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## NO TEXTBOOKS YET CBSE asks schools to start teaching 3rd language in 7 days

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the introduction of a third language (R3) in Class 6 mandatory from the 2026-27 academic session, directing all affiliated schools to comply within seven days, according to an official circular issued on Thursday. Calling the move "urgent and mandatory", the board said all schools must begin implementation immediately, even if textbooks are not yet available. "It has been learnt that many schools have already initiated the implementation of R3... All remaining schools are hereby directed to ensure compliance within 7 days from the date of issuance of this circular," the CBSE said in its notice. Schools have also been asked to start teaching the third language right away, using locally available material until official textbooks are released.

## Air India flight makes 'pan pan' call after engine stalls mid-air

MUMBAI: An Air India aircraft makes a 'pan pan' alert while enroute Bengaluru on Thursday. The incident took place on flight AI 2812, an A320 Neo aircraft. The flight, originally to take off at 2.05am, took off at around 2.15am. The aircraft returned to the Mumbai airport at around 2.35am. According to officials the passengers reported soaked during takeoff. One of the officials said, "According to the official information available, there was a sound heard and sparks seen while takeoff. The pilot declared 'pan pan' and returned to the airport a few minutes after takeoff." "It was later known that its engine 2 had stalled," the official added.



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# Will Amaravati dent Hyderabad realty?

## Telangana's Registration & Stamps Dept starts studying Amaravati's impact on TG realty, including Hyd

Revenue from TG property registrations fell to Rs 14,214 cr in FY25 from Rs 14,588 cr in FY24  
Hyd realty in slow

lane for last 3 years due to various reasons

TG officials fear AP's boost to Amaravati may adversely affect



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

ANDHRA Pradesh's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his son and IT & HRD Minister N Lokesh have gone on record a couple of times that AP's Amaravati, capital city in the making,

will outclass Hyderabad in due course. People who have seen Hyderabad's IT boom under the watch of Naidu as undivided AP's Chief Minister, will not look askance at those statements. Leave alone the arena for competitive growth in IT and other sec-

tors; Amaravati has already gained traction enough to dent Hyderabad's real estate sector, going by the hard talk in certain informed quarters.

But will Amaravati really affect the trajectory of the Telangana realty? The

Telangana government too, concerned over this aspect, is studying the ramifications of AP's new Greenfield capital city, which is being developed at a cost of over Rs 70,000 crore, on Telangana's land prices, construction activity,

and investments in realty in the new financial year. The Telangana Registration & Stamps Department has begun analysing the data relating to registration of properties following the recent announcement of

Amaravati as the sole capital of AP. For, already, revenue from registrations in TG decreased to Rs 14,214 crore in the financial year 2024-2025. It was Rs 14,588 crore in FY24. Although the state government expected huge revenue from property registrations in the 2025-2026 financial year; it remained low in the last financial year too. Given this trend, attributed to Amaravati factor, government officials have started raising doubts over the feasibility of achieving the target relating to revenue

from property registration in the new financial year i.e. FY27. The officials said that the government set a target of Rs 19,540 crore, which is Rs 3,000 crore higher than that of last year. A major challenge for the state government is that some real estate developers in Hyderabad are said to be shifting their focus to Amaravati. Some of these developers have already held meetings with officials in Amaravati to gauge the potential of real estate growth in the new capital in the coming years. **Continued on Page 7**

# Excess paddy, rice stocks haunt TG govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government is worried over excess paddy and rice stocks in the wake of increasing production! Taking serious note of it, State Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy requested Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi to increase procurement targets of boiled rice targets by 5 LMT for Rabi 2024-25 by reducing the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) raw rice target.

In a letter to the Union Minister, Uttam brought to the notice of the Centre that there was a mismatch between the state's boom-

STATE REQUESTS CENTRE TO PROCURE 20 LMT BOILED RICE MORE

ing paddy production and the Centre's shrinking procurement allocations. Currently, 8.45 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of rice are yet to be delivered. The original deadline of February 28 has already passed, and the state has sought a 60-day extension.

The Minister noted that Telangana paddy's superior grain characteristics and lower moisture levels make it ideal for boiled (parboiled)



rice conversion. Rice millers have agreed in principle to supply with only 5 per cent broken rice, offering a practical solution, he added.

He sought enhancement of the boiled rice target by 20.00

LMT for the entire KMS 2025-26 (covering both Kharif and Rabi seasons).

