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Telangana sees rapid decline in fertility rates



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China launches 'punishment' drills surrounding Taiwan
 Move in retaliation to self-ruled island's new President's pro-independence speech



SPORT | PAGE 10

Sunrisers, Royals to battle it out for place in finals

In a nutshell
Gowda 'warns' Prajwal to return
BENGALURU: JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Thursday issued a 'stern warning' to his grandson and suspended party MP Prajwal Revanna, asking him to return and face a probe into sexual abuse allegations. He asserted that there will be no interference from him or the family in the inquiry.
 NATION PAGE 7

4 workers buried alive in J'khand
LOHARDAGA: At least four labourers, including a woman, were buried alive while digging a well in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district on Thursday, police said. The incident took place around 11 am at Chitri Ambatoli village under the Senha police station area, around 80 km from the State capital Ranchi, when the workers were digging a well under an MGNREGA project, a senior officer said. PTI

3 B'luru hotels, LSR get bomb threats
BENGALURU/DELHI: Three five-star hotels in Bengaluru and Lady Sri Ram College (LSR) in Delhi received bomb threats on Thursday. The hotels reportedly received the threat via email, leading to exhaustive search operations. It later turned out to be a hoax. Additionally, Delhi University's LSR College received a bomb threat. Officials said they found nothing suspicious yet. PTI

Abscinding AP MLA moves HC
AMARAVATI: YSRCP legislator Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, whom police are searching for after he was caught on camera smashing an EVM inside a polling booth in AP, has approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail. The MLA from Macherla Assembly constituency in Palnadu district filed a petition before the AP High Court through his lawyer. Reddy is the accused No. 1 in the case.
 NATION PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 140
Retail live.....	Rs. 162
With skin	Rs. 235
Skinless	Rs. 267
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72

Triple amputee climbs Mt Everest base camp

PANAJI
 Tinkesh Kaushik, a 30-year-old man from Goa, has become the world's first triple amputee to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp located 17,598 feet above sea level, a private disability rights body has claimed. Kaushik, who completed the challenging Everest Base Camp journey on May 11, said despite his physical disabilities, he managed to achieve the feat due to his mental strength. The man lost his both limbs below knees and a hand following an electrocution accident in Haryana when he was 9 years old. The amputee, who uses

BRS leader axed to death in his sleep

Found murdered outside home; KTR wants Jupally out of Cabinet



BRS working president KT Rama Rao consoles the bereaved family of slain party leader Boddu Sridhar Reddy in Wanaparthy.

STATE BUREAU
WANAPARTHY
 In yet another political murder in Telangana, a 50-year-old BRS leader was axed to death by unidentified persons outside his house at Laxmipally village in Chinambavi mandal of Wanaparthy district. The incident occurred early on Thursday, when the victim, Boddu Sridhar Reddy, was sleeping outside his house. He died on the spot and was found dead by the local people in the morning. Sridhar Reddy was a bachelor and used to live with his elderly parents, while his brothers work in Hyderabad. Though the local people are tightlipped over the reasons behind the murder, indications are that it was po-

Recent attacks on BRS cadre

- DEC 29, 2023:** Former Army jawan and BRS activist Ch Mallesh murdered at Gantraopalli village in Peddapalli mandal, Nagarkurnool district.
- JAN 4, 2024:** BRS activist Mahesh attacked by local sarpanch and Congress leader Joolia Narsaiah and followers at Komatipalli village in Jajigudem mandal, Suryapet.
- MARCH 13:** Group of women led by a Congress leader attacks BRS corporator Deedeeppya Rao in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.
- APRIL 9:** BRS activists attacked with sticks and knives by Congress cadre at Pandithapuram in Kamapally mandal, Khammam.
- MAY 11:** BRS leader Shankar Goud attacked by Congress leaders Siva Kumar and Srinivas during May Day celebrations in Begumpet village of Peddapalli district.
- MAY 13:** Multiple attacks by Congress on BRS cadre on election duty during Lok Sabha polling in Nakrekal Assembly constituency, Nagaram village of Hanamkonda district, Allapadu village in Khammam district, Vatpalli village in Sangareddy district.
- MAY 14:** Congress leaders attack BRS workers in Miryalaguda town.
- MAY 16:** Congress leaders attack residence of BRS leader, thrash his brothers with sticks at Achampet in Nagarkurnool district.

litically motivated. The village, which comes under the Wanaparthy district limits, is, however, part of the Kollapur Assembly constituency limits. Sridhar Reddy was a close aide of former BRS MLA Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy. The brutal murder triggered an immediate reaction from the BRS, with working president KT Rama Rao rushing to Laxmipally to meet the bereaved family.
 (SEE PAGE 2)

