



STATE

'Prabhakar thought of opting out of polls' **page 5**



NATION

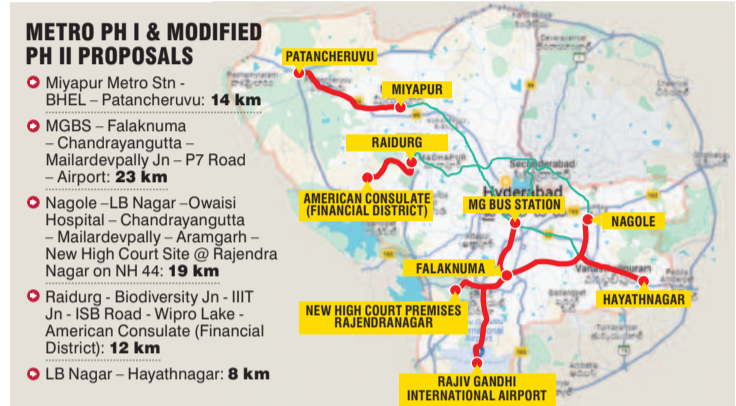
CAA rules 'much before' Lok Sabha poll announcement **page 7**

WORLD

Powerful earthquakes leave at least 55 dead in Japan **page 9**

New routes for Metro finalised

Airport Metro connectivity via Old City



STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Stating that Hyderabad Metro Rail connectivity to the Airport would be made possible but with a change in alignment, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said the route would be taken up from MGBS via Old City and from LB Nagar, covering the five-kilometre gap from Nagole to LB Nagar Metro stations instead of the Raidurg to Shamshabad Airport plan proposed by the past government.

Instructions were issued to Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) to expedite the traffic studies and to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the re-

vised Airport Metro alignment via Old City and from LB Nagar. The Chief Minister also wanted HMRL Managing Director NVS Reddy to examine the feasibility of laying 'At Grade' (road level) a part of the Metro from Laxmiguda - Jalpally - Mamidipally stretch in the new alignment. Already, a 40-ft wide central median without any obstructions was ready on the stretch, he said, adding that this would reduce the cost of construction.

MA&UD Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore and Chief Minister's Office Principal Secretary V Seshadri were directed to identify large extents of government land available along this stretch to undertake Transit Oriented Development. (SEE PAGE 2)

Fuel shortage crisis triggers chaos

Long queues lead to traffic jams as truckers go on nationwide strike



Heavy rush at a fuel station following nationwide strike of truck drivers, in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Fuel shortage triggered unprecedented chaos with long and serpentine queues at petrol pumps and a massive traffic gridlock in the city and outskirts on Tuesday.

Unprecedented queues were witnessed from around noon with anxious citizens, in an attempt to secure petrol and diesel amidst speculations and rumours of fuel not being available for several days to come,

through fuel stations. The situation stemmed from on-going protests by truck drivers against a provision in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code.

The reason

The contested provision imposes severe penalties, including imprisonment for up to 10 years or a fine of Rs 7 lakh, on drivers involved in serious road accidents due to negligent driving. Almost every fuel outlet in Hyder-

abad was packed with vehicles queuing up for kilometres, causing extensive traffic congestion that spilled onto roads and thoroughfares. Commuters on two-wheelers and four-wheelers stood in long lines, while some petrol stations, including those at Banjara Hills, Hi-maynagar, LB Nagar, Dil-sukhnagar, Kothapet, Khairatabad, Afzalgunj, and various other localities, displayed 'No stock' boards, leaving many motorists stranded. (SEE PAGE 2)

MHA: Open to consider concerns of truckers

NEW DELHI: Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla Tuesday said the decision to invoke a new penal provision related to hit-and-run cases, which has sparked protests by truckers, will be taken only after consultation with the All India Motor Transport Congress. He also appealed to the AIMTC and all the agitating drivers to return to work. The government wants to point out that these new laws and provisions have not yet come into force, he said. (REPORT PAGE 7)

No decision yet on Ram Lalla idol

NATION | PAGE 07

S Korean Oppn leader stabbed

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India face uphill task

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ENTERTAINMENT
 PAGE 12

Vikrant's life mantra

Actor on being guided by director Vidhu Vinod Chopra



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 102
Retail live	Rs. 124
With skin	Rs. 180
Skinless	Rs. 205
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 78

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Jets collide on runway



NARROW ESCAPE: A Japan Airlines plane on fire on the runway of Haneda Airport. The plane collided with a Japanese coast guard aircraft and burst into flames. While five people on the smaller plane were killed, 379 flyers on JAL-516 got out safely. — Photo: AFP

Hyd, B'luru airports among most punctual



With an On-Time Performance of 84.42%, RGIA is at the second spot in the global airports as well as large airports categories.

