



STATE | PAGE 05

Petitioner fined Rs 1cr for 'abusing' judicial process



NATION | PAGE 07

Attacker, victim put on par: Jaishankar on Kashmir

Dominican police asked to declare missing Indian student Sudiksha dead



SPORT | PAGE 11

Sunil Chhetri in focus as India takes on Maldives



In a nutshell

Vacate Indian territory, Pak told

New Delhi: Pakistan should vacate Indian territory under its "illegal" occupation instead of "spreading lies", New Delhi said on Tuesday hitting out at Islamabad for its reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir during a podcast. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the world knows that the real issue in Jammu and Kashmir is Pakistan's "active promotion of terror." PTI

Voter-Aadhaar link exercise soon

New Delhi: The EC on Tuesday said linkage of voter cards with Aadhaar would be done according to the prevailing law and the Supreme Court's directions and added technical consultations between UIDAI and its experts for the exercise would "begin soon". While voting rights can only be granted to a citizen of India, according to Article 326 of the Constitution, Aadhaar only establishes a person's identity, the poll authority said in a statement. PTI

Google to acquire Wiz for \$32 billion

New York: Tech major Google on Tuesday announced to acquire Wiz, a leading cloud security platform headquartered in New York, for \$32 billion in an all-cash transaction. Once the acquisition is closed, Wiz will join Google Cloud. This acquisition represents an investment by Google Cloud to accelerate two large and growing trends in the AI era -- improved cloud security and the ability to use multiple clouds (multi-cloud), said a statement. IANS

Chilli farmer ends life

Mulugu: A chilli farmer died, allegedly by suicide, at Besthagudem village of Venkatapuram mandal in the district on Tuesday. According to police, Ramella Sathish (39) had cultivated chilli in his three-acre land. He was said to have been upset at the lack of labourers to harvest the chilli, which was falling to the ground causing huge losses to him. On Monday morning, he got drunk and went to the chilli field, where he allegedly consumed a pesticide.

Ramzan Timings
iftar Wednesday 6:32 PM
Saher Thursday 4:59 AM

Congress skips Question Hour; Harish objects

Says govt cancelled it to avoid issues such as farmers' distress, financial mismanagement

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Congress government's move on Tuesday cancelling Question Hour in the Assembly has come under fire from the main Opposition BRS, with former Minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao questioning the decision. Terming the move an attempt to avoid answering critical questions on farmers' distress and financial mismanagement, he expressed his objections to the Speaker and the Secretary.

"Question Hour is mandatory. But the Congress government is running away from its responsibility to answer our questions and attempting to suppress our voice by evading answers on pressing issues," he said. In an informal interaction with the media in the Assembly lobbies on Tuesday, Harish Rao pointed out that the BRS had raised questions on three key issues - the mortgaging of public assets for loans, the drying up of Yasangi crops, and the failure to fulfill promises made to farmers, all of which were dodged by cancelling the Question Hour.

He stated that the government was borrowing Rs.50,000 crore by pledging HMDA lands, GHMC,

BRS draws attention to pressing issues

- HMDA lands, GHMC, HMWS&SB, and TGIIC assets are being pledged to borrow Rs.50,000 crore. Why is this government mortgaging Telangana's future?
- Crops drying across Warangal, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Siddipet, despite water being available in projects
- Farmers waiting for loan waivers and procurement support, but the Congress government is all talk, no action

HMWS and TGIIC assets. "HMDA lands, GHMC, HMWS, and TGIIC assets are being pledged to borrow Rs.50,000 crore. Why is this government mortgaging Telangana's future?" he asked.

Raising concerns over irrigation, the former Irrigation Minister stated that crops were withering across Warangal, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Siddipet, despite water being available in projects such as Devadula and Mallanna Sagar.

He said around half of farmers had not received crop loan waivers, even though the government had repeatedly stated otherwise. He pointed out that paddy procurement had dropped significantly, from 70 lakh

metric tonnes during the BRS tenure to just 52 lakh metric tonnes under Congress.

The BRS legislator also highlighted discrepancies in Rythu Bharosa payments, revealing that in Siddipet alone, 20,514 farmers had yet to receive loan waivers and Rs.37 crore was still pending. He said farmers were suffering due to the delayed establishment of procurement centres, forcing them to sell their crops at lower prices. The situation in Nizamabad was even worse.

"Despite assurances, many farmers had not received the promised benefits, leading to widespread distress in rural areas. These issues needed urgent attention" he added.

'Nagpur clashes premeditated'

NAGPUR

More than 50 persons have been taken into custody and curfew imposed in parts of Nagpur, a day after protests against Aurangzeb's tomb triggered violence in the city, which Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed was premeditated.

Speaking in the legislative assembly on Tuesday, Fadnavis said the Vicky Kaushal-starrer film "Chhaava", based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, reignited people's emotions against the Mughal emperor and brought before them the true history of the Maratha king. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) it won't tolerate any attempts to glorify Aurangzeb and claimed the Nagpur violence was planned. Five FIRs have been registered in connection with the violence, Nagpur police commissioner Ravinder Kumar Singal said



People stand near the charred remains of a car at Chitnis Park area amid curfew after violence erupted on Monday night in Nagpur. Curfew has been imposed in several areas of the city.

on Tuesday. Violence erupted in central Nagpur's Chitnis Park in Mahal area on Monday around 7.30 pm, with stones hurled at police amid rumours that the holy book of a community was burnt during an agitation by the re-

moval of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, officials said. As many as 34 police personnel were injured in the violence.

The situation now is a little tense, but there is peace in the city with adequate po-

Over 400 killed in Israel attacks on Gaza Strip

Ceasefire, fate of hostages in jeopardy, says Hamas



A man holds the body of a child after Israeli airstrikes at the morgue of a hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, on Tuesday — Photo: AP

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, saying it was hitting Hamas targets in its heaviest assault in the territory since a ceasefire took effect in January.

