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Telangana falls to 24<sup>th</sup> place in food safety rankings



WORLD | PAGE 09

Free hostages or all hell will break out, says Trump

President-elect warns Hamas, but does not talk on actions he will take



SPORT | PAGE 10

Bumrah retains top spot in rankings, Jadeja joins him

**In a nutshell**

**Telugu man dies in paragliding mishap**

**MANALI:** A tourist from Andhra Pradesh died in a paragliding accident in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district. The accident happened on Tuesday at Raison, 20 km from Manali, while Tadi Mahesh Reddy (32) was trying to take off. He was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to the serious injuries. Police said a sudden wind gust during take-off affected the glider's flight and, instead of going up, went down. **PTI**

**One of 9 trapped miners found dead**

**GUWAHATI:** The body of one of the nine workers trapped inside a coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district was recovered by Army divers on Wednesday, the third day of the rescue operations. The chances of the survival of the eight others appear grim, though a team of Navy, Army, NDRF and SDRF personnel intensified their efforts to rescue the trapped miners, officials said. **NATION PAGE 8**

**TMC backing AAP, says Kejriwal**

**NEW DELHI:** AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday thanked the Trinamool Congress (TMC) for its support to the party for the upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi. Kejriwal took to X to thank the Mamata Banerjee-led party for extending support to them for the upcoming polls, which will see AAP in a triangular contest against the BJP, as well as I.N.D.I.A bloc partner Congress. **NATION PAGE 7**

**Suspected case of HMPV in Gujarat**

**HIMATNAGAR:** A suspected case of human metapneumovirus (HMPV) infection has been reported in Himatnagar city of Gujarat's Sabarkantha district. The blood sample of the patient — an eight-year-old boy, who is on ventilator in the ICU of a private hospital — has been sent to a government hospital for confirmation. A sample has been sent to a government lab for confirmation, and the result is awaited. **PTI**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 114
Retail live.....	Rs. 136
With skin.....	Rs. 197
Skinless.....	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

## Another water row brewing

Godavari-Banakacherla project triggers fears of Telangana again losing share of water

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD:

The Godavari-Banakacherla project could raise riparian concerns right at the proposal stage as it is feared to affect not only Telangana, but other regions as well. The project is expected to have serious ramifications, but its realisation depends on the perspective and approach of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-2, headed by Justice Brijesh Kumar.

Proposed with an estimated cost of Rs.80,122 crore, it seeks to address the water woes in the Krishna basin using Godavari waters. According to river water experts, it is going to be yet another Pandora's box being opened by Andhra Pradesh, adding to the conflict situation over water sharing with any water drawn from the Godavari to replenish the Krishna basin likely to result in a genuine entitlement for all the riparian States involved.

The Congress government in the State had already approached the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) for detailed information about the project proposed by the Andhra Pradesh government. However, the GRMB is still in the dark about the new project and it will take at least three months for the AP government to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Once the DPR is presented to the Godavari board and the Central Water Commission (CWC), the process of looking into the concerns of the upper riparian States

**The project**

- Water to be diverted from Polavaram project to Krishna river with **Rs 13,511 cr in Phase I**
- In Phase II, Bollapalli reservoir will be constructed to facilitate water transfer, costing **Rs 28,560 cr**
- In Phase III, water will be diverted from Bollapalli to Banakacharla at a cost of **Rs 38,041 cr**
- Banakacherla in Kurnool district will serve as gateway to Rayalaseema
- About **48,000 acres** to be acquired in **3 phases**
- Funds being raised through hybrid model involving private companies
- Telangana views scheme that will deprive State of its rightful share of water

Proposed at estimated cost of **Rs 80,122 crore**

AP's plan to address water woes in Krishna basin using Godavari water

**CWC SEEKS INFO ON PROJECT**

The Central Water Commission (CWC) on Wednesday requested for detailed information regarding the proposed Godavari-Banakacherla linkage project announced by Andhra Pradesh. The CWC's letter, sent to the river management boards of the Godavari and Krishna, as well as the Polavaram Project Authority, has brought to the fore key issues involving Godavari water sharing. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 85,000 crore, aims at diverting 2 TMC of water from the Godavari river at the Polavaram project. This water is intended to address both drinking water and irrigation needs in the Rayalaseema region and the coastal districts of Nellore and Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

will begin, GRMB officials said. Water will be diverted from the Polavaram project to the Krishna River, at an estimated cost of Rs 13,511 crore in Stage I. In Phase II, the Bollapalli reservoir will be constructed to facilitate water transfer, costing Rs 28,560 crore.

