



STATE

Set aside politics, give ryots water, KTR to Congress govt **page 3**

NATION

DMK allots 10 LS seats to Congress **page 5**

WORLD

European Commission launches Gaza aid project **page 7**

NATION | PAGE 05

'BJP follows vinash model'



WORLD | PAGE 07

Zardari Pak President

Becomes first civilian to secure second term



SPORT | PAGE 08

India thrash England, win 4-1



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 10

'Biggest film for me'

Kartik begins shooting for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 112
Retail live	Rs. 134
With skin	Rs. 194
Skinless	Rs. 221
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 59

Gruha Jyothi: Zero bills with a rider

Beneficiaries who use even a single unit above the 200-unit limit will be billed for entire consumption, clarifies Bhatti

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Gruha Jyothi scheme comes with a rider, one that could flush out a large number of beneficiaries. Contrary to the general perception that up to 200 units of power would be free for the beneficiaries, who have to be white ration card holders, it now turns out that any beneficiary who uses even one unit above 200 units will not be eligible for the zero bill.

This was clarified by Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday, who said any beneficiary who consumed anything above 200 units of power would have to pay the entire bill, and not just for the power consumed after the stipulated 200 units.

According to the government order issued with regard to Gruha Jyothi, households in the State that are eligible will receive a 'zero



Those who are eligible for the scheme but have not been included in the beneficiary list can approach the MPDO offices and submit fresh applications

— MALLU BHATTI VIKRAMARKA, Deputy CM

bill' under the scheme for power consumption under 200 units. The rider is that if this norm is followed, a large number of beneficiaries stand to lose the benefit even if the meter reading personnel delay the billing by even one day, which is a normal occurrence. If the beneficiary's consumption crosses the 200-unit limit on that day, he or she will not get the zero bill and will have to pay the entire amount, thus leaving the beneficiary at the mercy of the meter reader.

According to State government data, 40,33,703 ben-

eficiaries have been included in the scheme so far and if the 200-unit cutoff rule is followed, a large number of them either have to pay the entire bill amount or cut down their power consumption.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat on Saturday, Bhatti said beneficiaries who consume up to 200 units would be eligible for the scheme. "This scheme is only for those who consume less than 200 units," he said. Those who are eligible but have not been included in the beneficiary list could approach the

MPDO offices and submit fresh applications.

"We have already deputed an official at mandal offices to collect the applications. This is a continuous process and eligible people can approach the nearest MPDO office to submit their applications," he said, adding that a few beneficiaries could not be included in the list due to errors in documents submitted by them. "They can rectify the mistakes and get their names included in the list," he said.

Peak demand recorded on Friday
Telangana recorded a peak demand of 15,623 MW on Friday, the highest since the formation of the State. Last year, it recorded a peak demand of 15,497 MW on March 30. Bhatti said there was a rise in demand in the last three months and that the government was expecting the peak demand to touch 16,500 MW in the coming days. (SEE PAGE 2)

RTC to implement PRC with 21% fitment

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) on Saturday announced the implementation of the 2017 Payment Revision Commission (PRC) with a 21 per cent fitment, which will take effect from June 1.

The decision is expected to benefit over 53,000 employees, while the State exchequer will incur an additional burden of Rs 418 crore annually.

Announcing the decision at Bus Bhavan here, Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar said the government took the decision based on the request of the TSRTC staff urging it to adjust their pay as per the PRCs of 2017 and 2021. For now, the TSRTC would implement the PRC with a 21 per cent fitment from April by amalgamating the 31.1 per cent of dearness allowance (DA) of January 1, 2017, starting from April 1, 2017. Such adjusted salary would be paid from June 1, 2024. Arrears of pay scale 2017, if any, would be paid at the time of retirement without any interest deductions. (SEE PAGE 2)

Congress neglected Northeast: PM

Unveils projects worth Rs 55,600 cr for region



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Assam's Kaziranga National Park on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

ITANAGAR/JORHAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled projects worth Rs 55,600 crore for the development of the Northeast and accused the Congress of neglecting the region and compromising the nation's security by ignoring the border areas.

The Prime Minister, after dedicating to the nation the strategically significant Sela

Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, accused the Congress of neglecting development in the state as there are only two Lok Sabha seats and asserted that he does not work by counting the number of Parliament seats from a state. He addressed public meetings in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam after unveiling projects to the tune of Rs 55,600 crore for six Northeastern States. (SEE PAGE 2)

EC Arun Goel resigns

NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned on Saturday, days before the expected announcement of the schedule for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

His tenure was till December 5, 2027, and he would have become Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) after incumbent Rajiv Kumar retired in February next year. According to a Law Ministry notification, Goel's resignation has been accepted by President Droupadi Murmu with effect from Saturday. It was not immediately known why he stepped down. PTI

Farmers stare at uncertain times



STARK REALITY: (Left) Water flowing abundantly in the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation canal at Allipur village in Bijinapally mandal of Nagarkurnool district in March 2023. (Right) The same canal has gone bone dry in March this year.

