

HYDERABAD

OU hostellers sublet rooms to outsiders for Rs 3,500-5,000 **page 3**

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Didi challenges BJP to win 200 seats **page 7**



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Adani firing on all cylinders



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Pope for ceasefire

Says peace is never made with weapons



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All-round Titans crush Sunrisers



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Anecdotes from life

Ranbir spills the beans on hilarious joota churai story



Ramzan Timings

Iftar Monday 6:35 PM
Saheer Tuesday 4:48 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 127
Retail live	Rs. 149
With skin	Rs. 216
Skinless	Rs. 246
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

'100 days, 200 ryots dead'

KCR says Cong govt's callous approach, incompetency pushed farmers to brink



BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Reddy interacts with farmers in Suryapet on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
 SURYAPET

Mincing no words in holding the Congress government responsible for the plight of farmers in the State, Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Reddy on Sunday said the callous approach of the government, coupled with its inefficiency and incompetency, had left farmers grappling with withered crops due to water shortage in some districts and damaged crops due to unseasonal rains in other areas.

Demanding a compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre for farmers, Chandrashekhara Reddy, who visited and interacted with them in Jangaon, Suryapet and Nalgonda districts on Sunday, said 200 farmers had lost their lives in just about 100 days of the Congress in power. While many died by suicide, several others were electrocuted due to erratic power supply.

"When the BRS was in power, not a single acre dried up. But this season, crops in 15 lakh acres have withered in the State. Never in my dreams did I expect such conditions to resurface in Telangana," he said at a press conference at Suryapet. "We have 39 MLAs as the main opposition party in the State. We were not routed in the State," he said, stating that the ruling party luring one or two MLAs was a cheap political stunt.

The BRS government in the last term had laid a solid foundation for adequate power and water fa-

cilities in the State and schemes such as Mission Bhagiratha had received accolades from even the United Nations. Yet, the State, which stood number one in paddy production in the country, descended to such a situation within a short span, he said.

Reports of farmer suicides, the sound of borewell digging machines in fields, flourishing water tanker businesses and sight of women carrying pots for drinking water had all become history in Telangana, but within barely three months of the Congress coming to power, all these were back, he said, pointing out that even when the Chief Secretary asserted that sufficient water was available in reservoirs, people were facing drinking water shortage and having to depend on tankers even in the capital city of Hyderabad.

Pointing out that the BRS government had extended 24-hour power supply to commercial, agriculture and domestic sectors, even developing Hyderabad into a 'power island' city, he said the situation had seen a complete turnaround in such a short time only because of the inefficiency, incompetency and ineptitude of the Congress government. There were days when power cuts became news in Telangana, but now, proper supply of power was becoming news, he said, pointing at the power supply disruption just as he began the press conference. (SEE PAGE 2) (DON'T LOSE HOPE, SAYS KCR PAGE 5)

“Never in my dreams did I expect such conditions to resurface in Telangana... We will wage a war and chase them. We will not let this govt have sound sleep”
 — KCR, BRS president

Tribals thrash cops in clash over podu land

Inspector, four staff injured in Khammam incident; 20 held



Cops detain tribals, who attacked police personnel, at Buggapadu village of Sathupalli mandal in Khammam district on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
 KHAMMAM

A large group of tribals, including men and women, went berserk and thrashed police personnel in connection with a podu land issue at Buggapadu of Sathupalli mandal here on Sunday, leading to tense moments in the village.

Sathupalli Inspector Kiran Kumar and four staff suffered grievous injuries in the violent incident, which shocked the police department. It was said that there was an ongoing dispute among the tribals over nine hectares of forest land at Chandrayapalem in the mandal. The Chandrayapalem tribals cleaned the land for cultivation, while the tribals from Buggapadu Nagupalli, Varre Colony,

Nallivirigudem claimed right over the land, leading to the clash. After a local resident, Y Samba, dialled the police on 100, Inspector Kiran Kumar and the staff reached the spot to sort out the matter.

The tribals, who entered into heated arguments with the police, turned violent when the Inspector grabbed the collar of a tribal youth, Kuram Mahendra, and dragged him. What proceeded was a no-holds-barred hurling of abuse and attack on the police personnel. The tribals attacked the Inspector and other personnel with sticks, hands and chappals en masse from all sides. Even as the personnel tried to escort the Inspector to safety, who was in mufti, the tribals got hold of him and tore his shirt. (SEE PAGE 2)

Won't stop fighting corrupt, says Modi

MEERUT

Alleging that the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc wanted to protect the corrupt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that he will not stop his fight against corruption despite their attacks on him and those who looted the country will face action irrespective of their status.