The strikes have killed more than 400 people and wounded over 500, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says more than half of the dead are women and children. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the strikes because of a lack of progress in talks to extend the ceasefire. Officials said the opera-

tion was open-ended and was expected to expand. The White House said it had been consulted and voiced support for Israel's actions. Hamas warned that Israel's new airstrikes breached their ceasefire and put the fate of hostages in jeopardy.

The surprise attack shattered a period of relative calm during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and raised the prospect of a full return to fighting in a 17-month war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and caused widespread destruction.

The leaders of Egypt and Kuwait say Israel's attacks

on Gaza are a "gross violation of international law and the ceasefire deal." The statement from the Egyptian presidency said Israel was resuming the war as part of "premeditated efforts" to make Gaza unlivable and transfer the Palestinians out of their territories. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah spoke by phone Tuesday and warned that the Israeli attacks "could broaden the conflict and undermine prospects of peace and stability in the region." They called for the international community to "bear its responsibility and

push for an immediate ceasefire."

France condemned the deadly airstrikes and urged both Israel and the Palestinians to respect the ceasefire. The French Foreign Ministry statement calls "for an immediate halt to hostilities, which are compromising efforts to free hostages and threatening the lives of Gaza's civilian population."

Gaza's Health Ministry says at least 263 of the more than 400 people confirmed dead so far Tuesday were women or children. Palestinian Islamic Jihad has lashed out at Netanyahu and his far-right government. AP

TG: 59 castes under SCs categorised into 3 groups

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The State Assembly on Tuesday passed the Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Bill, 2025 amidst a few demands from MLAs.

Extending all support to the Bill, BRS MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy reminded that a resolution was passed in the House during the BRS tenure and the same was sent to the Centre. However, the Constitution was not amended. Had it been done, many would have benefited, he stressed, also demanding that the State government ensure that reservations in education and jobs in the coming days

The local body elections should be conducted after the SC classification as it will benefit the Madiga community
— V PRASHANTH REDDY
BRS MLA

were implemented as per the SC Sub Classification.

"The local body elections should be conducted after the SC classification is completed as it will benefit the Madiga community," Prashanth Reddy demanded.

Similarly, Congress MLA from Chennur G Vivek Venkatswamy wanted the State government to share the details of the Justice Shameem Akther Commission report.

"I fail to understand the reasons behind not sharing the report copy with the Members. There are a few apprehensions," he said, also wanting the State government to allocate 18 per cent funds in the budget for SC welfare and development.

Meanwhile, CPI MLA Kunneni Sambasiva Rao raised objection over the inclusion of the Relli caste in Group III category of the Scheduled Castes.

(SEE PAGE 2)

OU student injured as ceiling portion falls

HYDERABAD

A student at Osmania University was injured on Tuesday after portions of the plasterwork on the ceiling of the Main Technology Hostel washroom collapsed. The incident, which occurred on Tuesday morning, left K Naveen, a final year student pursuing Food Technology at Osmania University College of Technology with injuries to his back and head.

The incident triggered a fresh wave of protests on the campus by students, who squatted on the main

road, demanding safety and security in the campus hostels. The campus was already witnessing a series of protests after the administration issued circular banning protests in the varsity. Naveen was immediately rushed for treatment where he was administered first-aid, along with a TT injection. "While I was using the washroom, suddenly small portions of the ceiling started falling down. Somehow, I managed to escape but it fell on my back and head. I got an injury on the back and my head is aching," said Naveen. (SEE PAGE 2)

Villagers protest land acquisition for industrial park

STATE BUREAU
PEDDAPALLI

Residents of Ratnapur of Ramagiri mandal on Tuesday prevented government officials who visited the village for land acquisition for an industrial park. The government had identified 203 acres including 150 acres of patta land and 53 acres of government land for the development of the Industrial Park in the village. As part of the land acquisition process, officials along with police personnel visited the village on Tuesday following which locals staged a protest.

SSC exams: 5 minutes grace time for students

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Students appearing for the SSC Public Examinations, commencing March 21 will be given five minutes of grace time.

The Class X exams will begin at 9.30 am and late-comers will be allowed to enter the centres till 9.35 am only. "Like last year, students will be given five minutes of grace time for their entry into centres," said A Krishna Rao, Director Government Examinations.

Except for the first language composite course and science subjects, the exams will be conducted from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. The first language composite course exam timing is 9.30 am to 12.50 pm, while the part-I physical science and part-II biological science exams will be held from 9.30 am to 11 am on two separate days.

This time, students will be provided a 24-page answer booklet instead of multiple answer sheets.

The booklet will eliminate the need for multiple sheets,

The exams from March 21 will begin at 9.30 am and students will be allowed to enter till 9.35 am only

ensuring that answers are in a single booklet and reduces the risk of pages getting misplaced with improper tying of the sheets.

This move is also aimed at curbing mass copying in the

examination halls. As many as 5,09,403, including 4,97,341 regular students and 12,062 private candidates (once failed) registered for the exams, which conclude on April 4. The Directorate of Government Examinations has constituted 2,650 centres and an equal number of centre superintendents and departmental officers have been deployed for smooth conduct of the exams.

Meanwhile, the Directorate has made elaborate arrangements for conduct-

ing spot evaluation of Class X exams answer scripts at 19 spot evaluation camps from April 7 to 15. All officials and evaluators on evaluation duty have been asked to attend an orientation programme on bar coding and coding of the answer scripts on March 24.

Hall tickets already dispatched to respective schools. Hall tickets can also be downloaded from the website <https://bse.telangana.gov.in>. Electronic gadgets are prohibited from the exam halls.