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Government schools see drop in enrolments



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Black or Indian? Trump questions Harris' identity
 Vice President terms remarks same old show of divisiveness and disrespect



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Nikhat's campaign ends in shocking defeat

In a nutshell

'Working hard for peace in Manipur'
IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday said the State government is working towards peace talks and has held several meetings in Assam's Silchar. "We are making immense efforts towards peace talks with the assistance of MLAs and other members. Meetings have been held in Silchar, and we will soon make an announcement," Singh told the State Assembly.

NATION PAGE 7

Biggest prisoner swap for US, Russia

WASHINGTON: The US and Russia completed their biggest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history on Thursday, with Moscow releasing *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich and Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan in a multinational deal that set some two dozen people free. The trade followed years of secretive back-channel negotiations despite ties being at their lowest.

WORLD PAGE 9

Bangladesh bans Jamaat-e-Islami

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Thursday banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law following the recent nationwide unrest over the quota system for government jobs, accusing the fundamentalist party of instigating protests that left at least 150 people dead. The government said it has "enough evidence" that the party was involved in killings.

WORLD PAGE 9

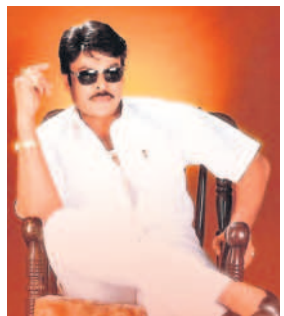
Muslim side's petition dismissed

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad High Court ruled that the trial in 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura can continue, dismissing a petition filed by the mosque committee that challenged the maintainability of these suits. Justice Mayank Kumar Jain had on June 6 reserved his judgment on the plea. The court has fixed August 12 for hearing.

NATION PAGE 7

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 87
Retail live.....	Rs. 109
With skin.....	Rs. 158
Skinless.....	Rs. 180
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 58



Small moves, big impact

How re-release of blockbusters affect small-budget movies

12

BRS protests Revanth's remarks on women MLAs

Demands apology from CM for comments on Sabitha, Sunitha



BRS activists stage a protest against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, at Siddipet on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Condemning the "shameful and disgraceful" behaviour of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the State Assembly, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) organised statewide protests and burnt their effigies on Thursday.

It also served an adjournment motion seeking for discussion on the issue in

the House and demanded an unconditional apology from both leaders.

BRS leaders, along with women organisations, staged rasta rokos and dharnas in all district headquarters as well as several other parts of the State. They took out rallies and raised slogans against the Congress government and the Chief Minister in Hanamkonda, Sangareddy, Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar, among others. While burning an effigy at Kaloji junction in

Hanamkonda, a woman activist of the BRS had a narrow escape after her footwear caught fire. She was rescued by fellow party workers. Earlier, former MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar took out a rally from the Telangana Martyrs Memorial to Kaloji junction where the BRS activists staged a rasta roko, followed by burning of effigies.

At Vemulawada in Rajanna Sircilla district, BRS activist Mylaram Ramu attempted to immolate him-

self in protest. However, fellow party activists foiled his attempts, even as police arrived at the spot and lathi-charged the crowd. Despite preventive measures by police, the BRS protestors succeeded in evading them and burning the effigies, only to get arrested later.

Heated arguments and a scuffle ensued between the BRS activists and police when the former tried to burn effigies. (SEE PAGES 2, 4) (PARTY MEMBERS EVICTED FROM ASSEMBLY PAGE 5)

Supreme Court permits SC categorisation

Says States can sub-classify SCs to grant quota

PTI
 NEW DELHI

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that States are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

A seven-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, set aside the apex court's five-judge Bench verdict of 2014 in the EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case, which had held that no sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) can be allowed as they are a homogeneous class in themselves.

"The State in exercise of its power under Articles 15 (non-discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment) of the Constitution is free to identify the different degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions (such as reservation) to achieve the specific degree of harm identified," held the CJI in his 140-page judgement.

Big ruling

- Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, by majority of 6:1 sets aside 2014 verdict in EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case
- Says historical, empirical evidence demonstrates that SCs are socially heterogeneous class
- Invokes Article 15 (non-discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth) and Article 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment)
- States free to identify different degrees of social backwardness, provide special provisions, such as reservation
- There is rational principle for differentiation
- Rational principle has nexus with purpose of sub-classification

STATES CAN FURTHER CLASSIFY SCs IF

“Can a child of IAS/IPS or Civil Service officers be equated with a child of a disadvantaged member belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in a Gram Panchayat Zilla Parishad school in a village?”

— JUSTICE BR GAVAI

“The reservation, if any, has to be limited only for the first generation or one generation and if any generation in the family has taken advantage of the reservation and achieved higher status, the benefit of reservation would not be logically available to the second generation.”

— JUSTICE PANKAJ MITHAL

Verdict a victory for Madigas, says BRS

HYDERABAD: The BRS welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict in favour of SC categorisation, calling it a victory for the Madiga community's long struggle. Party working president KT Rama Rao said BRS had consistently supported SC categorisation from the beginning. He criticised other political parties for using the issue for political gains, often presenting conflicting arguments within the same party. (REPORT PAGE 5)

"Historical and empirical evidence demonstrates that SCs are a socially heterogeneous class. Thus, the State, in exercise of the power under Articles 15(4) and 16(4), can further classify

the SCs if (a) there is a rational principle for differentiation; and (b) the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification," the CJI held. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 7)

