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Agnipath a national security threat: Congress



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Spain, Norway, Ireland recognise Palestine
 Move comes as EU rift with Israel widens; Tel Aviv slams decision



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Sat-Chi out of Singapore Open in first round

In a nutshell
Pak violated deal with India: Nawaz
LAHORE: Former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday admitted that Islamabad had "violated" an agreement with India signed by him and ex-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999. "On May 28, 1998, Pakistan carried out five nuclear tests. After that Vajpayee Saheb came here and made an agreement with us. But we violated that agreement...it was our fault," Sharif said.
WORLD PAGE 9

Dera chief acquitted in murder case
CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana High Court acquitted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others in the murder case of sect's former manager Ranjit Singh in 2002. Ram Rahim, who is also serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples, is lodged in Sunaria jail. The Dera chief was also convicted for murder of a journalist over 16 years ago.
NATION PAGE 8

ACB raids RTA offices in State
HYDERABAD: The ACB sleuths conducted raids at 12 offices of RTA in the State following complaints of corruption. The ACB seized Rs 2.70 lakh cash from the offices. A total of 15 teams launched raids on RTA offices at Malakpet, Bandlaguda, Tolichowki, Ranga Reddy, Karimnagar, Siddipet, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Mahabubabad and three check posts at Nizamabad, Adilabad and Khammam.
STATE PAGE 4

Link PAN with Aadhaar by May 31
NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department asked taxpayers to link PAN with Aadhaar by May 31 to avoid tax deduction at a higher rate. If a PAN is not linked with biometric Aadhaar, TDS is required to be deducted at double the applicable rate. Last month, the I-T issued a circular stating that no action will be taken for a short deduction of TDS in case the assessee links his/her PAN with Aadhaar by May 31.
PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 133
Retail live.....	Rs. 155
With skin.....	Rs. 225
Skinless.....	Rs. 256
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67



'Pushpa 2' makers drop new poster
 Tease fans with new poster ahead of second song release

Nights no longer cooler in cities

Hyd among six cities with rising heat stress

PTI
NEW DELHI
 Increasing concretisation and humidity levels are exacerbating heat stress in India's megacities, including Hyderabad, which are not cooling down at night at the same rate as a decade ago, according to a new report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
 The CSE analysed summer air temperature, land surface temperature, and relative humidity data for six megacities — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai from April 2001 to April 2024.
 The think tank found that increased humidity is worsening heat stress across all climate zones, even nullifying the marginal drop in air temperatures in Delhi and Hyderabad.
 Barring Bengaluru, summertime average relative humidity has increased by 5-10 per cent in the other five megacities from 2014-2023 compared to the 2001-2010 average. The CSE report comes at a time when blis-

Megacities, mega stress

ACCORDING TO CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT, INDIA'S MEGACITIES ARE NOT COOLING DOWN AT NIGHT AT THE SAME RATE AS A DECADE AGO

- It analysed summer air temperature, land surface temperature, and relative humidity data of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai from January 2001 to April 2024
- Increased humidity worsening heat stress across all climate zones
- Barring Bengaluru, summertime average relative humidity increased by 5-10% in other five megacities
- In last 10 summers (2014-2023), night-time cooling reduced to 6.20-11.50 degrees Celsius

“Evaporation of sweat from skin cools our bodies, but higher humidity levels limit this natural cooling. As a result, people can suffer heat stress and illness, and the consequences can even be fatal at much lower ambient temperatures”
— AVIKAL SOMVANSHI, CSE

tering heatwaves are affecting health and livelihoods in large parts of India.
 "Assessing the changing trend in heat, relative humidity, and land surface temperature along with day and night-time temperatures is necessary to develop a comprehensive heat management plan for urban centres," said Anumita Roy-

Row erupts over new State emblem

Kakatiya Thoranam, a symbol of anarchy **Move akin to erasing Telangana history**

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad
 Triggering a fresh controversy, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday confirmed that the Kakatiya Thoranam will no longer be part of the new official emblem of Telangana, dubbing it as a symbol of anarchy.
 However, he distanced himself from the decision to involve music director MM Keeravani in composing the proposed State official anthem 'Jaya He Telangana', terming it as the decision of poet Andesri, who penned the song.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad
 In an informal interaction with the media during his visit to Delhi, Revanth Reddy said the State Cabinet tasked poet Andesri with writing the anthem and he was the one who recommended Keeravani to compose the music.
 "Telangana's new emblem and anthem will reflect the spirit of the State and its people. The emblem will not include the Kakatiya Thoranam, but will symbolise the Sammakka-Sarakka and Nagoba Jataras, representing the struggles and sacrifices of people of Telangana," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad
 BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's stance on removing the 'Kakatiya Thoranam' and 'Charminar' from the State's official emblem. He pointed out that these symbols, which represent Telangana's rich cultural heritage, are also mentioned in the proposed State anthem, "Jaya He Telangana."
 Stating that the Chief Minister's stance is contradictory and foolish, he questioned the former's hatred towards the

