TELANGANA EDITION



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02 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



SPORT | PAGE 10

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 Papannapet 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 wellknown 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

Ramzan Timings ftar Thursday 6:31 PM Saher Friday 5:03 AM

Poonch district. IANS



Sreeleela, Kartik dating?

Kartik's mother Mala Tiwari drops hint during IIFA Awards 2025

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 drashekhar 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 in-cluding KT Rama Rao that none in the Assembly could match the stature of Chandrashekhar Rao. "They are talking about his stature, but truth is that we have put him on a stretcher and he will soon end up in the mortuary," he said.

The derogatory language triggered immediately protests from many quar-



ters with BRS leaders criticising Revanth Reddy for hitting a new low in political rhetoric. BRS working president 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. minded person who wishes for the death of Opposition leaders," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

"The CM is a narrow-

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Patancheru Opposition K Rao Wednesday,

Ghar wapsi? Cong MLA meets KCR

Defected BRS MLA from Gudem Mahipal Reddy called on BRS chief and Leader of Chan-Telangana Assembly on triggering speculation of potential political realignments.

Mahipal Reddy, who defected to the Congress last year, met Chandrashekhar Rao in his chambers at the State Assembly, to invite him to a family wedding. Chandrashekhar 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

Governor lays out govt's plans STATE BUREAU

BUDGET SESSION

Hyderabad

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Wednesday outlined the Congress government's amtibious

plans to focus on

the much touted Future City development, Musi River rejuvenation and Metro Rail expansion others, among with promises to redefine urban infrastructure and **GOVT'S FOCUS** economic growth. He said the government was also commit-WILL POSITION TELANGANA ted to inclusive development, technological innovation and so-**DEVELOPMENT** justice, to transform Telangana into a hub of economic and so-

cial progress.

TRANSFORMA-TION JISHNU DEV VARMA GOVERNOR

ON CLEAN ENERGY, AI, HIGH-TECH

AS LEADER IN

& DIGITAL

Marking the commencement 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

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

> cial assistance to tenant farmers. Other social initiatives included the recruitment of 55,000 personenhanced hostel facilities for students, and subsidised LPG cylinders at Rs 500. The Indira Mahila Mission, with an outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore, was cited as a major step towards empowering one crore women entrepre-

neurs. On social justice, Varma hailed the re-

of the budget session, he cently 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)

'Yet another publicity stunt'

DESPITE BRS

CHALLENGING

THE GOVT TO PROVE 100%

LOAN WAIVER

IN ANY SINGLE VILLAGE,

Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government following Gover-

loan waivers and nor Jishnu Dev Rs 12,000 finan-Verma'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. Shakti

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

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

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

THERE WAS Chief Minister K NO RESPONSE Chandrashekhar **GUV FALSELY** Rao. He re-**CLAIMED THAT** minded **LOAN WAIVER** WAS COMPLETED Medigadda Barrage has re-— KT RAMA RAO mained unre-BRS WORKING PREZ paired 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)

Women journalists arrested for posts against Revanth

CITY BUREAU

In an early morning swoop, two women journalists, Revathi and Thanvi Yadav. were arrested by the police from their homes in the city for allegedly posting derogatory and abusive posts against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Senior journalist Revathi

and her colleague, Thanvi, were picked up around 5 am from their residences, for posting a video of a farmer speaking about his hardships under the Congress regime on their YouTube channel and social media platforms a few days ago, which went viral.

Police said Revathi (44), the managing director of Pulse News, and Bandi Sandhya alias Thanvi Yadav (25), a reporter with the channel, were involved in social media trolling and two other similar cases in Telangana. The case pertains to a viral interview video clip broadcasted by

Pulse TV channel, wherein an old farmer is seen making abusive and derogator remarks against the Chief Minister.

"It clearly indicates a deliberate attempt by the Pulse TV channel to defame and spread false propaganda," said P Vishwa Prasad, Additional Commissioner (Crime and SIT), Hyderabad. Following a complaint from a representative of the Congress Social Media Cell, a case was booked and the journalists were arrested.

It has been alleged that the police team also threatened Revathi's watchman and deleted CCTV footage of the raid and arrest, erasing all evidence. Officials have not even intimated the arrests of the journalists and refused to disclose their whereabouts to their families, leaving them in a state of panic. The two were produced in court and remanded in judicial custody.

CONDEMNS INCIDENT PAGE 5)



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

CM's veiled threat to employees

STATE BUREAU

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

At the same time, while addressing newly recruited junior and polytechnic lecturers at Ravindra Bharati, Revanth Reddy continued to blame former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao Telangana's fiscal

"With a monthly revenue of Rs 18,500 crore against required Rs 22,000 crore to fulfill all our commitments, we are deferring payments of salaries to ASHA and Anganwadi workers, and welfare schemes like Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi. Basically, we are following a rotation system from one section to another to defer payments," he said, also surprising the audience by stating that he was ready to hand over financial management to government staff. "Let them decide how

to distribute funds," he said. There were other contradictions as well in the Chief

Minister's speech. While stressing the need to uplift government schools and reduce dropout rates, he also endorsed the Young India Skill University, run entirely by private industrialists.

We brought in Mahindra, Apollo Hospitals, and Reddy Labs as board members — they will train students, while the government acts as only a facilitator," the Chief Minister said.

Farmer suicides continue unabated across State

STATE BUREAU

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

drilling borewells and meeting the expenses on his Yasangi crop. The financial strain added to the emotional distress for Jagannath. He left home on March 2

by informing his family members. He reportedly consumed pesticide near his agricultural well the same day after making his last call to the family. His family rushed to the spot and immediately took him to the

local government hospital. In view of the severity of his condition, he was shifted to a private hospital in Hyderabad. Despite all efforts made by doctors, Jagannath died on Wednesday while undergoing treatment. The local police, based on

a complaint filed by Jagannath's wife Padma, registered a case. He is survived by wife, daughter and son. In the second case, drving

crops drove a farmer to suicide at Manthur village in Raipole mandal. Eramaina Mallaiah (50) borrowed huge sums from friends and relatives after he suffered losses in agriculture. He also sold his half-acre land to meet his daughter's wedding expenses. (SEE PAGE 2)

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 Srivaikuntam, 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 Guiarat'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 20vear-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)

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 righthand-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", Iio Platforms which that holds telecom and digital properties of Reliance Industries Ltd –