



**HYDERABAD | PAGE 02**  
 Secunderabad railway station to be highly fortified



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
 Mexico gets first woman President in 200 years  
 Claudia Sheinbaum, scientist-turned-politician, has to address sluggish economy, rising debt



**SPORT | PAGE 11**  
 Grippy Carroz Alcaraz seals China Open title

**In a nutshell**

**Toddler drowns in water container**  
**SIDDIPET:** The happiness of a couple, who were blessed with a son after three daughters, was shortlived as he died just three years after his birth at Kammarapally village in Chinnakodur mandal. Baikan Rudransh, the son of Venu and Renuka, accidentally drowned in a water container at his house. A case has been registered.

**Prashant Kishor floats party**  
**PATNA:** Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Wednesday announced the launch of his political outfit Jan Suraj Party, a much-anticipated move by which he hopes to take the political landscape in Bihar by storm. Kishor also named Manoj Bharti, a Madhubani-born former Indian Foreign Service Officer, as working president of the party, saying the latter will hold the post till March. **NATION PAGE 7**

**Over 100 missing in boat capsizing**  
**ABUJA:** More than 100 people, mostly women and children, were missing after an overloaded boat bringing them back from an Islamic festival at night capsized in north-western Nigeria, authorities said. The locally made boat, whose capacity was 100 passengers, had about 300 people onboard along the Niger river when it overturned in Niger State's Mokwa district on Monday night, according to officials. **AP**

**KU Asst registrar suspended**  
**WARANGAL:** Kakatiya University assistant registrar Pendi Ashok Babu, who is facing charges of land grabbing, has been suspended. University registrar Mallareddy on Wednesday issued orders suspending Ashok Babu. There were allegations that he built a house by occupying varsity land and the same was proved during a survey conducted by the vigilance, revenue and KU officials. He built a house in survey no. 229 in Kumarpally suburb.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 110
Retail live.....	Rs. 132
With skin.....	Rs. 191
Skinless.....	Rs. 218
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



**Pooja in 'Thalopathy 69' soon**  
 Actor collaborates with Thalopathy Vijay once again after *Beast*

## 'Beautification or lootification'

**KTR holds Rahul responsible for demolition of homes under Musi riverfront project**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday held Congress leader Rahul Gandhi responsible for the ongoing demolition of homes for the Musi Riverfront Development Project, stating that the Congress leader gave his nod for the project in exchange for moneybags, ignoring public welfare. The project was being implemented under the guise of "beautification", but the real motive was "Musi lootification", he said. "Rahul Gandhi is the real force behind the demolition of homes in Hyderabad, driving a bulldozer over the houses of the poor for money bags," Rama Rao said during an informal interaction with the media at Telangana Bhavan.

Stating that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was merely the face of the project while Rahul Gandhi was running the show, he said Gandhi, who promised to come whenever anyone from Telangana called, was nowhere to be found while the poor were suffering. Rama Rao questioned the Congress leadership's motives and vowed to expose its involvement in corrupt practices soon. He said he was also aware of the contractor to whom the Congress planned to award the multi-crore Musi Riverfront Development Project. He also pointed out the inflated expenditure for the project was only meant to fill the coffers of the Congress leadership. "This is a Rs 16,000-crore project, but the Congress is spending Rs 1.5 lakh



BRS working president KT Rama Rao with residents of the project-affected areas, during a press conference on Wednesday.

Rahul Gandhi is the real force behind the demolition of homes in Hyderabad, driving a bulldozer over the houses of the poor for money bags — **KT RAMA RAO**, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

crore. Where is the extra money going?" he asked. The former Minister also questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the issue, stating that the project had received approval from the Governor under pressure from the Centre. "Why is the BJP silent on this? The Governor gave permission for the ordinance under pressure from the Centre. This is a joint scam by the Congress and BJP," he said, demanding that the State government convene a special Assembly session to discuss the matter in detail. Rama Rao said the Congress was spreading misinformation about the project's benefits, particularly regarding job creation. "The Congress claims that the Musi project will create lakhs of jobs. Where are these jobs coming from? In reality, 35 lakh people have

lost their jobs due to faulty policies such as HYDRAA and increased taxes," he said, also questioning the environmental and social impact of the project, stating that there was no proper study or survey to assess the same. "There is no clear plan. No survey, no report, no benefits outlined. Yet this government is ready to spend lakhs of crores while displacing thousands of poor families," he said. Rama Rao did not spare the Congress Ministers, charging them with ignorance and complicity. He said Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy lacked any knowledge about the Musi project and its impact. "If Venkat Reddy has the courage, he should visit the affected areas and explain the project to the people. Let him see how the people react," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Eight Israeli soldiers killed in combat with Hezbollah

