



**STATE**

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**20 killed as Israel pounds Gaza with airstrikes** **page 9**



## Only BRS can protect interests of State: KTR

Predicts triangular fight in State for LS polls

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Emphasising the need to ensure proper representation of the BRS in the Parliament to protect the interests of Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao predicted a triangular fight in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Telangana. He said that only the BRS has been a champion of the interests of Telangana in the past, and it will continue to remain in the future as well.

Acknowledging the need to change the party's functioning to improve its performance in the Lok Sabha elections, Rama Rao promised that necessary changes would be made to meet the aspirations of the party activists. He welcomed their suggestions and objections in this regard.

Participating in a preparatory meeting of Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Rama Rao exuded confidence that the BRS would win the Nizamabad Parliamentary constituency with a good margin. He pointed out that the party was in a leading position in terms of votes polled during the re-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao at the preparatory meeting of Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency, in Telangana Bhavan.

cent Assembly elections in the Assembly segments under the Nizamabad Parliamentary constituency.

**On Congress promises**

"If we fight hard for the interests and representation of Telangana people in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, we can win regardless of our performance in the Assembly elections," he said, reminding that victory and defeat were not new to the BRS. Further, Rama Rao criticised the Congress for assuring Six Guarantees, but

making 420 promises to win the Assembly elections and reneging on them after securing power. He said Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka had denied having promised unemployment allowance to youth despite making such promises before the election. He said the Congress government was raising curtains to new theatrics in the name of white papers and debt crisis to scrap several ongoing welfare schemes in Telangana.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Bilkis Bano rapists to be back in jail

SC quashes Guj gov't's order granting remission to 11 convicts

PTI  
 NEW DELHI

In a massive setback to the Gujarat government, the Supreme Court on Monday quashed the remission it had granted to 11 convicts in the high-profile gangrape case of Bilkis Bano and the killing of her seven family members, while slamming the State for being "complicit" with an accused and abusing its discretion.

It ordered all the convicts, who were released prematurely on Independence Day in 2022, to be sent back to jail within two weeks.

Excoriating the Gujarat government, the apex court said it "usurped" the power of the Maharashtra government to grant remission to the convicts. It held as nullity the May 13, 2022 judgement of another Bench of the apex court, which had directed the Gujarat government to consider the remission applications of the 11 convicts in the case, saying it was obtained by "playing fraud on court." "This is a

### Strong rebuke

WRIT PLEA FILED BY BILKIS BANO BEFORE SC IS MAINTAINABLE

- Gujarat gov't passed stereotyped and cyclostypled remission orders
- Impugned orders of remission in favour of convicts are not in accordance with law
- Usurped powers of State of Maharashtra which alone could have considered applications seeking remission
- Remission policy dated JULY 9, 1992, of the State of Gujarat was not applicable to convicts
- Acted in tandem and was complicit with one of convicts Radheshyam Shah
- Rule of law does not mean protection to a fortunate few

GUJARAT GOVT HAD NO JURISDICTION TO ENTERTAIN PRAYERS SEEKING REMISSION OF SENTENCE OF CONVICTS

"We are of the considered view that the writ proceedings before this Court is pursuant to suppression and misleading of this Court and a result of suppressio veri suggestio falsi (the suppression of truth is the suggestion of falsehood). Hence, in our view, the said order was obtained by fraud played on this Court and hence is a nullity and non est in law"

— SC BENCH



classic case where the order of this court dated May 13, 2022, has been used for violating the rule of law while passing orders of remission in favour of respondent nos 3 to 13 (convicts) in the absence of any jurisdiction by the State of Gujarat. Therefore, without going into the manner in which the power of remission has been exercised, we strike down the or-

ders of remission on the ground of usurpation of powers by the State of Gujarat not vested in it. The orders of remission are hence quashed," the Bench said.

It asked whether "heinous crimes against women permit remission" irrespective of the faith she may follow or creed she may belong to. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant

when she was raped while fleeing the horror of Godhra riots. In its judgment, the SC said the Gujarat government had no jurisdiction to entertain the applications for remission of sentences and only the government of the State where the offenders were sentenced was competent to consider an application for remission and pass an order.

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### Festival rush at rly stations

HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

### Sheikh Hasina triumphs again

WORLD | PAGE 09



### India eye first series win

SPORT | PAGE 10



#### CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 70
Retail live.....	Rs. 92
With skin.....	Rs. 133
Skinless.....	Rs. 152
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 73

### Another tiger found dead in Kagaznagar

STATE BUREAU  
 Kurnam Bheem Asifabadi

Barely two days after a tiger's death in a suspected territorial fight, the carcass of another tiger was found in the forests of Darigaon village in Kagaznagar mandal on Monday. Forest officials said the carcass was found in the forests of Darigaon village.

