

HYDERABAD

More water to be drawn from Himayatsagar, Osmansagar **page 3**

BUSINESS



X rolls out 'Community Notes' **page 8**

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Israel calls up reservists to bolster air defence amid Iran threats **page 9**

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TS' first woman football coach



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Robert to contest?

Keen on fighting Lok Sabha polls from Amethi



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SRH looks to tame CSK



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Vintage swag

Sonakshi dons new avatar in Heeramandi song



Ramzan Timings

Iftar Friday 6:35 PM
 Saheer Saturday 4:44 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 139
Retail live	Rs. 161
With skin	Rs. 233
Skinless	Rs. 266
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

Modi, Mamata face off in Bengal

'Oppn spreading lies, rumours about CAA'

PTI
COOCH BEHAR

Emphasising the need for a strong and stable government at the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday slammed opposition bloc I.N.D.I.A for spreading canards about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), asserting that it is "Modi ki guarantee to provide citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati (Mother India)".

Referring to the recent incidents in Sandeshkhali, where allegations of sexual abuse against TMC leaders surfaced, Modi assured that the "culprits will spend the rest of their lives in jail". Addressing a mega rally at Rash

PTI
COOCH BEHAR/MALBAZAR

Mela grounds in West Bengal's Cooch Behar, Modi criticised opposition parties for their efforts to protect the corrupt, asserting his determination to ensure their punishment and promising even stricter action in the next five years. Urging people to elect a strong government, he said for the country to become the world's third-largest economy, there is a need to have a "majboot sarkar" at the Centre. "They (I.N.D.I.A) never cared for marginalised communi-

ties. TMC, Left and Congress never cared for Rajbanshi, Namasudra and Matua communities. Now that we have brought CAA, they are spreading rumours and lies." (SEE PAGE 2)

It is Modi ki guarantee to give citizenship to those who have faith in Maa Bharati
 — NARENDRA MODI
 Prime Minister



'Can trust poisonous snake but not BJP'

PTI
COOCH BEHAR/MALBAZAR

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, at a poll rally on Thursday, accused the BJP of not adhering to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that one can trust a poisonous snake but not the saffron camp.

Addressing a rally in Cooch Behar, she alleged that the central investigating agencies, Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) were working at the behest of the BJP, urging the Election Commission to ensure a level playing field for all political parties. "The BJP is asking you to enrol names

for Awas Yojna again. Why will the names be enrolled again? They want further enrollment so that they can remove them. You can trust a poisonous snake; you can even pet it, but you can never trust the BJP... The BJP is destroying the country," she said. Asserting that her party TMC will not bow before the "threats of central agencies", Banerjee urged women in Cooch Behar to file police complaints if "there are instances of BSF torturing locals" ahead of the polls scheduled for April 19. At another rally in Malbazar, she said, "Central investigating agencies, NIA, Income Tax, central forces like BSF and CISF are working for the BJP." PTI

We will plead to the EC to ensure a level playing field as central agencies are working for BJP
 — MAMATA BANERJEE, WB CM



BRS goes all guns blazing to expose Cong

Agri, water crises may sway poll verdict

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

As Telangana braces for the Lok Sabha elections on May 13, the looming agrarian crisis due to the lack of water and power supply threatens to sway the political scenario in the State.

While the ruling Congress struggles to address the issue, the main opposition, BRS, is going all guns blazing against it over its inefficiency in resolving the pressing needs of people compared to the previous K Chandrashekhar Rao government. With the Agriculture Department's officials yet to quantify the losses suffered by farmers, the impact of this crisis on voters cannot be overstated.

Except for blaming the nature and holding the previous BRS government responsible for the sinking of piers at the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Congress-led government has not been able to initiate any concrete measures to address the water crisis before the election code came into force. A similar situation prevails with regard to



How each party navigates public sentiment, policy implementation will decide Lok Sabha election outcome

the power crisis as electricity usage has surged in proportion to rising mercury levels since March.

However, the BRS has seized upon the prevailing drought conditions as a strong weapon against the ruling party. Spearheaded by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, the BRS accused CM A Revanth Reddy and the Congress of mismanaging water and power resources, attributing the drought not solely to natural causes, but also to

failed Congress policies. Chandrashekhar Rao's assertive stance during his recent visit to Nalgonda, Suryapet and Jangaon districts caused a stir within the ruling party, prompting heated exchanges over the responsibility for the crisis. Further, the pumping of water from Kaleshwaram using the Gayatri and Nandi pumphouses has strengthened the BRS chief's narrative, kick-starting a fresh discussion among people, including on social media.

