

**HYDERABAD**

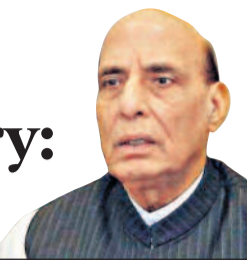
80 per cent of urban women in India have low vitamin D levels **page 2**

**NATION**

Ladakh India's capital of bravery: Rajnath **page 8**

**WORLD**

Israel's terms for ceasefire deal stall peace talks **page 9**



**STATE | PAGE 05**

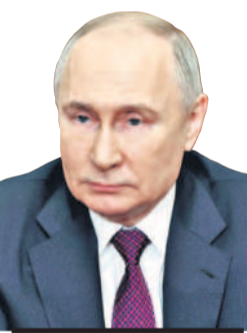
**'Pay ryots suffering from crop loss'**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**

**Strikes on Kyiv again**

Russia launches massive missile attack



**SPORT | PAGE 11**

**Srikanth bows out in semis**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**Feeling nostalgic**

Ankita recalls conversation about Byomkesh Bakshy



**Ramzan Timings**

**Iftar** Monday 6:34 PM  
**Saheer** Tuesday 4:54 AM

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 118
Retail live	Rs. 140
With skin	Rs. 203
Skinless	Rs. 231
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 54

## Kejriwal issues 1<sup>st</sup> order from jail

**Directs Atishi to resolve water and sewage issues in Delhi**

IAN S  
NEW DELHI

In the midst of discussions regarding his ability to perform duties as the Delhi Chief Minister while in Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody, Arvind Kejriwal issued an order on Sunday, his first one from the custody.

The directive pertained to the water supply of the national capital, and it was conveyed by the Chief Minister through a memorandum to Delhi Minister Atishi, who oversees the concerned portfolio. "I have come to know that there are significant issues with water and sewage in some areas of Delhi. I am concerned about this. Since I am in jail, people should not face any inconvenience because of this. Summer is also approaching," read Chief Minister Kejriwal's letter in Hindi.

Atishi said Kejriwal, despite being in custody, was more concerned about the people of the national capital than himself. "Arvind Kejriwal, while in ED custody, has sent directives to me as the Water Minister to promptly address the water and sewage issues faced by Delhiites and arrange for an adequate number of water tankers during the summer," she said. "When I read these directives, tears welled up in my eyes. I wondered what



**I.N.D.I.A bloc's rally on March 31**

**NEW DELHI:** The opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc will hold a 'maha rally' at Ramliya Maidan on March 31 to safeguard the country's interests and democracy, AAP leader Gopal Rai said on Sunday. The announcement comes after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by ED. "Democracy and the country are in danger. All I.N.D.I.A bloc parties will take part in this rally to safeguard the country's interests and democracy," Rai, AAP's Delhi convenor, said. PTI

kind of person he is, who amidst such adverse circumstances, isn't thinking about himself but about the people of Delhi," she said.

The ED has taken cognisance of Atishi's statement that Kejriwal sent her directions from the agency's custody, official sources said. It

will conduct an investigation to ascertain if these directions were in line with the special PMLA court's order issued to the ED and Kejriwal during his custody, the sources said. Meanwhile, Supreme Court lawyer Vineet Jindal wrote to L-G VK Saxena terming the directions a "gross violation of legal procedures". "Standard legal procedures dictate that any individual in remand cannot engage in communication with the outside world without court approval," he wrote. (SEE PAGE 2)

## KTR warns YT channels against spreading lies

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday said conspiracies were being hatched to defame the party through lies being spread by YouTube channels. He warned that legal action would be initiated against such channels for acting irresponsibly.

YouTube channels were expected to work responsibly. However, in the garb of disseminating news, a few YouTube channels were spreading falsehoods without any evidence and repeatedly sharing false news. Further, they put up thumbnails for such news to mislead people, he said.

**"A complaint will be lodged with YouTube to initiate action against such channels"**  
 — KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

"These illegal videos and false news are being propagated due to sheer opposition towards the BRS or due to the money offered by the ruling party. This is a conspiracy to defame our party, personally me," Rama Rao

said on X. All these attempts were being made to mislead the people and confuse them. Legal action has been initiated against a few channels and media organisations, which published false propaganda against the party in the past, he said.

Similarly, the nefarious and conspiratorial attempts being made by a few YouTube channels currently would be faced legally, he added.

"We will also register defamation cases and take criminal action against YouTube channels that propagate falsehoods and spread propaganda in the name of news with illogical thumbnails," Rama Rao warned.

## Ex-IAF chief joins BJP

NEW DELHI

Former Indian Air Force chief RKS Bhaduria joined the BJP on Sunday and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the steps taken by his government to modernise and strengthen the armed forces.