Uttam also stressed the need for further extension of two months for Rabi 2024-25 deliveries. The state procures paddy on behalf of the union government under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers and prevent distress sales. However, the Centre's

policy of reducing Custom Milled Rice (CMR) and boiled rice targets has left Telangana struggling with excess stocks, storage costs, milling expenses, and interest liabilities.

Telangana has seen exponential growth in paddy output post-2023 due to improved irrigation and farmer-centric policies, the Minister emphasised, adding that continued procurement is essential to safeguard interests of lakhs of farmers, but the state can't indefinitely bear the financial strain of excess paddy without adequate central support in the form of higher boiled rice allocations and timely extensions.

'REGIME CHANGE' VS 'BJP BUYING VOTES'

# Modi, Mamata trade barbs at election rallies in Bengal

KOLKATA



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee traded barbs at separate poll rallies on Thursday ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

While PM accused the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) of 'cruelty', Banerjee alleged that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) deleted names of more than 90 lakh people from the state's voter lists.

At an election rally in Asansol, Modi said that a re-

gime change in West Bengal was inevitable, as the TMC's "repository of sins" has become full. "A regime change in Bengal is now cast in stone and sought by the people of Bengal. TMC's repository of sins is now full. Asansol is being ruled by syndicate raj, coal and sand mafia," the prime minister said.

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# US-Iran truce strains amid Lebanon strikes

TEHRAN: A two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran is teetering on the brink of collapse just days after its announcement, as escalating Israeli military operations in Lebanon expose a critical loophole in the agreement.

While the truce was intended to pause a month of regional hostilities, both Washington and Jerusalem have explicitly confirmed that the deal excludes operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon. **Cont'd on Page 7**

## US READY FOR NEXT CONQUEST: TRUMP

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that US military forces will remain deployed in and around Iran until Tehran fully complies with the "real agreement," warning that any breach would trigger a military response larger than anything seen before.

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## NETANYAHU DIRECTS PEACE TALKS WITH LEBANON SOON

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said he has directed his government to initiate peace talks with Lebanon, with a key focus on the disarming of Hezbollah and establishing normal ties between the two countries. "In light of Lebanon's repeated requests to open direct negotiations with Israel, I instructed the cabinet yesterday to begin talks with Lebanon at the earliest," Netanyahu said in a statement.



## Heavy turnout marks high-stakes voting day in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry

NEW DELHI: A surge in voter enthusiasm marked the high-stakes Assembly elections on Thursday, with turnout figures by 3 pm touching a striking 85.64% in Assam, 78.71% in Kerala and 89.87% in Puducherry.

Over 5.3 crore electors turned out in large numbers, reflecting robust participation as they cast their votes to shape the political future of the two states and the union Territory.

Polling commenced at 7 am and is set to continue until evening across 140 constituencies in Kerala, 126 in Assam and 30 in Puducherry.

Officials said elaborate arrangements, including heightened security deployment, extensive webcasting and drone surveillance in sensitive areas, were put in place to ensure free and fair elections.

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# IMD predicts heat wave for next 3 days in TG

STAY HYDRATED, WEAR COTTON, AVOID GOING OUT AT NOON

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Health Department on Thursday issued an advisory to the people of the state to take precautions in the wake of Indian Meteorological Department predicting heat wave for the next three days.

The IMD's Hyderabad unit has forecast gradual rise in the maximum temperature by 2-3°C during the next three days in Telangana. In this regard, the Health Department has issued dos and don'ts for the citizens of Telangana. Under do's the Health Depart-



ment has asked the citizens to stay hydrated by drinking sufficient water as and when possible, even if they are not thirsty. Use oral rehydration solution (ORS) and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, buttermilk /

fruit juices / salt-sugar solution (Homemade ORS: one litre of drinking water, six level teaspoons of sugar and half level teaspoon of salt; stir well until all components are dissolved). Citizens have been asked to carry water during travelling time, eat seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, grapes,

pineapples, cucumbers or any other locally available fruits and vegetables.

Citizens have been asked to wear thin loose cotton garments preferably light coloured ones. Cover the head by using the umbrella/hat/cap/towel or any other traditional head-gears during exposure to the direct sunlight. Wear shoes or chappals while going out in the sun. Stay to the extent possible in well-ventilated areas and in cool premises.

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