



NATION | PAGE 07

Maha Deputy Speaker Zirwal jumps from Mantralaya



WORLD | PAGE 09

Iran will attack again if needed, says Khamenei

Praises missile attack on Israel, calls it a "shining" job by armed forces



SPORT | PAGE 10

NZ thrash India by 58 runs as skipper does star turn

In a nutshell

Woman killed over black magic

MEDAK: In a shocking incident, a woman was set on fire by villagers on suspicion of practising sorcery in Katrial. According to her family members, the woman was in deep sleep when her relatives, living in the neighbourhood, barged in, attacked her and set her ablaze. When her son tried to come to her rescue, he was beaten up and chased away. Despite his repeated appeals, none of the villagers came to the woman's rescue.

STATE PAGE 4

T20 ticket sales from today

HYDRABAD: Tickets for the third India-Bangladesh T20 match being held on Oct 12 at Uppal stadium in Hyderabad will be sold on Paytm from 12.30 pm today. HCA president Jagannathan Rao said tickets from Rs 750 to Rs 15,000 will be available on the Paytm insider website/App. Tickets booked online should be redeemed from October 8 to 12 at Gymkhana Stadium from 11 am to 7 pm. No tickets will be sold offline, the HCA informed.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDRABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 114
Retail live.....	Rs. 136
With skin.....	Rs. 197
Skinless.....	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72

SC forms SIT to probe laddu row

Independent team to include two CBI officials

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set up a five-member independent SIT to probe the allegations of animal fat used in preparing Tirupati laddus to "assuage the feelings of crores of people" while making clear that the court cannot be used as a "political battleground".

The development assumes significance as the top court-appointed panel substitutes the Andhra Pradesh government's special investigation team (SIT) constituted on September 26 to probe the politically sensitive row over the alleged use of animal fat in laddus.

"We don't want this to be turned into a political drama. There are sentiments of crores of people throughout the world," a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan observed. It directed that the independent SIT will comprise two officers each from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Andhra Pradesh Police besides a senior official of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The court said in the independent SIT, the two officers from the CBI would be nominated by its director while the two officers from the Andhra Pradesh Police



CM WELCOMES SC'S RULING

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision on constituting an independent SIT to conduct a probe into allegations of use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. In a post on X, he said: "I welcome the Honourable Supreme Court's order of setting up SIT, comprising officers from CBI, AP Police and FSSAI to investigate the issue of adulteration of Tirupati laddu." Senior YSRC leader and former minister R K Roja said the apex court's direction is a welcoming development. PTI



'NAIDU SHOULD APOLOGISE'

AMARAVATI: Welcoming the Supreme Court constituting an independent SIT to probe into allegations of use of animal fat in Tirupati laddus, YSRC chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Friday said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu should apologise for misleading people. Cancelling the Special Investigation Team appointed by the Andhra Chief Minister, the Supreme Court has pointed out Naidu's "true picture", Reddy said at a press conference and alleged that Naidu had been spreading lies. (REPORT PAGE 7)

would be named by the State government. The FSSAI chairperson would nominate a senior officer of the authority to be a part of the SIT, it said. The Bench also directed that the SIT shall work under the supervision of the CBI director. "We clarify that we would not permit the court to be used as a political battleground," the Bench said. "However, in order to assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotees, we find

that the investigation should be conducted by an independent SIT consisting of the representatives of the CBI, representatives of the State government and a representative of the FSSAI," it said. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had claimed earlier this month that animal fat was used in preparing Tirupati laddus during the previous YSRC regime in the state, triggering a massive political row. (SEE PAGE 2)

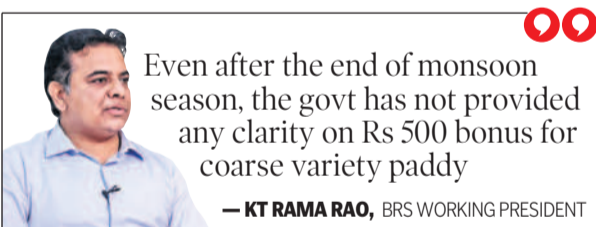
KTR writes to CM, calls for complete crop loan waiver

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded the State government to immediately implement Rs 500 bonus per quintal for coarse variety paddy as promised by the Congress during the elections.