"When Modi is fighting the battle against corruption with full strength, these people have formed the I.N.D.I.A Alliance. They think they will intimidate Modi, but for me, my Bharat is my family and I am taking steps to protect it from the corrupt," the Prime Minister said here in his first rally in Uttar Pradesh after the announcement of the Lok

PM's counter-offensive comes as I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders hold Loktantra Bachao rally in New Delhi

Sabha election schedule. The Prime Minister's counter-offensive came as the stalwarts of the I.N.D.I.A bloc parties held a 'Loktantra Bachao' (Save Democracy) rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi in support of AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and JMM leader Hemant Soren, arrested on graft charges, and accused the PM of running a "dictatorship". (SEE PAGE 2) (CONGRESS GAVE AWAY KATCHATHEEVU ISLAND' PAGE 7)

I.N.D.I.A leaders stand by Kejri, Soren

NEW DELHI

Top I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders gathered at the Ramlila Maidan here on Sunday to express solidarity with arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, and urged people to vote out the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls to "save democracy and the Constitution".

The leaders who were on stage at the 'Loktantra Bachao' (save democracy) rally were Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former presidents Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, NCP's Sharad Yadav, NC leader Farooq Abdullah, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Left leaders Sitaram Yechury, D Raja and Dipankar Bhattacharya, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and TMC's Derek



An AAP supporter during the I.N.D.I.A bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday. — Photo: ANI

O'Brien. Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal and Soren's wife Kalpana Soren also addressed the gathering, castigating the Centre over the arrest of their husbands. Sunita read out a letter from her husband which she said he sent from ED custody.

Thackeray alleged that the country has become an "autocracy" under the Modi government, and appealed to the people to throw the BJP out of power. "We are not here for an election campaign, we are here to save democracy... what kind of

government is this, you make allegations and send people to jail," he said. "Two of our sisters are fighting, how can the brother stay behind? We are here for our sisters, Kalpana ji and Sunita ji. Not just we, the country is with you," he said.

Kalpana Soren said she was present at the rally as the voice of "50 per cent of the population of the country — the women — and the nine per cent tribal population." Kharge described the RSS-BJP combine as a "poison" that has "destroyed" the country, and called on all opposition parties to unite to defeat the ruling party in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. NC chief Farooq Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti accused the BJP of violating the Constitution. "Our only aim is to save the Constitution," Abdullah said. PTI

Optional holiday on April 1

CITY BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has announced a change in the date of the optional holiday commemorating Shahadat Hazrat Ali. Originally scheduled for March 31, the holiday is now on April 1.

A release from the General Administration (SPL.E) Department stated, "In partial modification of the orders issued in G.O.Rt No 1633, GA (SPL.E) Dept. dated 12.12.2023, notifying the General Holidays and Optional Holidays, Government declares 1.04.2024 as an optional holiday on the occasion of Shahadat Hazrat Ali (RA), instead of 31.02.2024." This was requested by the Telangana State Waqf Board.

Advani conferred Bharat Ratna

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu conferred Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on BJP stalwart and former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani at his residence here on Sunday.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and the family members of Advani, the Rashtrapati Bhavan posted on X.

Prime Minister Modi sat next to Advani as the President honoured the veteran leader with Bharat Ratna. Modi said on X that it was



President Droupadi Murmu confers the Bharat Ratna on BJP leader LK Advani at his residence as Prime Minister Narendra Modi looks on, in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI (REPORT PAGE 8)

very special to witness the conferring of the Bharat Ratna on Advani and this honour is a recognition of his enduring contributions

to the nation's progress. "His pivotal role in shaping modern India have left an indelible mark on our history," he said. PTI

1,000 cops training in Army's J&K facility

JAMMU

Over 1,000 probationary police officers, including 62 deputy superintendents of police, are undergoing a six-week training at the Army's counter-terror White Knight Corps battle school in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said.

The integrated training programme — a first of its kind in the Union Territory grappling with over three decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism — commenced on March 19. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a recent in-

Undergoing six-week training at counter-terror White Knight Corps battle school in Doda district. The training programme is a first of its kind in the UT

terview, said the government has plans to pull back troops from Jammu and Kashmir and leave law and order to the UT's police alone. "We have plans to pull back troops and leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police alone. Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Police was not trusted but today they are leading the operations," he had said.

According to police, the integrated training programme was aimed at enhancing the coordination and combined operational capabilities of both forces, which for over three decades have combated terrorism side by side. "The training is focussed on operational tactics, intelligence sharing, and counter-terrorism strategies, drawing on the In-

dian Army's extensive experience in these fields. This joint training marks a continued commitment to security and the well-being of the residents," a police official said.

He said it is a stride towards a future where the alignment of the Army and local police play a pivotal role in maintaining peace and safety in Jammu and Kashmir. "The valour and sacrifices of both forces in the face of adversity have been instrumental in maintaining national security. The synergy achieved during training will pave the way for the restoration of peace," he said. PTI