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Coastal areas need strong infrastructure, says PM



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Three dead as Russia pounds Ukraine's Kharkiv

Overnight strikes hit Ukrainian military targets including ammunition depots



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Gauff stuns Sabalenka; wins French Open title

In a nutshell

**Holy dip turns fatal for Hyderabad boy**

**KOTHAGUDEM:** A seven-year-old boy from Hyderabad drowned in Godavari river at Bhadrachalam while taking a holy dip with his family. Akhil Goud had come to Bhadrachalam along with his parents, Swapna and Dhanunjay Goud, from Ramanthapur in Hyderabad to offer prayers at the Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam. During the dip, Akhil is believed to have ventured deeper into the water and drowned.

**Indian set for space mission**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others are set to embark on the Axiom Space's fourth human spaceflight from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 10. They are expected to dock at the International Space Station on June 11 at around 10 pm IST, after a nearly 28-hour journey. Shukla, serving as the mission pilot, will be accompanied by mission commander Peggy Whitson and specialists.

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**India's extreme poverty rate drops**

**NEW DELHI:** India's extreme poverty rate declined sharply to 5.3% over a decade from 27.1% in 2011-12, even as the World Bank revised upwards its threshold poverty line to \$3 per day. Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme poverty line of \$3 would constitute a 15% higher threshold than \$2.15 expressed in 2021 and result in a 5.3% poverty rate in 2022-23, the World Bank said in a report.

NATION PAGE 8



**Deepika onboard Atlee's next**

Film's visuals give the impression that the actor plays a queen

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**YUVRAJ AKULA**  
Hyderabad

With the task force teams of Telangana Commissioner of Food Safety noticing unhygienic practices in several kitchens of city restaurants, the Health Department has decided to set up new food testing labs in Hyderabad.

The department proposed six new food testing laboratories with one each in six Hyderabad zones - LB Nagar, Charminar, Khairatabad, Secunderabad, Serilingampally, and Kukatpally.

This decision comes following a series of inspec-



The new labs will be located to cover both urban and adjoining semi-urban areas with high density of restaurants.

tions by food safety officials that revealed deplorable conditions in the kitchens of several restaurants besides

adulterated food being served under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

The six labs will be located to cover both urban and adjoining semi-urban areas with a high density of restaurants.

The new labs are aimed at ensuring food served by the restaurants to its patrons meet quality and safety standards. Each laboratory will be equipped with modern testing equipment to detect contaminants, adulteration, and overall food hygiene. The department proposed Rs.15 crore for setting up each lab, bringing the total expenditure to Rs.90 crore.

"During our raids, we have come across some extremely unhygienic prac-

tices in some restaurants, including preserving mutton and chicken for about one month from date of packaging, use of synthetic colours and expired spices. Some restaurants were found to preserve finely grounded leafy vegetables without use before or expiry date. Whenever we come across such things, we immediately discard them," a Health Department official said.

As per NRAI's India Food Services Report 2024, there are a staggering 74,807 restaurants in both organised and unorganised food services sectors across Hyderabad.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**IAF to hold massive combat drill near border**

NEW DELHI

India has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a major Indian Air Force (IAF) exercise scheduled to take place near the southern sector of the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan from Saturday, June 7, to Sunday, June 8. The exercise is part of the IAF's regular operational preparedness and will be conducted in airspace near the border. According to the NOTAM, the aerial drill will commence at 3:30 p.m. on June 7 and conclude at 9:30 p.m. the following day. During this period, airspace over the designated region will be restricted to ensure the safe and seamless execution of air operations.

The combat exercises will feature a range of advanced air assets, including frontline fighter jets such as Rafale, Mirage 2000, and Sukhoi-30, in addition to surveillance platforms, and other support systems.

IAN5

**Bihar polls like Maha will be fixed, says Rahul**

NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi claimed on Saturday that the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections were a "blueprint for rigging democracy", drawing rebuke from BJP president J P Nadda, who accused the Congress leader of "cooking up bizarre conspiracies" in his desperation after losing a series of polls.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged in an article in a newspaper that this poll "match-fixing" would next happen in the Bihar elections and "anywhere the BJP is losing".

In a post on X, he said, "My article shows how this happened, step by step: Step 1: Rig the panel for appointing the Election Commission. Step 2: Add fake voters to the roll. Step 3: Inflate voter turnout. Step 4: Target the bogus voting exactly where the BJP needs to win.

Rahul's article is a blueprint for manufacturing fake narratives, owing to desperation of losing elections

— J P NADDA  
BJP PRESIDENT

Step 5: Hide the evidence."

Hitting back, Nadda said Gandhi's article is a blueprint for manufacturing fake narratives, owing to his sadness and desperation of losing election after election. He said, "Here's how he does it, step by step. Step 1: The Congress Party gets defeated in election after election due to its antics. Step 2: Instead of introspecting, he cooks up bizarre conspiracies and cries rigging."

PTI

**Musk hints at forming 'The America Party'**

WASHINGTON

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has ignited fresh speculation in the American political landscape by hinting at the formation of a new political party, possibly named 'The America Party.'

Though Musk has not made a direct announcement, a series of posts on his social media platform X have fuelled widespread discussions.

