

STATE

Finally, cluster programme for mango farmers to take off **page 5**

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Pinarayi takes a dig at Sangh Parivar **page 8**

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Four men charged in Russia concert hall attack **page 9**

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India, S'pore to deepen ties



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Prisoner swap deal

Israel to release 700 in exchange for 40 hostages



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Pollard backs Hardik's bowling



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Festival of colours

Tinsel stars add colours to Holi



Ramzan Timings

Iftar Tuesday 6:34 PM
 Saher Wednesday 4:53 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

Be sure of your meds!

5% of drugs bought are substandard: Report

M SAI GOPAL
 HYDERABAD

About 5 per cent of the drugs that are purchased from medical shops in Hyderabad and other parts of the country are Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) or spurious in nature, which means they are adulterated, poor-in-quality, substandard and do not cure or treat the patient.

This distressing data point came to light in the recent countrywide testing of random samples of various kinds of medicines that were picked up in multiple urban centres, including Hyderabad by local Drug Control Administration (DCAs) and quality tests conducted under the guidance of the regulatory body, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

The CDSCO, in collaboration with various State DCAs, including the Telangana Drug Control Administration (TSDCA) conducted quality tests on random 1,167 drug samples in February, of which 58 turned out to be NSQs and 2 samples were spurious.

According to reports, a similar exercise of checking for the quality of medicines, conducted in January in urban centres, including Hyderabad, also yielded a similar result, i.e. 5 per cent

TAKE NOTE
NSQ DRUGS TESTED IN HYD

- Heparis injection** manufactured by SAI Parenterals Ltd, Jeedimetla
- Terbutaline Sulphate (Nefdyl-X) syrup** by Warner Hindusthan, IDA Uppal
- Bromhexine Hydrochloride Syrup** by Zenith Drugs Pvt Ltd, Indore
- Povidone-Iodine Solution (Vidon)** manufactured by US Pharma, Palghar
- Tranexamic Acid (Tranexica) injection** by SUNvet Healthcare tested NSQ by DCA Vijayawada

“State DCAs have already forwarded the details of drug manufacturing companies that are frequently failing in the quality control tests conducted by the central drug regulatory authority

— HEALTH OFFICIALS

of medicines that are purchased by the common man in medical stores could be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) or spurious in nature. The CDSCO report said, a syrup Terbutaline Sulphate manufactured by Warner Hindusthan Private Limited, new IDA, Uppal, another syrup Bromhexine Hydrochloride manufactured by Zenith Drugs, Indore but tested in the Hyderabad laboratory of CDSCO, Heparis Injection (Hyprovan 500 injection)

manufactured SAI Parenterals Limited, Jeedimetla, Hyderabad, Povidone-Iodine Solution that was manufactured by US Pharma Pvt Ltd on Palghar and tested in Hyderabad CDSCO laboratory have tested as Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) drugs. Another drug Tranexica (Tranexamic Acid), manufactured by SUNvet Healthcare, Himachal, tested as NSQ in the central drug laboratory at Vijayawada. (SEE PAGE 2)

Holi turns tragic as six drown in TS

STATE BUREAU
 Asifabad/Adilabad/Mancherial

In three separate incidents, six people, including two teenagers, drowned after participating in Holi festivities on Monday. In the first incident, four youngsters drowned in the Wardha river at Thatipalli village in Koutala mandal.

According to Koutala Inspector Sadiq Pasha, the youngsters were identified as Uppala Santosh (24), Yelumula Praveen (24), Panasa Kamalakar (24) and Alam Sai (22), all from Nadimabad in Koutala mandal headquarters. They were reportedly taking a dip in the river to wash off colours, soon after celebrat-

ing Holi. The four, along with two others — Pasula Santosh and Medi Naveen — stepped into the river. While Santosh was browsing on his mobile after the dip and Naveen went home, Santosh, Praveen, Kamalakar and Sai tried to take a dip at a deep spot though they were not familiar with swimming. Santosh, who realised that his friends were drowning, raised an alarm but by the time nearby fishermen could reach the spot, the four drowned. Santosh then alerted their parents who alerted the police.

While Praveen is survived by his wife and son, Sai completed graduation. (SEE PAGE 2)

AAP launches save democracy campaign

NEW DELHI

The AAP launched a social media campaign asking people to support it for saving the Constitution and democracy in the country. Delhi Minister and senior AAP leader Atishi addressed a press conference here to launch the social media “DP (display picture) campaign,” urging people to join in.

She said that all AAP leaders and volunteers will change their profile picture on X, Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media accounts with the new one showing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal behind bars captioned “Modi Ka Sabse Bada Dar Kejriwal.” PTI

Fast & Furious



VROOM VROOM: A racer in action during the NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. — Photo: AFP

KCR may campaign after Ugadi

Expected to address multiple roadshows across all segments

PS DILEEP
 Hyderabad

Having announced its candidates for all 17 parliamentary constituencies, the BRS is all set to intensify its campaign for the Lok Sabha elections to be held on May 13. The party planned a multi-pronged approach with strategies to highlight the achievements of the BRS during its tenure and the failures of the political opponents in delivering their promises.

