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### Elevators turning death traps in Hyderabad



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### After train attack, Pakistan military camp targeted

Suicide bomber blows himself up in vehicle near Frontier Corps camp; 10 militants killed



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### All England: Lakshya stuns Christie, enters quarter finals

#### In a nutshell

#### Half-day schools from March 15

HYDERABAD: All schools in Telangana will function half-day starting March 15 and till the last working day for the academic year i.e., April 23. The School Education Department has informed Regional Joint Directors of School Education and District Educational Officers that primary, upper primary and high schools under all managements will function from 8 am to 12.30 pm. Mid-day meals will be served at 12.30 pm.

#### Putin agrees for 30-day ceasefire

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said he agrees in principle with a US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine, but the terms need to be worked out, and he emphasised that it should pave the way to lasting peace. "So the idea itself is correct, and we certainly support it," Putin said. "But there are issues that we need to discuss, and we need to discuss it with our American colleagues and partners."

#### Family of four found dead

CHENNAI: Four members of a family, including two teenage sons, were found dead in their residence here on Thursday, police said. The bodies of the doctor-advocate couple and their two sons were found in two separate rooms, police said and added that they could have ended their lives by hanging. The incident came to light after the doctor's driver got suspicious and informed the police.

#### Vrindavan priests reject ban plea

MATHURA: Priests at the famed Banke Bihari temple in Vrindavan have rejected a demand to stop using attire made by Muslim artisans for its deity, emphasising that religious discrimination has no place in temple traditions. The demand was raised by Dinesh Sharma, a leader of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Sangharsh Nyas, who urged the temple to avoid using the services of Muslim artisans.

#### Ramzan Timings

Iftar Friday 6:31 PM  
Sahar Saturday 5:02 AM



### 'Daunting but very satisfying'

Ranbir on reuniting with Sanjay Leela Bhansali for *Love & War*

# Chaos in Assembly; KCR's rare gesture

## Asks BRS MLAs to apologise to Speaker after ruckus erupts over Jagadish's suspension from House

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Legislative Assembly witnessed high drama on Thursday, first when Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar was forced to adjourn the House following a heated debate on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address and later, when he suspended BRS MLA G Jagadish Reddy who questioned the Chair's impartiality, leading to further protests from the Opposition.

The escalating situation, which disrupted the proceedings of the House, saw Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao asking his MLAs to apologise to the Speaker and ensure that the session continued without further disruptions.

According to BRS MLA Vemula Prashant Reddy, the BRS MLAs had sought Chandrashekhara Rao's advice on the issue, following which he asked them to express their readiness for an apology to the Speaker.



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and other party leaders protest in front of the BR Ambedkar Statue in Hyderabad on Thursday.

They had informed the Speaker and Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu of this, who were yet to respond, he said, adding that the BRS had also asked for the records of Jagadish Reddy to be reviewed in the

presence of the Speaker and all floor leaders to ascertain whether he was a fault.

Earlier in the House, initiating the debate, Government Whip Adi Srinivas introduced the Motion of Thanks, but tensions flared

when Jagadish Reddy took the floor. The former Minister dismissed the Governor's speech as an AI-generated script, charging the Congress government with filling it with lies. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Stalin changes Rupee symbol

## Replaces Devanagari symbol with Tamil letter in logo for Budget 2025-26

CHENNAI

Intensifying the language tussle with the Centre, the Tamil Nadu government on Thursday replaced the Devanagari rupee symbol with a Tamil letter in its logo for the Budget 2025-26, in an unprecedented move signalling its unrelenting stance against the three-language formula under the National Education Policy.

The move comes amidst a political firestorm over the issue after the Tamil Nadu government rejected the National Education Policy with Chief Minister MK Stalin accusing the Central government of trying to impose Hindi in the state under it and claimed that NEP was a "saffron policy" aimed at promoting and developing Hindi and not the nation.

The DMK has also asserted that Tamil Nadu would not tolerate 'Hindi colonialism' replacing



The logo of the 2024-25 Tamil Nadu Budget (top) and the logo of the 2025-26 State Budget. — Photo: PTI

British colonialism, while the union government has accused the state government of being "dishonest" and "ruining the future of the students" in the state for politics.

The logo for the Budget, released by the government on Thursday, carried 'ru', the first letter of the Tamil word 'Rubaa', which denotes the Indian currency in the vernacular language. Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu is scheduled to table the

budget on Friday. The logo also had the caption "everything for all", indicating the ruling DMK's assurance of an inclusive governance model.

The symbol change triggered a political slugfest, with the BJP leaders attacking the DMK, and the ruling party members asking if any rule barred such a depiction. DMK MLA Ezhilan Naganathan justified the move and said there was nothing wrong with using the mother tongue. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Fine rice, ration cards from Ugadi unlikely

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Congress government's promise to supply fine rice and issue new ration cards from Ugadi is likely to get delayed further. The government had earlier announced that fine rice would be supplied through fair price shops from January 1. This was then postponed to Sankranti.

