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56% turnout in J&K second phase of Assembly polls



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China test-fires ICBM, can now strike US cities
 Says launch tested weaponry performance, military training effectiveness



SPORT | PAGE 10
Rishabh Pant rises in ranking, enters top 10; Rohit, Kohli slip

In a nutshell
Jagan to visit Tirumala temple
AMARAVATI: Amid the raging controversy over alleged adulteration of Tirupati laddu, former Andhra Pradesh CM and YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy has decided to visit the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple on September 28. The YSRCP has called for puja in temples across the State on September 28 to restore the sanctity of Tirumala temple. **NATION PAGE 7**

Kangana sorry for farm laws remarks
NEW DELHI: BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Wednesday backtracked from her comments asking for the three farm laws repealed in 2021 to be brought back, once again finding herself in the middle of a political row, with the party distancing itself from her remarks and the Congress seeking action against her. Ranaut said her "personal" views do not represent BJP's stance". **NATION PAGE 8**

Rain in Mumbai, flights diverted
MUMBAI: After a long hiatus, heavy rain returned to lash Mumbai and surrounding areas on Wednesday, prompting the Met department to issue a red alert for the city and its neighbouring districts, predicting "extremely heavy rainfall". Officials said two flights were diverted and seven flights had to make a go-around at Mumbai airport due to inclement weather. **PTI**

ISB Hyd in top 100 for MBA courses
NEW DELHI: Three Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian School of Business (ISB)-Hyderabad have figured in world's top 100 for their MBA courses, according to QS rankings announced on Wednesday. The three IIMs are IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Calcutta. Also, the three B-schools have been ranked among top 50 for employability. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 125
Retail live.....	Rs. 147
With skin.....	Rs. 213
Skinless.....	Rs. 243
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 74

Congress' Musi cleaning plans murkier, says KTR

BRS working president corners govt on river project, Pharma City, HYDRAA

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government over its handling of the Musi river project and the Hyderabad Pharma City initiative, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday questioned the need for the river cleaning project, especially after achieving 94 per cent sewage treatment in Hyderabad. It was in fact targeted to achieve 100 per cent treatment during the BRS regime.

Leading a team of the party leaders, he visited the Fatehnagar Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Kukatpally to take stock of the work's progress under the Congress government. He criticised the government and Ministers for quoting varying and exorbitant costs for the Musi river project, ranging from Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore. He suggested that the project might be a cover-up for corruption, given the inconsistent cost estimates and the lack of a detailed project report (DPR) before



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and party MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy at the Fatehnagar Sewage Treatment Plant in Kukatpally on Wednesday.

announcing such high figures. Rama Rao emphasised that the visit to the Fatehnagar STP was just the beginning, with plans to inspect all STPs under construction. The goal was to make Hyderabad a city with 100 per cent treated wastewater, ensuring that only pure water flows into the Musi river.

He criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his statements about the inability to build double-bedroom houses in Hyderabad. He

questioned how the government could promise housing for the poor displaced by the Musi project if it couldn't deliver on its promises.

Highlighting the BRS government's achievements in acquiring land for the Hyderabad Pharma City, he criticised the Congress government for considering the project's cancellation. Despite rumours of cancellation, the Congress government recently reaffirmed its commitment to the Pharma

City project in court, stating that it remains intact and will continue. However, Rama Rao accused the government of slowing down the progress of STPs and other infrastructure projects initiated by the previous administration.

He called on the Congress government to stop its "publicity stunts" and asked the party leadership to fulfil the promises made by it to the people, including doubling pensions, providing gold, of-

fering Rs 2,500 assistance to women, and supporting farmers with Rythu Bharosa. He warned that the people of Hyderabad would continue to recognise the good deeds of the previous government and hold the current administration accountable for its failures.

Rama Rao's visit to the Fatehnagar STP was marked by an emotional moment when he recalled the words of a young girl, Vedashree, whose house was demolished by HYDRAA. He vowed to take action as per the orders of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and ensure justice for the affected families. Stating that the Congress was enacting an unnecessary drama under the guise of the HYDRAA demolitions, he said the government was practising double standards.