**51 killed in Gaza during ground operations, airstrikes**

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel's ground incursion into Lebanon to battle Hezbollah militants left eight Israeli soldiers dead on Wednesday, as the region braced for further escalation as Israel vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack a day earlier. The Israeli military said seven soldiers were killed in two separate attacks, without elaborating. The assaults were among the deadliest against Israeli forces in months. Another seven troops, including a combat medic, were wounded. Earlier, the military had announced that a 22-year-old captain in a commando brigade was killed in Lebanon, the first Israeli combat death since the start of the incursion. The announcements came on the eve of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year.

In Gaza, Israeli ground and air operations in a hard-hit city killed at least 51 people, including women and children, Palestinian medical officials said. Hezbollah says its fighters clashed with Israeli troops.



Women mourn relatives killed in Israeli bombardment of Gaza Strip at a hospital in Deir al-Balah. — Photo: AP (REPORTS PAGE 9)

widely seen as the most powerful armed group in the region, said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops in two places inside Lebanon near the border. The Israeli military said

ground forces backed by airstrikes killed militants in "close-range engagements" without saying where. Israeli media reported infantry and tank units operating in south Lebanon after

**ADVISORY FOR INDIANS IN IRAN**

**NEW DELHI:** In the wake of the escalating tensions in West Asia, India on Wednesday advised its citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran. In an advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also urged the Indian nationals presently residing in Iran to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran. "We are closely monitoring the recent escalation in security situation in the region," the MEA said. "Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran. Those living in Iran are requested to remain vigilant and stay in touch." **PTI**

the military sent thousands of troops and artillery to the border. Hezbollah said it wounded and killed a group of Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon after detonating an explosive device. **AP**

## Rift in Cong on demolitions

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The ongoing demolitions targeting the homes of the poor have triggered a major rift within the Congress in Telangana, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's tendency to plough his own furrow triggering open dissent from several party leaders. A 'Congress party versus Congress government' situation is fast intensifying in Gandhi Bhavan. Key leaders, including former MP Madhu Yashki Goud, former MLA T Jagga Reddy and Addanki Dayakar, among others, have openly opposed the government's actions. They are not only extending support to the affected families, but also putting the State government in trouble, stating that the officials had no basis to fix the buffer

zone and full tank level for most water bodies and the Musi river. During his visit to the Musi riverfront areas in Chaitanyapuri and Kothapet on Tuesday, former MP and TPCC publicity committee chairman Madhu Yashki Goud warned officials against unnecessarily creating panic among the people with the demolitions. **(SEE PAGE 2)**  
**(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)**

## Conflict hits flight ops

NEW DELHI

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, some flights from Europe to India have been impacted, while Air India is monitoring the situation closely. German carrier Lufthansa cancelled its flights from Hyderabad to Frankfurt (LH753/01) and Mumbai to Frankfurt (LH757/01) due to current situation in West Asia. **PTI**

## Minister crosses 'line of decency' 'Adani friends with Congress?'

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Less than 24 hours after claiming to be a victim of BRS' social media trolling, Minister Konda Surekha came out with abusive, derogatory and baseless allegations against party working president KT Rama Rao, in the process dragging the personal lives of actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya into the public domain. The BRS working president has served a legal notice to Surekha. In a bid to target Rama Rao, the Congress Minister ended up making derogatory remarks against several actresses, drawing severe flak and triggering angry reactions from society, including the film industry and political sphere. Speaking to mediapersons here on Wednesday, the Minister had levelled multiple baseless and derogatory allegations, also hurling allegations against Akkineni Nagarjuna's family. Responding to Surekha's comments, Rama Rao pointed out that she had made similar baseless allegations in the past as well. Making it clear that neither he nor the BRS had anything to do with the comments against her on social media, he also asked the Minister to think how the women and children in his home would feel when a person like her made such allegations. He also asked why Surekha and other Congress leaders re-

