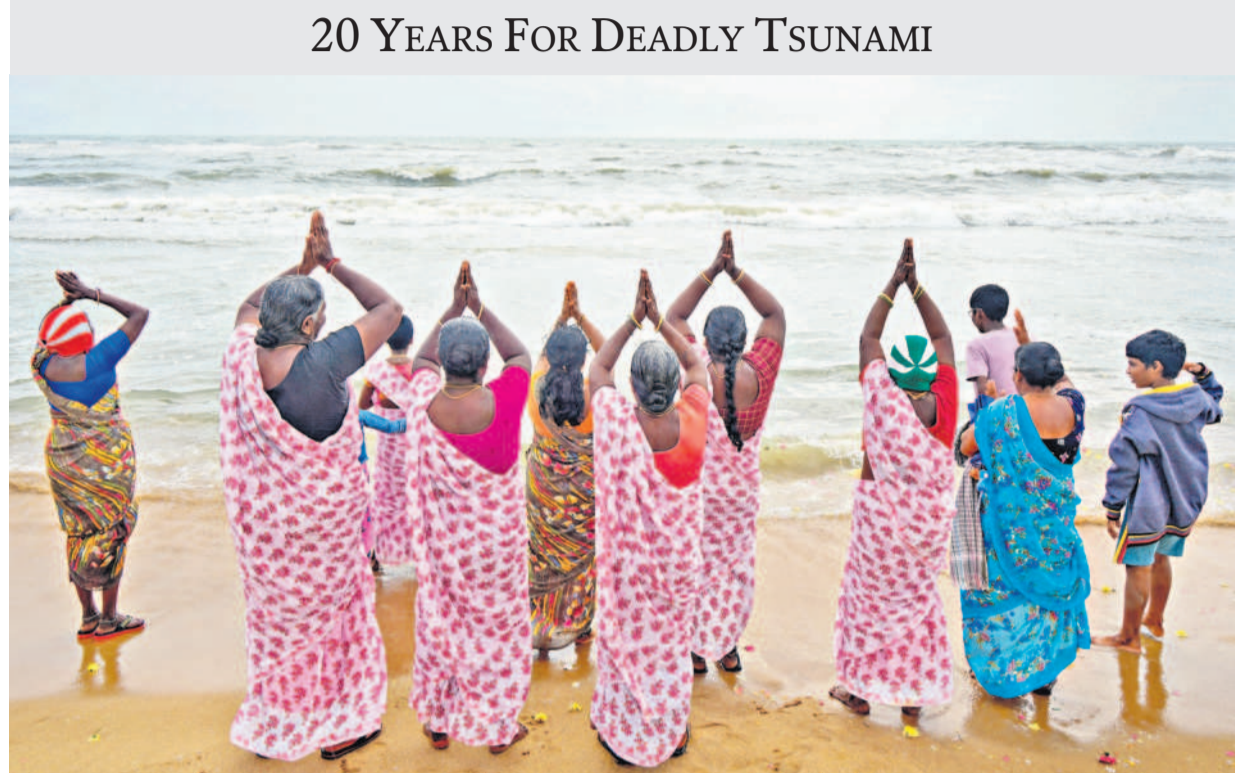
It may be recalled that BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy was also arrested and released on bail in con-



Former chairman of State SC and ST Commission Errolla Srinivas being arrested by the police officials, on Thursday.

nection with the same case earlier. Reacting to the incident, BRS said the police arrived at Srinivas' residence at around 5 am on Thursday

to arrest him. They stated that the police had neither issued a notice nor a warrant notice was issued as per law. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**



20 YEARS FOR DEADLY TSUNAMI

People from the fishing community pay tribute to the victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami during a ceremony, at Pattinappakkam Beach, in Chennai on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

Manmohan Singh dies at 92

NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died here on Thursday night. He was 92.

Singh's death was announced by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, where he was admitted in the Emergency ward around 8.30 pm in a critical condition. An AIIMS bulletin said "he was treated for age-related medical conditions and had sudden loss of consciousness at home" on December 26.

"Resuscitative measures were started immediately at home. He was brought to the medical emergency at AIIMS Delhi at 8.06 pm. Despite all efforts, he could not be revived and was declared



dead at 9.51 pm," it said. Singh, who was Prime Minister for two terms in the Congress-led UPA government from 2004 to 2014, had been in poor health for the last few months. He is survived by wife Gurcharan

Singh and three daughters. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her mother Sonia Gandhi reached the hospital as soon as the news of his hospitalisation became known. Singh, who was Finance

Minister under the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, was the architect and brainchild of economic reforms in 1991 that pulled India from the brink of bankruptcy.

Paying tributes to his predecessor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished leaders whose wisdom and humility were always visible.

Rising from humble origins, he rose to become a respected economist, Modi said. "His interventions in Parliament were also insightful. As our Prime Minister, he made extensive efforts to improve people's lives." "His wisdom and humility were always visible." Modi said. **(RELATED REPORTS PAGES 4, 8)**

Discounts on e-challans fake, cops clarify

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Following a wide circulation of messages and videos about huge discounts on traffic challans on social media, the Hyderabad Traffic Police issued a clarification on Thursday and said that no such discount was being offered on pending traffic e-challans.

"Any claim of discount on pending traffic e-challans is fake, mischievous and fraught with fraudulent motive. The citizens are requested not to believe or act upon any such fake and misleading claim/information," said Addl CP (traffic) P Vishwa Prasad. He said all official announcements are made through the Telangana Police verified platforms. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Ayurveda-based therapy for menopausal care

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The quest for a non-hormonal formulation that could potentially extend proper care for women suffering from menopausal syndrome appears to have found a solution right here in Hyderabad, and that too through the ancient knowledge of Ayurveda.

In a first of its kind, an Ayurvedic-based therapy for menopausal care, devel-

oped by the city-based researcher from the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Dr Vandana Singh, has been granted a patent. Derived from ancient Sanskrit literature and based on the principles of Ayurveda, Dr Vandana has developed a non-hormonal formulation that could potentially extend proper care to women suffering from the menopausal syndrome, a major public health issue that is expected to impact

over 1.2 billion women worldwide by 2030.

At present, the traditional treatment to deal with menopausal syndrome is Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT), which is associated with adverse effects, including vaginal bleeding, liver issues and increased risk of breast cancer, heart disease and strokes. As a result, the USFDA advised restrictions on long-term use of HRT. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

TG forms panel on Telugu film industry

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government has announced the constitution of yet another Cabinet sub-committee and this time, to address the film industry issues.

The decision to this effect was taken during Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's meeting with film industry personalities on Thursday.

During the over one-hour meeting, a host of issues were discussed. The Chief

Minister also wanted the film personalities to constitute a committee to address the problems faced by the industry.

Like IT and pharma, the Chief Minister stressed that the film industry was equally important for the government.

"We have decided to create a brand for the Telugu industry and want to develop it further," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

(NO STANDOFF BETWEEN GOVT, TOLLYWOOD: DIL RAJU PAGE 5)

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