"If you have the courage, take action against those who issued permissions and the builders who violated the rules," he challenged Revanth Reddy, also stating that the BRS legal team would provide full support to the victims of HYDRAA demolitions. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Fuel price cut likely after Oct 5: Report

NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices may be reduced after October 5, according to CLSA, which has based its report on speculation after comments by Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, suggesting a cut last month.

The prices have not changed since March 2024. Jain had said state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) may consider reducing petrol and diesel prices if international crude prices stay low for an extended period, as per media reports. The CLSA, in its note, said, "Maharashtra is a crucial battleground, and the BJP-led alliance may consider lowering fuel prices as a populist move."

According to several media reports, Maharashtra's State elections are expected in early November. Final dates for the state election are likely announced by mid-October. The CLSA report suggests that along with any retail fuel price cut, the government may also raise excise duty on petrol and diesel.

Currently, the Centre levies an excise duty of Rs

CLSA report says BJP-led alliance may consider lowering crucial Maharashtra polls round the corner

19.8 and Rs 15.8 per litre on the sale of petrol and diesel. Current excise duty is 40 per cent and 50 per cent lower compared to the 2021 peak. According to CLSA, every rupee hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel would lead to an additional Rs 16,500 and Rs 5,600 crore collection annually in government accounts.

Excise duty is a tax levied on the manufacture or production of goods within the country. In the context of petrol and diesel, excise duty is a tax imposed by the Central government on the production or sale of these fuels within India.

Recently, crude oil prices saw a sharp decline in the International Market. On Wednesday, crude oil benchmark Brent Oil was \$74.15 per barrel and WTI was \$71.16 per barrel. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Won't allow Udandapur reservoir works: Ryots

STATE BUREAU
 Mahabubnagar

Farmers of Udandapur village, who lost their land to the Udandapur reservoir which is being constructed as part of the Palaru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation (PRRLI) project, have warned that they will not allow the government to carry out the works until it pays them compensation.

The farmers alleged that they were summoned to the Jacharla police station on Tuesday and threatened that if they created trouble during the visit of Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy's visit to the Gattu Lift Irrigation Scheme on Wednesday, cases would be booked against them.

The farmers made it clear that until compensation was not paid to them, they would not allow the government to take up construction works. They alleged that the police did not allow them to meet Uttam Kumar during his

visit on Wednesday to highlight their issues.

Jadcherla Congress MLA Janampalli Anirudh Reddy, during the Assembly polls, had promised to get them Rs 25 lakh as compensation if the Congress came to power and now he has gone back on his promise, they said. "The Congress has deceived us. We thought that if it comes to power, justice will be done. They used us to come to power," they said, pointing out that they would suffer huge financial losses by giving up their land and the compensation offered was not sufficient enough to buy a piece of land. They are demanding more compensation than what is being offered by the government.

The foundation stone for the project was laid by then Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao at Bhoopur on June 11, 2015. The State government also issued a notification to acquire land for its construction the same year. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



Displaced farmers of the PRLIS arguing with Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi at Udandapur in Mahabubnagar district on Wednesday.

MUDA case: Sidda may be booked

BENGALURU

A Special Court here on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, setting the stage for filing of an FIR against him.

The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot to conduct a probe against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife BM Parvathi by MUDA.

The Special Court, which deals with criminal cases related to former and elected MPs/MLAs, issued the order directing the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to initiate probe. **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**

Dasara lucky draw offers goat, scotch

STATE BUREAU
 Mancheril

A village here has come up with a unique way to celebrate Dasara, with a lucky draw that offers goats, chicken and premium scotch whisky as prizes. All that one has to do is purchase a lottery coupon worth Rs 100.