**“ Film stars stay away from politics. Please don't drag us to criticise your opponents. As a woman in a responsible position, your comments and accusations against our family are completely irrelevant and false. I request you to withdraw your comments immediately — NAGARJUNA, Actor**

**“ I condemn the derogatory statements made by Minister @IKondaSurekha garu and demand an unconditional apology — HARISH RAO, BRS MLA**



### KTR serves legal notice to Surekha

**HYDERABAD:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao served a legal notice to Minister Konda Surekha, demanding an immediate retraction of her recent statements and a public apology. He warned that if she failed to apologise within 24 hours, he would initiate legal proceedings, including a defamation suit and relevant criminal cases. The notice follows Surekha's defamatory remarks against Rama Rao,

including accusation of phone tapping during his tenure as a Minister and personal allegations against him. He said the allegations were false and made with malicious intent to tarnish his reputation. He said the claims were baseless and defamatory, with no evidence. The comments were not only intended to defame him but also dragged unrelated individuals, such as actors, into political discourse. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

### Don't trivialise my life: Samantha

**HYDERABAD:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu found fault with Minister Konda Surekha for trivialising her and dragging her name into political battles. She implored the Minister to be responsible and respectful of the privacy of individuals. "To be a woman, to come out and work, to

survive in a glamorous industry where women are more often than not treated as props, to fall in love and to fall out of love, to still stand up and fight. I am proud of what this journey turned me into — please don't trivialise it," she posted on Instagram.

### Restrain your politicians: Amala

**HYDERABAD:** Actor and activist Amala Akkineni condemned the defamatory statements made by Minister Konda Surekha against her husband and actor Nagarjuna. In a strongly worded response, she urged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to restrain Congress leaders from making such allegations

and make the Minister retract her statements. Amala said she was shocked to see a woman Minister turn into a demon, conjuring evil fictions as allegations, preying on decent citizens as fuel for a political war. "If leaders lower themselves into the gutter and behave like criminals, what will happen to our country?" she asked.

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Amid speculations over a possible change of guard in the Congress government in Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the agenda behind an alleged meeting between a senior Minister in the State Cabinet, Congress strategist Sunil Kanugolu and representatives of Adani Group at a hotel here. He wondered whether Adani had become friends with the Congress or the meeting was meant to usurp

84 acres of prime land in Raidurg. "Why did Adani meet with No. 2 in Telangana Cabinet in the presidential suite of ITC Kohenu today evening? And more importantly, what was Sunil Kanugolu doing in the meeting? Has Adani become friends with Congress or is it to usurp the 84 Acres of precious Govt land in Rayadurgam? (sic)" he asked. Speculation has been rife that the Congress was planning to change the Chief Minister in Telangana, especially after Revanth

Reddy drawing huge flak for the demolitions taken up with regard to HYDRAA and the controversial Musi project. Reports were widely shared on social media about an alleged meeting between Sunil Kanugolu, representative of Adani and a senior Minister who is in the race to become the next Chief Minister. Sources said the meeting was not about social media strategy and indicated that the meeting was held to devise a strategy to untangle the Congress from the ongoing controversies.

## 3 killed in helicopter crash; IAF chopper crash-lands



Smoke billows after a helicopter crashed and caught fire in Pune. — Photo: PTI



The IAF helicopter which made an emergency landing. — Photo: PTI

**PUNE:** Two ex-IAF pilots and an engineer were killed after a helicopter belonging to a private aviation company crashed and caught fire near Pune city on Wednesday morning. The chopper, belonging to Delhi-based Heritage Aviation, was hired by the Nationalist Congress Party, said its Maharashtra unit chief and MP Sunil Tatkare. He flew in it a day before, and was supposed to travel by it again on Wednesday, he said. It took off from Oxford County Golf Course helipad near Pune. **PTI**

**MUZAFFARPUR:** An IAF helicopter on flood relief duty made an emergency landing in a waterlogged area in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Wednesday after it developed a snag, officials said. Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar said the helicopter was coming from adjoining Darbhanga after air-dropping relief materials to flood-hit people. "All its occupants were IAF personnel and were pulled out by locals," said the SSP. **PTI**