He also wanted the State government to implement a complete crop loan waiver and release Rythu Bharosa funds, including pending dues for the previous Vaanakalam season. He warned that the government will have to bear the brunt of farmers' ire if it fails to deliver on electoral promises.

In an open letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao reminded the Congress government of the pledge made in its election manifesto, where it clearly stated that farmers would



Even after the end of monsoon season, the govt has not provided any clarity on Rs 500 bonus for coarse variety paddy

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

receive an additional Rs 500 per quintal for paddy. He found fault with the State government's failure to fulfil the promise, creating confusion and financial hardship for farmers.

"Even after the end of the monsoon season, the government has not provided any clarity on the bonus, and this is causing widespread worry among the farmers," he said. Rama Rao also pointed out that the Congress government had failed to pay the previous season's bonus, leaving farmers in a state of uncertainty.

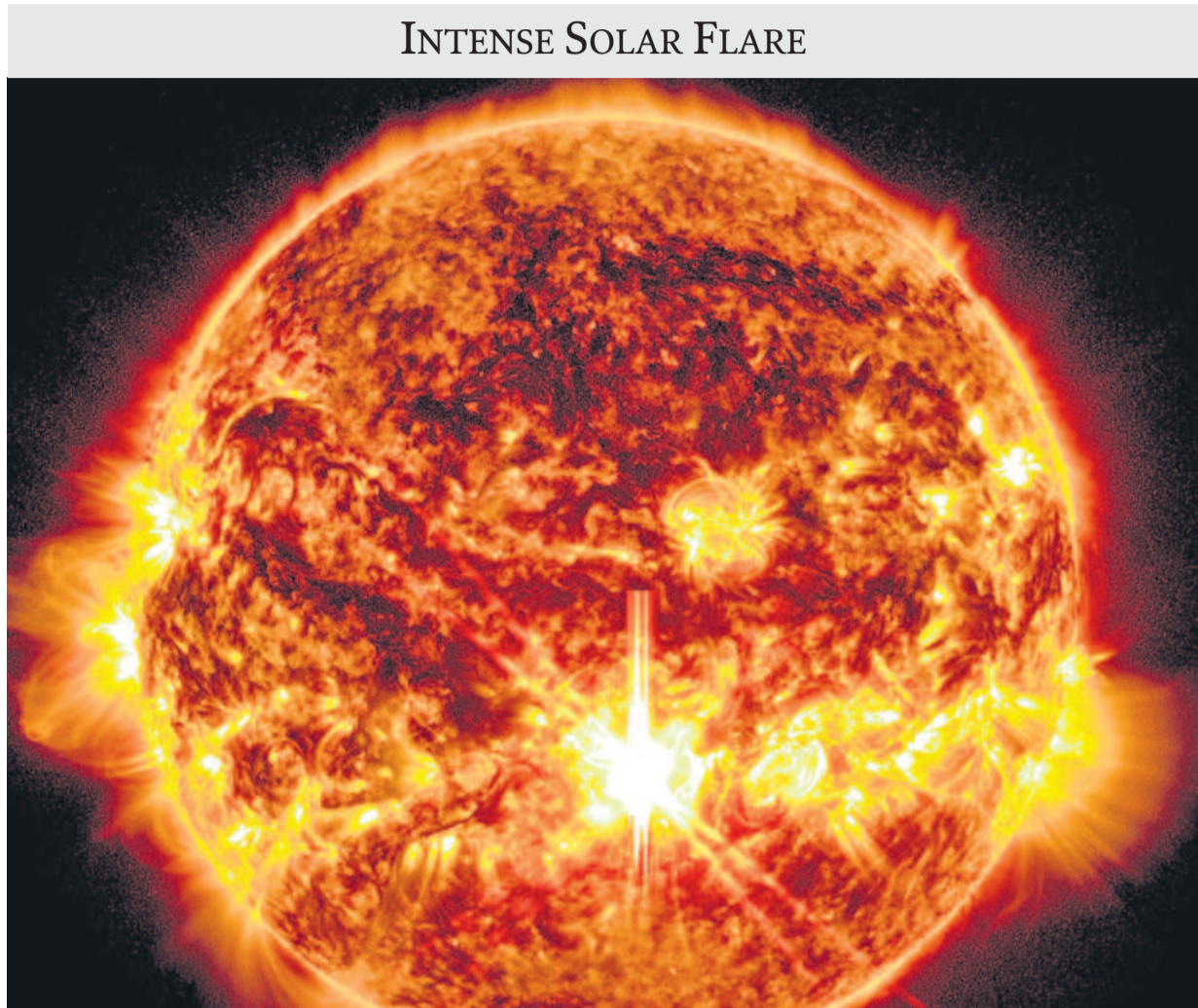
The BRS working president criticised the Congress leadership for its lack of focus on the farmers' issues. "The Chief Minister talks only about providing a bonus to only fine variety of paddy, ignoring the fact that over 80 per cent of the State's farmers grow coarse variety," he said, adding that failing to pay the promised bonus to all farmers is a betrayal of their trust. Moreover, he highlighted the government's negligence in providing farmers with the Rythu Bharosa investment assistance. (SEE PAGE 2)