The cause of the death could be ascertained only after examination by veterinarians and higher officials of the department, they said, adding that the postmortem would be performed on Tuesday with the spot being in dense forests. Ten staffers were deployed to protect the carcass. It is suspected that the tiger might have died after being trapped in a snare.

(REPORT PAGE 5)

## Government forms Cabinet sub-panel on 'Six Guarantees'

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The State government has constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee on the implementation of 'Six Guarantees' with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka as its chairman and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and other senior officials as members.

This was after nearly 1.25 crore applications, including over 19 lakh applications for ration cards, jobs and other pleas, were filed by people under the Praja Palana programme. It was conducted from December 28 to January 6 across the State.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee would discuss the modalities and frame guidelines for the implementation



#### COMMITTEE FORMED AFTER GOVT RECEIVES NEARLY 1.25 CRORE APPLICATIONS UNDER THE PRAJA PALANA PROGRAMME

of the guarantees. Based on its recommendations, the State Cabinet would finalise the procedure for extending the benefits to the eligible beneficiaries, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy held a detailed meeting with his Cabinet colleagues and other senior officials at the BR Ambedkar Secretariat. During the meeting, the Chief Minister and the Min-

isters conducted an in-depth review of the applications received under the Praja Palana programme. Following the meeting, it was decided to constitute a Cabinet Sub-Committee on the implementation of the guarantees. Armed with the applications, the officials' team would visit each doorstep and verify the applicants' details manually, the Minister said.

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## 'Remarks against Modi do not represent views of Maldives'

MALE

The Maldivian government on Monday informed India's High Commissioner Munu Muhawar that the derogatory remarks made by three now-suspended deputy Ministers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi do not represent its views.

The Indian High Commissioner had a pre-arranged meeting Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Ministry. "High Commissioner Munu Muhawar had a pre-arranged meeting with H.E. Dr Ali

#### Uncertainty over Hyd-Male flights

HYDERABAD: The widespread trend of cancellations of travel plans to Maldives by travel agents and tourists cast uncertainty over Hyderabad-Maldives air connectivity. The cancellations of flight bookings also raised concerns about potential adjustments to flight schedules to Maldives.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Naseer Mohamed, Ambassador at Large, at MoFA, Maldives, today to discuss bilateral issues," the Indian High Commission posted on X. A top Maldivian government official said that during the meeting, Naseer reaffirmed Maldives' continued support for its neighbour, the 'Sun Online' reported. The Maldivian Foreign Ministry said the government is aware of "derogatory remarks" on social media platforms against foreign leaders and that the personal views do not represent its position.

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## Now, feel the beach vibes of Goa at Shankarpalli!

RUCHI RAI SOHNI  
 Hyderabad

Ever found yourself in the endless loop of planning a Goa trip with friends that never quite made it past the group chat? Don't worry, because Hyderabad has got its first-ever beach-themed staycation at Shankarpalli.

The Isla is a destination that brings all the beach vibes of Goa right to Hyderabad, sparing you the hassle of flight tickets.

All this while breaking stereotypes and proving that Hyderabad can indeed have its own beach haven! The journey of the Isla began with two friends feeling frustrated as they tried to find a place for a spontaneous



The Isla authentically replicates the beach atmosphere with an outdoor infinity pool, baby pools, a Tiki Shack bar and more.

staycation. Fed up with the 20-day wait at other spots, they decided to create their quick getaway.

Inspired by how people often think of Goa for vacations, they wanted to bring that beach vibe to Hyderabad. They wanted to give a feel like Goa here

by adding elements such as shacks and sand.

"It's not just a staycation, it's an immersive experience that whisks you away to a world of sun, sand, and endless fun at The Isla," said Srijan Reddy, owner of Isla.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Shooter Esha books Olympic berth

SPORTS BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Hyderabad shooting sensation Esha Singh on Monday earned 2024 Paris Olympic quota for the country in the women's 10m air pistol with a gold at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers in Jakarta.

The 19-year-old clinched the top honours in the women's event with a score of 243.1. Esha also won a team gold along with Rhythm and Surbhi Rao with a combined score of 1736. Esha is a world championship gold-medallist in the 10m air pistol mixed team and 25m pistol team events. This is India's 15th Olympic Quota place. Ahead of the tournament, India won 13 Olympic quota places in shooting across



rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines. Meanwhile, Esha's father Sachin Singh said that systematic training and discipline have been the key to her success. "Since the age of 13, we have meticulously planned her career. Things like how she will make the transition from the junior to the senior category and go about her shooting," said Sachin, adding that Esha had won medals in "99 per cent of the competitions" she has competed in.

"We were confident that sooner or later she would earn Paris Olympic quota. Her systematic training and discipline ensured that," he said of the Khelo India athlete, who trains in Hyderabad at the Gun for Glory academy.

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