His scheduled visit to Karimnagar and Rajanna-Sircilla districts on Friday is expected to intensify the unrest among people further. The active campaigning of BRS working president KT Rama Rao, former Minister T Harish Rao and other senior leaders over the negligence of the State government, especially Revanth Reddy, has pushed the ruling Congress into troubled waters as many Congress leaders are facing not just physical heat due to summer, but also verbal heat from the voters questioning them about the water and power crisis repeatedly. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

Wild tusker kills another farmer

STATE BUREAU
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

The rogue elephant wandering in the fields near Kondapalli village trampled another farmer to death early on Thursday.

The second kill by the pachyderm in the last 24 hours has escalated panic in the surrounding villages and a visible tension enveloped the entire Chitalamanepalli mandal.

The tusker attacked Karu Poshanna (60), who was watering paddy crops in his field around 5 am. His death was instant, as was the case in the earlier instance in Burepalli village, some 30 km away. The earlier victim was Alluri Shankar (50), who was also in the fields when the elephant attacked him. Officials sounded a general alert as the elephant was now moving towards Sulugupalli village in the adjacent Bejjur mandal.

Panic-stricken villagers have appealed to the Forest



Karu Posham was watering paddy crops when the elephant trampled him to death in Kondapalli, Asifabad.

Department to ensure that the elephant is driven away from the farms into the forest to prevent more attacks. Teams of officials from the Forest, Police and Revenue departments have fanned out into the surrounding villages which are in the path of the pachyderm moving aimlessly. Villagers were asked to remain indoors till further instructions. The alert about the tusker's movement was publicised extensively in adjacent habitations. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

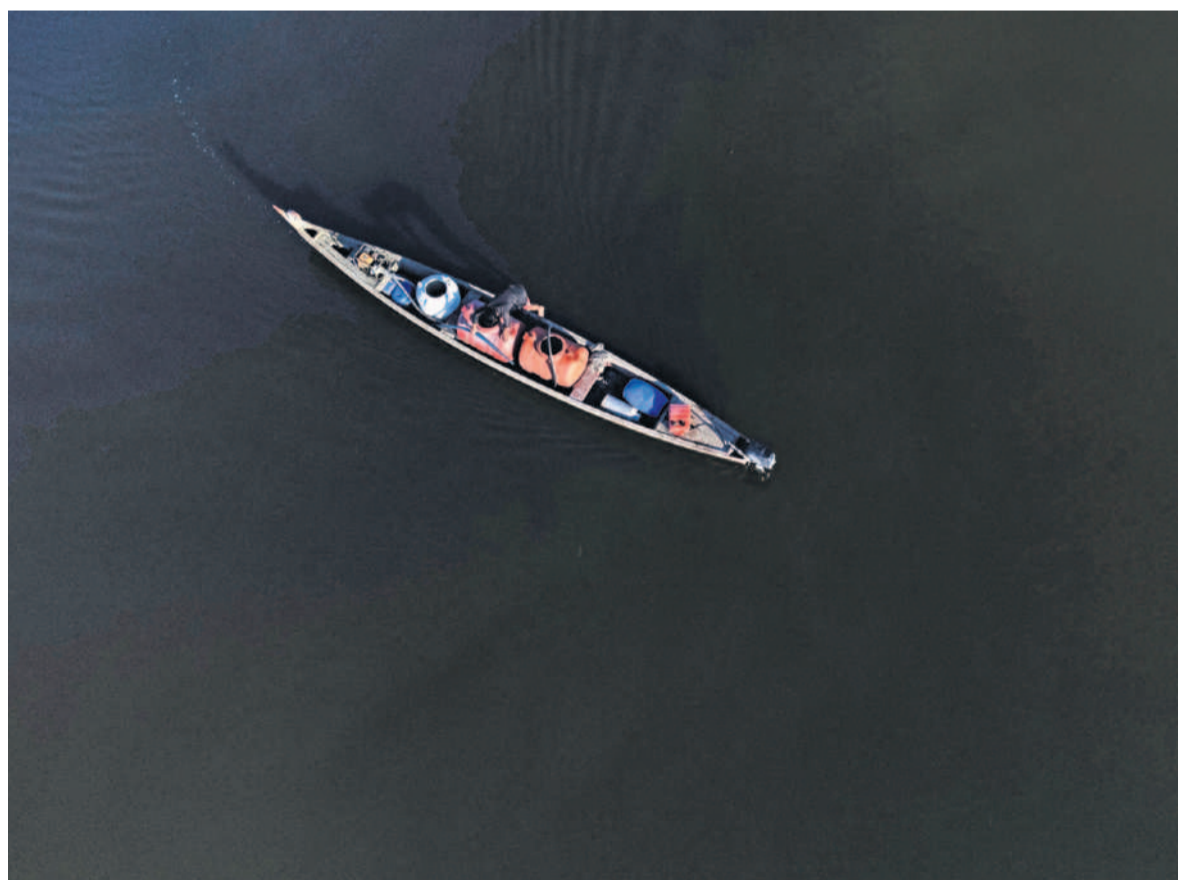
Power dues: Uppal stadium faces blackout ahead of IPL tie