'Land dispute, money matters behind murder'
HYDERABAD: Countering the BRS, which on Thursday said Minister Jupally Krishna Rao was involved in the murder of BRS leader B Sridhar Reddy at Lakshimpally village in Kollapur constituency, the Minister claimed that land disputes and financial matters were the reasons behind the crime. "The murder was due to personal differences, but BRS was trying to project it as a politically instigated murder," he said in a statement. (SEE PAGE 2)

8 dead, 60 injured in Thane factory blast

THANE
 As many as eight persons were killed and over 60 others injured following an explosion at a chemical factory in Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday afternoon, officials said. As a boiler exploded at Amudan Chemicals located in Phase 2 of the Dombivli MIDC area around 1.40 pm, the impact of the explosion and the resultant blaze affected adjacent factories

and houses, they said. The factory produces food colours and uses peroxides that are highly reactive and unstable chemicals, the National Disaster Response Force said. The blast was so loud that it was heard a kilometre away, an eyewitness said. Six men and two women were killed but their bodies were charred beyond recognition, said an official. Those killed were working in neighbouring factories. PTI

AP student dies in NY accident

NEW YORK
 An Indian student died after he met with a bike accident in New York. Shri Belem Atchuth from Andhra Pradesh was a student at The State University of New York and passed away in a bike accident on Wednesday. "Saddened to learn about the untimely demise of Shri Belem Atchuth," the Consulate General of India said on X. The Consulate is in touch with the "bereaved family & local agencies". PTI

'I.N.D.I.A plans to have 5 PMs in 5 yrs'

MAHENDRAGARH/PATIALA
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday claimed that the I.N.D.I.A bloc is talking about having five PMs over the next five years and said the fight over 'ghee' has broken out in the alliance, even before the cow has given milk. Hours before campaigning for the sixth round of the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls came to an end, Modi at a rally in Haryana's Mahendragarh asserted that till he is alive, no one can snatch

Till I am alive, no one can snatch quota for Dalits and tribals... This election, you will not only choose the PM but also decide the country's future — **NARENDRA MODI**, PRIME MINISTER

the reservation for Dalits and tribals. In this election, "you will not only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future", the Prime Minister told the gathering. "On one hand is your tried and tested 'sevak' Modi. Who is on the other

Calls Mann 'kazgi CM'
 Meanwhile, Modi launched a fierce attack on ruling AAP in Punjab, saying that drug trade is flourishing in the State and the government is in debt. Addressing his first election rally in the State for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, he said Punjab has given leadership to the country in various sectors — from agriculture to industry. He then attacked the AAP, saying industries are now leaving Punjab while drug trade is growing. PTI

Woman's novel protest to fix potholes

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad
 Frustrated with the sub-standard state of roads along the Nagole and Uppal stretch in the city, a woman on Thursday registered her protest by sitting in a waterlogged pothole. Grabbing eyeballs both on the road and online, she demanded that the roads be repaired immediately. Videos of the incident went viral on social media platforms, which showed traffic police constables persuading her to cease her demonstration. However, soon others joined her with placards that read: 'We want safe roads. Don't you?' Maintaining that the protest did not hinder the

flow of traffic, the Nagole Circle Inspector said the unidentified woman was there for less than five minutes. "She staged the protest for a short time and we have no details of her identity. We suspect her to be a local resident," he added. Speaking to media soon after, the woman lamented that her children fell into those potholes a couple of times. "This is not just today, we face this problem every day. I have counted; there are 30 potholes on this road. We just want this fixed," she said, adding that she spoke to the Commissioner, who told her that a budget was allocated. She asked for a timeline for when the work would be completed. (SEE PAGE 2)

the reservation for Dalits and tribals. In this election, "you will not only choose the country's PM but also decide the country's future", the Prime Minister told the gathering. "On one hand is your tried and tested 'sevak' Modi. Who is on the other



The woman registering her protest by sitting in a waterlogged pothole at Nagole in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Rave party: Actors test +ve for drugs

MUMBAI
 Telugu actors Hema and Ashi Roy's blood samples have tested positive for the consumption of drugs at a rave party in Bengaluru. The rave party bust happened near Electronics City in Bengaluru. The blood samples of the attendees at the busted rave party were sent to a laboratory for testing, as per Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda. The blood samples of 59 men tested positive for drugs, while those of 27 women tested positive. Both Hema and Roy were present at the party. Hema, who was detained by cops,

used the excuse of going to the washroom to record a misleading video. She reportedly pleaded with police not to arrest her and keep her identity concealed. The rave party case, which was initially handled by the Electronic City Police, was transferred to the Hebbagodi police station before being taken over by Central Crime Branch. IANS



Telugu actors Hema (L) and Ashi Roy.