3 children drown in Shamirpet lake

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Three minor boys drowned when they went for a swim in a lake at Kolthuru in Shamirpet on Friday. The boys were identified as Harsha, Manikanta and Manoj Kumar, all aged 12, and students of a private school.

According to the police, as the school was closed for Dasara vacation, the children were playing near Harsha's house. The trio then decided to go to the lake. After reaching the water body, though none of them knew how to swim, they got into the water and drowned. "The trio got into the water and went deeper and deeper," an official said. The police, along with the GHMC DRF personnel, reached the spot and took up a rescue operation. The bodies were retrieved and shifted to the hospital for autopsy.



INTENSE SOLAR FLARE

The Sun emitted a powerful solar flare, peaking at 5:48 pm (IST), on Friday. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, which continuously monitors the Sun, captured a high-resolution image of the event during its peak. — PHOTO: NASA

36 naxals killed in encounter

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

In one of the biggest operations in Chhattisgarh, security personnel killed 36 naxalites in a fierce encounter in the south Abujmad on the border of Narayanpur-Dantewada districts on Friday.

According to officials, a joint police party of the Narayanpur-Dantewada district went on a search operation to receive information about the presence of naxalites in the area. The exchange of fire, which started at 1 pm, continued until late

evening. Dantewada SP Gaurav Rai said that AK 47s, SLRs and many other weapons were seized. The bodies of 14 naxalites were recovered, and there was a possibility of casualties increasing further. The personnel from District Reserve Guard and Special Task Force took part in the operation. According to sources, the PLGA 6th company suffered a huge loss in the encounter.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said the 'double engine'

government (BJP government in the State and at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

"Our fight to eliminate naxalism will end only after reaching its conclusion. Our double engine government is determined for this. Eliminating naxalism from the State is our aim," he added.

Personnel belonging to the State Police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said. With this latest encounter, 185 naxalites have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year, police said. On April 16, as many as 29 Naxalites, including some higher-ranking cadres, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh in August said India will be free from LWE by March 2026, and a strong and ruthless strategy was required to launch the final assault against the menace. PTI

'GHMC will be split into 4 corporations'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Is the government planning to split the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) into four corporations?

If one were to go by the terse announcement of Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, the proposal is under active consideration of the Congress government. The laconic statement came from the Minister at ASSOCHAM's Urban Infrastructure Summit-2024 here on Friday. In his

speech as the chief guest at the summit attended by industrialists, realtors, academicians and officials, the Minister declared that the splitting of GHMC would be done "after the elections" (possibly the polls to the GHMC).