GLORY FOR DEBUTANT



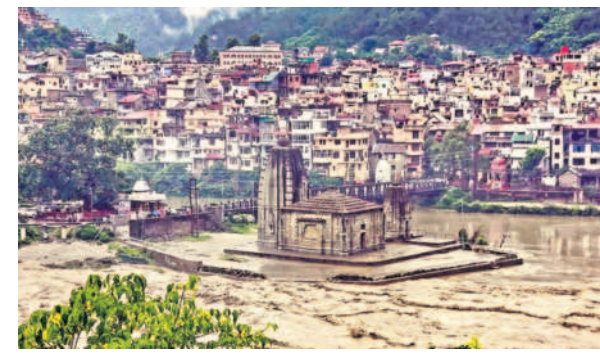
Swapnil Kusale celebrates after winning bronze in the 50m rifle 3 positions men's final at the 2024 Paris Olympics. This is India's first-ever Olympic medal in the event. — Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 10)

Over 20 killed as monsoon unleashes chaos in North India

NEW DELHI

More than 20 people were killed, homes washed away and hundreds left stranded as torrential rain triggered landslides and caused rivers to swell in parts of North India. With many missing, rescuers scrambled through uprooted trees and collapsed buildings to look for survivors.

Heavy overnight rain in Uttarakhand claimed 12 lives, flattened homes and left several areas submerged. Haridwar district reported six deaths, Tehri three, Dehradun two and Chamoli one. Two persons, one each in Haldwani and Chamoli, are missing, the Disaster Control Room said. Water entered many homes in Dehradun and roads at various places in the city were waterlogged.



The swollen Beas river touches the base of Panchvaktra temple during floods in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district. — Photo: PTI

Many colonies and markets in Bhupatwala, Haridwar, Naya Haridwar, Kankhal and Jwalapur were also flooded. Three members of a family — Bhanu Prasad (50), wife Neelam Devi (45) and son Vipin (28) — were killed in a landslide triggered by a cloudburst in Jakhanyali village in Tehri.

They said 450 pilgrims bound for Kedarnath were stranded beyond Bhimbali along the Gaurikund-Kedarnath trek route after 20-25 m of the stretch was washed out by rain. Those stranded on the route are being brought to an emergency helipad, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami said. PTI

3 drown in Jaipur basement

JAIPUR: Three people, including a girl, drowned after rainwater gushed into the basement of their house in Vishwakarma of Jaipur city early on Thursday, officials said. The bodies were recovered after a rescue operation that lasted for several hours, they said. After the water entered the basement of their house, the family began removing their belongings, Deputy Commissioner of Police West Amit Kumar said. During this time, three people from two families got trapped in the basement as it filled with water, Kumar said. A rescue operation was initiated and mud pumps were deployed to pump out the rainwater, the DCP said. PTI

Dogs attack elderly woman, eat parts of body

STATE BUREAU
 Rajanna-Sircilla

An 82-year-old woman died in a brutal attack by a pack of street dogs at Sevalal thanada in Battavanithallu village of Mustabad mandal late on Wednesday.

According to villagers, Pitla Rajyalakshmi, as usual, was sleeping in a hut near her house, while her family was asleep inside. As the hut did not have a door, the dogs entered and attacked her in her sleep. Her sons found her body in the morning, without the head and a portion of the abdomen eaten.

Angry villagers killed one of the dogs, police said. The villagers said children were also attacked earlier, and despite repeated complaints, officials did not take any steps. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

Cong leader embroiled in H-IB scam

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Congress is facing major embarrassment after its Adilabad constituency in-charge and candidate from Adilabad in the last Assembly elections, Kandi Srinivasa Reddy, found himself embroiled in a massive US H-1B visa scam.

Business news major Bloomberg has published an investigative report on how Srinivasa Reddy and his firms in the United States were involved in lotteries to win H1B visas for employees to work in the US, and how

According to a Bloomberg investigative report, Adilabad Congress leader K Srinivasa Reddy's firms involved in lotteries to win H-1B visas for employees

his firms were renting workers to US firms through a scheme flagged by the US government.

The report also states how Srinivasa Reddy was behind the scheme flagged by the US and how his companies worked in concert to game the lottery, winning more than 300 H-1Bs since 2020. "As his H-1B business surged, Reddy appears to

have prospered. He set up a foundation to help farmers near his hometown back in India and started his TV and online news operation there. He jumped into local politics, becoming an aide to the chief minister of the state of Telangana. Last year, he ran for a legislative seat, presenting himself to voters as a man of humble roots who'd become a successful

entrepreneur in the States. He lost," the Bloomberg report says.

The report is based on the annual April lottery conducted by the US government to draw lots for a limited number of skilled-worker visas, the H-1Bs. "Tech giants, startups, banks, and drugmakers all vie for slots, hoping to snap up international graduates of top US universities who must otherwise leave the country. Most don't get picked. The game, it turns out, is rigged," Bloomberg says, quoting federal data. (SEE PAGE 2)

Hamas military chief killed

JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Thursday confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July.

Israel targeted Deif in a July 13 strike that hit a compound on the outskirts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, but the military said for weeks it was working to determine if he died in the blast. Hamas has denied he was killed. More than 90 other people, including displaced civilians



in nearby tents, were killed in the strike, Gaza health officials said at the time. The Israeli military said, "Following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike." There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

The Israeli confirmation came a day after an apparent Israeli airstrike in Tehran killed Hamas' top leader Ismail Haniyeh. Israel has not confirmed or denied being behind the attack. AP (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

Indians urged to leave Lebanon

DUBAI: The Indian Embassy in Beirut on Thursday strongly advised Indian nationals against travelling to Lebanon till further notice and leave the country amidst the growing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah.

"In view of the recent developments and potential threats in the region, Indian nationals are strongly advised against travelling to Lebanon till further notice," the Indian Embassy in Beirut said on X. PTI