



**NATION | PAGE 07**  
**SP's Abu Azmi suspended from Maha House**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**China increases defence budget to \$249 billion**  
 7.2% hike comes amid hectic modernisation of forces



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**New Zealand in final as SA chokes during run chase**

**In a nutshell**

**Bandicoots bite infant to death**  
**PALNADU (AP):** A four-month-old infant boy was bitten to death by bandicoots at Ravvaram village in Palnadu district here on Wednesday, said a police official. The baby was left alone at home, a makeshift tarpaulin tent, when the incident happened around 9 am, police said. He was rushed to a rural medical practitioner, who declared the infant brought dead. **PTI**

**PIO nurse attacked by patient in US**  
**HOUSTON:** A 67-year-old Indian-origin nurse was repeatedly punched in the face by a patient at a Florida hospital in a possible hate crime that could lead to her losing eyesight, local media reported. Nurse Leela Lal, also known as Leelamma Lal, was assaulted and "every bone of her face broken" by Stephen Eric Scantlebury in the psychiatric ward at Palms West Hospital. **(REPORT PAGE 9)**

**LS delimitation: Stalin for MPs' JAC**  
**CHENNAI:** Stepping up the pressure on Centre, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday proposed that the 1971 Census be the basis for delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies for 30 years starting 2026 and favoured a Joint Action Committee (JAC) involving all southern states to press for related demands. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

**Ramzan Timings**  
**Iftar** Wednesday 6:30 PM  
**Sahar** Thursday 5:10 AM



**Nargis on film industry**  
 Talks about celebrating beauty, objectifying individuals in industry

**12**

## Erratic power supply worsens TG farmers' woes

**Prolonged outages an attempt to curtail subsidies, conserve resources, say ryots**

**D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO**  
 HYDERABAD

Telangana has been celebrated as the only State in India to implement a 24x7 free power supply to all its farmers. However, after a change in government, though the initiative appears seamless on paper, the ground reality tells a different story. Despite official claims of uninterrupted power supply, many farmers report frequent and prolonged outages. This, coupled with the severe water crisis, has made life a predicament for them.

Since the introduction of this initiative on January 1, 2018, farmers have benefited from transitioning from rainfed agriculture to irrigated systems, boosting crop production and income. This success story, however, came with challenges. The State has had to make substantial investments in higher generation and distribution capacities, leading to increased electricity consumption in the farm sector and proportionate rise in production of food grains. Providing free power means that the State's subsidy burden also increased. But farmers being the priority, BRS president



Dried up crops at an agricultural field at Pittampally village of Kattangur mandal in Nalgonda district.

K Chandrashekar Rao, as Chief Minister, preferred no compromises on this count. The power supply to the farm sector, however, has not been the same during the 15-month rule of the Congress. Farmers on the ground face frequent inter-

ruptions. Officially, these are attributed to maintenance issues, but farmers perceive them as an attempt to curtail subsidies and conserve resources.

Since groundwater contributed considerably to the big boost given to irrigation

during BRS regime, the 24x7 power supply has become indispensable. Farm sector accounts for over 40 per cent of total demand for electricity in Telangana. Power demand in the State has been consistently high, with the State recording

peak loads of 15,000 MW every day since February 3. The energy consumption also reached a record high of 31.96 million units (MU) on February 19, exceeding the previous record of 31.04 MU set in March 2024. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Trump terms India tariffs 'very unfair'

**US President announces reciprocal tariffs from April 2**

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries, terming them as "very unfair" and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on nations that impose levies on American goods.

Trump made these remarks in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on Tuesday. It was the first address of his second term in the White House. On January 20, Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the US.

"If you don't make your product in America, however, under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases, a rather large one," Trump said. "Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada

**China sticks to 5% growth target**

**BEIJING:** China unveiled an annual economic growth target of "around 5%" on Wednesday, despite the possible negative impact of a looming trade war with the United States, and pledged to address what it called "sluggish" consumer spending at home. **PTI**

— have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them," Trump said. "It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent." In February, President Trump said that his administration would "soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US capital last month.

Trump said India will not be spared from Washington's reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Harish exposes Naidu's lies on water sharing

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Siddipet

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday exposed the lies of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who had claimed that he always supported the Kaleshwaram project and that he saw AP and Telangana as his two eyes.

Termining his statement as baseless, Harish Rao said Naidu had written multiple letters to the Central Water Commission (CWC) and other central organisations seeking to stop the Kaleshwaram project and other irrigation projects proposed by the Telangana government on Krishna and Godavari rivers.

Stating that Naidu was trying to appease the people of Telangana and the government as he was preparing to take up the Godavari-Banakacherla project,

**AP Chief Minister had written multiple letters to Central Water Commission seeking to stop Kaleshwaram and other irrigation projects proposed by the Telangana government on Krishna and Godavari rivers, says the BRS leader**



Harish Rao said Naidu was planning to divert 200 TMCft of water from Godavari to Penna basin, which was objectionable. Rao demanded that Naidu write a letter to the CWC and the union government asking them to clear Kaleshwaram project's third TMC component, Sitarama Sagar, Sammakka Sagar and Vardha project on Godavari, the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, Dindi Lift Irrigation Project and lifting of 40TMC through Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation project on Krishna river if

he was really committed to the interests of Telangana and its people.