"Population in Greater Hyderabad was reaching almost 1.5 crore. That's the reason, the State government was planning to divide the GHMC into four corporations. There would be four Mayors after the coming elections," the Minister stated, taking everyone by surprise. (SEE PAGE 2)

Job aspirants in a fix over Telugu Akademi books



The confusion arose after TGPSA informed HC that the books could not be treated as authentic source in competitive exams.

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Are Telugu Akademi books for competitive examination preparation authentic or not? This is the dilemma faced by scores of government job aspirants in the State. The confusion among the aspirants arose after the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) informed the High Court that the books of Telugu Akademi, a government institution, could not be treated as an authentic source in a competitive examination.

During the recent court hearing with regards to objections on the Group-I preliminary test final key, the Commission, in a counter affidavit said content printed in the Telugu Akademi's Telangana History-Culture 2016 edition was not based on any research work. The Akademi's Telangana Regional Geography book content was also questioned by the Commission, which said the book does not contain material based on research work as no such reference was made. "The book is written more in the form of running notes. This book is mere compilation of material from different sources and organised under various chapters," it said.

This submission by the TGPSC left several Group-II and III services and other government job aspirants worried as they relied on the Akademi books for content on Telangana's History, Culture, Geography, Telangana Movement and State formation for several years. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Jaishankar to visit Pak for SCO meet

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Governments (CHG) meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on October 15-16, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Friday.

"The External Affairs Minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO Summit which will be held in Islamabad," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a weekly

media briefing in New Delhi. The spokesperson made it clear that, at this point, there are no details available on any bilateral engagements that EAM Jaishankar may have during his Pakistan visit.

As part of the formal process, Pakistan had extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the meeting. Jaishankar's participation in the meeting comes as no surprise as the SCO meeting does not require heads of states to participate and Indian ministerial delegations have been attending them in the past. IANS

Pharma student gang-raped, 3 held

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

The police arrested three youths, including a BTEch student, on charges of raping a 22-year-old pharmacy student after forcing her to consume alcohol at a lodge in Warangal city. The incident occurred two weeks ago but came to light only when the victim's parents approached Police Commissioner Ambar Kishor Jha and lodged a complaint.

According to ACP Nandiram Naik, Tati Shivraj Kumar alias Jetty from Hanuman Nagar in Bhupalpally district headquarters, Kuchana Manideep from Godavarikhani in Peddapalli district and Kodam

WOMAN GANG-RAPED IN PUNE, MALE FRIEND ASSAULTED

PUNE: A 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three unidentified persons, who also tied her male friend to a tree and assaulted him at an isolated place on the outskirts of Pune city, police said on Friday. The horrific incident took place in the Bopdev Ghar area at around 11 pm on Thursday and a day later police released sketches of two of the suspects as they intensified efforts to trace the culprits and sought help of citizens to nab them. According to the Kondhwa police, under whose jurisdiction the crime occurred, the woman had gone to the locality with a male friend. PTI

Vivek, a BTEch student from BITS College in Lucknepalli, Narsampet mandal, allegedly gang-raped the victim, a second-year B Pharmacy student at a college in Warangal.

The ACP said along with the car used by the accused, three cell phones were seized from their posses-

sion. In her complaint, the victim alleged that Shivraj Kumar asked her to accompany him in a car, claiming he had something to discuss. Since she knew him and was from her village, she agreed. However, later, Manideep and Vivek joined them in the car and the four went to a lodge near a veg-

etable market in the city. She alleged that the three men forced her to consume alcohol and raped her. They also threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone. The victim revealed the ordeal to her parents after she returned home from her hostel after completing her exams. Later, the victim's parents approached Police Commissioner Ambar Kishor Jha and lodged a complaint.

On the direction of the commissioner, a case was registered and the victim was sent for a medical examination. Special teams were formed to nab the culprits and within 24 hours all three were arrested.