In Phase III, water will be diverted from Bollapalli to Banakacharla at a cost of Rs 38,041 crore. Banakacharla in Kurnool district will serve as the gateway to Rayalaseema, benefiting not only the Rayalaseema districts but also Nellore and Prakasam. Telangana has

genuine concerns, as it has been deprived of its rightful water share in the Krishna River over the last 10 years, with the Pothreddy padu head regulator continually increasing its volume of water drawn each year. Now, Telangana views the Godavari-Banakacherla project as yet another scheme that will deprive the State of its rightful share of water. Approximately 48,000 acres of land need to be acquired in three phases, with funds potentially being raised through a hybrid model involving private companies.

## 6 killed in Tirupati stampede

Incident occurs during sale of Vaikunta Dwara Darshan tickets

TIRUPATI

Six devotees, including three women, died and several more were injured in a stampede here on Wednesday night as hundreds of them jostled for tickets for Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam at Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple on Tirumala Hills, a police official said.

Hundreds of devotees turned up from across the country for the 10-day Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam commencing from January 10. "Three women and a man, among others, died in the stampede," the official said. Meanwhile, videos of police administering CPR on a couple of women devotees and injured persons being shifted in ambulances went viral.

Andhra Pradesh Chief



Police personnel and people gather around a person injured in a stampede, which broke out near Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan ticketing centre, in Tirupati on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will visit Tirupati on Thursday, the TTD chairman said. "The death of several devotees in a stampede near Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati for tokens to visit Tirumala Srivari Vaikuntha

Dwara has shocked me. This tragic incident, which took place at a time when devotees had gathered in large numbers for tokens, deeply disturbed me. In the wake of information that the condition of some of them is criti-

cal, I have directed higher officials to go to the spot and take relief measures... to provide better medical treatment to the injured and save their lives. I am talking to the district and TTD officials from time to time and am taking stock of the situation," Naidu posted on X.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) had announced that special darshan tickets will be issued at 94 counters at nine places in Tirupati from 5 am on Thursday.

However, a large number of devotees started gathering since Wednesday morning. There was chaos when devotees were allowed at the counters. According to officials, there was a stampede at Srinivasam, Bairagipattada, and Satyanarayana-puram. **AGENCIES**

## WILDFIRE BURNS OUT OF CONTROL IN LA



A firefighter jumps over a fence while fighting the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles. — Photo: AP **(REPORT PAGE 9)**

## Lawyer can accompany KTR, says HC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
Hyderabad

Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday issued a directive to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to allow BRS working president KT Rama Rao to have his advocate present during his investigation on Thursday.

Rama Rao's counsel A Prabhakar Rao had filed an urgent motion seeking permission for the advocate to accompany his client to the ACB office in Hyderabad. As directed by the judge, Additional Advocate General T Rajinikanth Reddy pre-

**KTR URGES BRS CADRE TO FIGHT 'FRAUDULENT' GOVT**

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday called on the party cadre to continue their fight against the fraudulent Congress government in the New Year. He wanted them to ignore the false cases filed against him. He termed the Formula-E race case politically motivated. Meanwhile, in an open letter to the CMO, supporters of the Congress in the US have urged to exercise caution and restraint in the Formula-E race case. Friends of Congress USA posted the letter on social media. **(REPORTS PAGE 5)**

**ACB RECORDS ARVIND KUMAR'S STATEMENT**

Former Special Chief Secretary (MA&UD) and senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar on Wednesday appeared before the ACB at its office in Banjara Hills. This was after he was summoned for questioning in connection with alleged financial irregularities during the Formula-E race held in Hyderabad in February 2023. The ACB is learned to have recorded his statement in connection with the agreement entered into by the MAUD for conducting the Formula-E race while the Model Code of Conduct was in force. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

sented a plan of the ACB office, outlining the space and facilities available for the investigation. According to

the plan, the ACB suggested that the advocate could be allowed to remain in the office library. But, the pro-

posal included a condition that while the advocate could observe Rama Rao through a window, he would

not be able to overhear the conversation. Justice Lakshman, while reviewing the proposed plan, emphasised that both Rama Rao and his legal counsel must be able to observe each other.