Pointing out that Naidu was trying to justify AP utilising surplus water in the Penna basin, Harish Rao said governments in erstwhile AP had built similar projects earlier in Penna basin and diverted the water from Krishna, which fuelled the Telangana movement. Naidu also conspired to make central government organisations send back DPRs of various irrigation projects in Telangana, he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Tribals stage stir for drinking water

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Kumram Bheem Asifabad

Tribals staged a protest demanding officials to address the acute drinking water crisis being faced by their village, carrying empty pots in front of the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) here on Wednesday.

Men and women from the remote Enoli village in Wankidi mandal staged a sit-in in front of the IDOC as part of their protest. They demanded the officials to take steps to address the drinking water crisis. They alleged that the officials ignored the problem even after bringing the issue to their notice several times.

However, the tribals were not allowed to enter the IDOC. ASP S Chitharanjan held consultations with the agitators and assured to address the problem by digging bore wells. The tribals were not satisfied with the intervention of the ASP. They continued to stage the



Residents from Enoli village in Wankidi mandal staging a sit-in in front of the Integrated District Offices Complex in Asifabad on Wednesday.

protest, stressing that they wanted to directly meet Collector Venkatesh Dothre in order to resolve the issue at the earliest.

The agitators regretted that they were facing inconvenience due to lack of

drinking water through Mission Bhagiratha to their village for quite a long time. Pointing out that two bore wells located in the village had dried up, they said they were forced to rely on streams and irrigation tanks

for water. It was learnt that authorities visited the village, considering the gravity of the drinking water crisis of the habitation. However, the problem continues to persist resulting in inconvenience to the residents.

## Premier Energies to move to AP

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

In another blow to Telangana's industrial growth, Premier Energies Global Environment Pvt Ltd (PEGEPL) has reportedly decided to shift its 4 GW solar PV TOPCon cell manufacturing facility from the Seetharampur Industrial Park in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana, to the Naidupeta Industrial Park in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

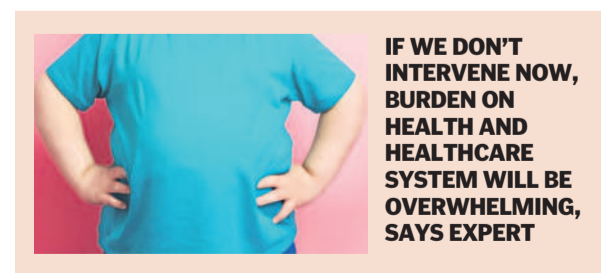
The company had initially proposed to set up a 4 GW cell unit and a 4 GW module facility in Telangana and had even applied for building permissions. However, it is now learnt to have opted for Andhra Pradesh instead, indicating a growing trend of businesses relocating from Telangana. Earlier, Corning International Corporation had shifted its unit from Telangana to Tamil Nadu.

## '80% of IT workforce in Hyderabad overweight'

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

The IT workforce in Hyderabad continues to remain a high risk group for Non-Communicable Diseases due to high prevalence of obesity. A recent study conducted by the city-based Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) Hospitals among the IT workforce in Hitec City has indicated that 80 percent of them are overweight.

"80 percent overweight is very significant. But people are not taking it seriously. It is very important to take it very seriously because I think lot of health complications can be prevented and



**IF WE DON'T INTERVENE NOW, BURDEN ON HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL BE OVERWHELMING, SAYS EXPERT**

lot of savings can be done on health costs if weight is under control. Overweight and obesity also become a national problem," says founder chairman of AIG Hospitals, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy. The leading gastroenterologist, while taking part in a program on obesity, said that AIG Hospitals

also conducted a survey of schools in Hyderabad, which indicated very high prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease among children.

"40 percent of children in government schools have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)." **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Harassed farmer tries to end life

**NALGONDA**

Even agricultural cooperative societies, which are expected to support farmers by fulfilling their credit needs, are now adding to their despair, with one such society, pressured to meet recovery targets, acted ruthlessly and pushed a farmer to the brink.

Venkanna, a physically challenged farmer, recently attempted suicide due to harassment by bank officials demanding repayment of a loan, which he claimed to have already repaid. Venkanna's father had taken a loan of Rs 40,000 from Edavelli Primary Co-operative Bank 27 years ago.

At the time of partitioning family properties, Venkanna claimed to have cleared his father's loan borrowed against their four acres of land, but he failed to obtain a no dues certificate. Now, the bankers demand Rs 1.68 lakh with interest and have threatened to auction the property.

Distressed by the bank's harassment, Venkanna consumed pesticide in a desperate attempt to escape his predicament. He is currently battling for his life at the Nalgonda Government Hospital. Four years ago, Venkanna and his wife Rani had availed an agriculture loan of Rs 1.90 lakh from the same bank. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Telangana student shot dead in US

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

A 27-year-old youngster from Hyderabad pursuing higher studies in the United States was shot dead by unidentified persons in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

According to information reaching here, Praveen from Keshampet mandal of Rangareddy district was pursuing his Masters studies in a university in Milwaukee. The second year student, son of Raghavulu and Rama Devi, to sustain himself was working part-time in a star hotel there while studying. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

