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Water crisis: LG asks Atishi to avoid 'blame game'



WORLD | PAGE 09
Emmanuel Macron, Scholz decimated
 Far-right parties rattled traditional powers in European Union elections



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Rohit all praise for Bumrah, says he is genius with ball

In a nutshell
Tamang sworn in as Sikkim CM
GANGTOK: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo Prem Singh Tamang on Monday took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan State for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium here. Eleven other Ministers also took oath along with him. **NATION PAGE 7**

Actor Malabika Das ends life
MUMBAI: Bollywood actor Noor Malabika Das, who starred in the 2023 web series 'The Trial', allegedly died by suicide at her flat in Oshiwara. The decomposed body of the 31-year-old actor was found on Friday evening after neighbours complained of a foul smell emanating from her apartment, an official said. The police team broke down the door and discovered the body and found a table and rope at the scene. **PTI**

Floating 'body' triggers panic
WARANGAL: Monday morning for the people residing near the Reddy-puram Kovelakuntla here began with the quite disturbing sight of a 'body' of a man floating in the waterbody. A police constable held the 'body' by its hand, as it was floating near the edge of the waterbody and gingerly began pulling it ashore. That was when the twist in the story came. The 'body' suddenly woke up. **HYDERABAD PAGE 4**

Indian-origin man killed in Canada
OTTAWA: A 28-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in a suspected "targeted killing" in Canada's British Columbia province, according to the police, who have arrested and charged four people with first-degree murder in connection with the case. The victim, identified as Yuvraj Goyal, was found dead by the police when they were responding to the call of a shooting in Surrey. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm..... | Rs. 139 |
| Retail live..... | Rs. 161 |
| With skin..... | Rs. 233 |
| Skinless..... | Rs. 266 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 69 |

'Deepika the queen of big screen'
 Ranveer shares Deepika's look from Kalki 2898 AD

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Farmer protests new normal in Telangana

Spend more time on roads than farms, thanks to official apathy

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD/MANCHERIAL

Farmers in Telangana are spending more time protesting on the roads these days than on their agricultural fields. Stung by the delay in officials ensuring payment for his mango yield that was procured, a farmer in Nennal mandal centre of Mancherial district threatened to kill himself by consuming pesticide during a Prajavani programme on Monday.

Ramadugu Janardhan from Chittapur village in Nennal said he sold his mango produce to an Indira Kranthi Pathakam (IKP) procurement centre a month ago. However, the price of Rs 1.5 lakh was not paid to him so far. He also said the company that purchased the mangoes quoted a price much lower than the market causing huge losses for him. Janardhan withdrew his protest only after officials at the Prajavani programme promised to sanction payment at the earliest.

Nennal mandal IKP Assistant Project Manager Vijay-

Sorry state

ON MONDAY, FARMERS FROM HAJIPUR, LUXETTIPET MANDALS STAGED DHARNA AGAINST MOVE TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR PROPOSED NH-63



RECENT CASES

- Rasta-roko in Nirmal against delay in paddy procurement
- Dharna at Malkapeta in Karimnagar against officials' negligence in purchasing paddy
- Farmer dies of heat stroke while waiting for a week for officials to procure paddy in Ragampeta village
- Unable to supply water for paddy, farmers set crop on fire at Peddalingapur in Rajanna-Sircilla district
- Ryots burn paddy on Hyderabad-Warangal highway demanding purchase of their produce

alaxmi said steps were being taken to pay the farmer soon. The company had delayed the payment of the cost citing losses. "We will ensure justice to the

farmer," she said. Around 2,000 farmers produce mangoes in Nennal mandal. While most of them sell the mangoes to traders of Nagpur, Hyderabad and other

parts of the country, a few depend on procurement centres run by the government. Mancherial also witnessed another protest on Monday when farmers from Hajipur and Luxettipet mandals staged a dharna at IB Chowk against the move to acquire their land for the proposed National Highway-63 connecting Mancherial-Nizamabad. These were the latest instances of farmers being forced to protest and take to the streets, sometimes even threatening to take their lives, over the last few months due to the apathy of the official machinery and the State government.

In May, in Nirmal district, farmers staged a rasta-roko protesting the delay in procurement of paddy and taddy arrangements at a paddy procurement centre at Chamanpalli village. The same month, farmers staged a dharna at Malkapeta of Konaraopet mandal in Karimnagar in protest against officials' negligence in purchasing their paddy even after one month of the harvest. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

J&K attack: Forces hunt for foreign terrorists



Security personnel conduct search operation using drone after a bus carrying pilgrims was ambushed by terrorists, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday. — Photo: PTI

JAMMU

A massive manhunt is underway for three foreign terrorists, possibly of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, responsible for the deadly attack on pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi that resulted in the loss of nine lives, including a two-year-old, officials involved in the investigation said on Monday.

