

In a nutshell

5 terrorists killed in J&K operation

JAMMU: The number of terrorists killed in an anti-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district has risen to five after two more bodies were recovered on Friday in the forest area where they had been hiding. Official sources said five terrorists had been killed. At the same time, three jawans of the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the J&K Police died in the operation in Ghati Heights. **IANS**

2 dead, 30 injured in Nepal clashes

KATHMANDU: The Army was called out and a curfew imposed on parts of Kathmandu Friday after two people were killed and 30 injured as pro-monarchy protesters pelted stones, attacked the office of a political party, set fire to vehicles and looted shops. District authorities first imposed a curfew at 4.25 pm till 10 pm, later extending it until 7 am on Saturday. Nobody was allowed to move. **WORLD PAGE 9**

Modi to visit Lanka next week

NEW DELHI: For the first time, India and Sri Lanka are set to sign a major defence cooperation pact during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation next week, a move that comes amid China's relentless attempts to increase its military influence over Colombo. The two sides are also likely to firm up a raft of other bilateral agreements, including one on restructuring Sri Lanka's debt. **PTI**

Dallewal breaks indefinite fast

NEW DELHI: Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who was on an indefinite hunger strike in support of various demands, accepted water and broke his fast on Friday morning, the Punjab government told the Supreme Court. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was told by Advocate General Gurminder Singh for Punjab that they have dispersed the farmers. **NATION PAGE 8**

Ramzan Timings

Iftar Saturday 6:34 PM
Saheer Sunday 4:50 AM

150 dead as quake hits Myanmar, Thailand

7.7-magnitude earthquake had epicentre near Mandalay

AP
 BANGKOK

A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage. At least 10 died in the Thai capital, where a high-rise under construction collapsed.

The full extent of death, injury and destruction was not immediately clear — particularly in Myanmar, one of the world's poorest countries. It is embroiled in a civil war, and information is tightly controlled. "The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," the head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing said as he announced on TV that at least 144 people were killed and 730 were injured in his country. In Thailand, Bangkok authorities said 10 were killed, 16 injured and 101 missing from three construction sites, including the high-rise.

The 7.7 magnitude quake struck at midday, with an epicentre near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. Aftershocks followed, one of them measuring a strong 6.4 magnitude.

Photos from Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw, showed rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble of multiple buildings used to house civil



A high-rise building collapses during the earthquake in Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday. — Photo: PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

servants. Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas. In a country where prior governments sometimes have been slow to accept foreign aid, Min Aung

Hlaing said Myanmar was ready to accept assistance. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world body is mobilising to respond to Myanmar's appeal for international help.

RAMAGUNDAM MLA'S FAMILY ESCAPES UNHURT

PEDDAPALLI: The family members of Ramagundam MLA Makkhan Singh Raj Thakur escaped from an earthquake that occurred in Bangkok on Friday. The MLA's wife Manali Thakur, daughter, younger son and son-in-law went to Bangkok to attend a function on Thursday. They stayed on the 35th floor of a hotel, which was also partially damaged in the earthquake that hit the area on Friday afternoon.

INDIA OFFERS ASSISTANCE

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed concern over the powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand and assured India's readiness to provide all possible assistance to the affected regions. Taking to X, PM Modi posted, "Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone." **IANS**

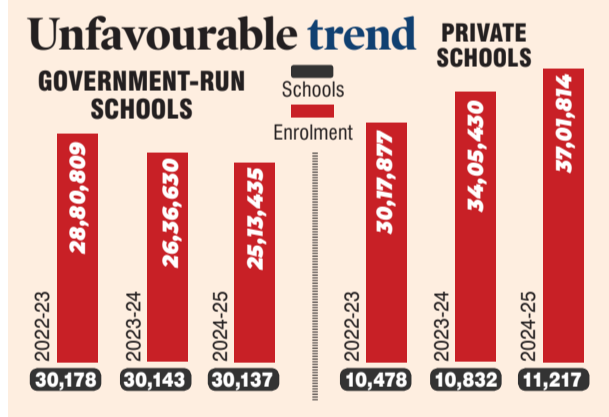
Govt schools in dire straits

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana government-run schools are facing an enrolment crisis with over three lakh slump in admissions during the academic year 2024-25.

The huge drop in admissions is attributed to growing dissatisfaction with quality of education and infrastructure extended in government-run schools, forcing parents to enrol wards in private schools.

The official statistics indicate that enrolment of students in government-run schools has been consistently decreasing. While it was 28,80,09 in the academic year 2022-23, it dropped to 26,36,630 in 2023-24 and



25,13,435 in the current academic year, which is 3,67,374 less admissions when compared to 2022-23.

On the other hand, the private schools' admissions went up from 30,17,877 in

2022-23 to 34,05,430 in 2023-24 to 37,01,814 in 2024-25. The enrolment drop in public schools and increase in private schools is a clear sign of faith by parents in private institutions. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

LRS deadline may be extended

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Struggling with technical glitches and a lukewarm public response, the Telangana government is expected to extend the deadline for the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) by another month.

Originally set to end on March 31, the scheme offers a 25 per cent rebate on charges for regularising plots and layouts.