It may be recalled Rama Rao was implicated by the ACB alleging financial misconduct and violation of Secretariat Business Rules in connection to the Formula-E Championship event in Hyderabad. On January 2, the ACB served a notice to Rama Rao calling upon him to furnish details and documents related to case by appearing before them on January 6. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Woman, daughter run over by truck

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

A woman and her daughter were killed, while her husband is fighting for his life in a hospital, after their motorcycle was hit by a truck on the city outskirts on Wednesday.

Tragedy struck the family when the rashly driven truck hit the motorcycle, which the trio was riding, at Tukkuguda in Pahadishareef. Ch Gopal (36), his wife Lakshamma (33) and their daughter Vijaya (14), a Class VIII student, all from

Wanaparthi, were going to the Osmania General Hospital on a bike for Vijaya's treatment.

According to the police, when the trio reached Tukkuguda road near the Outer Ring Road (ORR), a rashly driven truck hit the motorcycle. As a result, the family fell on the road and suffered grievous bleeding injuries.

While Lakshamma and Vijaya died on the spot, Gopal who was injured in the mishap was shifted to a nearby private hospital for treatment. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Kingfisher beer goes off the shelves

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Kingfisher beer lovers are in for a heart break in Telangana. Manufacturer United Breweries has decided to suspend supply of all brands of Kingfisher beer with immediate effect to the Telangana Beverages Corporation Ltd (TGBCL) due to what it termed as 'significant and ongoing operating losses'.

The beer maker maintained that despite continuous efforts over the last two years, there was no increase of the base prices offered to its products. "This has resulted in escalating losses, making our operations in



the State unviable," the company said. United Breweries makes the popular brands of Kingfisher, Kingfisher Strong, Kingfisher Ultra, Kingfisher UltraMax and some other beer

brands which are hot-selling alcoholic beverage products in Telangana. Kingfisher beer brands account for 60-70 per cent of the total beer sales in the State, industry sources say. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

**'RS 658 CR DUES TO UB GROUP'**

**HYDERABAD:** Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao admitted that the Telangana government owes Rs 658.95 crore to United Breweries (UB) Limited. He accused UB of halting supplies and pressuring the government to approve a 33.1 per cent price hike, citing rising input costs. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, the Minister clarified that between December 2023 and January 2025, Rs 1,130.99 crore in dues were cleared. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Harassment of actress: Kerala bizman arrested

KOCHI

Prominent businessman Bobby Chemmanur was arrested on Wednesday by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the sexual harassment case filed by Malayalam actress Honey Rose, police said.

He was taken into custody from Wayanad on Wednesday morning and brought to Kochi in a police jeep by road in the evening. The Kochi city police had constituted a SIT to investigate the allegations of sexual harassment filed by the actress against Chemmanur, a jeweller. **PTI (REPORT PAGE 7)**

## Pet cat dies; owner, hosp slap plaints

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad:

The passing away of a pet cat while under treatment at the government veterinary hospital has ended up in police complaints and counter complaints by the pet owner and hospital staff in Chevella.

As per available information, the pet owner, Fauzia Begum took her pet to the veterinary hospital as the cat was not eating properly. The hospital staff administered an injection and gave some medication to the pet. However, after returning home, the cat's health wors-

ened and it was rushed back to the hospital where it died while undergoing treatment. Fauzia Begum, in her complaint to the police, alleged negligence on part of the hospital staff and held them responsible for its death.

Meanwhile, the hospital staff also lodged a complaint against Fauzia and her son Akbar, alleging they abused and manhandled the staff. They claimed to have put in their best efforts in saving the cat, which already was brought in poor health condition. The Chevella police are investigating both complaints.

## V Narayanan is new ISRO chairman

NEW DELHI

V Narayanan has been appointed as the next chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space, according to an official announcement made on Tuesday. He is set to take over from the current ISRO chief, S Somnath, on January 14. A distinguished scientist at ISRO, Narayanan serves as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in Valiamala, Kerala. **IANS**