Six people from Boyapalli village in Thandur mandal came up with the interesting offer when they declared that they would conduct a draw of lots by selling coupons worth Rs 100 each on October 10. The prizes are not the usual run-of-the-mill home appliances or vehicles. The first prize is a male sheep while the second is a male goat. Winners of the third to sixth prizes will a bottle of liquor

with varied prices including Johnnie Walker scotch whisky. The eighth, ninth and 10th prize winners will get a country chicken each. "During the recently concluded Ganesh Chaturthi festival, we mulled over this idea to organise the draw of lots to give a unique prizes to winners. As many as 600 coupons have been sold out within 24 hours. The response to the event has been overwhelming," Masadi Vijay Kumar, one of the six young farmers, said.

Organisers said people not only from Mancheril district but also Nizamabad, Rajanna-Sircilla, Nalgonda, Peddapalli, Jagtial, Warangal, Hyderabad and even neighbouring Maharashtra have bought the coupons. The organisers plan to seek security during draw of lots.

Antibiotics no better than sugar pill!

M SAI GOPAL
 Hyderabad

With each passing year, antibiotics that are meant to treat common ailments are turning out to be ineffective.

Treating ailments such as Urinary Tract Infections (UTI), pneumonia, typhoid, infections of blood, lungs or diarrhoea due to E-coli infection is taking more time than usual, all thanks to increasing resistance to antibiotics.

The latest 'Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Surveillance Network' annual report data, between January 2023 and December 2023, taken up across the country, including Hyderabad, has given a clear indication that the most common class of antibiotics have become ineffective in treating ailments.

In a clear indication of antibiotics overuse, E-Coli, the

Rising drug resistance

BACTERIAL PATHOGENS DEVELOPING RESISTANCE

Klebsiella pneumoniae, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Salmonella Typhi

BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS THAT ARE NOT/PARTIAL WORKING

Piperacillin-Tazobactam, Mmlicacin, Imipenem, Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Ceftazidime-avibactam plus Aztreonam, Vancomycin, Ceftriaxone



DISEASES CAUSED BY BACTERIAL PATHOGENS

SALMONELLA TYPHI: Typhoid fever that spreads through contaminated food and water

E COLI: Diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach cramps; spreads through contaminated food and water

Enterococcus faecalis causes serious infections such as peritonitis, endocarditis

KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE: Spreads through hospital infections, common cause for UTIs

most common bacteria that causes a range of infections/disease among humans, including food-borne illness such as cramps, diarrhoea, fever, UTIs and dysentery, among others, is showing increased resistance to a variety of antibiotics. Over the years, rampant prescription and

self-medication of antibiotics, which were meant to kill E-Coli, are not effective anymore.

"E Coli isolates demonstrated decrease in susceptibility (which means that the bacteria has changed and is no longer responding well to the antibiotic) with an antibiotic piperacillin-

tazobactam dropping to 42 per cent in 2023 from 56.8 per cent in 2017," the ICMR report indicated.

Another common bacteria, Klebsiella pneumoniae, the most common kind of bacteria that causes Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), has simply become untreatable. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Hezbollah targets Mossad HQ in Tel Aviv

BEIRUT: Hezbollah, for the first time, launched a medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile from Lebanon on Wednesday at the headquarters of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad, the group said in a statement. "In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honourable resistance, and in defence of Lebanon and its people, the Islamic Resistance launched a Qader 1 ballistic missile targeting the Mossad headquarters in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, which is the headquarters responsible for assassinating leaders and blowing up pagers and wireless devices," it said. **(REPORTS PAGE 9)**

Zelenskyy invites India to second peace summit

UNITED NATIONS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the UN Security Council that "we have to prepare" the second peace summit to end the Russia-Ukraine war "altogether" and he has invited India and other countries to join the peace process. "We all know what needs to be done if we honestly look at the situation and truly want to stop Russia's war. Most importantly, act together, of course in unity, without creating new and unnecessary divisions of the world into blocks or regional groups," Zelenskyy told a Security Council meeting on the Ukraine conflict. **PTI (RELATED REPORT PAGE 9)**