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India, UAE ink key pacts in energy sector



WORLD | PAGE 09

Israeli strikes kill 14 in Syria, dozens more wounded
 One of the sites targeted was a research centre used in the development of weapons



SPORT | PAGE 10

Sukhjeet's brace helps India thrash Japan 5-1

In a nutshell

Resume work by today, SC to docs
NEW DELHI: The SC on Monday voiced concern over the absence of the "challan", a key document forwarding the body of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered for a post-mortem examination, from the records presented before it and sought a report from the WB government. It also directed medics to resume duties by 5 pm on Tuesday, but they said they would continue their 'cease work'. **NATION PAGE 7**

India, US tie up to explore chip sector
WASHINGTON: India and US have agreed to work together to explore opportunities for the growth and diversification of the global semiconductor ecosystem as the two are key partners in ensuring that the semiconductor supply chain keeps pace with the digital transformation underway. The US Department of State announced entering into a partnership with India's Semiconductor Mission. **PTI**

Jawan, doc among 12 drown in MP
BHOPAL: A jawan of the Special Armed Force (SAF) and a doctor were among 12 persons who drowned in separate incidents in Mandsaur, Vidisha, Sehore, Khandwa and Jabalpur districts of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Monday. Five persons drowned in the Betwa river in Vidisha district, while a doctor drowned during a picnic at Digambar waterfall in Sehore, said the local officials. **PTI**

Centre, HAL sign Rs 26,000-cr deal
NEW DELHI: The Defence Ministry on Monday sealed a Rs 26,000-crore deal with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for procurement of 240 aero engines for Su-30MKI aircraft. The aero-engines will be manufactured by the Koraput division of HAL and are expected to fulfil the need of the IAF to sustain the operational capability of Su-30 fleet. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 89
Retail live.....	Rs. 111
With skin.....	Rs. 161
Skinless.....	Rs. 183
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

HC orders Speaker to decide on action against turncoats

Seeks status report with schedule of action taken in four weeks

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the State Legislative Assembly Secretary to place before the Speaker the file of disqualification petitions of three MLAs — Tellam Venkat Rao, Kadiyam Srihar and Danam Nagender — who defected to the Congress, and to decide on the action to be taken within four weeks.

The Court also said a status report with the schedule of action had to be communicated to the Registrar of the High Court, failing which the court would reopen the case suo moto for hearing. Pronouncing orders on the petitions by BRS MLAs KP Vivekananda and Padi Kaushik Reddy and BJP MLA A Maheshwar Reddy, Justice B Vijayesh Reddy said since there was no information on the status of the disqualification petitions pending before the Speaker, with the writ plea being filed in April and no action even after August, a case was made out by the petitioners for the grant of relief.



This is a moral victory for the BRS. I urge the Speaker to disqualify the defected MLAs before the court intervenes again. The Speaker should act independently, without any pressure from the Chief Minister, and protect the dignity of the Assembly. The HC judgement is historic and will set a standard for all Assemblies

— KP VIVEKANANDA, BRS MLA



HC's ruling has upheld the constitutional spirit by disqualifying MLAs who defected from other parties. I am confident that this decision would lead to bypolls in the affected constituencies. The BRS will emerge victorious in these bypolls

— T HARISH RAO, BRS MLA



Congress has double standards on defections. It disqualified four MLAs in Himachal Pradesh for supporting the BJP while protecting its MLAs in Karnataka. Why is Rahul Gandhi silent on the defections in Telangana, despite his claims to safeguard constitutional values?

— PADI KAUSHIK REDDY, BRS MLA



damus could not lie against the Speaker. He had argued that the court lacked jurisdiction to issue a writ of mandamus against the Speaker to decide upon the disqualification pleas preferred by the petitioner against the defected MLAs. Following this, after hearing the parties at length, the Court had reserved the judgment on August 10.

The judgment was then issued on Monday, indicating a major victory for the BRS, which has repeatedly been asking for the disqualification of the defectors, and had intensified its legal efforts with the number of turncoat MLAs rising to 10 after the petition was first filed. BRS working president KT Rama Rao, along with senior leader T Harish Rao and other leaders, had also met legal experts in Delhi as part of the party's efforts to get the turncoat MLAs disqualified. With the Supreme Court earlier delivering clear judgments in various cases, including the Manipur case relating to defections, Rama Rao had said the party would continue its legal battle. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

HC order slap on Congress face, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao welcomed the Telangana High Court's verdict directing the Assembly Speaker to take action on the disqualification of turncoat MLAs within the next four weeks. He termed the judgment a "slap in the face" of the Congress, which adopted double standards on party defections.

In a statement on Monday, Rama Rao said the Congress had promised strict anti-defection laws during the elections, but encouraged defections in Telangana, undermining the democratic process. He cited the Supreme Court's judgement on party defections earlier, pointing out that the apex court had previously ruled that decisions on such complaints should be made within three months. However, despite the BRS taking up the issue, the Assembly Speaker failed to initiate action, forcing the BRS to seek judicial intervention.

"From the beginning, we strongly believed justice would be done in the court, and this High Court verdict has only confirmed our faith

One policy in TG, another in other States? Rahul Gandhi needs to explain this duplicity... Bypolls are now inevitable

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS

in the judiciary. By-elections in Telangana are now inevitable," he said, adding that the Congress which mocked democracy by giving the B-form to defected MLA Danam Nagender, had learnt its lesson.

The BRS working president took a jab at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, stating that even a chameleon would be ashamed of him. Criticising Gandhi's public stance on defections at the Centre and non-Congress ruled States, while supporting defections in Telangana, he challenged the Congress leader to take strict action against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who made false promises and lured BRS MLAs to defect. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

Man tests +ve for monkey pox

NEW DELHI

A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has tested positive for the disease, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday, stressing that it is an "isolated case" and there is no immediate risk to public.