23 killed, several missing as rain, landslides hit Mizoram

AIZAWL
 At least 23 people, including 13 in a stone quarry collapse, were killed in Mizoram on Tuesday due to landslides and incessant rain in the aftermath of cyclone 'Remal', state disaster management authority said.
 Several other people went missing in landslides, mostly in the State capital region, which was cut off from the rest of the country for several hours during the day and bore the brunt of the natural calamities.
 In a massive landslide, at least 13 people, including two minors, were killed and eight others were missing as a stone quarry collapsed in Aizawl district, the Mizoram State Disaster Management Authority (MSDMA) said. "Among the deceased in the stone quarry collapse



are a four-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl," a police officer said. Three persons were also killed and 17 others injured in separate incidents in Assam on Tuesday as heavy rain lashed the State in the aftermath of the cyclone. Two persons died and over 500 others were injured as downpours wreaked havoc in Meghalaya. Meanwhile, at least four deaths and damage to more than 40 houses have been reported in Nagaland, a senior official said.
PTI

Farmers lathi-charged in Adilabad

Cops deny, say they were only trying to prevent a 'stampede'

STATE BUREAU
Adilabad
 Tension prevailed on Tuesday when police lathi-charged farmers standing in queue for cotton seed in Adilabad district. Farmers from several parts of the district thronged seed dispensing outlets from 7 am following the shortage of 'Rashi-2' brand seed. Police force was deployed at seed dispensing outlets to control the crowd as farmers formed serpentine queue to buy seed.



Police officials trying to control farmers who gathered at a seed dispensing outlet in Adilabad.

Queue gets longer
 However, farmers say they were allowed to buy only two packets of seed, containing 400 grams each. An argument ensued between farmers and police when the former jostled with each other to purchase seed. Following this, the police allegedly resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the farmers.
 Meanwhile, Adilabad I Town Inspector Satyanarayana said the police did not resort to lathi-charge on farmers. He said that police were only trying to prevent a stampede and bring the situation under control. "Farmers jostled with each other to buy seed and we requested them to wait for their turn," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Apologise or face wrath: BRS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad
 The BRS strongly condemned the lathi-charge in Adilabad and called it the government's attack on farmers. BRS working president KT Rama Rao warned that if such actions continue, the party would launch State-wide protests and lead a farmers' agitation against the State government.
 In a statement, Rama Rao demanded that the State government apologise for the incident and also initiate swift action against the officials responsible. Expressing anger over the current state of affairs in Telangana, he criticised the State government for neglecting the farmers amid a severe agrarian crisis. He blamed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for not paying attention to farmers' woes, amid his election campaign and visits to Delhi.
 "The Chief Minister should set aside politics, at least now and focus on resolving the farmers' problems. The Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister should hold a high-level meeting immediately to address the shortage of seeds and other issues, to relieve the farmers' hardships without delay," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Phone tapping: Selective 'leaks' to divert attention?

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad
 In a curious turn of events, leaks regarding former DCP Radha Kishan Rao's purported confessions about the alleged phone tapping case during the BRS regime have emerged.
 This timing raises serious questions about the motives behind these leaks, suggesting a calculated move by the Congress government to divert attention from its numerous unfulfilled electoral promises and the corruption scandals that have been brought to light by the BRS. The BRS has been actively exposing the Congress government's involvement in significant scams, including the paddy and liquor scandals, and has been demanding justice for the murder of Sridhar Reddy. With such intense scrutiny and pressure, the BRS wonders whether Congress is seeking to divert public attention through sensational media leaks on phone tapping.
 Radha Kishan Rao was arrested on March 29 and has been in judicial custody since then. Despite his interrogation months ago, these alleged confessions were only now leaked through select media outlets and social media handles. The BRS leaders find the release of such crucial information highly suspicious and indicative of strategic timing meant to overshadow the Congress government's ongoing issues.
 Furthermore, Radha Kishan Rao's current circumstances raise more questions. "DCP Radha Kishan Rao is stationed in Barrack 17 of Krishna Block in Chanchalguda. He is not allowed to meet anyone, no one is allowed to meet him," questioned BRS leader Krishank Manne. (SEE PAGE 2)

Child trafficking racket busted, 11 infants rescued

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad
 An inter-State child trafficking racket, involving suspects from different States, was busted by the Rachakonda Police on Tuesday. The police rescued 11 infants during the operation conducted in the two Telugu States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
 Eleven persons were arrested by the police in connection with the racket and are suspected of having links to Delhi and Pune in Maharashtra. Rachakonda CP Tarun Joshi said the prime suspect, Shobarani, who also runs a health clinic at Medipally, along with Swapna and Saleem, were bringing the infants from Delhi and Maharashtra.
 "The trio, with the help of their associates, was selling infants to childless couples between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5.5 lakh and earning hefty profits through illegal business. On specific information, Shobarani was nabbed and 11 infants, based on information provided by her, have



Rachakonda Police personnel handing over a rescued child to her family members, on Tuesday.

been rescued," he said. Three people — Kiran and Prethi of Delhi, and Kanniah of Pune in Maharashtra — were supplying the infants to Shobarani and her associates. Presently, the trio is absconding. "We are sending teams to Delhi and Pune to trace Kiran, Prethi and Kanniah. After they are caught, we can know about the biological parents of the infants. In further investigation we will know if any infant was kidnapped or willingly sold by their bio-

logical parents for money," said Tarun Joshi. Two of the infants, who were rescued, were shifted to Shishu Vihar at Ameerpet. He said around 50 infants were sold by Shobarani and her gang in two Telugu States.
 "Adopting a child through the legal process is a big process and to avoid it, childless couples are buying them through agents and brokers which is illegal," he said, adding there is also suspicion of some infants sold to NRI couples.