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Hyderabad's eat streets lure gastronomes this Ramzan



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Istanbul mayor faces 2nd day of grilling, protests intensify

Ekrem Imamoglu appears before police for questioning on terror-related charges



SPORT | PAGE 10

IPL 2025 kicks off, RCB beats KKR in opener

In a nutshell

Hindi writer picked for Jnanpith award

NEW DELHI: Eminent Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla was on Saturday named the recipient of the 59th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour. He will be the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive the award. The 88-year-old short story writer, poet and essayist, considered one of the greatest contemporary writers in the language, is the 12th Hindi writer to receive the award. **NATION PAGE 8**

CRPF jawan killed in anti-Naxal op

CHAIBASA: A CRPF personnel was killed and another was injured in a blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Saturday, police said. The IED blast occurred around 2.30 pm near Vangram Marangponga forest in Chotanagra police station area when an anti-Naxal operation was under way, they said. The Improvised Explosive Device (IED), planted by Maoists to target security forces, exploded during a search operation, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said. **PTI**

Sushant case: CBI files closure report

NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed a closure report in the alleged suicide case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, officials said on Saturday. It has submitted its findings before a special court in Mumbai, which will now decide whether to accept the report or order further probe by the agency, the officials said. Rajput was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14, 2020. He was 34. **PTI**

Cash row: CJI forms probe panel

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Saturday constituted a three-member committee to conduct an inquiry into allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma from whose official residence a large stash of cash was allegedly discovered after a fire. CJI Khanna ordered the in-house inquiry after getting a report from Chief Justice of Delhi High Court DK Upadhyay and asked him not to assign any judicial work to Justice Varma. **NATION PAGE 7**

Ramzan Timings

Iftar Sunday 6:34 PM
Saheer Monday 4:55 AM

Water fundamental for living, not expense: KCR

Blames Cong for TG's worsening water crisis, drying reservoirs

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Saturday lashed out at the Congress government for reducing irrigation and drinking water to an economic issue instead of treating it as a fundamental necessity. He blamed it for Telangana's worsening water crisis and drying reservoirs.

Addressing the party cadre at his Erravalli residence, marking the conclusion of a 180-km padayatra led by former Ramagundam MLA Korukanti Chander from Ramagundam to Hyderabad, he demanded that the State government address the growing water crisis in Telangana.

"Water once abundant under the BRS rule has now disappeared under the Congress regime. Why has the Kaleshwaram project, which brimmed with water last year, dried up today?" Chandrashekhara Rao asked, blaming the government's administrative neglect, turning once-thriving farmlands



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao with party cadre led by former Ramagundam MLA Korukanti Chander, who concluded a 180-km padayatra, at Erravalli on Saturday.

into parched deserts. Drawing comparisons, he said even desert nations such as the Gulf and cities like Chennai invest in desalination and water conservation, despite the economic challenges. In contrast, Telangana's current rulers treat water as an expense rather than a necessity, he said.

The BRS chief slammed the Congress for failing to prioritise water manage-

ment, unlike the BRS government which had stabilised agriculture, ensured irrigation, provided free electricity, paddy procurement and implemented schemes such as Rythu Bandhu investment support. He said these efforts kept farmers secure for a decade, but the current government was not spending adequately, citing costs involved. "Governments exist

to serve people, not to count expenses. Even desert nations purify sea water to sustain their citizens. Telangana needs irrigation and drinking water, and no government should hesitate to provide them," he stated.

He also questioned the deterioration of power supply, failure of Mission Bhagiratha to provide drinking water and drying up of water bodies. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Freeze delimitation for 25 years: JAC

MPs to submit joint representation to PM Modi and press for demands in Parliament

CHENNAI

The DMK-led Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting to ensure "fair delimitation" on Saturday urged the Centre to extend the freeze on Parliamentary constituencies, based on the 1971 Census population, by another 25 years and decided that MPs would submit a joint representation to press for demands to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Parliamentary session.

