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Rahul using Maoist language, says Modi



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Gopi Thotakura becomes first Indian space tourist

Blue Origin's seventh human flight, NS-25, lifts off from Launch Site One in West Texas



SPORT | PAGE 10

SRH batter Abhishek powers team to victory

In a nutshell

Labourer shot dead in Manipur

IMPHAL: A labourer from Jharkhand was killed and two others injured in an attack by unidentified assailants in Manipur's Imphal West district, police said on Sunday. A police official said that the assailants pulled out the three labourers of a construction company from their rented accommodation and shot them on the spot. One of them, identified as Shree Ram Hangsada, 41, subsequently succumbed to his injuries. IANS

State Cabinet meeting today

HYDERABAD: With the Election Commission granting conditional approval to the State government to conduct Cabinet meeting, it has been decided to convene the meeting at 3 pm on Monday. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders in this regard. However, the ECI specifically said that issues of crop loan waiver and common capital of Hyderabad could not be discussed in the meeting. STATE PAGE 5

CISF jawan dies after gun goes off

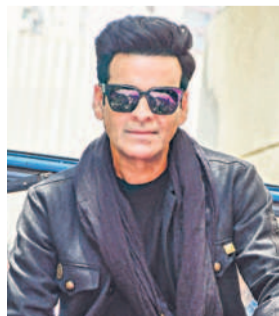
CHENNAI: A 37-year-old CISF personnel hailing from Karnataka died after the firearm he was carrying went off, police said on Sunday. A probe has been initiated to ascertain whether the deceased Ravi Kiran shot himself or if the weapon went off by accident when he was travelling in a bus to Karnataka on Saturday. "Ravi Kiran was going to his hometown when the incident occurred on Saturday," a senior official said. PTI

SW monsoon onset over Nicobar: IMD

NEW DELHI: Southwest monsoon, the lifeline of India's farm-based economy, on Sunday made its onset over the Nicobar Islands, the southernmost region of the country, the IMD said. "Southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of the Maldives, and the Comorin area and some parts of the South Bay of Bengal, Nicobar Islands and South Andaman Sea on Sunday," the weather office said. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

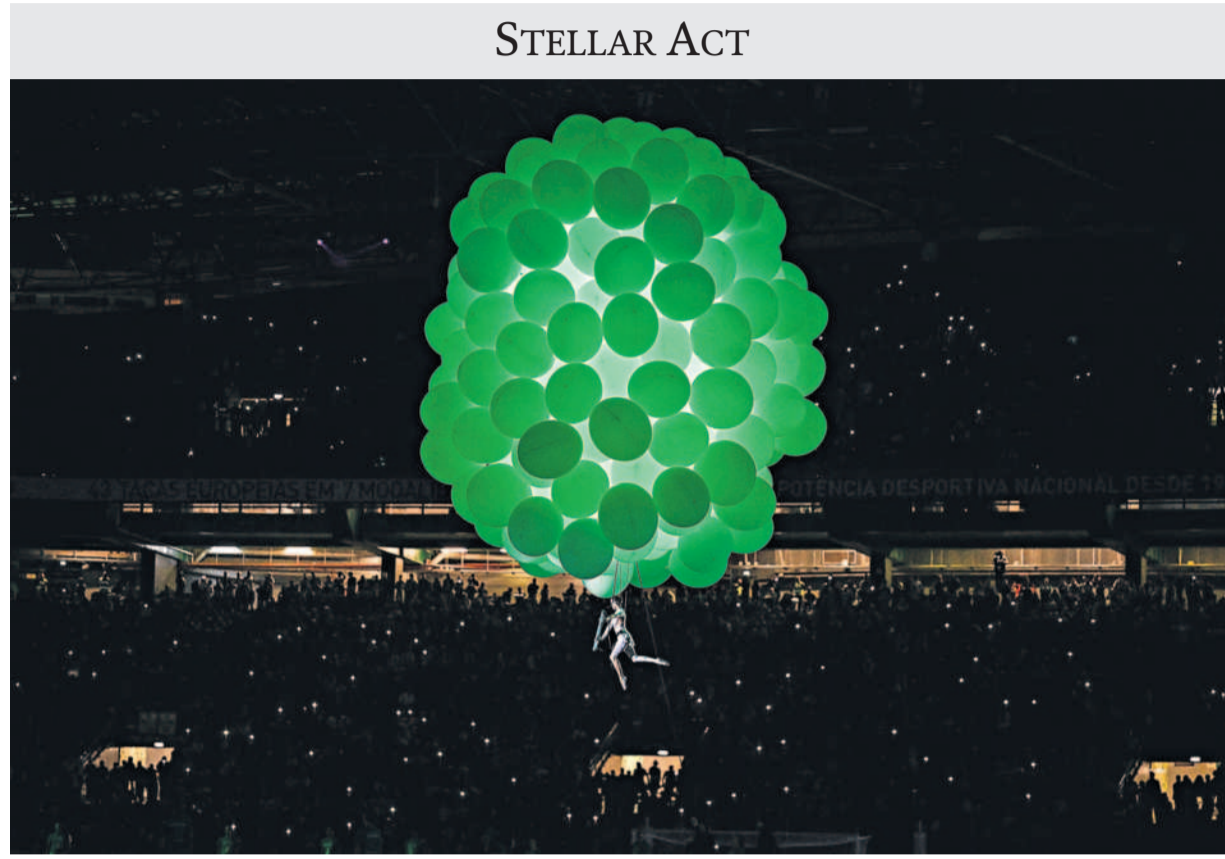
Farm	Rs. 150
Retail live	Rs. 172
With skin	Rs. 249
Skinless	Rs. 284
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72



