



NATION | PAGE 07

India's young will power its rise, says Modi



WORLD | PAGE 09

Wildfires ravage Los Angeles, toll rises to 16

Crews fight heavy winds to save homes, landmark areas



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

The Raja Saab release date pushed to May 16

In a nutshell

Five naxals killed in encounter

BIJAPUR: Five naxalites, including two women, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday. The gunfight broke out in the forest of Bandepara-Koranjed villages under Madded police station limits when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraaj P said. PTI

Cops book actor Venkatesh, family

HYDERABAD: The Filmnagar police registered a case against actor Venkatesh and his family members in connection with the alleged trespassing and demolition of the Deccan Kitchen Hotel last year. The police cited producer Daggubati Suresh, Daggubati Venkatesh, Suresh's son and actor, Daggubati Rana and producer Daggubati Abhiram as accused in the case. HYDERABAD PAGE 3

IPL likely to begin from March 21

NEW DELHI: The IPL 2025 is scheduled to begin on March 21, with Eden Gardens hosting both the tournament opener and the final on May 25. As per a report by ESPNcricinfo, the WPL 2025 will take place from February 7 to March 2. In an unprecedented move ahead of the mega auction in November, the IPL shared the windows for the next three seasons (2025-27) with the franchises. IANS

14-yr-old Ira scores triple hundred

ALUR: Fourteen-year-old Mumbai opener Ira Jadhav became the first Indian to score a triple hundred in Under-19 cricket when she made a 346 against Meghalaya in the U19 Women's One Day Trophy. Ira, a student of Sharadashram Vidyamandir, the alma mater of Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod Kambli and Ajit Agarkar made her runs in 157 balls with 42 fours and 16 sixes. SPORT PAGE 10

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 104
Retail live.....	Rs. 126
With skin.....	Rs. 183
Skinless.....	Rs. 208
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70

SpaDeX: Satellites close in to 3 metres in trial attempt

BENGALURU

ISRO on Sunday said the two satellites launched to perform space docking experiments were brought within three metres and then moved safely back in a trial attempt.

The space agency also said the docking process would be done after analysing the data further. "A trial attempt to reach up to 15 metres and further to three metres is done. Moving back spacecraft to a safe distance. The docking process will be done after analysing data further," ISRO said in a post on X.

The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) project has missed two announced schedules for docking ex-

BRS leaders under attack

Police target them for protesting against vandalism at Bhongir party office



Police officials arrest a BRS leader during the protest at Bhongir on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
 BHONGIR

In a dramatic turn of events, Bhongir turned into a police fortress with barricades all across and movement of people restricted inexplicably on Sunday as the police tried to suppress protests by the BRS against Saturday's Congress attack on the BRS party office in the town. Though it was clear that it was Congress that orchestrated the attack, Sunday's crackdown was entirely targeted at the BRS.

The attempt to quell any form of protest saw the police swooping down early in the morning on the residences of several BRS leaders and public representatives, detaining them and denying them permission to move out. Many were arrested and shifted to police

RACHAKONDA CP ISSUES WARNING

HYDERABAD: Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu warned of strict action against those trying to incite public disorder or disrupt peace. The warning came a day after skirmishes between Congress and BRS workers at Bhongir town on Saturday. The Congress workers had trespassed and damaged furniture at the BRS office in protest against the alleged remarks of BRS district president, Kancherla Ramakrishna Reddy against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy during a programme. (SEE PAGE 2)

stations. However, refusing to be deterred by the police's high-handedness, BRS activists continued to organise fiery protests. The BRS' call for a massive protest (maha dharna) to condemn the attack, led to an even more tense standoff between party cadres and law enforcement agencies.

Despite the denial of permission for the Maha

Dharna, BRS activists remained defiant, positioning themselves at key locations across the town, including Hyderabad Chowrasta, Jagdevpur Road, Rayagiri, Collectorate Centre, Vinayak Chowrasta and the old bus station. The streets of Bhongir were soon filled with protesters squatting on the roads, demanding justice. (SEE PAGE 2)

Jaishankar for Trump's swearing-in

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of US President-elect Donald Trump in Washington on January 20, according to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The MEA noted, "On the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America." It further stated that Jaishankar will also engage with representatives from the incoming administration and other dignitaries during his visit. IANS

Ex-MP Manda passes away

HYDERABAD: Former Nagarkurnool MP Manda Jagannadham passed away on Sunday after a prolonged illness. He was 73. He was survived by a daughter and two sons. He was undergoing treatment at NIMS Hospital in Hyderabad, where his condition worsened on Sunday. Several politicians, academicians and others expressed their shock and extended condolences to the bereaved family. Born on May 22, 1951, in Itikyala village of Nagarkurnool district, Jagannadham completed his MS in medical education. (SEE PAGE 2)



World's biggest religious event Maha Kumbh from today

PRAYAGRAJ

Maha Kumbh 2025 — a 45-day event billed as the biggest gathering of humans in one place — is all set to begin Monday with the first major bathing ritual or 'Shahi Snan' on the auspicious occasion of 'Paush Purnima' at the Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati rivers here.

