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Ready for another language war, says Stalin



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US refuses to blame Russia for Ukraine war

Washington joins Moscow in voting against Europe-backed Ukrainian resolution



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Indian women 'shootout' world No 1 Netherlands

In a nutshell

Child trafficking racket busted

HYDERABAD: The Rachakonda Police busted an interstate child trafficking racket and arrested 11 persons. The police rescued four infants. Rachakonda Commissioner of Police G Sudheer Babu said Krishnaveni, the prime suspect in the case was arranging the infants from one Vandana of Gujarat and through a chain of agents selling it to childless couples in both the Telugu States.

HYDERABAD PAGE 3

Crypto scam: CBI conducts searches

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Tuesday conducted countrywide coordinated searches at 60 locations as part of its probe into Rs 6,600 crore GainBitcoin cryptocurrency scam, officials said. The searches were spread across multiple cities including Delhi NCR, Pune, Chandigarh, Nanded, Kolhapur and Bengaluru, targeting premises allegedly linked to key accused individuals, a CBI said.

BUSINESS PAGE 8

Elephants trample 3 to death in AP

AMARAVATI: Three devotees died and three others were injured in an elephant attack inside a forest here in Annamayya district. "A group of 30 devotees who set off for Talakona temple were attacked by a group of elephants around 2:30 am on Tuesday, leading to the death of three devotees and injuries to three more inside the forest," police said. Of the three injured, one was seriously injured while remaining two are out of danger. PTI

450 ryots died under Cong rule: KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a fierce attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for neglecting farmer suicides and the collapse of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel while prioritising election campaigns.

Pointing out the tragic suicides of seven farmers in just 48 hours, he lambasted the Congress government's apathy, stating that 450 farmers had taken their lives since the Congress came to power.

"Revanth Reddy is acting like Roman emperor Nero, turning a blind eye to Telangana's distress while he campaigns for MLC elections and rushes to Delhi for the 36th time," he remarked, taking a dig at the Chief Minister for frequent visits to the national capital while failing to even expand his Cabinet. He also charged Revanth Reddy and his Ministers with remaining indifferent to the SLBC tunnel accident, where eight persons were trapped.

Political tide

Welcoming former ZPTC Keerti Venkateswaralu and 500 Congress activists from Station Ghanpur into the BRS fold at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Rama Rao stated that the exodus of Congress cadre into the opposition BRS reflected the shifting political tide in Telangana. He doubted if the Chief Minister himself had realised it while remarking that losing the

Where is the frenzy that the BJP displayed when a single pillar of Kaleshwaram cracked? Now, when entire structures collapse under Congress rule, why is Prime Minister Modi silent?



MLC election would not affect the Congress.

Attacking the Congress-BJP nexus, the BRS working president pointed out that while the BJP was quick to target the Kaleshwaram project after one of the pillars of the Medigadda barrage developed cracks, it remained silent on the Sunkishala retaining wall collapse, the SLBC tunnel accident, and the Khammam Peddavagu bridge disaster.

"Where is the frenzy that the BJP displayed when a single pillar of Kaleshwaram cracked? Now, when entire structures collapse under Congress rule, why is Prime Minister Modi silent?" he asked.

(SEE PAGE 2)

'Only a miracle can save eight trapped workers'

Top official involved in rescue op says options before them 'closing one by one'

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Only a miracle can save the eight workers who are trapped inside the SLBC tunnel project 'cave-in' site as the options before the official mechanism are closing one by one, felt a top engineering official familiar with the project and the terrain.

However, determined efforts are being put in to reach out to the spot where they were believed to be stuck. Rescue teams are also assessing the conditions inside the tunnel to expedite the operations.

There are reportedly issues with the conveyor belt that connects the operations to the tunnel end, which is further complicating the rescue efforts.

Since Sunday, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Special Chief Secretary (Disaster Management) Arvind Kumar and other senior officials have been supervising the rescue operations at the site near Dimalapenta in Nagarkurnool district. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy who had interacted with the officials monitoring the mission, is expected to take a call on the future course of the mission by evening, officials said.