'Roles trump bank account'

Manoj Bajpayee on what keeps his passion alive for acting

12



A performer is suspended from balloons during victory celebrations after the Portuguese League Championship at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. — Photo: AFP

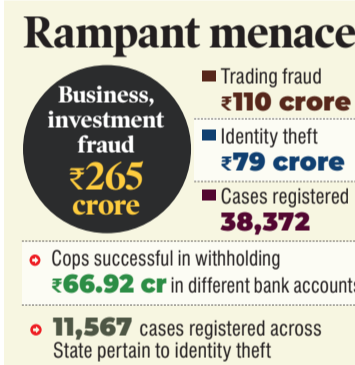
Rs 547 crore lost to cybercrime!

Rs 265 cr lost to biz, investment frauds in four months in State

ASIF YAR KHAN
 Hyderabad

In the last four months, cybercrime victims in Telangana lost around Rs 547 crore to fraudsters! The State Police, however, were successful in withholding Rs 66.92 crore in different bank accounts after being alerted by victims, and 38,372 cases were registered.

The highest amount of Rs 265 crore was lost to fraudsters, who lured the gullible victims with business and investment fraud, during the period between January and April 2024. It was followed by trading fraud with Rs 110



Rampant menace
 Fraudsters are approaching public through social media applications and luring them into investing money in digital or online trading or other business. Majority of the victims are IT employees
 — SENIOR OFFICIAL, TSCSB

crore and the remaining amount was lost in 24 other modus operandis. About 11,567 cases registered across the State pertained to

identity theft where the victims lost Rs 79 crore. Impersonation cases, where fraudsters impersonate popular entities and cheat people,

are also on the rise with 3,980 cases registered. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, which monitors the cybercrime cases investigation, said investment and trading fraud cases were on the rise in the State. "Fraudsters are approaching public through social media and luring them into investing money in digital or online trading or other business. Without verifying the entity, people are transferring money into the mule accounts provided by fraudsters and becoming victims. Majority of victims are IT employees," said a senior official of TSCSB. (SEE PAGE 2)

Black beetles found in maida at eatery

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A task force team of the Telangana Food Safety Department on Saturday inspected eateries in the Lakdikapul and found glaring violations of food safety norms. The team lifted samples to be sent to the laboratory.

At Rayalaseema Ruchulu, 20 kg of maida, highly infested with black beetles, two kg of tamarind infested with insects and expired Amul milk were discarded.

A total of 168 Goli Soda bottles were seized for not possessing a manufacturing licence. Moreover, unlabelled cashews and jawar

roti worth Rs 11,000 were also discarded. Besides, improper storage practices and hygiene issues were observed in the kitchen area.

Meanwhile, unlabelled prepared/semi-prepared items were found in storage at Shah Ghoushe. Medical records of food handlers were also unavailable. Water stagnation statutory sample was lifted and sent to the lab for analysis. At Kamat Hotel in Khairatabad, the food inspectors seized unlabelled noodles and tea powder packets worth Rs. 25,000.

The Task Force team also conducted inspections in Ameerpeth Metro Station outlets. (SEE PAGE 2)

No clarity yet on rural local body polls in State

PS DILEEP
 Hyderabad

Uncertainty looms large over the elections for rural local bodies, including gram panchayats, mandal parishads and zilla parishads, in Telangana.

While Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy hinted at conducting these elections shortly after the announcement of the Lok Sabha election results, officials indicated that the elections were unlikely to be held before August-September as BC reservations were yet to be finalised.

The term of gram panchayats in the State expired on February 1 this year and

Why the delay

- Supreme Court mandates finalisation of BC reservation before polls
- Congress promised to hike quota from 22% to 42%
- This will overshoot 50% cap on reservation
- To increase BC reservation beyond 25%, Constitutional amendments are required
- State Election Commission completes preliminary preparations
- State BC Commission yet to submit report
- Elections to be held for ward members and sarpanches of 12,769 GPs, 563 ZPTCs, 5,817 MPTCs

the State government appointed special officers in their place. The term of the MPTCs and ZPTCs will end on July 3. Despite the lack of a clear timeline, the Chief Minister's signal that local body elections could occur

in June has accelerated preparations. The elections were initially scheduled for January but were postponed due to last year's Assembly elections, followed by the recent Lok Sabha polls in the State. (SEE PAGE 2)

AI Express flight's engine catches fire

BENGALURU

An Air India Express flight from Bengaluru to Kochi made an emergency landing at Bengaluru after a fire was noticed in one of the engines, the Bangalore International Airport Limited said on Sunday. All the passengers and crew were evacuated and no one was injured, the Air India Express said in a statement. According to sources, the fire was noticed minutes after the take-off.