Based on the statements recorded by those injured in the attack, the officials said they have not ruled out the possibility of a fourth per-

son being present at the spot who acted as a lookout for the three terrorists. Nine people were killed and 41 injured as the terrorists opened fire at the 53-seater bus, on its way from the Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, causing it to veer off the road and fall into a deep gorge. Following the attack, a joint operation was launched involving the police, the Army, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and central intelligence agencies. **(SEE PAGES 2, 8)**

Militants target security convoy

IMPHAL: Suspected militants ambushed the advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in Kangpokpi district on Monday morning, leaving one person injured, police said. The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam district when it came under attack around 10.30 am near Kotten village along a stretch of National Highway-53, they said. Multiple gunshots were fired at the vehicles of the security forces, who retaliated, a police officer said. **PTI**

Plea filed in SC to cancel NEET-UG

NEW DELHI

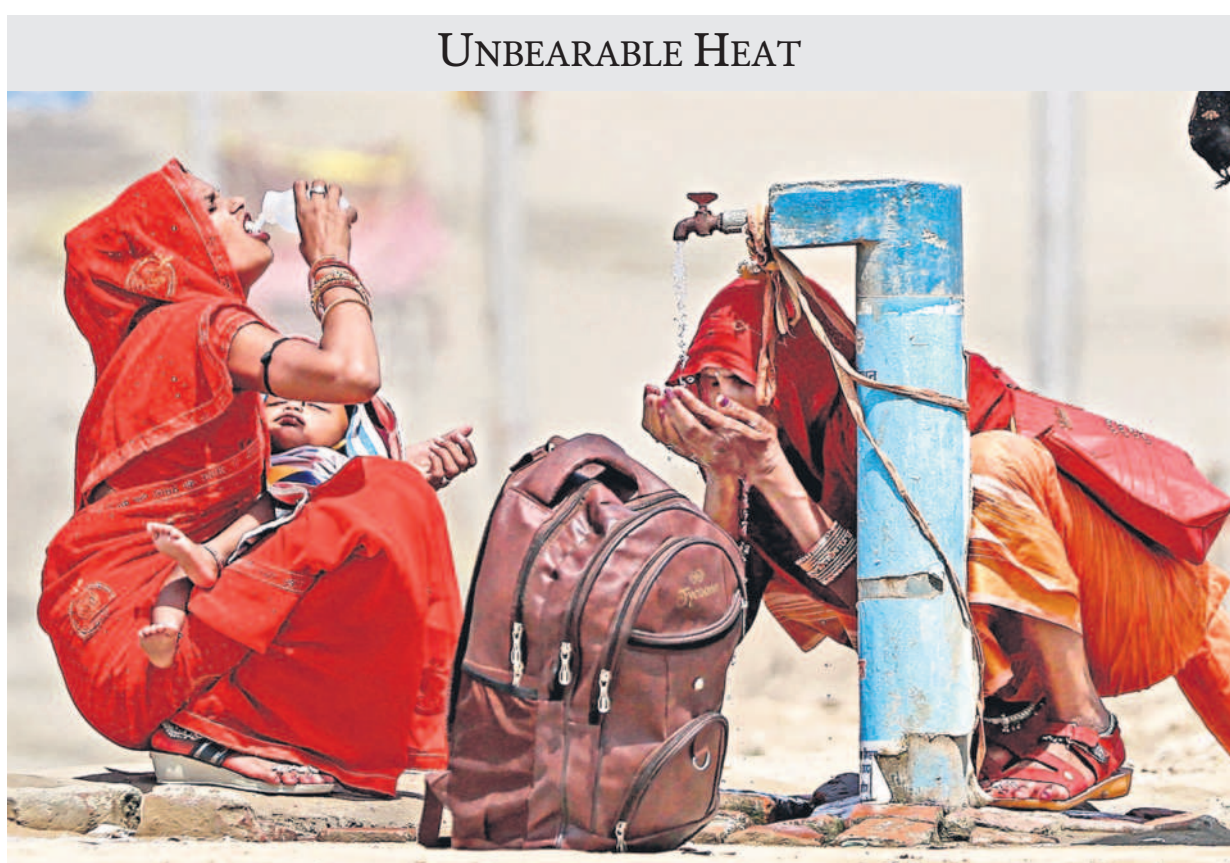
A PIL has been filed before the Supreme Court seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 examination. The plea seeks directions for the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the "malpractices and fraud involved" in the NEET examination held on May 5 and a stay on counselling till the investigations on the paper leak are completed.

