

HYDERABAD
 City sizzles at 43°C, districts too experience extreme weather **page 3**

BUSINESS
 Apple to lay off over 600 employees **page 8**

WORLD
 Ukraine fires over 40 drones against Russia in its biggest attack **page 9**

NATION | PAGE 07
Prove claims, EC tells Atishi



WORLD | PAGE 09
6 months of war
 Israel's isolation, fear of conflict spreading grow



SPORT | PAGE 10
Rajasthan Royals to face RCB today



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12
Rashmika turns 28
 Makers of Pushpa-2, The Girlfriend drop first looks



Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Saturday 6:36 PM
 Saher Sunday 4:43 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 154
Retail live	Rs. 176
With skin	Rs. 255
Skinless	Rs. 290
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

'Bail out ryots, weavers or face their wrath'

KCR for action plan to lift Godavari water & enumerate crop loss, among others

S SANDEEP KUMAR
 RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Tearing into the Congress government for its inept, inefficient and incompetent governance, Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday demanded that the government chalk out an action plan to lift Godavari water, enumerate crop loss, extend a bonus of Rs 500 for every crop and place orders for Bathukamma and other festivals with weavers to bail them out of crisis.

If the Congress government failed to prepare an action plan to lift water at 25,000 cusecs flow, the BRS would reach Medigadda with 50,000 farmers and start lifting the water, he said. Addressing a press conference here after visiting and interacting with beleaguered farmers in the erstwhile Karimnagar district, Chandrashekhar Rao said that due to the incompetence of the Congress government, 48-50 TMC of water had drained from Medigadda into the sea.

Every day, about 1,500 cusecs were still going down, he said, adding that engineers said there were no proper orders from the government. "All this is being done with the sole intention to blame K Chandrashekhar Rao," he said, going on to list out the failures of the government in multiple sectors.



Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao interacting with beleaguered farmers in the erstwhile Karimnagar district on Friday.

Coming down heavily on Congress leaders for asking weavers to sell condoms and papad to eke out a livelihood, he asked how responsible leaders could make such comments. "I demand that the government clear arrears of Rs 300 crore payable to weavers and place orders with them, failing which they will be compelled to approach the court. The BRS will bear the legal expenses," he said.

Citing the hardships being faced by farmers across the State due to lack of irrigation water and quality power supply, the BRS president said it was much more than a natural calamity, and a man-made and government-made calamity.

He further slammed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for failing to address farmers' issues. (SEE PAGE 2)
 (KALESHWARAM: CONGRESS EXPOSED PAGE 5)

KCR plans dharna at Medigadda after Lok Sabha elections

KARIMNAGAR: Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao said he would stage a dharna at the Medigadda barrage along with 10,000 people, including farmers, after the Lok Sabha elections. Stating that the Congress government couldn't protect the interests of farmers by supplying water to standing crops, he said the BRS would fight on behalf of the farming community. He asked farmers not to worry and be courageous since the BRS would always be with them. (FULL REPORT PAGE 5)

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept the benchmark interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the seventh time in a row and flagged concerns over food inflation given IMD's prediction of above-normal maximum temperatures from April to June.

As the RBI has held key policy rates steady, EMIs on home and auto loans are likely to remain stable for some more time. The central bank has kept interest rates unchanged since February 2023. While unveiling

the first bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, the RBI has retained its growth and inflation forecast for the year at 7 per cent and 4.5 per cent.

"After a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook, it (MPC) decided by a 5:1 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

He said MPC would focus on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure inflation aligns with the target. (REPORT PAGE 8)

India can't claim island, says Sri Lanka

COLOMBO

The statements coming out of India on "reclaiming" Kachchatheevu island from Sri Lanka have "no ground", the Sri Lankan Minister of Fisheries, Douglas Devananda, has said.