The 26-year-old patient, a resident of Haryana's Hisar, was admitted at Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital on Saturday and his condition is stable, a source at the health facility said.

The Union Health Ministry said the previously suspected case of mpox has been verified as a travel-related infection. Laboratory testing has confirmed the presence of mpox virus of the West African clade-2 in the patient.

The Ministry said it is an isolated case, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. It is not a part of the current public health emergency reported by WHO which is regarding clade-1 of mpox, it underlined.

26-year-old patient, a resident of Haryana's Hisar, admitted at Delhi gov-run LNJP Hospital on Saturday; condition stable

"The individual, a young male who recently travelled from a country experiencing ongoing mpox transmission, is currently isolated at a designated tertiary care isolation facility. The patient remains clinically stable and is without any systemic illness or comorbidities," it said.

The case aligns with earlier risk assessments and continues to be managed according to established protocols, it said, adding that public health measures, including contact tracing and monitoring, are actively in place to ensure the situation is contained.

"There is no indication of any widespread risk to the public at this time," the Health Ministry stated. **PTI**

Clashes over Ganesh idol, 34 held

Six minors pelt stones at idol in communally sensitive Surat; cops injured

SURAT

An idol of Lord Ganesh was damaged after some minors allegedly threw stones at a pandal during the Ganapati festival in Gujarat's Surat city, triggering violence in which some persons, including cops, were injured, police said on Monday.

After six minors were detained in connection with the incident which took place in Saiyedpura locality late on Sunday, a mob of 200-300 persons gathered at the Lalgate police station to protest the action against the juveniles from their community. Stones were pelted from two sides, leaving some persons, including police personnel, injured, Surat Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut said. A group of persons also set ablaze two vehicles and damaged two other vehicles parked in the area, he said.

The official said police resorted to baton charge and fired teargas shells to disperse the mob. So far, 28 persons have been arrested



Police officers try to control the situation after the minors threw stones during the Ganesh procession in Surat on Monday. — Photo: PTI

and six minors detained, while three separate FIRs have been registered in connection with these incidents, police officials said.

Police were carrying out combing operations to nab other accused, Gahlaut said.

Meanwhile, civic authorities carried out an anti-en-

croachment drive involving a bulldozer in Saiyedpura, hours after the rioting. But authorities were quick to clarify that the drive was not

linked to the violence and that it was planned weeks in advance. A bulldozer was used to raze illegal constructions. **PTI**

2 Telugu siblings drown in US pond

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Two girls, daughters of Telugu couple David and Sudha Gali, drowned in a pond near their apartment at Holtsville of Long Island in New York on Saturday. According to information available from social media and GoFundMe campaigns being run by friends of the couple, the children — Ruth Evangeline Gali (4 years, 11 months) and Selah Grace Gali (2 years, 11 months) — were said to have wandered out of their home to play.

The mother searched for them and later called the 911 emergency services, after which the children were found in a pond near the apartment complex. Though they were rushed to the Stony Brook University Hospital, where doctors tried to resuscitate them, the children died.



Ruth Evangeline Gali, Selah Grace Gali

iPhone 16 series launched, available from Sept 20

CUPERTINO (CALIFORNIA)

Tech giant Apple on Monday introduced its much-anticipated iPhone 16 series with Apple Intelligence, larger display sizes, camera control, innovative pro-camera features and a big leap in battery life.

Powered by the A18 Pro chip, iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max feature a new 48MP Fusion camera with a faster quad-pixel sensor that enables 4K120 fps video recording in Dolby Vision, the company said.

iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max will be available



CEO Tim Cook at the Apple headquarters. — Photo: AFP

in black titanium, natural titanium, white titanium and desert titanium colours, in

128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB storage capacities. iPhone 16 Pro starts at Rs 1,19,900 and iPhone 16 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,44,900.

Customers in India will be able to pre-order iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max beginning Friday, with availability from September 20. iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus will be available in ultramarine, teal, pink, white, and black in 128GB, 256GB, and 512GB storage capacities. iPhone 16 starts at Rs 79,900 and iPhone 16 Plus starts at Rs 89,900. The tech giant unveiled Apple Watch Series 10. **(SEE PAGES 2, 8)**

Ex-serviceman found dead in Manipur

IMPHAL

An ex-serviceman was found dead in Manipur's Imphal West district on Monday, police said. The body of Lalboi Mate, who hailed from Motbung in Kangpokpi, was found in a pool of blood in Sekmai. Preliminary probe revealed that the man possibly died of physical assault.

Meanwhile, thousands of students protested in front of the Manipur Secretariat and Raj Bhavan, demanding action against those behind the recent drone and missile attacks. At least eight people died in the fresh violence. **PTI**

Inter-State gang held for UPI fraud

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Cyberabad Central Crime Station (CCS) team and KPHB police on Monday arrested a 13-member interstate gang from Rajasthan for its involvement in a series of high-tech UPI frauds and cheating schemes, which included defrauding Bajaj Electronics of Rs 4 crore.

The officials seized cash of Rs 1.7 lakh and electronic goods worth Rs 50 lakh. The arrested persons are Rakesh, Som Raj, Sunil, Lac Ram, Sharvan, Soma Raj, Shiva Lal, Ramesh, Shrawan

Kumar, Pappu Ram, Shrawan, Ramesh and Ashok Kumar. In recent months, noted electronic goods retailer Bajaj Electronics reported several fraud and cheating cases, which resulted in losses of over Rs 4 crore. The complaints were made to various police stations under Cyberabad, Hyderabad and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates and even in other urban centres across Telangana.

According to the police, after one such complaint, police teams took up investigation and found the involvement of a gang from Rajasthan. **(SEE PAGE 2)**