Site inundated with water up to 13 ft: Uttam
Meanwhile, later addressing the media, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the natural rock formations inside the SLBC



The SLBC project site where a portion of the tunnel collapsed, in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday. — Photo:PTI

tunnel have loosened triggering a surge of water and mud flow leaving the workspace inundated up to 12-13 feet. He stated that the rescue operations that were underway were facing extremely complex situations. Technical experts were working to resolve it, he explained.

Addressing a press conference near the site, the Minister said the accident site was geographically challenging, making it difficult to transport heavy machinery. The agencies involved were adopting alternative methods to remove the debris. The Irriga-

tion Department, Disaster Management Teams, and Defence Forces were jointly conducting the rescue operations, continuously supplying oxygen and using motors for dewatering.

He emphasised that leakages were a common risk in tunnel construction, and said that similar incidents had occurred in the past. The situation at the accident site remained critical, and water flow was impeding the rescue efforts. Measures were being taken to curb water logging, and alternative methods were being explored to remove the debris from the tunnel. (SEE PAGE 2)

KTR DEMANDS JUDICIAL PROBE

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded a judicial probe led by a sitting High Court judge into the SLBC tunnel accident. He charged the Congress government with gross negligence for reportedly initiating the tunnel construction without obtaining necessary approvals from the Geological Survey of India (GSI).

He criticised the government for its shocking display of incompetence and inexperience. He questioned the Chief Minister's absence from relief operations. "Does the Chief Minister have no time to ensure the rescue of these workers, while he flies around in helicopters for campaigns?" he asked. (REPORT PAGE 5)

600 PERSONNEL ON RESCUE JOB

HYDERABAD: The rescue operations at the SLBC tunnel collapse have entered a critical phase, with all efforts concentrated on reaching the final stretch of the tunnel. Nearly 600 personnel from nine agencies, alongside the Indian Army and Navy, are positioned at the SLBC tunnel.

A Ministerial group headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka reviewed the progress of the rescue mission on the project site on Tuesday. Minister for Irrigation Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Minister of Excise Jupally Krishna Rao, who are personally overseeing rescue operations, took part in review.

Sikh riots: Lifer for Sajjan Kumar

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court awarded life imprisonment to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a murder case connected to 1984 anti-Sikh riots, saying his old age and illness weighed in favour of a lesser sentence instead of death penalty. Special judge Kaveri Baweja's verdict came over the killings of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh on November 1, 1984. The judge said offences committed by Kumar were brutal but underscored certain mitigating factors, including his age of 80 years and illnesses that "weigh in favour of imposing a lesser sentence, instead of death penalty". PTI



Shahid celebrates 44th B'day

Actor's wife and half-brother take to Instagram to send him love

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Hyderabad reeling under severe water crisis: Harish

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

With summer yet to begin, Hyderabad is already starting at an unprecedented water crisis, and BRS leader T Harish Rao held the Congress government squarely responsible for the looming disaster. He reminded that under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's rule, Hyderabad never saw a drinking water crisis.

"But today, borewells are drying up, groundwater is depleting, and people are forced to buy water tankers, even before the summer commenced," he said, adding that Congress

Says under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's rule, Hyderabad never saw a drinking water crisis

regime always led to a water crisis in the past and it has been proven once again.

In a statement, Harish Rao cited official reports pointing out that Telangana's groundwater reserves have dropped by a staggering 2.88 billion cubic meters, one of the worst de-

clines in the country. Despite 15 per cent excess rainfall, he said Hyderabad's groundwater levels have fallen by 1.33 meters, while Kukatpally has hit a shocking 25.90 meters below ground. "Is the government even aware of what is happening?" he questioned, accusing Congress of neglecting critical water management projects.

Drawing a sharp contrast, the former Irrigation Minister reminded that the BRS government initiated Mission Bhagiratha and Mission Kakatiya to ensure piped drinking water and revive thousands of lakes respectively. (SEE PAGE 2)

Telugu must for classes IX, X in all TG schools

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government issued orders mandating the implementation of Telugu as a compulsory subject for students of Classes IX and X studying in CBSE, ICSE, IB and other Board-affiliated schools in Telangana.

