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Palapitta moving away from Hyderabad



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Vatican announces daily prayers for health of Pope  
 Says "the night passed well, the Pope slept and is resting"



SPORT | PAGE 10

Rachin's hundred powers NZ into CT semifinals

**In a nutshell**

**Four electrocuted at 'gosala' in AP**

**GUNTUR:** Four people died of electrocution at a gosala in Guntur district on Monday, police said. Guntur district Superintendent of Police S Satish stated that the victims were electrocuted while attempting to repair a motor. "Four people died while trying to repair a motor here," Satish said. According to the SP, the motor, which was used to pump out cow dung and urine stored in a pit, had malfunctioned. PTI

**Allahbadia grilled for over 5 hours**

**MUMBAI:** Maharashtra Cyber officials questioned YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Ashish Chanchlani for around five hours in connection with *India's Got Latent* show controversy after they appeared before agency to record their statements, officials said. The duo appeared separately at the cyber headquarters in Navi Mumbai after skipping previous summons issued by the agency. NATION PAGE 8

**Tempo-truck collision kills 7**

**PATNA:** At least seven people were killed when a tempo in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Bihar's Patna district. The accident occurred near Noora bridge in the Masaurhi area on Sunday night. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the death of seven people in the road accident. "No arrests have been made so far. Further investigation is on," according to police officials. PTI



**Sharvari prepares for 'Alpha'**

Actor is pushing her physical limits with intense raining

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## MLC polls: Has CM thrown in towel already?

**Says loss will not affect his govt, indicating that he doesn't have hopes on Feb 27 election**

STATE BUREAU  
 NIZAMABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appears to have already thrown in the towel much ahead of the MLC elections, with his statement in Nizamabad, he dismissed the opposition's rhetoric that Congress candidate Narender Reddy's loss in the poll would not affect his government indicating that he did not have much hopes of a positive outcome from the February 27 poll.

Speaking at the party's MLC poll campaign meeting in Navi Mumbai after skipping previous summons issued by the agency. NATION PAGE 8

"Irrespective of whether Congress candidate Narender Reddy wins or loses, the Congress government will not suffer any loss. But if he loses, there will be no person to raise your issues," Revanth Reddy said while addressing a public meeting here.

The statement took many in the Congress itself by surprise, with the party already facing a serious situation with a severe backlash from within the party over the caste survey.

Internal caste politics is blowing like never before in the Telangana unit of the Congress, with BC leaders openly opposing the caste survey and expressing their

## No bypolls, asserts Revanth

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday brushed aside statements from BRS leaders that bypolls were inevitable in the wake of the case against turncoat MLAs being heard in the SC.

However, his statement appeared to be sub-judice, since he jumped the gun by saying indirectly that there would be no disqualification of any turncoat MLA, even when the apex

court was yet to deliver its verdict. Alleging that the BRS had also poached many elected public representatives from 2014 to 2023, he asked why would there be by-polls when they were not held in similar situations in the past. "Were any by-elections held in the past? There was a Speaker and there were courts as well at that time too. Now also, there is a Speaker and there are the courts too. Why will there be by-elections now?" he asked.

views on caste equations in the party. This has made the State leadership anxious over the impact of the issue on the party's prospects in the MLC Graduates Constituency elections, more so because the party wanted to use the caste survey, especially the assurance to implement 42 per cent reservations to BCs, as its trump card in the MLC election campaign. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Ringling mobile helps locate trapped workers

**However, rescue teams fail to advance further in the direction**



Army personnel near the SLBC project site where a portion of the tunnel collapsed, in Nagarkurnool district on Monday. — Photo:PTI

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

In a major breakthrough after over 48 hours as part of the ongoing rescue operations, authorities have identified the location of the workers and engineers trapped inside the SLBC tunnel project after the roof collapse.

The breakthrough came when the mobile phone of one of the engineers trapped inside started ringing in response to a call made by the rescue teams. This development helped in identifying

## RATHOLE MINERS ROPED IN

**HYDERABAD:** At a time when established rescue organisations are struggling to make progress in the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapse, a lesser known team of rathole miners have proved to be a source of big hope. A team of just 12 members, the rathole miners, were part of the successful rescue operation during the Silkyara Bend-Barkot tunnel mishap in Uttarakhand in 2023. (REPORT PAGE 5)

the signal location before the phone fell silent once again.

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy revealed this information while expressing hope that the workers could

be alive. However, the rescue teams failed to advance any further in the direction of the signal location because of the mounds of debris that blocked the passage inside the tunnel.

The search was intensi-

fied by engaging sniffer dogs, but they too failed to approach the identified location due to water logging that spread over a three-kilometre stretch. NDRF teams have used 'flexi probe cameras' equipped with specialised inspection devices designed to navigate and capture images or videos in confined and hard-to-reach spaces. These cameras can bend and manoeuvre through tight areas but were found to be of little use with the location of the accident beyond their reach. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

## B'desh airbase attacked, 1 dead

DHAKA

A man was killed and several others injured in a clash on Monday between a group of local people and air force personnel at an airbase in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, officials said.

The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) — the media wing of the military — in a statement said the "miscreants" attacked the Bangladesh Air Force Base near Cox's Bazar's Samitipara. "Bangladesh Air Force is taking necessary actions in this regard," it said.

