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Veteran cricketer Abid Ali passes away



BUSINESS | PAGE 08
EU hits back with new duties on US products
 Bloc's measures will cover goods from US worth 26 billion euros



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All England: Sindhu loses to Korea's Kim Ga Eun

In a nutshell
Snake catcher dies of snakebite
MEDAK: A snake catcher, who was bitten by a poisonous snake while catching it, died at Lakshmi Nagar village in Pannapet mandal. Vangapati Nagaraju (53), a resident of the same village, was called in by the villagers after they noticed a snake moving in a function hall on Tuesday. Unfortunately, he was bitten by the venomous snake while he was catching it. Nagaraju was rushed to the government hospital in Medak, where he died while undergoing treatment on Wednesday. Nagaraju was a well-known snake catcher in the locality. Police have registered a case.

Soldier injured in sniper fire in J&K
JAMMU: A soldier was injured on Wednesday in suspected sniper fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. Officials said the soldier sustained a suspected sniper fire injury along the LoC in the Kalsian area of the district's Nowshera sector this morning. "The injured soldier was immediately airlifted to the Army hospital in Udhampur town. Security forces have started a search operation in the area," officials said. Earlier, a soldier was injured in a firing incident from across the LoC in the Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district. **IANS**

Ramzan Timings
Iftar Thursday 6:31 PM
Saheer Friday 5:03 AM



Sreeleela, Kartik dating?
 Kartik's mother Mala Tiwari drops hint during IIFA Awards 2025

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Farmer suicides continue unabated across State

STATE BUREAU
 Bhongir/Siddipet
 Two farmers died by suicide in separate incidents in the State on Wednesday. In the first case, unable to cope with mounting debts resulting in severe financial distress, a farmer died by suicide in Thagadapalli village in Yadadri Bhongir. He had consumed pesticide on March 2 and died while undergoing treatment on Wednesday. According to the police and family, Jagannath (45) was facing financial difficulties for quite some time. He

Morbid Revanth gets personal with KCR

CM continues to use derogatory language against BRS chief; KTR, Harish hit back

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday shocked many with insensitive comments against former Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao, going to the extent of saying that the senior leader would pass away soon. Speaking at a government function at Ravindra Bharathi here, Revanth Reddy referred to statements by BRS leaders including KT Rama Rao (KTR) and senior MLA T Harish Rao lashed out at the Chief Minister for his cheap remarks. "This mad dog has crossed every single limit of decency. I request his family to take him to a mental health facility or else, in his



frustrated state, he might start biting everyone around. Get well soon, Cheap Minister," Rama Rao posted on X, referring to Revanth Reddy. Harish Rao also slammed Revanth Reddy, accusing him of lacking political maturity. "The CM is a narrow-minded person who wishes for the death of Opposition leaders," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Ghar wapsi? Cong MLA meets KCR

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Defected BRS MLA from Patancheru Gudem Mahipal Reddy called on BRS chief and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekhara Rao in the Telangana Assembly on Wednesday, triggering speculation of potential political realignments. Mahipal Reddy, who defected to the Congress last year, met Chandrashekhara Rao in his chambers at the State Assembly, to invite him to a family wedding. While Chandrashekhara Rao responded cordially and inquired about his well-being, the meeting has fueled talk of Mahipal Reddy planning a return to BRS amid growing discontent among the public against the ruling Congress. The MLA had been crossing swords with Congress leaders. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

CM's veiled threat to employees

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

While admitting delays in salary payments to ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday issued a veiled threat as well, stating that non-cooperation from government employees could worsen the financial crunch, leading to even salary disbursements being 'affected'.