It was later announced that the issue of new ration cards and supply of fine rice would commence from Ugadi. However, indications are now that this deadline, too, could get extended due to the designing and printing of the ration cards.

**New ration cards to sport Congress colours**  
Indications are that the new ration cards to be issued to Below Poverty Line (BPL)

Indications are that new ration cards for BPL families to sport Tricolour with Cong stamp, APL family cards to be in green

families in the State would sport the Tricolour, reflecting a Congress stamp. The Above Poverty Line (APL) family cards are likely to be in green.

In December last year, Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy had announced that the State government would issue 10 lakh new white ration cards. The new ration cards would be like smart cards and the State exchequer would have to bear an additional Rs 956 crore. Around 18 lakh new ration card applications

were pending in the State, he had said in the Legislative Council. The Congress government had also constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to approve the new ration cards. Currently, there are nearly 89.90 lakh ration cards.

Fresh applications were invited from people through Praja Palana, Prajavani, Gram Sabhas and later Mee Seva centres as well. The scrutiny of applications was completed with the eligibility criteria for issue of cards being finalised now.

This time, the government will offer ration cards for BPL and APL families. BPL families will be given a card of one colour, while APL families will get cards in another colour, Uttam Kumar Reddy said during an information chat with media persons on Thursday. (SEE PAGE 2)

## CELEBRATIONS KICK OFF



People play with colours on the eve of Holi in Begum Bazaar, Hyderabad, on Thursday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

### Elderly man beaten to death by youngsters

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

An elderly man was beaten to death by a group of youngsters allegedly over an argument about a trivial matter at Baba Nagar in Kanchanbagh on Wednesday night.

As per available information, Zakir Khan (62), who runs a grocery store at 'C Block' Baba Nagar reportedly had an argument over the pan shop owners in the neighbourhood, after the customers of the pan shop occupied the space in front of his store by sitting on chairs.

When Zakir Khan asked them to remove the chairs, a group of youngsters assaulted him, punched his face, chest and pushed him down. He collapsed and died. Kanchanbagh police are investigating.

# That's the spirit! Liquor ban in this village turns 40

JAMES EDWIN  
Kothagudem

The residents of Ramaraopet in Dummugudem mandal have been strictly following a ban imposed on the sale and consumption of liquor in the village, one that came into being about 40 years ago.

The remote village in the district has a population of 1500, mostly tribals. Their main occupation is agriculture as nearly 80 per cent of the families have land holdings of two to three acres and the remaining work as farm labourers locally and outside the village.

Speaking to *Telangana Today*, an elder of the village, Podiam Subba Rao, said the ban on liquor, arrack or gudumba was imposed by the elders some



Elders of Ramaraopet in Dummugudem mandal of Kothagudem imposed the ban as families were going bankrupt due to addiction.

four decades ago. The decision was taken after many families were going bankrupt due to their addiction to liquor. In the past, the residents used to brew arrack and gudumba for personal use as well as for selling. But now such practices have stopped. No villager has

ever violated the ban so far, Subba Rao said. There are around 350 families and all have pledged to make their village an ideal village by staying away from liquor consumption. Imposing the ban is intended for the well being of younger generations, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

# BRS to take part in DMK's meeting

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The BRS has decided to participate in the all-party meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin in Chennai on March 22. The meeting aims at uniting Southern States against the delimitation process being adopted by the Centre on population basis, which could be detrimental to the States.

#### DMK delegation meets KTR

A DMK delegation, led by Tamil Nadu Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru and MP NR Elango, met BRS working president KT Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan to invite the BRS to the meeting. Rama Rao said party chief K Chandrashekhara Rao would de-

cide on BRS representatives for the meeting. However, he said Southern States, which successfully implemented family planning policies of the Central government in the 1970s and 1980s, should not be penalised with reduced parliamentary representation.

"If parliamentary seats are allocated purely based on population, it will harm Telangana and other Southern States," he said. He asserted that the meeting would collectively discuss all possible solutions and unitedly exert pressure on the Centre to safeguard the interests of the Southern States.

Responding to a question on the Congress government's plans to host a similar meeting in Telangana, he said no such invitation was extended.

### Chappal chors target four apartments

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Unidentified persons stole several pairs of footwear from apartments at East Prashanth Nagar in Moosarambagh on Wednesday night.

As per information, the thieves targeted four apartment complexes and fled with several pairs of shoes and sandals belonging to both men and women. Thieves also stole the shoes and sandals of a police inspector and a woman Sub-inspector of office residing in one of the apartments. The apartment residents were shocked when they came out of their houses in the morning and found their shoes and sandals missing.

On checking the CCTV footage, it was found to be the work of petty thieves.