A resolution adopted in the JAC meeting said any delimitation exercise carried out by the Centre to improve the "content and character" of democracy should be carried out transparently, enabling political parties of all States, State governments and other stakeholders to deliberate, discuss and contribute.

"Given the fact that the legislative intent behind the 42nd, 84th and 87th Constitutional amendments was to protect/incentivise States which have implemented population control measures effectively and the goal of national population stabilisation has not yet been



BRS working president KT Rama Rao with Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin in Chennai on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

Threat to Southern States, says KTR

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao voiced serious concerns over the potential fallout of the ongoing delimitation process in South India. Speaking at the Delimitation Conference in Chennai, Rama Rao termed the move a threat to the future of Southern States and warned that the current policy risks undermining their economic contributions, governance achievements and democratic representation. He said the Centre was perpetuating decades of discrimination against the region. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

achieved, the freeze on Parliamentary constituencies, based on the 1971 Census Population, should be extended by another 25 years," it said. The States which have effectively implemented the population control programme and consequently whose population share has come down, should not be penalised and the Centre must enact necessary constitutional amendments for this purpose. **PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)**

Persecution of Hindus in B'desh a worry: RSS

BENGALURU

The RSS on Saturday expressed serious concern about the allegedly planned violence, injustice and oppression faced by the Hindu and other minority communities at the hands of radical Islamist elements in Bangladesh after the regime change there.

On the second day of the meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the highest decision-making body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Says attacks on Mutts, temples, Durgapuja pandals, desecration of deities, barbaric killings being reported continuously

Sangh (RSS), a resolution was passed on Bangladesh.

The RSS said the persecution of the Hindus is a serious case of violation of human rights. "The ABPS expresses its serious con-

cern on the unabated and planned violence, injustice and oppression faced by Hindus and other minority communities at the hands of radical Islamist elements in Bangladesh," it said.

It further said during the recent regime change in Bangladesh, several incidents of attacks on Mutts, temples, Durgapuja pandals and educational institutions, desecration of deities, barbaric killings, looting, abduction and molestation of women and forcible conversions are being reported. **PTI**

APSRTC bus mows down police official

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An Additional Superintendent of Police-rank officer died when an APSRTC bus hit him at Hayathnagar on city outskirts on Saturday.

According to the police, TM Nandeewara Babji went for a walk around 4.40 am on Saturday. "While he was crossing the road near Laxma Reddy Pallem Hanuman temple, an RTC bus of

the Nuizveedu depot, travelling from Abdullahpurmet to Hayathnagar, hit him. He fell and sustained serious injuries. Death was instant for him," said the Hayathnagar police. Babji was recently promoted and asked to report to the DGP office. The body was shifted to the Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem.

Bus driver Kongara Kiran Kumar was taken into custody and booked.

Class X student run over by bus

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a tragic incident, a Class X student, who was returning home after appearing for SSC exams, died in a road accident at Gachibowli on Saturday.

According to the local police, Prabhathi C (16) appeared for the exam at a centre in Gachibowli in the morning. After the exam, her brother Suman came to pick her up from the exam centre. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Cab drivers to step up 'No AC Campaign'

INDRAJEET DEVULAPALLY
Hyderabad

Following their boycott of rides to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, cab drivers of Hyderabad will begin the 'no air conditioning campaign', from March 24, marking a protest against unfair pricing by cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber and Rapido.

Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' union (TGPWU) president Shaik Salahuddin says the union will protest against the low fares by demonstrating their protests in different ways. The TGPWU demands that



cab-aggregators implement a uniform fare structure similar to the government-mandated prepaid taxi fares, which reflect fuel costs,

maintenance and fair compensation for the driver's services. It also alleges that the apps now charge rates cheaper than auto-rick-

shaws for cabs, making earning difficult for those driving cabs. By launching the campaign, the TGPWU urges customers to understand the financial challenges faced by the cab drivers. Highlighting that causing inconvenience to customers is not their intention, the union asks them to consider tipping cab drivers for turning on the AC during their rides.

With temperatures soaring in Hyderabad, cab rides without AC amid the city traffic will likely be uncomfortable for customers hailing services from the aggregators. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

HONDA

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