Governor lays out govt's plans 'Yet another publicity stunt'

PS DILEEP
 Hyderabad

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Wednesday outlined the Congress government's ambitious plans to focus on the much touted Future City development, Musi River rejuvenation and Metro Rail expansion among others, with promises to redefine urban infrastructure and economic growth. He said the government was also committed to inclusive development, technological innovation and social justice, to transform Telangana into a hub of economic and social progress. Marking the commencement of the budget session, he addressed the joint sitting of the State Legislature here on Wednesday. He stated that the State government's focus on clean energy, artificial intelligence and high-tech industries, will position



GOVT'S FOCUS ON CLEAN ENERGY, AI, HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES, WILL POSITION TELANGANA AS LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
 — JISHNU DEV VARMA GOVERNOR

Telangana as a leader in sustainable development and digital transformation. On welfare measures, he pointed to schemes such as free bus travel for women, crop loan waivers and Rs 12,000 financial assistance to tenant farmers. Other social initiatives included the recruitment of 55,000 personnel, enhanced hostel facilities for students, and subsidised LPG cylinders at Rs 500. The Indira Mahila Shakti Mission, with an outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore, was cited as a major step towards empowering one crore women entrepreneurs. On social justice, Varma hailed the recently conducted caste survey as a landmark initiative to ensure equitable distribution of resources. He announced the government's plan to introduce a Bill granting 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government following Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's speech addressing the joint session of the State Legislature on Wednesday. He dismissed the speech as a Congress publicity stunt, using the Governor's office to spread lies, half-truths, and deception. Speaking to the media on the occasion, Rama Rao expressed disappointment that the speech failed to address critical issues such as the 420 unfulfilled promises and six guarantees made by the Congress government. He said the Revanth Reddy government failed farmers, with non-implementation of the promised crop loan waiver. He blamed the Congress rule for 480 farmer suicides. "Despite BRS leaders



DESPITE BRS CHALLENGING THE GOVT TO PROVE 100% LOAN WAIVER IN ANY SINGLE VILLAGE, THERE WAS NO RESPONSE. GOV FALSELY CLAIMED THAT LOAN WAIVER WAS COMPLETED
 — KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PREZ

challenging the government to prove a 100 per cent loan waiver in any single village, there was no response. Instead, the Governor falsely claimed that the loan waiver was completed and that the farmers were happy," he said. The BRS working president lambasted the Congress government's neglect of irrigation projects, charging it with destroying agriculture in the Godavari River basin due to political vendetta against former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. He reminded that Medigadda Barrage has remained unrepaired for 15 months, causing crops to dry up on lakhs of acres. He said farmers were now forced to graze cattle in barren fields, yet the Governor's speech failed to acknowledge this crisis or mention corrective measures. **(SEE PAGE 2)**
(BUDGET SESSION PAGE 5)

HOMECOMING FOR HOLI



Passengers hang precariously from a moving train as they head home for Holi, in Patna on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

After Airtel, Jio strikes deal with Musk's Starlink

NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms has struck a deal with SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Elon Musk, to bring Starlink's broadband internet services to India, a surprise move that follows months of bickering over how Musk's venture should be granted spectrum rights. The deal with Musk—considered the right-hand-man of US President Donald Trump—comes a day after telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel signed a similar partnership deal with SpaceX. This agreement "is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India", Jio Platforms—which holds telecom and digital properties of Reliance Industries Ltd—said. **PTI** **(REPORT PAGE 8)**

Amaravati works from next month

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Municipal Minister P Narayana on Wednesday announced that the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has approved tenders for 59 development projects worth Rs 37,702 crore to facilitate the construction of greenfield capital city Amaravati. These projects will commence immediately after the Cabinet's approval on March 17, he said in an official statement. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

TN Dalit student's fingers severed

TIRUNELVELI: Three accused, two boys and a 19-year-old, arrested in the brutal assault of a 17-year-old Dalit school student from Srivakuntam, are relatives, police sources said. While the victim's father said the assault was due to previous enmity between the assailants and his son over a Kabbadi match, the statements made by the arrested persons said the enmity was due to the boy's "love proposal". **PTI**

Student gang-raped for 16 months in Guj

PALANPUR: A college student from Gujarat's Banaskantha district was allegedly repeatedly raped by seven persons for nearly 16 months after being blackmailed with her nude video, police said Wednesday. One of the six accused befriended the 20-year-old woman over Instagram months after she started attending a college in Palanpur in 2023. In November 2023, he persuaded her to join him for breakfast. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**