The crew members alerted the Air Traffic Controller and a full scale emergency was declared. Soon after the emergency landing



A Bengaluru-Kochi flight makes emergency landing at Bengaluru Airport after its right engine caught fire soon after take-off.

at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, the fire was extinguished. "On May 18,

2024, IX 1132 from Bengaluru to Kochi made an emergency landing at BLR Airport at 2312 hrs, due to a

reported fire in one of the engines," a spokesperson of the BIAL, which manages KIA, said in a statement.

A full-scale emergency was declared, and the fire was promptly extinguished upon landing. All 179 passengers and six crew members have been successfully evacuated from the aircraft, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) spokesperson said. An Air India Express spokesperson said that due to suspected flames from the right engine after takeoff, the Bengaluru-Kochi flight 'elected' to return and carried out a precautionary landing at Bengaluru. PTI

CISF to take over Parliament security

NEW DELHI

More than 3,300 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel will take over the complete counter-terrorism and anti-sabotage security duties at the Parliament complex from Monday following the withdrawal of over 1,400 CRPF staff from the country's most important symbol of democracy, sources said.

The Parliament Duty Group of the CRPF handed over all the security points in the complex to the incoming CISF group, sources said. PTI

'Modi wants to crush AAP'

Kejriwal says PM launched 'Operation Jhadoo'

PTI
 NEW DELHI

The AAP-BJP slugfest over the alleged assault on Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal escalated on Sunday as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed that the arrest of his aide Bibhav Kumar was part of BJP's 'Operation Jhadoo' to "crush" AAP by jailing its leaders, freezing its accounts and evicting it from office.

Kejriwal led a march towards the BJP headquarters at the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg here but police had heavily barricaded the roads. The protesters stopped around 50 metres away from the office and dispersed, with AAP later saying they "waited for half an hour on the road for the police to come and arrest us but BJP accepted its defeat".

After Kumar's arrest on Saturday, Kejriwal had said that he and other AAP leaders would march to the BJP headquarters "so that the prime minister can send anyone he wishes to jail".

The BJP ridiculed Kejriwal, saying his protest had fizzled out and his supporters had deserted him. It said the AAP chief did not take to the streets for his jailed colleagues Manish Sisodia and Satyender Jain but was protesting against the arrest of his PA "who had assaulted" his party MP Maliwal. "Kejriwal should break his silence instead of his dramebazi (theatrics)," Shehzad Poonawalla, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said in a post on X.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and party MP Sanjay Singh during a protest march, in New Delhi, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

BIBHAV IN 5-DAY POLICE CUSTODY

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court allowed a five-day custodial interrogation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the Swati Maliwal assault case, saying the police remand was a "necessity" in the matter. Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal was hearing the application of Delhi Police which was represented by Additional Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava. The police had sought seven-day custody. It is alleged that Kumar, who is Kejriwal's personal assistant, assaulted AAP MP Swati Maliwal at the CM's residence on May 13. (REPORT PAGE 8)

Maliwal too lashed out at AAP leaders, saying they once sought justice for Nirbhaya but today they are supporting a person accused of assaulting her. Addressing party workers ahead of the march to the BJP office, Kejriwal said there will be bigger challenges ahead and asked the cadre to be prepared. "The PM has made up his mind to destroy and crush the AAP, for which he has started 'Operation Jhadoo'," Kejri-

wal said, claiming that the BJP saw AAP as a challenge. "Jhadoo" or broom is AAP's election symbol. "Under this operation, top leaders of the AAP will be arrested, they are being arrested," the Delhi Chief Minister claimed and repeated the allegations during his election meetings on Sunday. Kejriwal spoke on the arrest of his PA and other leaders but did not refer to the allegations levelled by Maliwal.

Chopper with Iranian President onboard 'crashes'



Helicopter carrying Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi taking off at the Iranian border with Azerbaijan on Sunday. — Photo: AFP

DUBAI

A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the country's Foreign Minister and other officials apparently crashed in the mountainous northwest reaches of Iran on Sunday, sparking a massive rescue operation in a fog-shrouded forest as the public was urged to pray.

The likely crash came as Iran under Raisi and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei launched an unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel last month and has enriched uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels.

Iran has also faced years of mass protests against its Shiite theocracy over an ailing economy and women's rights — making the moment that much more sensitive for Tehran and the future of the country as the Israel-Hamas war inflames the wider Middle East. Raisi was traveling in Iran's East

Azerbaijan province. State TV said what it called a "hard landing" happened near Jolfa, a city on the border with the nation of Azerbaijan, some 600 km northwest of Tehran.

Later, state TV put it further east near the village of Uzi, but details remained contradictory. Traveling with Raisi were Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the governor of Iran's East Azerbaijan province and other officials and bodyguards, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. One local government official used the word "crash," but others referred to either a "hard landing" or an "incident."

Neither IRNA nor state TV offered any information on Raisi's condition in the hours afterward. However, hard-liners urged the public to pray for him. State TV later aired images of the faithful praying at Imam Reza Shrine in the city of Mashhad. (SEE PAGE 2)