



STATE | PAGE 02
 Wake up, the *sehriwala* is here; *Zohridars'* tradition lives on



WORLD | PAGE 09
Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip kill 85 Palestinians
 Says it targets only militants; blames terror outfit Hamas for civilian deaths



SPORT | PAGE 10
 Ponting-Iyer duo look to turn the tables for the Kings

In a nutshell

Ola Electric sales to be probed
NEW DELHI: The Heavy Industries Ministry has directed Automotive Research Association of India to probe the mismatch between Ola Electric's reported sales figures and actual vehicle registrations along with numerous consumer complaints against the company and submit a report within 15 days, sources said. As of March 20, the company's registrations stood at 11,781 on Vahan portal. **BUSINESS PAGE 8**

36 Indians on death row in UAE, Saudi
NEW DELHI: As many as 25 Indian nationals in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and 11 in Saudi Arabia have been awarded death sentence, but the judgement is yet to be implemented, the government informed Parliament on Thursday. Citing the "informal information" available with the local Indian Mission, the government also detailed that no Indian was executed in the UAE from 2020-24. **NATION PAGE 7**

Over Rs 22 cr spent on PM's US visit
NEW DELHI: Over Rs 22 crore was incurred on the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US in June 2023, according to data shared by the government. MoS for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita shared the data in his written response to a query in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The data on country-wise expenditure on foreign visits by the PM in 2022, 2023 and 2024 was shared in a tabulated form. **PTI**

Musk sues Centre over censorship
BENGALURU: Social media giant X, owned by US billionaire Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court against the Government of India, challenging what it called unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship. It raised concerns over the Centre's interpretation of the Information Technology Act, particularly its use of Section 79(3)(b), which X argues violates Supreme Court rulings. **PTI**

Ramzan Timings
Iftar Friday 6:32 PM
Sahar Saturday 4:57 AM

Miss World vs Formula-E: Cong hypocrisy out

As govt gears up to host beauty pageant, it will have to answer how event will benefit TG

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

For the Congress in Telangana, everything they do is right, but if others do the same, that's wrong. Hypocrisy, in other words, has become the hallmark of the Congress, as its stance on the Miss World pageant has proved.

The party had gone hammers and tongs against the Formula-E race when the previous BRS government got ready to host it, and continued in the same vein after coming to power by going to the extent of cancelling the second edition of the event, when it could have got whatever suspicions it had cleared with a separate probe.

But no, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy got the event cancelled without even discussing it in the Cabinet. Congress' stance was that the event was a sheer wastage of tax payers' money and that the city did not derive any benefit by hosting such an event.

On January 16, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar even accused former MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao of hosting the event only to "benefit his friends". But, now as the Congress gears up to host the Miss World contest, it will have to answer how the event, hosted with tax payers' money, will benefit the State. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



Miss World Krystyna Pyszková during a press conference in Hyderabad on Thursday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

What Formula-E gave Hyderabad

\$83.7 million in direct, indirect and induced impact from spending in the Hyderabad region for the 2023 Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix

\$4.8 million generated from events and activations by teams, championship sponsors ABB and DHL, local race partners such as Greenko Group and Jio, associations with Hyderabad E-Mobility Week, organised by Government of Telangana

\$4 million spent on hotels, accommodation in the area

\$3.5 million created in media value across TV, online, print and social media

\$1.8 million spent in local restaurants on food, beverage

(Source: Nielsen Sports Analysis)

Revanth defends Miss World event, says it will generate hundreds of crores

HYDERABAD: Amidst objections from opposition parties over the State government's priorities, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy defended hosting the Miss World contest in Hyderabad, claiming that it was an excellent tourism opportunity and would generate "a lot of revenue". "Representatives from 140 countries will be staying in Telangana for over a month and visiting different tourist destinations," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Unable to raise loans as no one trusts me, admits CM

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In a startling admission, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government was unable to raise loans as no one trusted him or the government.

The State government has to pay Rs 8,000 crore retirement benefits to employees. On an average, every month, 1,000 employees were retiring from service and by the end of the

year, 10,000 employees were retiring. Accordingly, Rs 8,000 crore retirement benefits were due. "From where do we get these funds. No one trusts us, no one will give us loans," he said while speaking at the Koluvula Pandaga programme at Ravindra Bharathi on Thursday.

To bail itself out of the crisis, the government was trying to restructure the debts and reduce the interest component in the banks,

he said. "I visited New Delhi 32 times for debt restructuring and to cut down the interest rate to five or six per cent. When income is generated, the same will be spent on welfare and development," he claimed.

