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Will put check on J&K terror handlers, says DGP



WORLD | PAGE 09

War is not our choice, but Putin's: Zelenskyy
 Ukrainian President says joint efforts can stop war and establish trust and peace



SPORT | PAGE 10

T20 WC: South Africa wins thriller against Nepal

In a nutshell

14 dead as tempo falls into river

RUDRAPRAYAG: Fourteen tourists were killed and 12 injured when a tempo traveller skidded off the road and fell into Alaknanda River on the Badrinath National Highway here in Uttarakhand on Saturday. The tourists were on the way to Chopta when the accident happened at around 11.30 am near Raitoli village. The vehicle carrying 26 people rolled down a 200-metre gorge and into the river, they said. PTI

Bonalu festivities from July 7 to 29

HYDERABAD: Endowments Minister Konda Surekha said the annual Bonalu festivities will commence from July 7 to 29. An appeal has been made to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to grant Rs 25 crore for conducting the festivities in over 3,000 temples under GHMC limits. The Minister held a review meeting with officials over the arrangements for the conduct of Bonalu festivities. HYDERABAD PAGE 4

PM KISAN: Modi to release Rs 20K cr

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on June 18 to release Rs 20,000 crore under the PM-KISAN Nidhi scheme. He will also grant certificates to more than 30,000 SHGs designated as Krishi Sakhis after the release of the 17th instalment of the PM KISAN scheme funds, union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said while addressing the media. ANI

NEET: Cops serve notices to 11

PATNA: The Economic Offences Unit of Bihar Police, probing the allegations of paper leak in the NEET-UG 2024, issued notices to 11 candidates who were suspected of involvement in the crime. The notices were served to them after their names and roll codes were found from the possession of examination mafias. Of these, seven are girls who hail from different districts of Bihar. IANS

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 139
Retail live.....	Rs. 161
With skin.....	Rs. 233
Skinless.....	Rs. 266
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 65



'Have to support my family'

Mandira Bedi opens up on coping with husband's sudden death

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'POWER' HANDLED WITH CARE

BRS president writes 12-page reply to notice served by Justice L Narasimha Reddy Inquiry Commission

Calls Commission biased, says it is working with 'preconceived notions', asks former Chief Justice of High Court to recuse himself

Commission was set up by Congress government to probe alleged irregularities in the power sector during BRS regime

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday questioned the legality of the Justice L Narasimha Reddy Inquiry Commission set up by the State government to probe into alleged irregularities in the power sector, pointing out that commissions could not be constituted against the orders of Electricity Regulatory Commission decisions.

Calling Reddy's approach 'biased' and with 'preconceived notions', he asked the former Chief Justice of the High Court to recuse himself from heading the Commission.

In a 12-page written reply to the notice served by the Commission, the BRS chief found fault with the Commission for being biased as was evident from its statements to the press even as the probe was under progress. He also raised doubts over an impartial probe and faulted Reddy for taking charge of the Commission without informing the government that such a

POINT-BY-POINT REBUTTAL

- Explains how power sector in Telangana at the time of State formation was in serious crisis
- Points out that power share allocated to TS was insufficient, says there was a shortfall of nearly **5,000 MW**
- To worsen situation, AP did not supply over **1,500 MW**, violating AP Reorganisation Act provisions
- Power sector organisations and the then TS govt worked in unison to tide over the crisis
- With this, installed capacity, which stood at 7,778 MW, went up to **20,000 MW**
- Strengthening of power distribution system led to TS being the only State to supply quality power **24/7 to all sectors**
- If per capita power consumption in TS stood at 1,196 units in 2014, it shot up to **2,349** units in next 10-yr period
- Asserts that extraordinary situations required extraordinary decisions
- Dismisses Commission's statements on use of sub-critical technology, says there was no restriction or ban on its use
- Says Commission ignored the fact that over **90%** of power stations in the country are using sub-critical technology

IF THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE CURRENT RULING PARTY ARE UNFORTUNATE, MORE PAINFUL ARE YOUR UNBRIDLED COMMENTS AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE

BEFORE COMPLETING THE INQUIRY, YOUR ACT OF CALLING FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, TAKING THE NAME OF TELANGANA AND MY NAME AND EXTENDING THE TIME FOR SUBMITTING THE REPLY IN VIEW OF THE LOK SABHA ELECTIONS AS A PERSONAL FAVOUR, HAVE CAUSED EXTREME PAIN TO ME

— K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Leader of Opposition and BRS chief

constitution of a Commission was illegal. The former Chief Minister, explaining how the power sector in Telangana at the time of State formation was in serious crisis, said the then Central government had incorporated the power share in the AP Reorganisation Act considering the power consumption statistics of five

years prior to State bifurcation. According to the Act, Telangana was to get 53.89 per cent and Andhra Pradesh 46.11 per cent. This ratio was to be followed for the next ten years. However, the power share allocated to Telangana was insufficient. Even considering the power allocated, there was a shortfall of

nearly 2,700 MW. To worsen the situation, Andhra Pradesh did not supply over 1,500 MW, violating the Reorganisation Act provisions, and with the non-availability of 900 MW of power from gas-based stations, Telangana suffered a deficit of 2,400 MW. On the whole, there was a shortage of nearly 5,000 MW, leading

to a severe crisis in Telangana. In this backdrop, the power sector organisations and the Telangana government worked in unison to tide over the crisis and as a result, the installed capacity, which stood at 7,778 MW, went up to 20,000 MW. Strengthening of the power distribution system led to Telangana being the only

State in the country to supply quality power 24/7 to all sectors. If the per capita power consumption in Telangana stood at 1,196 units in 2014, it shot up to 2,349 units in the next 10-year period. "These results were not obtained by perfunctory actions but by charting a careful plan to set up new power generation

units while following all laws and getting requisite permissions from State and Union governments. Moreover, all these steps were initiated as per the judgments of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC). If any organisation or a person had any objections, they could have aired them at the ERC's public hearings. Any decision of the ERC could be appealed against in the Electricity Appellate Tribunal also," he pointed out.