"It is the election time in India, it is not unusual to hear such noises of claims and counterclaims about Kachchatheevu," Devananda said on Thursday. "India is acting on its interests to secure this place to ensure Sri Lankan fishermen would not have any access to that area," he added. (SEE PAGE 2)

UNHRC: India votes for Palestine

GENEVA

India has voted in favour of the UN Human Rights Council's Resolution, supporting the "right to self-determination for Palestinian people", whereas it abstained from voting on the resolution on the "human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice".

The UNHRC on Thursday adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice. A total of 13 countries abstained from



Pro-Palestinian protesters take part in a demonstration on Al Quds Day in London on Friday. — Photo: AP (REPORTS PAGE 9)

voting, whereas 28 supported it and six voted against the resolution. India abstained from voting for the resolution, along with France, the Dominican Republic and Japan.

Meanwhile, countries that voted in favour of the resolution included Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Maldives, Qatar and South Africa, among others. (ANI)

Top court stays Allahabad HC order junking Madarsa Act

NEW DELHI

In a breather to about 17 lakh madarsa students, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed an order of the Allahabad High Court that scrapped the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004 calling it "unconstitutional" and violative of the principle of secularism. Observing that the issues raised in the petitions merit closer reflection, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud issued notices to the Centre and UP government. (PTI)

Researcher devises mass system to track vitals

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

In a breakthrough that has the potential to reshape the landscape of healthcare monitoring, Jewel Benny, an undergraduate researcher with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)-Hyderabad, has come up with a non-invasive mass monitoring system to measure heart rates (HR) and breath rates (BR) using radars.

The new monitoring system, based on Frequency Modulated Continuous Wave (FMCW) mmWave radar, stands out for its ability to measure HR and BR for multi-



Jewel Benny, undergraduate researcher at IIIT-H.

ple patients simultaneously and with accuracy. While the previous studies that used FMCW radars to measure HR and BR focused on single subjects, the research expanded to monitoring the vitals of multiple subjects. However, it did not achieve simultaneous measurements.

Benny, an Honours (BTech ECE) student, along with Pranjal Mahajan, Srayan Chatterjee and Mohd Wajid, under the guidance of Prof Abhishek Srivastava, has come up with a design that not only seeks to simultaneously measure BR/HR of multiple patients but also improved measurement accuracy with its advanced signal processing techniques.

"Normally, you have oximeters to check the health of patients with any condition that affects blood oxygen levels such as pneumonia, heart failure and so on. But they are not really useful in mass monitoring scenarios or

during a pandemic-like situation. We wanted a single device that could measure vitals in a contactless manner and for multiple people," Benny said.

According to researchers, the new system can find its application in hospitals and such places where mass monitoring of health vitals is necessary. Outside of hospitals, too, unobtrusive monitoring of vitals could come in handy in large spaces such as corporate offices, they said. The prototype was built and presented at IInvenTiv-2024 — the Ministry of Education's flagship R&D Innovation Fair. (SEE PAGE 2)

Himanta backs Kangana, says Netaji was India's first PM

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday defended actor-turned-politician and BJP's Lok Sabha candidate Kangana Ranaut's assertion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the first Prime Minister of the country.

Sarma said Netaji had established the Azad Hind government four years before Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had become the Prime Minister, which was recognised by nine countries. "To those mocking @KanganaTeam — On 21 October 1943, Netaji established the Azad Hind Govt, of which he was the head,

KTR takes jibe at actor, Annamalai

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao took a jibe at BJP MP candidates Kangana Ranaut and K Annamalai from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, after they called Subhash Chandra Bose as India's first Prime Minister and Mahatma Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India, respectively. In a post on X, Rama Rao said, "One BJP candidate from North says Subhash Chandra Bose was our first PM!! And another BJP leader from South says Mahatma Gandhi was our PM!! Where did all these people graduate from?" His social media post went viral with many netizens sharing the video clips of both the interviews.

nearly 4 years before Pt Nehru took oath as Prime Minister following transfer of power," the Chief Minister posted on X. "Nine countries recognised the Azad Hind Govt as the legitimate Government of India. This subconscious urge to interpret history on lines of colonialists is called *Ghulamiki Mansikta*," he said. (PTI)