The ISPR said that "some local miscreants" of the Samitipara area adjacent to the beach resort town "launched a sudden attack" on the airbase after a biker was stopped at a checkpoint as he was crossing the base

area without any papers for the vehicle. It said the biker was taken inside the base for interrogation when over 200 people marched towards the base. The security personnel tried to stop them, sparking a clash that left four Air Force personnel injured. Deputy Commissioner of the district, Mohammad Salahuddin, said that one person was killed, and several others were injured in the incident". PTI

ISPR says "some local miscreants" of the Samitipara area "launched a sudden attack" on the airbase in Cox's Bazar

## 'Revanth not serious about SLBC tragedy'

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for prioritising the MLC election campaign over the rescue operations at the SLBC tunnel collapse site, where eight people are trapped.

He questioned the Chief Minister's absence at the disaster site, pointing out the government's indifference even as the fate of those trapped inside the tunnel remains uncertain.

"The Chief Minister has time to tour districts for the election campaign, but not to visit the disaster site, while the lives of eight people hang in balance. If he is not serious about the

tragedy, what can we expect from the State administration?" he asked.

Rama Rao took to X and slammed the government for prematurely declaring that survival possibilities of the trapped individuals was grim, even though the rescue operations were underway. He found fault with the

## MLC polls under MLA quota on March 20

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Election Commission announced the schedule for the biennial elections to the Legislative Council of Telangana by the MLAs respectively to fill the seats of members retiring on March 29. The polling is set for March 20 and the results will be declared on the same day in the evening. In all, the term of five MLAs under MLA quota, including Mohd Mahmood Ali, Satyavathi Rathod, Seri Subhash Reddy, Yegge Malleshham and Mirza Riyazul Hassan Effendi, is due to expire on March 29. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Terror threat for Champions Trophy

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Intelligence Bureau (IB) has reportedly issued an alert over alleged plot by 'active covert groups' to kidnap foreign guests during the ongoing Champions Trophy 2025. According to reports, alert has been issued against a number of terror outfits including, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), ISIS and other Balochistan-based groups. The report further said that the security forces "have deployed high-level protection teams, including rangers and local police". It may be recalled that, while for India, all the

## 3 farmers die by suicide in State

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Farmer suicides are continuing in the State with three more ending their lives in a span of 24 hours.

In the first incident, Manda Chandraiah, 60, from Veerareddyapalli village of Yadadri Bhongir district, died by suicide by consuming pesticide near his agricultural well. The circumstances surrounding his death are currently under investigation, and local authorities are conducting a detailed inquiry. In another incident, Arikanthapu Raju, a 35-year-old farmer from Mogullapalli village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, took his own life by hanging himself on his agricultural land. Raju had cul-

tivated chilli on his three-acre farmland and leased another three acres to grow cotton. He had an accumulated debt of approximately Rs 25 lakh. Unable to bear the burden, he ended his life. His wife revealed that the mounting pressure from debt left Raju in deep despair, ultimately leading him to take this tragic step.

On Sunday evening, a tenant farmer Jella Devaiah (51) died, allegedly by suicide, in Mustabad mandal. His body was found on Monday morning. According to villagers, he had resorted to the extreme step after he was unable to clear his debts since his crop withered due to shortage of water. Devaiah, who owned one acre of land, cultivated paddy by taking on lease some more land.

## 'Call Merging Scam', the new bait

C ROMEO  
 Hyderabad

Cyber fraudsters are back in the market to cheat people with a new modus operandi — 'Call Merging Scam' — which is a simple yet crafty phishing approach that baits unsuspecting phone users and reels in sensitive information.

In Call Merging Scam, the fraudster pretending or posing to be a friend or acquaintance obtains the victim's contact details through a mutual contact. The scammer then proceeds to call the victim and asks to merge the call with someone else, creating the illusion of a legitimate conversation. "Unaware of the trap, the victim agrees, unknowingly

**BE CAUTIOUS**  
 AVOID MERGING CALLS WITH UNKNOWN NUMBERS. IF SOMEONE INSISTS ON MERGING A CALL, REFUSE AND VERIFY THEIR IDENTITY SEPARATELY

- Verify caller identity. If someone claims a friend is trying to reach you, contact the friend independently to confirm.
- Banks never ask for OTPs over calls. If you receive an unexpected OTP request, do not share it.
- If you receive an OTP for a transaction you did not initiate, immediately call the cyber-crime helpline 1930 and inform your bank.



linking the call to an OTP verification process from their bank. The scammer has timed everything perfectly, waiting until the victim receives the OTP. Assuming it to be a part of the call, the victim shares the OTP, only for the fraudster to use it to withdraw money

from bank accounts," said an official. It is learnt that in some cases, fraudsters could pose as media professionals, inviting the victim to an event. During the conversation, the victim receives another call from an unknown number. Once the victim shares the OTP, the transac-

tion is completed, and the money is gone, leaving them stunned and helpless.

**How it works**

The victim receives a call from a stranger who claims to have received their number from a mutual friend. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 4 Kumbh pilgrims from State killed in road accidents



STATE BUREAU  
 Sangareddy

Pilgrimage to Kumbh Mela turned tragic as four people died in separate road accidents. In the first incident, three people, including a couple, died as the car in which they were travelling in rammed a truck near Varanasi. The deceased were Zaheerabad Irrigation DEE Venkatrami Reddy (46), his wife Vilasini (40) and their driver, Malla Reddy. (SEE PAGE 2)