



NATION | PAGE 07
Andhra Pradesh farmers in distress, says Jagan



WORLD | PAGE 09
'Trump living in Russian disinformation space'
 Zelensky responds to US President's remarks about the Ukrainian leader's approval rating



SPORT | PAGE 10
Rohit & Co begin CT campaign against B'desh

In a nutshell

Four naxals killed in encounter
BALAGHAT: Four naxalites, including three women cadres, were killed on Wednesday in an encounter with the police in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, an official said. The anti-Naxal Hawk Force of the State and local police teams took part in the operation that took place in a forested area, said Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Dabar. Weapons were also recovered from the encounter site. PTI

'Media must exercise caution'
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said persons working in key positions in the media must exercise utmost caution and responsibility before publishing any statements, news, or opinions and observed the right to freedom of speech and expression was paramount. A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan reiterated that the power of the media in shaping public opinion was significant. PTI

MBBS student ragged in K'taka
VIJAYAPURA: A MBBS student was allegedly ragged and assaulted by his seniors at a medical college here, following which authorities have swung into action and have initiated legal action against the culprits, officials said. The victim is a second-year MBBS student at Al-Ameen Medical College, and hails from Jammu and Kashmir. The student alleged that he was subjected to ragging and physical assault. PTI

BRS will storm back to power: KCR

Calls for renewed movement to safeguard Telangana

Cong dragging TG into crisis, vows to strengthen BRS at grassroots

Bypolls inevitable in 10 Assembly seats where BRS MLAs defected



BRS president and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekar Rao addressing a crucial extended executive body meeting of the party at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekar Rao exuded confidence that his party would return to power with 100 per cent certainty whenever elections are held in Telangana. He charged the Congress with dragging Telangana into a crisis and vowed to strengthen the BRS from the grassroots, reigniting the spirit of the Telangana movement. "Bye-elections are inevitable in 10 Assembly constituencies where BRS MLAs defected to the Congress. The Supreme Court will not tolerate the Congress government's actions in this regard. People have realised the true colours of the Congress and are eagerly waiting to elect the BRS whenever elections are held," he declared. Addressing a crucial extended executive body meeting

Over the last 14 months, we have witnessed deaths of numerous farmers, students, weavers, auto-rickshaw drivers due to inept governance. Hospitals and gurukuls are in dire conditions

People have realised the true colours of the Congress and are eagerly waiting to elect the BRS... Only BRS understands the struggles of the people...

— K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, BRS CHIEF

of the party at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Chandrashekar Rao found fault with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks against civil servants, stating that the Chief Minister was trying to cover up his inefficiency to rule the State by blaming his Ministers and IAS and IPS officers. "Over the last 14 months, we have witnessed deaths of numerous farmers, students, weavers, auto-rickshaw drivers and others due to inept govern-

ance. Hospitals and Gurukuls are in dire conditions, people are struggling due to shortage of water and power supply, and farmers are not receiving support. What good is this government for?" he asked. The BRS supreme asked the party cadre to gear up for another people's movement in a battle for Telangana's survival. He cautioned that the State was slipping back into the dark days of the past due to the Congress' incompetence. "Only the BRS

understands the struggles of the people and is capable of safeguarding Telangana's interests," he noted, pledging to focus on strengthening the party from the grassroots level and called on the party cadre for a renewed movement to safeguard Telangana. Chandrashekar Rao also announced a year-long celebration of BRS' silver jubilee, marking the commencement of the 25th year of the party's inception. As part of the restructur-

ing, he tasked senior leader T Harish Rao with spearheading a membership drive from April 10-27, aiming to consolidate the BRS at every level. The party plenary and a massive public meeting to commemorate the Silver Jubilee will be held on April 27. Sub-committees will also be formed to strengthen affiliated wings, including student and women's groups, which will be overseen by Harish Rao and other senior leaders. He instructed the cadre to expand BRS' organisational strength from the village to State level. He wanted them to launch massive awareness campaigns on the Congress' failures in governance and to strengthen people's movements on water rights, power supply and welfare issues. The party will organise training programmes for the party cadre as well as its affiliated organisations' members. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Naidu trying to control TG affairs'

