



NATION | PAGE 07

**Kejri writes to RSS over voter fraud, alleges name deletions**



WORLD | PAGE 09

**12 killed as Israel strikes refugee camps**

Nearly 15-month war grinds into New Year with no end in sight



SPORT | PAGE 10

**'Gambhir' issue faces transitioning Team India**

**In a nutshell**

**India cuts GDP emission intensity**  
**NEW DELHI:** India's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 fell by 7.93 per cent compared to 2019, while the emission intensity of its GDP declined 36 per cent between 2005 and 2020, according to data submitted to the UN climate change office. In its fourth Biennial Update Report submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on December 30, India said its total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 were 2,959 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. PTI

**Senior Maoist surrenders**

**GADCHIROLI:** Vimala Chandra Sidam alias Tarakka was inducted into the Naxalism movement as a local squad member in 1986 and climbed ranks over 38 years to become a Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee member, participating in 35 encounters with security personnel. Tarakka (62), carrying a Rs 25 lakh reward on her head, turned herself in before Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in Gadchiroli along with ten senior Maoists. PTI

**Punjab govt team meets Dalalwadi**

**CHANDIGARH:** The Punjab government on Wednesday continued with its efforts to persuade farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dalalwadi to take medical aid, with former additional DGP Jaskaran Singh saying discussions in this regard were also held with farmer leaders. Over the past few days, a State government's team led by Jaskaran Singh has made several attempts to convince Dalalwadi, whose hunger strike completed 37 days, to take medical help, but so far he has refused. PTI

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 101
Retail live.....	Rs. 123
With skin.....	Rs. 178
Skinless.....	Rs. 203
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 74

**Delhi cafe owner ends life amid divorce case with wife**

**NEW DELHI:** Just days after a Bengaluru techie took his own life over the alleged harassment by his wife amid divorce and child custody proceedings, another tragic case has emerged from the Model Town area of Delhi. Puneet Khurana, a 39-year-old cafe owner, was found dead at his residence in Kalyan Vihar on Tuesday afternoon. Puneet, who was fighting an acrimonious divorce case with his wife Manika, reportedly faced continuous threats and pressure, according to his family and friends. The couple had been married for eight years and were partners in their cafe business. But, they had been living apart for the last two years following frequent disputes. (REPORT PAGE 7)

**2,883 caught in drunk driving checks**

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad  
 A total of 2,883 persons were caught by the traffic police in the tri-commissionerates of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda during special checking on the eve of New Year celebrations on Tuesday night. The highest number of 1,425 persons were caught in Hyderabad, followed by 839 in Cyberabad, while 619 cases were booked in Rachakonda. The traffic police registered case under various Sections of the Motor Vehicle Act and all of those who were caught have to attend court and face the legal procedure, officials said. On New Year eve, special teams equipped with breathe analysers conducted checks at different places across the three Commissionerates. Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) P Vishwa Prasad said traffic police were deployed in good numbers for the New Year bandobast. (SEE PAGE 2)

**HOLY START TO 2025**



'Mahila Batuk' and priests perform Ganga Arti on the first day of New Year at Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. — Photo: PTI

**Metro to be extended to Medchal, Shamirpet**

**Cong govt tweaks plans, gives nod for preparing DPRs | Proposals to be sent to Centre in 3 months for approval**

**CITY BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Wednesday gave its nod for the preparation of detailed project reports (DPR) for the extension of the Hyderabad Metro Rail from Paradise to Medchal and Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Shamirpet.

The proposals are to be sent to the Centre within three months for approval as part of the Phase-2 'B' expansion of the Metro services. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy took the decision after discussing the preparation of DPR for these two corridors with Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Dana Kishore and Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) Managing Director NVS Reddy on Wednesday.

These two corridors were initially proposed by the previous BRS government from Paradise to Kandlakoya (18.5 km) and JBS to Thumkunta (18.5 km) as two



The two corridors were initially proposed by the previous BRS government from Paradise to Kandlakoya and JBS to Thumkunta as two levels or a double-decker flyover.

levels or a double-decker flyover where one of the levels would be exclusively for the Metro Rail.

They were approved in the BRS Cabinet meeting held on July 31, 2023, to be taken up as part of the Phase-3 'C' expansion, as the Defence Ministry did not issue the required clearance for the corridors to pass through the Secunderabad Cantonment.

The Congress government tweaked these plans slightly and is now proposing for extension up to Medchal and Shamirpet. The first corridor will be approximately 23 km from Paradise Metro Station to Medchal via Tad Bund, Bowenpally, Suchitra Circle, Kompally, Gundlupochampally, Kandlakoya and ORR Exit. The second corridor from JBS Metro Station to Shamirpet

will be via Vikramপুরi, Karkhana, Trimulgherry, Lothkunta, Alwal, Bolarum, Hakimpet, Thumkunta and ORR Exit.

In November 2024, the Congress government had altered the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion plans approved by the previous BRS Cabinet and submitted DPRs to the Centre for five new corridors under Phase-2 expansion, with a length of 76.4 km and 54 stations. However, the Paradise-Medchal and JBS/Shamirpet corridors were not included due to the Centre's condition of availability of 90 per cent Right of Way.