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Ahead of the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) vs Chennai Super Kings (CSK) match on Friday, authorities of the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL) on Thursday cut off power supply to the Uppal stadium citing non-payment of Rs 1.67 crore in dues by Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).

However, the discom restored the supply and gave the HCA a day's time to clear the dues, failing which power supply to the stadium will be cut off from Saturday. This comes after the HCA turned a blind eye to the notices over pending bills sent by the electricity department. A notice regarding this was reportedly issued by TSSPDCL in February, much before the first match of the IPL began. (SEE PAGE 2)

Long commute



CHALLENGING LOCALE: A resident of the Chibayesh marshland in Iraq's southern Ahwar area of Dhi Qar province sails before the iftar meal during Ramzan. — Photo: AFP

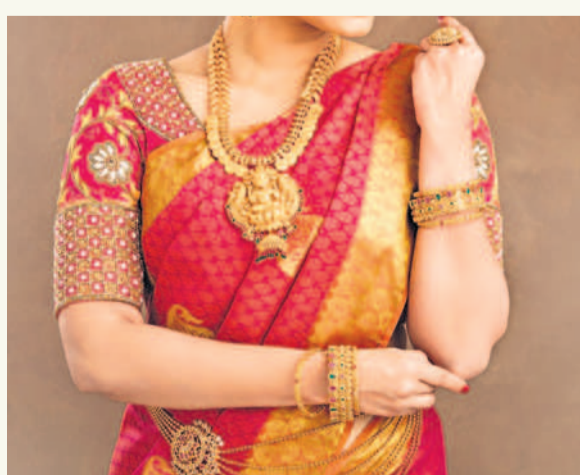
Gold prices breach Rs 70,000-mark

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The surge in gold and silver prices in Hyderabad has reached new highs, with the yellow metal surpassing the Rs 70,000 per 10-gram mark.

On Thursday, the price of 24-carat gold soared to a record Rs 70,470 per 10 grams, marking a substantial increase of Rs 600 in a single day. This is the first time in a year that gold has breached the Rs 70,000-mark in the Hyderabad market.

Just a day earlier, on Wednesday, the price of 24-carat gold per 10 grams stood at Rs 69,870 in the city. Simultaneously, the



Gold prices jumped Rs 600 in a single day. Silver also hit a record high, with 1 kg retailing at Rs 85,300.

price of silver also hit a record high, with 1 kg retailing at Rs 85,300 — a

surge of Rs 1,300 in a day. This marks the first time in a year that silver prices

have crossed the Rs 85,000-mark in Hyderabad's market.

Fed impact

Commodity market experts point to US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's recent speech as the catalyst behind the surge in gold and silver prices, anticipating potential interest rate cuts in the upcoming US Federal Reserve meeting scheduled from April 30 to May 1 this year.

Furthermore, the decline of the US dollar index from its recent peak has contributed to the bullish trend observed in bullion metal prices worldwide, according to industry experts.

Two-yr-old trapped in K'taka borewell rescued after 20 hrs

VIJAYAPURA

After a nearly 20-hour operation, a two-year-old boy, who fell into an open borewell in Lachyana village of Indi taluk here, was rescued on Thursday afternoon, police said.

The child, Satvik Satish Mujagond, was heard crying inconsolably as the rescue operation was under way since Wednesday evening. Celebrations broke out as he was pulled out from a depth of 16 feet inside the borewell. "He was immediately shifted to the ambulance stationed at the spot with a medical team. No visible injury marks were seen on his body when he was



SDRF and other emergency services personnel rescuing the boy at Lachyana village in Vijayapura on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

taken out," a senior police officer said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the efficiency of the staff and public, who

worked round the clock for the protection of the child, is commendable. The child was shifted to hospital and is currently stable. PTI