The PIL filed by two members of an organisation working for the assistance and benefit of the students said that the news of the NEET exam paper leak has shaken to the core as many of the meritorious students lost the opportunity to become future medical practitioners. "The petitioners are filing the present petition with the sole purpose of providing justice to the aggrieved students who with

Students protest near Edu Ministry

NEW DELHI: Members of Left-affiliated students' unions held a protest near the Education Ministry here on Monday demanding a probe into the alleged irregularities in the NEET exam, a statement said. The move came amid allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing the first rank in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam. "Students demand an independent and transparent investigation into the alleged irregularities in the NEET exam to ensure accountability," Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union vice president Avijit Ghosh said. **PTI**

the support of their respective family members had put in their entire time, hard-earned money and energy along with the hard work and dedication in preparing for NEET and have been denied a level playing field," it said. **ANS**



Women quench their thirst on a hot summer afternoon in Prayagraj. Parts of northern India have been gripped by a heatwave since mid-May, which is the longest-ever to hit the country, according to weather experts. — Photo: AFP

UNBEARABLE HEAT

BJP retains key Ministries, Nadda back as Health Min

NEW DELHI

Signalling continuity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday retained Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar in charge of the four high-profile Ministries — Home, Defence, Finance and External Affairs — respectively in his new government.

Among new entrants to the Union Cabinet, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has got Agriculture and Rural Development Ministries, while BJP president JP Nadda has returned to the Health Ministry, a portfolio he had held in the Modi government's first term before he took charge of the ruling BJP first as working president in 2019 and then



as the full-fledged president in 2020. Nitin Gadkari has retained the charge of the Road Transport and Highways Ministry. Former

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has been allocated Housing and Urban Affairs, and Power Ministries. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

Drunk SUV driver runs over bizzman at Nampally

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A businessman was run over by an SUV, being driven by a man who was under the influence of alcohol, when he tried to stop the vehicle that hit an auto-rickshaw at Nampally on Sunday night. The incident occurred when the victim, M Ajay Babu (27), a resident of AS Rao Nagar, along with four of his friends, came to Nampally to have dinner on Sunday.

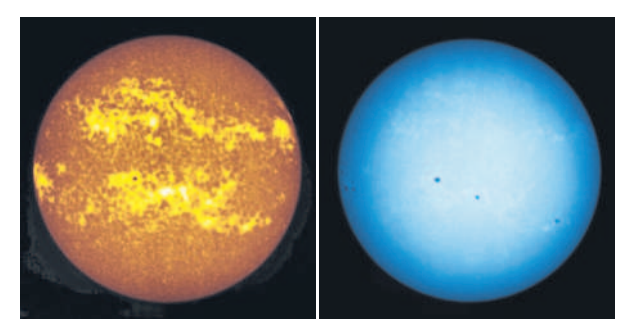
Around midnight, when he was walking on the road, Ajay noticed an SUV had hit an auto, and the driver was trying to escape. "Ajay tried to stop the car, but the driver ran over him and fled the spot. Ajay was shifted to a hospital where he died while undergoing treatment," said police. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft captures 'solar fury'

BENGALURU

ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two onboard remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar fury, the space agency said on Monday. India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrangian point (L1) on January 6 this year, 127 days after it was launched on September 2, 2023.

L1 is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth and enables the spacecraft to view the Sun continuously. The Solar Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) and the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) have captured the dynamic activities of the Sun during May 2024. ISRO said in a statement. "Several X-class and M-class flares, associated



Images captured by SUIT and VELC instruments show dynamic activities of the Sun during May 2024.

with Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), leading to significant geomagnetic storms, were recorded," it said.

Geomagnetic storm

The Active region AR13664 on the Sun, during its passage during the week of May 8-15, erupted several X-class

and M-class flares, which were associated with CMEs during May 8 and 9.

These produced a major geomagnetic storm on May 11, it was stated. ISRO released the Sun images acquired by the SUIT payload on May 17, and also shared details of the observations made by VELC. **PTI**

IMD issues heavy rain alert for State

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The IMD-H in its five-day weather forecast released on Monday, said that Hyderabad and a majority of the districts in the State will receive extensive rains accompanied by gusty winds and thunderstorms.

On Monday, rains battered Kapra, Ghatkesar, Cherlapally and neighbouring areas. While Ghatkesar received a record 90.5 mm of rainfall, the regions in Kapra received 60.5 mm within a span of a few hours on Monday evening. Several areas under Kapra and Cherlapally, including Dammaiguda, Nagaram, ECIL, Jawahar Nagar, Bollaram, Alwal and Moula Ali witnessed heavy rains on Monday evening.

However, rather strangely, several nearby areas such as RK Puram, Trimulgherry, Safilguda, Malkajgiri etc reported only light showers. **(SEE PAGE 2)**