NVS Reddy said the Chief Minister had instructed him to complete the preparation of the DPR within three months and seek the approval of the State government for submission to the Centre. Revanth Reddy has also asked for the 'B' part of Metro Phase-2, like the 'A' part, to be made a joint-venture project of the Central and State governments.

**Book Revanth in Formula-E case: KTR**

**Says CM cancelled event without Cabinet nod**

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

BRS working president and former Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy should be booked in the Formula-E race case, if taking decisions without the Cabinet approval was wrong. As the then Municipal Administration Minister, he had decided to host the event in Hyderabad, while Revanth Reddy, as the new Chief Minister, decided against it.

"If taking decisions without Cabinet approval is wrong on my part, Revanth Reddy also cancelled it without discussing in the Cabinet. If a case is filed against me, why isn't there one against Revanth Reddy?" he asked.

In an informal interaction with mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Rama Rao dismissed allegations of wrongdoing in decisions related to the Formula-E race event. He reiterated that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) case against him in the Formula-E race case was baseless as there was no wrongdoing. He declared that he had complete faith in



BRS working president KT Rama Rao releasing the party's calendar at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

**KTR unveils BRS party calendar, extends New Year wishes**

**HYDERABAD:** The entire BRS cadre is working with the sole aim to bring the party back to power and make its president K Chandrashekhara Rao as the Chief Minister of Telangana once again, party working president KT Rama Rao said on Wednesday. He exuded confidence that the party would succeed in its efforts, vowing to expose the Congress govern-

ment's failed promises in the new year as well until they are delivered. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan during the unveiling of the BRS calendar for 2025, Rama Rao expressed hope for continued public support and victories under Chandrashekhara Rao's leadership. "I wish for peace and prosperity in Telangana and the nation, across all religions," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

**26/11 mastermind Tahawwur may be extradited soon**

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI/NEW YORK**

Pakistani-Canadian Tahawwur Rana could soon be extradited to India for his role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that killed around 175 people, sources in the National Investigation Agency and the Mumbai Police's crime branch said.

The extradition process had intensified after a federal appeals court in the US had quashed Rana's appeal in August, last year. The California-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had upheld a lower federal court verdict permitting his extradition and ruled that the 1997 extradition treaty between India and the US covered his alleged offences. IANS

**Hamas man involved in Oct 7 attack killed**

**TEL AVIV**

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Tuesday confirmed the killing of Hamas' Nukhba Platoon commander, Abd al-Hadi Sabah, in a recent drone strike.

As per the IDF, Sabah had led the attack on Kibbutz Nir Oz during the October 7, 2023, massacre. The Nukhba Platoon commander in Hamas' Western Khan Yunis Battalion was eliminated in the Khan Yunis area of southern Gaza, the IDF added in its statement.

"Abd al-Hadi Sabah, a Nukhba Platoon Commander in the Western Khan Yunis Battalion was eliminated in an intelligence-based IDF and ISA strike," the IDF wrote on X.

They also added, "Abd al-Hadi Sabah — who operated from a shelter in the Humanitarian Area in Khan Yunis — was one of the leaders of the infiltration into Kibbutz Nir Oz during the murderous October 7 massacre. Sabah also led and advanced numerous terrorist attacks against IDF troops throughout the current war.

The IDF and ISA will continue to operate against all of the terrorists who took part in the murderous October 7 Massacre."

Earlier on Tuesday, the IDF and Shin Bet killed Anas Muhammad Saadi Masri, the commander of the northern sector of the rocket unit of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the IDF confirmed. IANS

**10 killed as US man ploughs through crowd on New Year**

**NEW ORLEANS**

A vehicle raced into a crowd of New Orleans revellers early on New Year's Day, killing 10 people and injuring 30 others in what the FBI is investigating as an act of terrorism.

The driver of the vehicle was killed in a fire with police following the attack around 3.15 am Wednesday along Bourbon Street in the city's bustling French Quarter, the FBI said. After the vehicle came to a stop, the driver emerged from the truck and open fire on responding officers, New Orleans police said. Officers returned fire, striking and killing the driver, police said. Two officers were shot and are in stable condition, police said.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell described the killings as a "terrorist attack" and the city's police chief said the act was clearly intentional. Police Commissioner Anne Kirkpatrick



Emergency services on Bourbon Street after a vehicle drove into a crowd on New Orleans Canal and Bourbon Street. — Photo: AP

said the driver was "hell-bent on creating the carnage and the damage that he did." "It was very intentional behaviour. This man was trying to run over as many people as he could," Kirkpatrick said.

FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Alethea Duncan said officials were investigating the at least one

**Air India rolls out Wi-Fi on select aircraft**

**MUMBAI**

Private carrier Air India on Wednesday rolled out Wi-Fi internet connectivity services on board domestic and international flights on its widebody Airbus A350 and Boeing 787-9 fleet as well as on select Airbus A321neo aircraft.

This makes Air India the first airline to offer such services on flights within India, the airline said. Accessible on Wi-Fi-enabled devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones with iOS or Android operating systems, the in-flight Wi-Fi will also allow guests to connect multiple devices simultaneously when above 10,000 feet, it said.

The deployment of Wi-Fi on domestic routes follows an ongoing pilot programme on international services operated by the Airbus A350, select Airbus A321neo and Boeing B787-9 aircraft serving international destinations. PTI