The present edition of the Kumbh is being held after 12 years, though seers claim the celestial permutations and combinations for the event are taking place after 144 years, making the occasion even more auspicious.

Perhaps that's why the Uttar Pradesh government is confident of 35 crore devotees visiting Prayagraj this time. Already the numbers are telling, with a record 25 lakh people taking

the holy dip on Saturday, two days ahead of the formal start of the event. "It will be a grand Maha Kumbh this time. Along with divinity and spirituality, it would also showcase modernity as this time it is going to be a 'Digi-Kumbh' of sorts with AI being tapped in a big way," officials said.

On the ground, Prayagraj is all decked up for the grand occasion, ready to welcome saints, seers, pilgrims, and masses from across the globe, many of whom have already arrived -- all driven by the common goal of getting soaked in the spiritual fervour. Chief Minister The Maha Kumbh, to be held from January 13 to February 26, will elevate India's ancient cultural and religious traditions to global prominence. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)



A 'sadhu' at Sangam ahead of Maha Kumbh Mela, in Prayagraj on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

No signs of leopard on PJTAU campus

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU) on Sunday clarified there were no signs of leopard movement on the campus and urged the university community not to believe rumours.

As there were rumours on social media that a leopard was on the prowl on the campus, the university security personnel, along with local police and Forest De-

Jackal attacks villagers, woman injured

SIRCILLA: A woman was injured after she was attacked by a jackal in Maddikunta on Sunday morning. According to villagers, the jackal came out from the nearby forest area and attacked the woman, Sutrapur Radha, while she was cleaning in front of her house at around 6 am. As she raised an alarm, the jackal ran away and attacked two others. It was later killed by villagers.

partment officials, searched for pug marks in various areas for about four hours. However, they could not find any. As a precautionary

measure, camera traps have been set up on the campus to capture any movement of big cats, if any. University in-charge security officer

B'desh calls for crime-free border

Expresses 'deep concern' over 'BSF activities'

DHAKA

Foreign Secretary Md. Jashim Uddin on Sunday expressed Bangladesh's "deep concern" over the recent border tensions during a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma at the Foreign Ministry. The State-run BSS news agency earlier reported that Verma was "summoned" by the Foreign Ministry to discuss escalating tensions along the border.

However, a press statement issued by the Foreign Ministry did not use that term. "Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin today expressed deep concern of the Government of Bangladesh to the High Commissioner of India Pranay Verma at his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the recent activities of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India along the Bangladesh-India Border," the Foreign Ministry said in the statement.

Verma entered the Foreign Ministry around 3:00 pm (local time). His meeting with the foreign secretary lasted about 45 minutes, BSS reported. "I just met Foreign Secretary to discuss India's commitment to ensuring a crime-free border, effectively addressing challenges of smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking," Verma told the

Makes visa process easier for Pak

LAHORE: The interim government in Bangladesh simplified the visa process for Pakistan to further strengthen trade and economic relations. The government removed the need for clearance from Dhaka for Pakistani heads of missions while issuing visas, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain said at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday. Dawn News reported that Hussain said increasing trade and investment between the two countries must be a top priority to move forward. PTI

media after emerging from the meeting.

"We have an understanding with regard to fencing the border for security. BSF and BGB (Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh) have been in communication in this regard. We expect that understandings will be implemented and there will be cooperative approach to combatting crime," he added. PTI

Cops stumble upon gangrape of mentally unstable woman on CCTV

STATE BUREAU
 Madak

In a shocking discovery, police stumbled upon CCTV visuals of a woman being gang-raped. The footage led to the arrest of three persons, while the victim, a mentally unstable woman, was shifted to the local Bharosa Centre for treatment.

How the police stumbled upon the shocking visuals was even more bizarre. Following a complaint on a cattle theft lodged by a farmer, the police were scanning CCTV footage when they accidentally saw the rape visuals, with the incident that happened at Ramanthapur village said to have occurred on Friday. The three persons, who were seen sexually assaulting the woman, were then identified and arrested. (SEE PAGE 2)