



**NATION | PAGE 07**  
**Shah directs free movement of people in Manipur**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**Hamas says 'no progress' on 2nd phase of truce talks**  
 Officials from Israel, Qatar, Egypt and the US have been involved in negotiations



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**SA leaps to semifinals after thrashing England**

**In a nutshell**

**Two naxals killed in encounter**

**KOTHAGUDEM:** Two Maoists were killed in an encounter in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh State on Saturday. The Sukma police said on February 28, a joint team of Sukma District Reserve Guard and CRPF CoBRA personnel undertook an anti-naxal search operation following the information about the presence of Maoists in the Kistaram area in the district. The operation continued on Saturday. Intermittent gun battle ensued between security forces and the Maoists. **NATION PAGE 7**

**Ramzan to begin from today**

**HYDERABAD:** With the sighting of the new crescent indicating the beginning of the holy month of Ramzan on Saturday evening, hectic activity is witnessed in the city. Ramzan is the ninth month of the Hijri calendar also known as lunar calendar. In the month Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Quran, and observe fast during the sunlit hours. It is believed that fasting draws one closer to the almighty. **HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

**Film city to come up in Mysuru**

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday announced that the State government will establish a world-class film city in Mysuru with 150 acres of land already allotted for the project. Speaking at the inauguration of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival at the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha, he emphasised that international film festivals are a reflection of global culture and should be leveraged to create meaningful and impactful cinema. **PTI**

**Cheer for Andhra ASHA workers**

**AMARAVATI:** The NDA government in Andhra Pradesh has announced gratuity for ASHA workers, enhanced the retirement age from 60 to 62 years and other sops. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday gave a green signal for payment of gratuity to ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers. Each will get Rs 1.5 lakh at the time of retirement after serving for 30 years. AP will be the first and only State to pay gratuity to them. **NATION PAGE 7**

**Ramzan Timings**

Iftar	Sunday	6:28 PM
Saheer	Monday	5:11 AM

## Lankan endemic bat species discovered

**YUVRAJ AKULA**  
 Hyderabad:

Their unending fascination for bats has helped the Osmania University scientists discover a new species of bat in Sri Lanka.

An international researchers' team led by Dr Bhargavi Srinivasulu from the OU identified a new species of leaf-nosed bat, named *Hipposideros srilankaensis*, which is endemic to Sri Lanka. This discovery, along with the



taxonomic revision of the South Asian allies of *Hipposideros galeritus*, has been published in the international taxonomy journal *Zootaxa*. The research, conducted in collaboration with

bat biologists from Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand under the stewardship of Prof C Srinivasulu of OU, is the culmination of over a decade of extensive fieldwork, morphological studies, and genetic analyses.

The team surveyed multiple locations across India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, collecting crucial samples and evidence to support their findings. The new species is distinguished by its unique morphological features. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

**OO**  
 The discovery is a testament to the incredible biodiversity of Sri Lanka. It highlights the need for exploration

— DR BHARGAVI SRINIVASULU, OU



## 'Odds of survival for trapped workers 1%'

**Minister says their location identified using hi-tech machinery**

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

The week-long rescue operations at the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel are nearing an end, but with hopes of safely rescuing the eight missing workers and engineers nearly shattered. The mission, involving over a dozen national and state agencies, is set to conclude on a grim note.

Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Saturday hinted that the chances of survival for the eight missing workers and engineers were very low. It is unlikely by 99 per cent that they are alive. However, he did not rule out the scope for the rescue mission springing surprises giving a positive outcome in the mission.

He announced on Saturday that the location of all eight persons trapped in the SLBC tunnel had been identified using sophisticated machinery. Efforts were underway to bring out four of the trapped individuals by Sunday evening, but it may take an additional two days to reach out to the remaining four, he said.

Earlier in the day, the presence of ambulances outside the Nagarkurnool Government hospital led to reports, and many believing, that there were no survivors from the tunnel collapse accident and that the bodies had been found. If they were retrieved from the silt and debris accumulated in the tunnel, it is likely that they would be shifted to Na-



Rescue operations under way at the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal tunnel collapse site in Nagarkurnool on Saturday.

garkurnool District Hospital. The entire operations focused during the day on analysing anomalies detected by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) team, employing Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) within the tunnel debris. It raised concerns about the fate of those reported missing after the accident that occurred on February 22.

The South Central Railway (SCR) deployed plasma cutters and Broco cutting machines, speeding up the operations, especially the removal of the mangled remains of the tunnel boring machine (TBM). The dismantled parts of the TBM were being shifted outside the tunnel to make clear passage for the rescue teams and machines to lift the debris.