Bhaduria, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP is yet to name its candidates for many Lok Sabha seats, said his new innings gives him a chance to contribute to nation-building. Having retired in 2021, he termed the last eight to 10 years of his service as a "golden period", praising the steps taken by the Modi government. PTI

## Pak for trade ties with India

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will "seriously" consider restoring trade ties with India that remained suspended since August 2019, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has said, indicating a potential shift in diplomatic stance towards the nation.

Dar made these remarks during a press conference in London following his participation in the Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels, Geo News reported. He highlighted the eagerness of cash-strapped Pakistan's business community to resume trade activities with

India. "Pakistani businessmen want trade with India to resume," the Foreign Minister said on Saturday.

Pakistan will consider restoring trade ties with India, he said. "We will seriously look into matters of trade with India," Dar was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune newspaper.

His remarks indicated a potential shift in diplomatic stance towards India. Pakistan downgraded its ties with New Delhi after the Indian government abrogated Article 370, revoking the special status of J&K and bifurcating the State into two UTs. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Case politically motivated: Santosh

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Stating that a forgery case was booked against him with political malice and to defame the BRS, Rajya Sabha MP Joginpal Santosh Kumar said he had purchased 904 square yards in Survey No. 129/54 of Shaikpet eight years ago in 2016.

Based on a complaint by a representative of Navayuga Company on Thursday, the police booked a case against the MP. The company claimed it had purchased 1,350 square yards in Survey No. 129/54 and complained that the land was encroached upon.

Reacting sharply, the MP said he had purchased the 904 square-yard house site from Shyamsunder Fuljal, son of PV Hanumanth Rao,

on November 11, 2016, through sale deed number 5917/2016. The asset was purchased legally for Rs 3.81 crore and the sale deed was executed by the Registration Department.

"Since the last eight years, there is no litigation and no one approached me. There is no scope for any forgery at all," Santosh Kumar categorically stated.

Shyamsunder had purchased the house site in 1992 through sale deed number 1888/1992. There were no litigations involving the house site for the last 32 years. Even after purchasing the house site from Shyamsunder, no new constructions were taken up in the land. The structures that were constructed by Shyamsunder and the earlier owners were still intact, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Bursting with joy



**MUCH-AWAITED FEST:** A woman smeared with gulas during Holi celebrations in Agartala on Sunday. — Photo: IANS

## Protest for Ladakh state intensifies

KARGIL

A three-day hunger strike by the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), in support of their four-point demands, including statehood and Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, commenced here on Sunday with people from different walks of life joining the symbolic protest against the Central government.

Separately, the hunger strike led by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk in Leh entered the 19th day as he expressed his displeasure over the "breach of trust" from the Union Home Ministry amid a deadlock over the talks between representatives of Leh-based Apex Body and the government. KDA and Apex Body, are spearheading the agitation. PTI

## Parents in a fix over Class I admissions

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

Parents looking to admit their wards in Class I for the 2024-25 academic year face a perplexing situation with two different policies for admissions in schools in the State.

The Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, other private schools affiliated with the CBSE and international boards have already embraced the National Ed-

ucation Policy (NEP) 2020 and switched to the minimum six-year age criterion for Class I admissions. However, State Board schools are still following the age-old rule of a minimum of five years for Class I admissions.

**Delay on deciding about NEP implementation**  
 The delay by the State government in deciding on the NEP implementation has created a lot of ambiguity among parents about admitting their wards to

**While CBSE and international boards have switched to six-year age criterion, State schools are following 5 yrs**

schools. This is despite the Central government sending reminders to States. "Indecision over the minimum age criteria for Class I admission has created confusion among parents with schools affiliated

to different boards following different criteria. As education is on the concurrent list, the government must quickly take a decision and clear confusion among parents," said K Venkat Sainath, general secretary, HSPA.

**Panel formed**  
 A three-member committee, constituted by the Education Department to study the NEP provisions, has recommended a minimum of six years for Class I admission besides bring-

ing P1, P2 and P3, and Classes I and II under Bala Vatikas. If the minimum six-year age criterion is to be implemented, the government should amend the GO 5 and 20 that mandate five years of age for Class I admissions in the State.

"As education is in concurrent list, it is the prerogative of the State government whether or not to implement NEP. Anyway, this will be discussed with the State government and a decision will be taken," a senior official said.

## IIT student on way to join ISIS held

GUWAHATI

An IIT-Guwahati student, who allegedly pledged allegiance to ISIS and was on his way to join the terrorist group, was detained.

The student was nabbed in Hajo near Guwahati on Saturday evening. His apprehension comes four days after ISIS India head Haris Farooqi alias Harish Ajmal Farukhi and his associate Anurag Singh alias Rehan were arrested in Dhubri district after they crossed over

from Bangladesh. "Reference @IITGuwahati student pledging allegiance to ISIS — the said student has been detained while travelling and further lawful follow up would take place," Director General of Police GP Singh posted on X on Saturday.

Additional Superintendent of Police (STF) Kalyan Kumar Pathak said, "After receiving an email, we got about to verify the authenticity of the contents and started an investigation." PTI