It will be mandatory for Class IX and Class X students from the academic year 2025-26 and 2026-27, respectively. To enhance non-Telugu native speaking student's interest in the language, Telugu would be taught in a simplified manner through 'Vennela', a simplified textbook.

Asteroid YR4 no longer poses threat to Earth



M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

The city-leveling asteroid 2024 YR4, which was hurtling towards Earth from outer space with 3.2 per cent chances of impact, has been downgraded by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Agency) to 0.004 per cent and is expected to safely pass Earth in 2032. However, there is still a chance of the asteroid YR4 to impact the moon on December 22, 2032. That probability is currently at 1.7 per cent.

"When first discovered, asteroid 2024 YR4 had a very small, but notable chance of impacting our planet in 2032. As observations of the asteroid continued to be submitted to the Minor Planet Center, experts at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL's) Center for Near-Earth Object Studies were able to calculate more precise models of

the asteroid's trajectory and now have found there is no significant potential for this asteroid to impact our planet for the next century. The latest observations have further reduced the uncertainty of its future trajectory, and the range of possible locations the asteroid could be on Dec. 22, 2032, has moved farther away from the Earth," NASA in a statement said.

There still remains a very small chance for asteroid 2024 YR4 to impact the Moon on Dec. 22, 2032. That probability is currently 1.7 per cent. NASA will continue to observe asteroid 2024 YR4 with observatories funded by its Planetary Defense Coordination Office, and NASA's James Webb Space Telescope will observe the asteroid in March to further gain insights about its size for scientific purposes, NASA added. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC relief for ex-army officer in 'rape case'

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court quashed a chargesheet against a former Army officer in an alleged rape case saying it was an "abuse of process of law".

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K Vinod Chandran granted the relief to Capt. Rakesh Walia (retired) noting that the Delhi High Court erred in its decision of not quashing the chargesheet. Walia had challenged a Delhi HC order dismissing his plea against the chargesheet.

Advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the complainant's

testimony showed there was no offence and the FIR deserved to be quashed. Dubey said the woman ran a "sex-tortion" racket and filed multiple FIRs against different persons, blackmailing them for money.

Dubey said seven FIRs against nine different people, including the petitioner, at seven different police stations, were registered at her instance in the last eight years. The High Court in its order on July 31, 2024, observed the matter was before the trial court, which would consider the arguments on behalf of the petitioner, and pass an appropriate verdict. (REPORT PAGE 7)

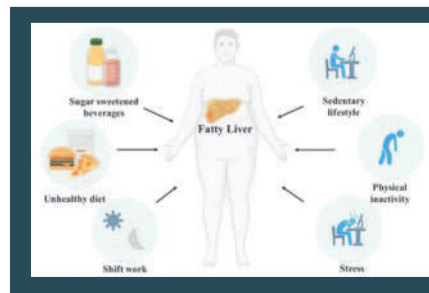
Over 80% of Indian IT workforce suffers from Fatty Liver Disease: Study

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad:

In a concerning trend, about 84 per cent of the IT employees in the country are suffering from Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD).

This has been revealed in a study conducted by University of Hyderabad (UoH) scientists and researcher scholars, in collaboration with a senior hepatologist of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) Hospital.

The study also found that around 71 per cent of IT employees are obese and about 34 per cent have metabolic



syndrome, a cluster of diseased conditions that increase the risk of fatty liver, obesity, diabetes and increased blood pressure.

This condition among IT employees is attributed to the sedentary life, involving long hours of sitting at the

desk, work-related stress, inadequate sleep and shift work. Unhealthy diets such as intake of high-calorie diet, sugar-sweetened beverages and lack of physical activity is another factor, which is fuelling the risk of several non-communicable

diseases including fatty liver disease called MAFLD.

According to researchers, fatty liver occurs when more than five per cent of fat builds up in the liver due to various behavioural and metabolic risk factors. (SEE PAGE 2)



Prof. Kalyankar Mahadev, Nanditha Pramod, Bharam Bhargava and Prof. CT Anitha.