The cash-strapped Congress government had planned to make most of the

Originally set to end on March 31, the scheme offers a 25% rebate on charges for regularising plots and layouts

LRS to raise around Rs 2,000 crore through regularisation fee, but the response has been sluggish.

Despite having around 16 lakh pending applications Statewide, only 5.5 lakh have been approved, and less

than two lakh applicants have completed payments.

Of around 3.54 lakh from HMDA limits, less than one lakh applications have been approved and around 30,000 applicants have made payments. The slow response has raised concerns, prompting officials to speed up processing.

However, applicants have faced major technical issues. Many are still awaiting payment links, while others have reported incorrect fee calculations, with some receiving absurd payment demands. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Youth killed by lover's father

STATE BUREAU
 Peddapalli

In a case of honour killing, a youngster was hacked to death by the father of a woman whom he was in love with.

The incident was reported from the Muppithota village of Eligedu mandal on Thursday night. According to police, the deceased person, Purella Sai Kumar, was in love with the woman from the same village. The couple belonged to different communities. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

3 kids die after eating poison-laced food

STATE BUREAU
 Sangareddy

Three children were found dead in their house under suspicious circumstances at Raghavendra Colony in Ameenpur municipality on Friday morning. Their mother also fell sick after consuming poison-laced food on Thursday night.

Though the Ameenpur police suspect that the

woman and her three children ate poison-laced curd rice on Thursday night, they could not find out who mixed the poison in the rice.

The deceased children are Sai Krishna (12), Madhu Priya (10) and Goutham (8). Their parents are Avurinjithala Chennaiah and Rajitha of Medakapally in Rangareddy district. Rajitha, who was shifted to a private hospital, is said to be stable.

Senior police officers visited the scene and preliminary investigations revealed that the woman and her three children ate curd rice which could have been laced with some unidentified poison on Thursday night, while the father ate dal rice.

When Rajitha complained of stomach pain at 3 am on Friday, Chennaiah shifted her to hospital. He found his three children dead at the

same time. While Chennaiah operates a water tanker in the locality, Rajitha worked as a teacher in a private school.

The incident created a sensation in the area as many people gathered at the house.

The forensic team collected samples of the food and fingerprints. The food was sent to a lab for testing and a probe is on.

SIGNBOARDS DEFACTED IN DELHI

NEW DELHI: Members of a Buddhist outfit allegedly vandalised road signboards named after Mughal and Delhi Sultanate rulers in Lutyens' Delhi on Friday. Bharatiya Bauddh Sangh members covered the signboards with black spray paint. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

BHIMA JEWELS HAPPY UGADI
 Offers valid till 30th March, 2025

Celebrate this festive season with Bhima Jewels and avail exciting offers

GOLD JEWELLERY
 Up to 35% Off on Making Charges

DIAMOND JEWELLERY
 Up to 20% Off per Carat

SILVER JEWELLERY & ARTICLES
 Flat ₹5000* Off per Kilogram

Making Charges starting from 4.9% | Exchange your old gold for 916 HUID Jewellery | DEFVVS High Quality Diamonds | Personal Shopper Service | Transparent Billing

Telangana: Wyra Road, Opp. Babu Rao Petrol Bunk, Khanapuram
 Hyderabad: Somajiguda. Ph: 040-24455916 | A.S. Rao Nagar. Ph: 040-24456916 | Kukatpally. Ph: 040-24457916 | Chanda Nagar. Ph: 040-24458916 | Andhra Pradesh: Tirupati. Ph: 0877-2233916

• Toll Free: 1800 121 9916 | Chat with us: 85890 91916
 • Shop online for Bhima Jewels at: amazon | Ajiid | Myra
 • www.bhima.com | @bhimajewelsofficial | @bhimajewels

BHIMA
 GOLD • DIAMONDS • SILVER • PLATINUM
 INDIA • UAE
 SINCE 1925

LIMELIGHT
 LAB GROWN CVD DIAMONDS

Own Your Narrative, Own Your Limelight.

WOMEN'S MONTH
 Special Offer

GET
 10% OFF ON DIAMOND VALUE
 UPTO 80% OFF ON MAKING CHARGES

OFFER VALID TILL 31st MARCH 2025

SOMAJIGUDA | GACHIBOWLI

+ LIFETIME EXCHANGE + 80% BUYBACK + 3000+ DESIGNS
 + VALUE PROTECTED COMPLEMENTARY JEWELLERY INSURANCE

NEAR RAJIV GANDHI STATUE, SOMAJIGUDA X ROAD | 8169469030, 8169434464
 PLOT 18 & 19, TELECOM NAGAR, GACHIBOWLI MAIN ROAD, HYDERABAD | 8169469030, 8169434464

BUY ONLINE AT: WWW.LIMELIGHTDIAMONDS.COM

MUMBAI | KOLKATA | VARANASI | JAIPUR | HYDERABAD | LUCKNOW | DELHI | RAJKOT | UDAIPUR | PUNE | RAIPUR
 ROHTAK | INDORE | AHMEDABAD | CHENNAI | BANGALORE | THANE | NOIDA | PRAYAGRAJ | LUDHIANA | KANPUR

BUTTERFLY MARK CERTIFIED