NEW DELHI

The airports at Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been ranked second and third among the top ten global airports in terms of operational performance and punctuality, according to a report released on Tuesday.

In the 2023 On-Time Performance (OTP) Review prepared by aviation analytics firm Cirium, there are a total of three Indian airports — Hyderabad, Ben-

galuru and Kolkata — and one Indian carrier — IndiGo. With an OTP of 84.42 per cent, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is at the second spot in the global airports as well as large airports categories. Kempegowda International Airport is in the third position in both segments with an OTP of 84.08 per cent, Cirium said. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in the US has topped both lists with an OTP of 84.44 per cent. (SEE PAGE 2)

IIT-Guwahati student from TS found dead

GUWAHATI

A fourth-year female student of the IIT-Guwahati was found dead in a hotel here, a police officer said on Tuesday. The deceased, a native of Telangana, and three of her batchmates came to Guwahati on De-

cember 31 evening to celebrate the New Year. "They had booked two rooms in a hotel through online mode. Post midnight, they reached the hotel for check-in. According to the hotel staff, they were inebriated. We are investigating that part," the officer added. (SEE PAGE 2)

Criminal laws to be notified by January 26

NEW DELHI

The three new criminal-justice laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam — will be notified by January 26 and implemented across the country within a year, a senior government functionary said on Tuesday. The laws were passed in the recently concluded winter session and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25. PTI

6 security personnel injured in Manipur

IMPHAL

Five Manipur Police commandos and a BSF jawan were injured in an attack by suspected Kuki militants at Moreh in Tengnoupal district on Tuesday.

Police officials said that the suspected Kuki militants targeted the vehicles carrying police commandos and Border Security Personnel as they were en route Moreh. The militants fired on the security forces from their sophisticated weapons while the police commandos and the BSF jawans were jointly conducting search operations to nab the rebels.

Meanwhile, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday said that he is "highly upset" with the ongoing violence in the state and elements who engage in it will be held responsible for any stringent government action, including the reimposition of AFSPA. "Whatever is going on in the society now is too much. The government will find it really

Missing case: CBI files charge sheets

NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed two separate charge sheets against five accused for "kidnapping with an intention to kill" and other offences in the case of two missing Manipuri students who were feared murdered during ethnic violence in the state, officials said Tuesday. Photos purportedly showing their bodies surfaced on September 25, 2023, leading to violent protests, mainly by students. PTI

hard to tolerate if anyone or any group keeps on taking the law into their own hands. If AFSPA is again reimposed, they will be held responsible," he said after visiting those injured in a firing incident at Li-long Chingjao area. IANS/PTI

YSRTP merger: Sharmila to meet Sonia

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

YSRTP founder and president YS Sharmila will leave for New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss her party's merger with the Congress with the AICC leadership, including Congress Parliamentary Party president Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi. "We have been invited to merge the YSRTP with the Congress, which is the only secular party in the country," Sharmila said. She will be accompanied by YSRTP leaders during her trip. It may be recalled that YSRTP had not contested the Telangana Assembly elections held on November 30 and supported the Congress. Speaking at Idupulapaya, Kadapa, the YSRTP founder reminded that in the Telangana elections, 31 Congress candidates had won with a narrow margin of less than 10,000 votes. This was mainly due to YSRTP's decision to withdraw from contesting the elections, she said. (SEE PAGE 2)

No ICU admission if patient or kin refuse, says Centre

NEW DELHI

Hospitals cannot admit critically ill patients in the intensive care unit in case of refusal by them and their relatives, the Union Health Ministry said in its recent guidelines on ICU admissions.

The guidelines compiled by 24 experts further recommended that when no further treatment is possible or available in a disease or in terminally ill pa-

tients if the continuation of therapy is not going to make an impact on the outcome, especially survival, then keeping in ICU is futile care, says Union Health Ministry

Further, anyone with a living will or advanced directive against ICU care should not be admitted to ICU. Besides, low-priority criteria in case of pandemic or disaster situation, where there is resource limitation, should be taken into account for keeping a patient in the ICU. Criteria for ad-

mitting a patient to ICU should be based on organ failure and need for organ support or in anticipation of deterioration in the medical condition, the guidelines stated. Altered level of consciousness of recent onset, hemodynamic instability, need for respiratory support, patients with acute illness requiring intensive monitoring and/or organ support or any medical condition or disease with anticipation of deteriora-

tion have been listed as criteria for ICU admission. Patients who have experienced any major intraoperative complication like cardiovascular or respiratory instability or have undergone major surgery also feature among the criteria. "The following critically ill patients should not be admitted to ICU — patient's or next of kin's informed refusal to be admitted in ICU," the guidelines stated. PTI