Trek turns tragic for Telugu doc in Aus

VIJAYAWADA: A 23-year-old woman doctor from Andhra Pradesh died in an accident while trekking in Australia. Vemuru Ujvala, a native of Krishna district, who was practising at a hospital in Brisbane, died after falling into a gorge while trekking with friends. According to her family, her mortal remains will be flown to Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The last rites will be performed at Elukapadu in Unguturu mandal. Ujvala completed her MBBS from Bond University, Gold Coast. (SEE PAGE 2)



City woman found dead in Melbourne

HYDERABAD: A Hyderabad woman, Chaitanya Madhagani alias Swetha, was found murdered in a bin on the side of a road at Buckley in Victoria, Australia, on Saturday. The Victoria police have established a second crime scene at a residential address on Mirka Way, Point Cook, which is suspected to be connected to the murder. In a statement on their official website, the police said: "The parties involved are known to one another," and that the "suspect may have fled overseas". (SEE PAGE 2)



Will sweep polls in Andhra, says Naidu

NEW DELHI

The BJP sealed its alliance with the TDP on Saturday for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, with former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu asserting that the combine will sweep the polls.

The alliance was formalised after the two parties and actor Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP) held another round of talks in-

Seat-sharing modalities for the 25 Lok Sabha and 175 Assembly seats in the State would be deliberated in a day or two, according to statement by BJP, TDP & JSP

volving Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda, besides Naidu and Kalyan. A joint statement issued by the three parties said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "dynamic and visionary" leadership,

they have decided to contest the Lok Sabha and Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls together as they are committed to ensuring the country's progress and an uplift of the state and its people. The seat-sharing modalities for

the 25 Lok Sabha and 175 Assembly seats in the State would be deliberated in a day or two, the statement said.

TDP president Naidu told a group of reporters after the finalisation of the alliance talks that Andhra Pradesh and its brand have been "destroyed" by the State's ruling YSR Congress Party as he lashed out at Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for "pushing the State backward". PTI

Never too early for biryani, even if it's at 4 am!



Several 4 AM Biryani stalls are coming up in the city.

RUCHI RAI SOHNI
Hyderabad

The bustling streets of Madhapur in Hyderabad come alive in the wee hours of the morning not just with the aroma of freshly brewed tea, but also with the tantalising scent of biryani.

These days, the city is witnessing a burgeoning trend of 4 am biryani stalls, attracting crowds in the thousands, eager to savour Hyderabad's favourite dish,

biryani, even before the crack of dawn!

The stall owners start cooking at midnight to perfect the biryanis that are ready to serve when the clock strikes 4 in the morning. By the time the sun rises, their vessels are empty, having satisfied thousands of customers within just a few hours.

One such bustling hotspot is Shanta's 4 AM Biryani, a stall at Vivekanandanagar which operates from 4 am to 8 am.

"Our day begins at midnight when we start cooking biryani. We open our stall at 4 am. By the time we close at 8 am, we would have served thousands of customers and are left with empty vessels," says Rahul, the owner of Shanta's 4 AM Biryani.

Not far behind is Sai Anna's 4 AM Biryani, located in Borabanda. Open from 4 am to 10 am, this stall offers a diverse array of biryani varieties, catering to vegetarians and non-

vegetarians alike. "We serve Paneer Kushka for Rs 220, Chicken Kushka for Rs 200 and Mutton Kushka Pulao for Rs 280. In addition to biryanis, we also offer plain rice at Rs 100 along with kebabs that are priced at Rs 250," says Sai Anna, owner of the stall. The stalls see huge crowds waiting for the grub, with lines forming well before the clock strikes 4 am. Shanta's 4 AM Biryani draws in thousands of customers daily. (SEE PAGE 2)

Revanth alleges bid to derail Metro works

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

A day after laying the foundation for the MGBS-Falaknuma Metro line, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on Saturday that attempts were being made by certain vested interests to create hurdles for the Hyderabad Metro.

Externment orders would be issued to such persons, banning their entry into Hy-

derabad. "One person appealed to New Delhi to halt the Metro works and now the Centre has asked us to put the works on hold. If you cannot develop Hyderabad, at least do not create hurdles," Revanth Reddy said after opening the second-level flyover at Bairamalguda for traffic on Saturday. He said that this was an official programme and that he could not disclose more details. (SEE PAGE 2)