HYDERABAD: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao called upon party ranks to mobilise all sections of society to prevent Telangana from falling into the hands of 'colonial conspirators' who were responsible for the region's backwardness in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He said efforts were being made through backdoors to loot the resources of Telangana and control affairs in the State. He took a direct dig at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and his allies, charging them with attempting to regain influence over Telangana through the NDA government at the Centre. "Telangana must not fall into the hands of colonial rulers again. If we do not act now, we may never recover," he warned. He retraced Telangana's 150-year struggle — from Telangana armed movements against the Nizam to the betrayal by successive Congress regimes. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Some hair loss drugs can cost you your libido: Docs

M SAI GOPAL
 Hyderabad

Are you planning to take Finasteride and Minoxidil to treat your baldness? Beware, these two drugs are known to cause side effects such as severe loss of libido, erectile dysfunction and serious impairment of energy metabolism.

Many young men in Hyderabad and elsewhere, who are going bald, are known to take Finasteride and Minoxidil, which are popular medications to treat hair loss, especially for male pattern baldness. While these medicines might lead to some hair growth, those who take them carry the risk of side effects, which include a severe drop in libido, wrecked confidence, erectile dysfunction, no vitality and serious impairment of energy metabolism.

There are even reports that such medications have the potential to impact sperm DNA, potentially causing genetic issues for the offspring. After the initial success of hair growth, those who took these medicines have acknowledged that they discontinued the medications because of such complications.

Senior dermatologists in Hyderabad point out that young men taking these medicine suffer from a wave of Post-Finasteride Syndrome — loss of libido, erectile dysfunctions and severe

Such drugs are taken without any consultation or prescription. Youth tend to buy these over the counter

— DR VENKATA KRISHNA, OSMANIA MEDICAL COLLEGE

mood swings. According to doctors, the successful randomised control trials of the drugs were demonstrated on older men and not younger men, which is the reason why Post-Finasteride symptoms have become so controversial.

"There are safer alternatives and better ways at trying to grow scalp hair, instead of taking such medicines with potential to impact libido. I avoid prescribing such medicines. There is also a need for young dermatologists and hair-implant specialists to be aware of serious side effects of these high powered steroids before prescribing them," says Dr Venkata Krishna, former professor and head of dermatology, Osmania Medical College. "Such drugs are also taken without any consultation or prescription. Youth tend to approach a drug store and buy these over the counter. These drugs should strictly be sold on prescription," he says. (SEE PAGE 2)

Ganga water at Sangam unsafe for bathing: Govt data

NEW DELHI

The Ganga water at Triveni Sangam, where lakhs of people are taking a holy dip every day during the Maha Kumbh, is currently unsafe for bathing as it exceeds the prescribed limit for biological oxygen demand (BOD), a key parameter to determine water quality, according to government data.

BOD refers to the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to break down organic material in a water body. A higher BOD level indicates more organic content in the water. River water is considered fit for bathing if the BOD level is less than 3 milligrams per litre.

Government data shows that the river water at Sangam is currently exceeding this limit. The BOD level at Sangam was 5.09 milligrams per litre at 5 am on January 16. It was recorded at 4.6 milligrams per litre at 5 pm on January 18 and 5.29 milligrams per litre at 8 am on January 19 (Wednesday).

According to Central Pollution Control Board data, the BOD level at Sangam was 3.94 milligrams per litre on January 13 when the Maha Kumbh started. It improved to 2.28 milligrams per litre on Makar Sankranti (January 14) and further dropped to 1 milligram per litre on January 15. However, it rose to 4.08 milligrams per litre on January 24. PTI

Study: TG drew investment proposals worth Rs 3.25 L cr

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A study by the MSME Export Promotion Council has found that Telangana attracted new investment proposals of Rs 3,25,110 crore and completed record proposals of nearly Rs 75,000 crore in just three financial years (2021-22 to 2023-24).