Sources said BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao was likely to hit the campaign trail soon after the Ugadi festival. The party leadership is finalising the roadmap for his campaign route in consultation with party candidates covering



Party leadership is finalising the roadmap for KCR's campaign route in consultation with party candidates covering all segments.

all 17 constituencies. Besides addressing over a dozen public meetings, including a massive meeting in Hyderabad, he is expected to address multiple roadshows across all parliamentary

constituencies over the next one month. The party has a bus, used by the former Chief Minister during his Assembly campaign, which is being prepped up for the Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Srinivas is BRS' Hyd candidate

HYDERABAD: Gaddam Srinivas Yadav has been nominated as the BRS candidate from the Hyderabad seat for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. With this, BRS announced nominees for all 17 seats. Hailing from Goshamahal, Srinivas is also the chairman of the Haindavi Group of Colleges.

During the Assembly polls, the roadshows were largely addressed by party working president KT Rama Rao, senior leaders T Harish Rao and other senior leaders. (SEE PAGE 2)

TSRTC staff to get 43.2% DA

C ROMEO
 Hyderabad

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has finalised a 43.2 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) for its employees as part of the wage revision. The revised DA will be calculated on the basic salary after the wage revision and will be paid as part of the salary.

Apart from this, the House Rent Allowance (HRA), which was recently revised by the State government, will also be applicable

to the RTC employees with the latest salary revision.

The HRA revision will have a huge positive impact on the salary of the RTC employees. Earlier, the RTC employees were somewhat worried after their recent salaries did not register the anticipated increase. The existing 31.8 per cent DA will be merged into the basic pay of the employees, which roughly will work out to 43.2 per cent DA. While the State government employees still have four instalments of DA arrears pending, the RTC employ-

ees, on the other hand, are paid Dearness Allowances.

Earlier, seven instalments of DA arrears were announced for RTC employees. Due to the consistent demands from labour unions representing RTC employees and aggressive efforts taken up by TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar, the government paid the DA dues within a short period of time. With all dues of the past getting cleared, the stage is set for RTC employees in Telangana to receive their salaries based on the revised DA.

Provide relief to ryots: BRS

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The BRS demanded the government provide immediate relief of Rs 25,000 per acre to farmers, who suffered crop loss. The party announced that it would take out a ‘Chalo Secretariat’ protest if the government failed to respond. To assess the extent of crop loss, BRS chief directed the party leaders to conduct field visits across Telangana over the next three days. (REPORT PAGE 5)

‘Infiltrate Pakistan, take revenge’

ISLAMABAD

An Afghan Taliban commander, Yahya, has delivered an inciteful speech against Pakistan's security forces in which he calls on Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) cadre to “infiltrate Pakistan and take revenge”, media reports said.

In a leaked video, Yahya is seen addressing a gathering full of terrorists of the Hafiz Gul Bahadur militant group — a faction of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Geo News reported. Yahya asserts that “all



In a leaked video, Afghan Taliban commander Yahya asks TTP cadre to attack Pakistan security forces.

Mujahideen are prepared to follow the orders of Amir al-Mu'minin” and are committed to combatting Pakistan. He provides

instructions on how the militants “should infiltrate Pakistan and emphasises not leaving any wounded individuals behind,” Ex-

Pak to repatriate 1 million Afghans

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has started preparations to launch the second phase of its repatriation drive to send nearly one million Afghans back to their homeland, the media reported. Instructions had been issued to district administrations and police to expedite the mapping of Afghan Citizen Card holders, ‘Dawn’ reported. IANS

press Tribune reported. The leaked video is said to have emerged from the Dangar Algad area in Afghanistan. (SEE PAGE 2)

Indian PhD student dies in UK mishap

LONDON

A former NITI Aayog employee pursuing PhD at the London School of Economics and Political Science died in a tragic road accident as she was hit by a truck while cycling back home from the university. Cheistha Kochhar, 33, was a Doctoral Candidate studying behavioural research since she moved to London last year. The accident took place on Clerkenwell Road on March 19. (SEE PAGE 2)

China reiterates claim on Arunachal

BEIJING

China on Monday continued to claim that Arunachal Pradesh is part of its territory, notwithstanding India dismissing Beijing's claim as “absurd” and “ludicrous.”

On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian reiterated China's claim reacting to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's assertions on Saturday, dismissing China's repeated claims on Arunachal Pradesh as “ludicrous” and that the frontier state was a “natural part of India.” “This is not a new

issue. I mean China has laid claim, it has expanded its claim. The claims are ludicrous to begin with and remain ludicrous today,” Jaishankar said in response to a question on the Arunachal issue after delivering a lecture at the prestigious Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Lin, replying to a question from the official media seeking his reactions to Jaishankar's comments, said the border between India and China has never been settled. (SEE PAGE 2)