Musk floated a poll asking whether a new political party was needed in the United States. He claimed that 80 per cent of respondents supported the idea. "The public has spoken. A new political party is needed in America to represent the 80 per cent in the middle! And exactly 80 per cent of people agree. This is fate," he wrote. Following this, a user posted an image suggesting the name "America Party". Musk responded, "The name America Party sounds great."

IAN5

a Central Government PSU, recommended shifting the project to Medigadda, where water availability was considerably higher at 1,651 TMC compared to Tummidihatti's limited capacity.

The Medigadda site enabled the construction of three barrages — Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla — storing 38 TMC of water in the Godavari river, and irrigating drought-prone areas.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**'THUMMALA ALSO BACKED MEDIGADDA'**

**HYDERABAD:** Reiterating that the construction of the Medigadda barrage as part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme could not be attributed singularly to any individual or entity, BRS leader T Harish Rao on Saturday recalled that even the present Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageshwar Rao was also a signatory to the decision-making process in favour of it. In a compelling powerpoint presentation at Telangana Bhavan, the former Irrigation Minister highlighted that Nageswara Rao was a key member of a three-member Cabinet sub-committee formed during the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government to oversee the redesign and reengineering process involving the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. This sub-committee played a crucial role in shaping the project, including the decision to relocate the main barrage from Tummidihatti to Medigadda.

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**MOVE TO SHIFT PROJECT DRIVEN BY TECHNICAL NECESSITIES, NOT POLITICAL MOTIVES**

**'Congress-BJP trying to malign project'**

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress-BJP nexus in the State, Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday accused both the national parties of orchestrating a campaign to tarnish the reputation of the Kaleshwaram Project, a critical irrigation lifeline for Telangana's farmers.

Speaking at a presentation titled "Kaleshwaram Project: Countering False Propaganda with Facts," delivered by former Minister and MLA T Harish Rao, he defended the transformative initiative spearheaded by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Highlighting Chandrashekar Rao's vision for the rebuilding of the State, he credited him with harnessing the Godavari River's waters to bolster Telangana's agriculture. "KCR, a true visionary, ended decades of farmers' struggles by ensuring water security," he said, noting that projects like Palamuru-Ranga Reddy and Sitarama neared 90 per cent comple-

tion during the BRS rule, paving the way for a prosperous, fertile State.

However, for the past 18 months, the Congress-BJP alliance was waging a relentless smear campaign, distorting facts to mislead the public about the project, he said, accusing the Congress-led government of undermining Telangana's core aspirations - water, funds, and jobs - through misrule, corrupt practices.

Congress had colluded with contractors and diverted funds to its leaders in Delhi, while leveling baseless charges against BRS, he said, also questioning the silence of Congress and BJP leaders on unauthorised projects in AP, contrasting this with their aggressive scrutiny of State's decade-long developmental gains.

He also criticised the National Dam Safety Authority for its selective focus, ignoring major failures elsewhere, such as Gujarat's Morbi bridge collapse, which killed 140 people, recurring bridge failures in Bihar, SLBC tunnel disaster that claimed eight lives, and flooding at Vattem pump house.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**NARROW ESCAPE**



People gather near a Kedarnath Dham-bound helicopter after it made an emergency landing at Badasa area in Uttarakhand on Saturday. Five pilgrims and pilot escape unhurt. — Photo: PTI



**Five Naxalites gunned down**

BIJAPUR

Five Naxalites were killed in two encounters with security forces in an ongoing operation in the Indravati National Park area of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Saturday.

With the latest casualties, seven Naxalites, including top leaders Sudhakar and Bhaskar, were neutralised in the operation in the last three days, they said. "Security forces have recovered the bodies of seven Maoists during the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the Indravati National Park area of the district," a senior police official said.

On Saturday, two bodies were recovered following a gunfight, while three were found after the exchange of fire on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, he said. The official said the

operation involving personnel from the state police's Special Task Force (STF) and District Reserve Guard (DRG) as well as the CRPF's specialised unit CoBRA, was launched on June 4 based on input about the presence of Maoist leader Sudhakar, Telangana State Committee member Bandi Prakash, Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) member Pappa Rao, and a few other cadres.

On Friday, security forces neutralised Bhaskar alias Mailarapu Adellu, a special zonal committee (SZC) member of the Telangana State Committee (TSC) of Maoists who carried a reward of Rs 45 lakh in Chhattisgarh and Telangana, and Maoists' central committee member Narasimha Chalam alias Sudhakar, who had a bounty of Rs 40 lakh in Chhattisgarh, was killed, he said.

(SEE PAGES 2, 5)

**Drunk man beats neighbour, mistaking her to be his wife**

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

An inebriated man mistook a woman who stays in his neighbourhood to be his wife and attacked her with lethal weapons resulting in life threatening injuries to the victim at Mailardevpally.

According to the police, Saleem, a daily wageer, stayed along with his wife Noorjahan, in Uddamangadda in Mailardevpally. The couple are natives of Nanded district in Maharashtra. Beside Saleem's room, a woman named Abida stayed with family. "On Friday night, Saleem consumed liquor and in an inebriated condition went into the neighbour's room where Abida was asleep. He mistook her to be his wife and attacked her."