A Revanth Reddy, then a TDP MLA, had submitted his objections to buying power from Chhattisgarh to the ERC and the latter had given clearance after considering the objections. "The law stipulates that if Revanth Reddy had any objections, he was empowered to move the Electricity Appellate Tribunal and later the Supreme Court also. However, interestingly, Mr Revanth Reddy had not preferred to move the higher authorities with objection to the ERC decision," he said. The former Chief Minister asserted that extraordinary situations required extraordinary decisions. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

Distressed Sircilla weaver ends life

STATE BUREAU
 Karimnagar

Unable to get work, a weaver died by suicide by jumping in front of a moving train in Kothapalli on the outskirts of Karimnagar town on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Bollabathini Venkatesham.

A native of Reddyramahapalli of Kothapalli mandal, the 63-year-old was working as a powerloom worker in the Sircilla textile for the last ten years. As there was no work during the last six months, he returned to his native place. According to the police, Venkatesham took the drastic step as he was finding it difficult to run his family due to lack of employment for the last few months.

On Friday, Venkatesham left his home after inform-

ing his family members that he was going to Sircilla but was found dead on the railway tracks near Kothapalli on Saturday. He is survived by a son, daughter and his wife. While his son Ranjit had completed BTech and was searching for a job, his daughter Soumya was pursuing an MBA course.

Financial situation
 Venkatesham, who had earlier migrated to Bhiwandi in search of employment, returned to the State after the formation of a separate Telangana and got engaged in work in Sircilla. While working in Sircilla, he used to visit his house only on Sundays. As there was no work during the last six months, he was staying at home and got depressed following his financial situation, police said. (SEE PAGE 2)

8 naxals killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

NARAYANPUR

Eight naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday. A huge cache of weapons and other materials belonging to naxalites were recovered from the encounter site, they said.

The gunfight broke out at around 7 am in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts — Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon — was out on an anti-naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P said. The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, followed by intermittent firing in the forests of Kutul. (SEE PAGE 2)

FIGHTING FOR THEIR DUES



ASHA workers protesting in front of the Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare office, Hyderabad, demanding timely payment of salaries. BRTU State president Rambabu Yadav and others also took part in the protest.

State to fill vacant posts in Health Department

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The State government, which is focusing on strengthening the public health sector, will soon issue notifications to fill vacant posts in the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department, besides in government hospitals. These will include notifications for 531 Civil Assistant surgeons, 193 lab technicians and 31 staff nurses.

According to a statement, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy issued directions to this effect as part of paying special attention to provide better healthcare. During monsoon, dengue and other viral fevers were prevalent in the State. Taking serious note of this, the government began an exercise to fill vacant posts in the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department. (SEE PAGE 2)

Man stabbed as two groups clash in Medak

STATE BUREAU
 Medak

Tension prevailed in Medak when two groups clashed over the illegal transportation of cattle on Saturday evening.

With the police allegedly failing to control clashes in the initial stages, some unidentified persons from one group stabbed a person from the other group. Another person sustained grievous injuries in the incident. The injured were rushed to the Area Hospital in Medak for treatment.

The incident occurred when BJYM activists obstructed a vehicle carrying cattle. When they came to know about the illegal transportation of cattle at another location, they rushed to Narsikhed on the outskirts of Medak town. There, an argument



Shops closed following clashes between two groups in Medak district on Saturday evening.

ensued between the two groups. Alleging that they were attacked, the BJYM activists staged a protest at the Medak town police station demanding action. Fearing attacks, the commercial establishments closed their business voluntarily. As the tension escalated further

and continued till late at night, the police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd. Meanwhile, SP B Bala Swamy deployed a huge number of police personnel across the town to control the situation. The police took the cattle into their possession.

20 IAS officers transferred in Telangana

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In a major reshuffle of IAS officers, the Telangana government issued orders transferring several District Collectors, Additional Collectors and Managing Directors of different organisations. According to official sources, in addition to these transfers, there could be more transfers of senior IAS and IPS officers, who have been working in the same post for over two years, in a few days.

Muzammil Khan, Collector and District Magistrate, Peddapalli, was transferred and posted as Collector and District Magistrate, Khammam, after VP Gautham was transferred. Badavath Santhosh, Collector and District Magistrate, Mancherial, was transferred and posted as Collector and District Magistrate, Nagarkurnool. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Married woman elopes with minor

STATE BUREAU
 Siddipet

A 27-year-old married woman, who allegedly eloped with a minor boy, the son of her house owner, in Hanuman Nagar of Siddipet, was arrested and charged under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The boy, who discontinued studies after Class 10, was preparing for defence recruitment examinations and was attending coaching classes in Karimnagar.

However, he used to visit his house quite frequently. The woman then developed an extramarital relationship with him over the last one year and allegedly eloped with him on January 22. The minor allegedly stole gold ornaments and cash from his home. Following a complaint registered by his parents, the Siddipet two-town

Cops launched search operation and traced them to Chennai; the woman was arrested and charged under POCSO Act

police launched a search and traced them to Chennai. After coming to know that the police were on their way to Chennai, the woman returned to Siddipet with the boy and left him in the town on June 11. Following this, the boy and his mother approached the police. The boy reportedly told the police that she forced him to have sex with her, following which Two-Town Inspector Upendar filed a POCSO case against the woman, who was arrested and remanded in judicial custody.