During the period, the private sector announced new investment projects of Rs 62,500 crore and completed projects of Rs 7022 crore. In 2021-22, the new investment proposals where to the tune of Rs 85,087 crore, while in 2022-23 there was a significant increase and touched to

Also completed record proposals of nearly Rs 75,000 crore in just three financial years (2021-22 to 2023-24)

Rs 1,33,102 crore and in 2023-24, this was Rs 1,06,921 crore, as per the latest information available with the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE), MSME EPC Chairman Dr DS Rawat said while releasing the study on Wednesday. He said the State was increasingly becoming a preferred destina-

tion of the national and foreign investors.

In 2021-22, the projects completed were of Rs 22,380 crore, in 2022-23 of Rs 24,910 crore and in 2023-24, completed projects were worth Rs 2,70,910 crore. As on January 7, 2025, the total investment projects outstanding in 2023-24 were of Rs 8,25,982 crore and under implementation were of Rs 4,78,100 crore. Also, the total exports of principal commodities in 2023-24 had increased from Rs 91,776 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 1,16,527 crore. The per capita GSDP in 2023-24 has also gone up from Rs 3,45,225.7 to Rs 3,93,384.5. (SEE PAGE 2)

BJP's Rekha Gupta to be Delhi CM

NEW DELHI

First-time MLA Rekha Gupta will be the new Chief Minister of Delhi, the BJP announced on Wednesday.

She was chosen as the Leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly at the BJP legislature party meeting. The party has returned to power in Delhi after over 26 years, ending the 10-year rule of the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP.

Accompanied by BJP leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad, OP Dhanekar, Delhi



Rekha Gupta

BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva and others, Gupta (50) later met L-G VK Saxena and staked claim to form a government. She and her Cabinet Ministers will take the oath of office at the Ramlila Ground on Thursday.

She will be the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and Atishi. Upon taking the oath, she will be the second incumbent woman Chief Minister of the country along with Mamata Banerjee. (SEE PAGE 2)

TG to host 72nd Miss World pageant

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The world's most prestigious beauty pageant, Miss World, is set to return to India for its 72nd edition, with Telangana hosting the global event in 2025.

The festival spans over a period of four weeks from May 7 to 31, spread across various destinations in Telangana, a State with a rich legacy and modern vibe. The opening and closing ceremonies, including the grand finale, are scheduled to take place in Hyderabad. Following the grand success of the 71st Miss World, held in New Delhi and Mumbai, Maharashtra, Miss World now moves to Telangana — a State where



The opening and closing ceremonies, including the grand finale, are scheduled to take place in Hyderabad.

tradition meets innovation, and beauty is celebrated in all forms. The official announcement was made by Julia Morley CBE, Chairman and CEO, Miss World Limited, alongside Smita Sab-

harwal, Secretary to the Government of Telangana, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Youth Affairs Department.

Julia Morley expressed her enthusiasm about this

collaboration, and said: "We are delighted to bring the 72nd Miss World Festival to Telangana, a State that beautifully represents its rich culture, innovation, and hospitality. Partnering with the Telangana government allows us to showcase its incredible heritage and dynamic growth to a global audience. This collaboration is not just about hosting the Miss World Festival; it's about empowering communities, celebrating diversity, and making a lasting impact through our shared commitment to beauty with a purpose."

Echoing this sentiment, Smita Sabharwal welcomed the Miss World Organisation to Telangana. (SEE PAGE 2)

Farmer ends life in Bhatti's constituency

STATE BUREAU
 Khammam

A 45-year-old tenant farmer has allegedly died by suicide at Lachagudem of Chintakani mandal, which falls in Madhira constituency, represented by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the Assembly.

N Yellaiah consumed pesticide in the farm field he was cultivating and died during the late night hours on Tuesday.

Lack of water supply to his paddy field and debt were said to be the reasons for his extreme step. The local police booked a case. (SEE PAGE 2)