**KTR questions govt on confusion about fate of workers**

**Hyderabad:** Raising grave concern over the confusion surrounding the fate of the eight workers trapped inside the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel for the last seven days, BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the unsettling amount of misinformation about the whereabouts of the missing workers.

He said each Minister seemed to have their own version of events. One MLA claimed that bodies were discovered, while another questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not sent his condolences. Another Minister insisted that no one was alive. This conflicting information has led to frustration and anger among the public, he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) rescue teams, also part of the mission, have been engaged in cutting parts of the TBM from the other end. Some 70 personnel from the SCCL are on the job. They have also joined the effort to restore the conveyor, which is the sole system helping in shifting the rubble and debris being lifted from the tunnel. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

## After WH showdown, Zelenskyy's new moves

**Reaches London for meeting with Starmer**

**LONDON**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the American people and leadership and voiced hope for "strong relations," a day after an astonishing Oval Office blowout with US President Donald Trump that left many uncertain where the once staunch allies stood.

Zelenskyy on Saturday arrived in London ahead of a summit on Sunday organised by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer with other European leaders. The summit will also include leaders from France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Finland, Sweden, Czechia and Romania, as well as the NATO Secretary-General and the Presidents of the European Commission and Council.

Zelenskyy's plane with the Ukrainian flag on its tail landed at London Stansted Airport the morning after the diplomatic spat on live

**Russian forces capture 2 more villages**

Russian forces have captured two more villages in eastern Ukraine, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed on Saturday, as they continue a monthslong grinding offensive in what was once the country's industrial heartland. If confirmed, the capture of Burlatske and Skudne would mark a further push northwest by Russia in the eastern Donetsk region. Ukraine did not immediately comment. An open-source Ukrainian map widely used by the military and analysts showed the pace of Russian advances appeared to be slowing for a third consecutive month. The team behind the map, Deepstate, attributed this slowdown to heavy casualties. But Russian troops continued to inch forward, in what appears to be a long-term bid by the Kremlin to wear down Ukraine's defences. **AP**

TV. He had been due to meet Starmer on Sunday, hours before taking part in a London summit of European leaders to discuss how to ensure a peaceful end to the war and provide security across the continent. But the timetable for their meeting was apparently sped up in the aftermath of the Washington visit. Meanwhile, European allies rallied behind Zelenskyy. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said "a new era of nefariousness" had begun in the wake of Trump's treatment of Zelenskyy at the White House, but vowed that it would only increase her country's commitment to Ukraine. French President Emmanuel Macron said if someone is gambling with World War III, it is more likely Putin. **(REPORTS PAGE 9)**

## U'khand avalanche: 4 dead

**DEHRADUN**

Fifty workers have been pulled out of snow from the site of an avalanche-hit BRO camp in Mana village of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save the remaining five.

The avalanche hit the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp between Mana and Badrinath between 5.30

am and 6 am on Friday, burying 55 workers inside eight containers and a shed, according to the Army. Thirty-three of them were rescued by Friday night.

Rain and snowfall hampered the rescue efforts on Friday and the operation was suspended as the night fell. As the weather cleared up on Saturday morning, the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel based in Mana resumed the

rescue operation, District Disaster Management Officer NK Joshi said.

Six helicopters, including three of the Indian Army Aviation, two of the IAF and one civil copter hired by the Army, are engaged in the rescue. "Fifty labourers were rescued, of which, four injured were confirmed as fatal casualties. Search for the remaining five is on," an Army spokesperson said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

### RAMZAN DELICACY



A worker prepares vermicelli, which is used in making traditional sweet dishes, ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, in Prayagraj on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

## Congress MLC suspended

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Congress has suspended its MLC Teenmaar Mallanna for anti-party activities. The TPCC Disciplinary Committee Chairman G Chinna Reddy issued orders to this effect on Saturday.

The MLC has been vociferously opposing the caste census conducted by the Congress government. He dubbed it fake and charged that it was a ploy hatched by upper caste leaders to suppress the BCs. **(FULL REPORT PAGE 5)**

## 'Dhee' show fame dancer Kalyani dies by suicide

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Khammam

A young dancer died, reportedly by suicide, on Saturday by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at Ponnelal in Khammam rural mandal in Khammam city.

It was said that Kavya Kalyani of Bank Colony and Abhi alias Abhilash of Ponnelal were living together for the last five years at Abhi's house after they secretly got married. They had both earlier partici-



Kavya Kalyani with her lover Abhilash.

love with each other. Before ending her life, Kalyani recorded a selfie video in which she said she was going to die and the reason for her death was her lover Abhi.

She said Abhi told her that he fell in love with her and took her to his house. "Sorry amma, I am dying. After living together for five years, Abhi has now decided to marry another woman and told me to get out of his house," Kalyani said in the video. **(SEE PAGE 2)**