Revanth said a peculiar situation was prevailing in the State. Generally, youth stage protests for job notifications, but in Telangana, they asked the government to hold and delay the notifications, he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Young wrestler beats knee injury to get back on the mat

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A 25-year-old wrestler, Charan, from Hyderabad, who was struggling with a bad knee injury, successfully underwent surgery and rehab at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) and managed to win a gold medal in the All India Civil Services Wrestling Championship 2024-25 held recently in Mumbai.



Charan won gold in the recently held All India Civil Services Wrestling Championship.

Post-surgery, Charan also secured a job as a Telangana Excise Constable, which required him to pass rigorous physical fitness tests. A few days ago, Charan came back to the hospital to distribute sweets to doctors and caregivers who helped him re-

cover. "I thought it was all over because of the serious knee injury. I had given up because wrestling is difficult with an injury. However, the surgery and rehab worked,"

Thanks to the efforts of a team of caregivers, Charan not only regained his ability to walk, but also rebuilt his strength and stamina. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Celebs in trouble over betting apps

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Miyapur police registered a case against several Tollywood actors and social media influencers for allegedly promoting online betting.

The case was registered against actors Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Devarakonda, Manchu Lakshmi, Praneetha, Nidhi Agarwal and the influencers booked included Ananya, Sreemukhi, Siri Hanumanthu, Shyamala, Varshini, Shobha, Neha, Pandu, Padmavathi, Imran Khan, Vishnu Priya, Harsha Sai, Sunny Yadav, Tasty Teja and Ritu.

The police invoked Sec-

tions 318(4), 112 r/w 49 BNS, 3, 3(A), 4 TSGA, and 66 D ITA - 2000.

The complainant, PM Phanindra Sarma, a 32-year-old businessman from Miyapur, alleged the actors and influencers were knowingly promoting the betting apps and corrupting the youngsters in the society and due to it many people are falling in financial problems.

He further stated that he became aware of the issue on March 16, 2025, while interacting with youngsters and came to know that many had lost their hard-earned money on betting and gambling apps endorsed by popular figures. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'Water crisis Congress making'

KTR calls out inefficiency in management of irrigation projects

STATE BUREAU
 Suryapet

BRS working president KT Rama Rao held the Congress government solely responsible for the water crisis in the State due to its inefficiency in management of irrigation projects. He said the drying of crops was not due to a natural drought, but one created by the Congress government.

Addressing a massive gathering of the party cadre at Suryapet on Thursday, Rama Rao said despite Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy hailing from erstwhile Nalgonda, he failed to ensure adequate water for the district.

He blamed the Congress for not repairing the Medigadda barrage due to its blind hatred for former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and letting water go down the stream to Andhra Pradesh. He questioned how water was avail-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao greets supporters during a massive gathering of the party cadre in Suryapet on Thursday.

able abundantly under Chandrashekar Rao's rule, while farmers are deprived of irrigation water under Congress. "The Congress leaders argued that Nalgonda is not getting the Kaleshwaram project water, but was receiving only from

Sri Ram Sagar Project. Now that they are terming the Kaleshwaram project useless, why they are unable to supply water even from SRSP, but for their neglect and inefficiency?" he asked.

The BRS working president said while the BRS gov-

ernment utilised 36 per cent of Krishna River water, the Congress had failed to use even 24 per cent. He reiterated that the ruling party lacked the knowledge to manage irrigation, increase groundwater levels or even fill tanks. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

30 Maoists, one jawan killed in Chhattisgarh encounters

STATE BUREAU
 Kothagudem

As many as 30 Maoists and one jawan were killed in two separate incidents of exchange of fire between security forces and CPI (Maoist) party cadres in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Thursday.

In an encounter on the borders of Bijapur and Dantewada districts in the State, 26 Maoists were killed. Security forces recovered the bodies of 30 Naxalites, along with a large number of AK-

Security forces recover bodies of 30 naxalites, along with huge cache of AK-47 rifles, semi-automatic weapons

47 rifles and semi-automatic weapons. One jawan of Bijapur DRG, Raju Oyyami, was killed in the encounter, said Bastar Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P. Search operations have

been going on in Bijapur and Dantewada under the Gangoor police station limits, he added.

In another anti-naxal operation by a joint party of DRG and STF personnel on the borders of Kanker-Narayanpur districts, four Naxalites were killed and their bodies were recovered. Naxalites blasted an IED during the wee hours targeting the jawans. A jawan and an officer were immediately taken out of the operation area for treatment. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Indian student faces deportation for backing Hamas

NEW YORK

An Indian student, enrolled as a postdoctoral fellow in the US, faces deportation after authorities said he was "spreading Hamas propaganda" and has "close connections to a suspected terrorist", who is a senior advisor to the group.

Badar Khan Suri is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington DC. **PTI**

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