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Rahul visits relief camps in Manipur, talks with inmates



WORLD | PAGE 09
Russian missile attacks across Ukraine kill 31
 One missile strikes children's hospital in Kyiv, rescue operations on



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12
Anushka joins Aahana in thriller series Mixture

In a nutshell

Two dead in Odisha Rath Yatra
PURI: At least two persons died and over 130 were injured in two different incidents during Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra in Odisha. A resident of Bolangir district died allegedly due to suffocation in a stampede-like situation during the Rath Yatra in Puri, an official said. "When we put him in the ambulance, his pulse was running. We took him to the hospital and gave him CPR. However, doctors declared him brought dead," said Sushant Kumar Patnaik, assistant commandant of St John ambulance service. PTI

SC for uniform buyer-builder deals
NEW DELHI: Homebuyers in the country are being defrauded, necessitating the need to bring uniformity in builder-buyer agreements, the SC observed. "Buyers are being defrauded by builders all across and that is why the need for uniformity now," a Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said. The top court was hearing a PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay in 2021, saying a model agreement was required to ensure transparency. NATION PAGE 7

BMW case: Hunt on for accused
MUMBAI: Mumbai Police formed 11 teams and also roped in the Crime Branch to nab the 24-year-old son of a ruling Shiv Sena leader after a BMW car the youth was driving crashed into a scooter, killing a woman and injuring her husband. A Look Out Circular has also been put out against Mihir Shah, son of Rajesh Shah, a Shiv Sena leader. Mihir Shah was allegedly driving the car which fatally knocked down Kaveri Nakhwa and injured her husband Pradeep while the couple was on their two-wheeler in Worli area. NATION PAGE 7

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 114
Retail live.....	Rs. 136
With skin.....	Rs. 197
Skinless.....	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70

Corporations get chiefs, orders out

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In a rather perplexing move, appointment orders pertaining to 34 different corporations in the State, which were kept under wraps all these days, were suddenly released by the State government on Monday. The government had actually issued these orders on March 15 this year, but they were not made public, nor did Congress announce the appointments.

Seven orders (GO Ms 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447 and 448) were issued by Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari. Interestingly, a list of the leaders appointed as chairpersons for different corporations was published in a few sections of the media during the Lok Sabha

Bathukamma saree scheme wrapped up?

Govt shows no signs of continuing scheme launched by BRS regime

S SANDEEP KUMAR
 HYDERABAD

Women from economically weaker sections in Telangana will have to look for options other than the State government this time to get the traditional Bathukamma sarees, a habit they had got used to for the last seven years. This is because the Congress government has so far shown no signs of continuing the traditional gifting of sarees to women during the seven-day flower festival that is an integral part of Telangana's cultural identity.

No orders
 The Bathukamma saree scheme, initiated and continued by the previous BRS government for seven years without a break even during the Covid pandemic, however, looks like it has been shelved with the current government giving no orders to weavers despite Bonalu festivities commencing and the Bathukamma festival just a couple of months away.

The previous government used to place orders with

No clarity
BRS GOVT INTRODUCED BATHUKAMMA SAREE SCHEME IN 2017, NEARLY ONE CRORE SAREES GIFTED TO WOMEN EVERY YEAR

- Rs 330 cr to Rs 350 cr worth orders placed
- 90% manufactured in Sircilla, rest in Karimnagar, Warangal
- Congress government mum on crucial scheme
- Scheme helped poor women, weavers, ancillary workers, others

YEAR-WISE	
2017	95,48,439
2018	96,70,474
2019	96,57,813
2020	96,24,384
2021	96,38,000
2022	96,42,000
2023	1.02 crore

(Distribution halted by ECI)



weavers by January every year, with the weavers handing over sarees by September and the government distributing them from late September to October.

Every year since 2017, the State government used to give nearly one crore

Bathukamma sarees made using about 240 types of thread borders in 25-30 different designs and over 10 attractive colours. However, this year, despite many powerlooms shutting down for lack of work and at least 12 weavers and ancillary work-

ers dying by suicide after running into a financial crisis on account of joblessness, the State government appears to have decided against placing Bathukamma saree orders this year. (SEE PAGE 2)

5 soldiers killed in J&K ambush

KATHUA/JAMMU

Five army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer, were killed and as many were injured on Monday when heavily armed terrorists ambushed a patrolling party in the remote Machedi of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

The terror attack, the fifth in Jammu region in a month, evoked widespread condemnation with political leaders including three former chief ministers expressing concern over the growing terror incidents, especially in the Jammu region where militancy has returned after being wiped out over two decades ago.

The terrorists targeted an army truck, part of a routine patrolling party, with a grenade and gunfire on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar road near Badnota

village in Lohai Malhar, approximately 150 km from Kathua town, at around 3:30 pm, the officials said. After the ambush, the terrorists fled into the nearby forest as the army, assisted by police and paramilitary personnel, retaliated. The army vehicle, carrying ten occupants, bore the brunt of the attack, resulting in fatal injuries to five soldiers, including a JCO. Five others are undergoing treatment.

An exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces ensued, with reinforcements quickly dispatched to the area to neutralise the attackers - believed to be three in number and heavily armed - who may have recently infiltrated from across the border. It is the second major attack in Kathua district within one month. PTI

Postpone DSC, demand aspirants

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Several members of student organisations, along with a large number of DSC job aspirants, were taken into custody on Monday when they tried to stage a protest at the Commissioner and Director School Education office, Saifabad.

The aspirants demanded that authorities immediately postpone the proposed DSC examinations. The DSC, a recruitment exam for teaching positions in government and local body schools, is scheduled from July 18 and August 5.

The schedule of the DSC examinations nearly clashes with Group-II exams, scheduled to be held on August 7 and August 8. As a result of this, there is a widespread demand among aspirants that the State government immediately postpone the examinations to a later date.



Police officials taking teacher job aspirants into custody at the Directorate of School Education, in Hyderabad. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

Preventive custody
 To register these demands, at around 11 am on Monday, following a protest call, hundreds of DSC aspirants and student organisations gathered near the school education office at Saifabad. They raised slogans and demanded the authorities to immediately reschedule the exam by three months. As the protesters squatted on the road, the police swung into action and took them into preventive custody. The police shifted them to Goshamahal police stadium.

France election ends in deadlock

PARIS

French voters divided their legislature among the left, centre and far right, with no single political faction getting even close to the majority needed to form a government.

The risk of paralysis loomed for EU's second-largest economy. President Emmanuel Macron gambled that his decision to call snap elections would give France a "moment of clarification," but the outcome showed the opposite, less than three weeks before the start of the Paris Olympics thrusts the country on the international stage. France's main share index opened with a dip in response to the vote. According to the second-round results tallied early Monday, a leftist coalition surged to take the most seats in Parliament. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

Joining de-addiction centre now must for drug addicts

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Police are making it mandatory for drug addicts to attend counselling sessions and join a de-addiction centre apart from its regular task of registering cases and proceeding legally against them.

In various cases busted by the police recently, the TGANB and local police directed drug users to attend counselling in the presence of their parents. The police feel that just booking criminal cases and hauling the drug addicts before the

Joining de-addiction centre now must for drug addicts

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The habit and join the mainstream. The police, with an aim to check the progress of de-addiction procedures, are conducting random testing using drug testing kits on the consumers.

In the Raidurgam case, the police plan to conduct five surprise tests on each of those who were caught over a period of time to ascertain if they are actively joining the de-addiction programmes. The TGANB sought the cooperation of the public and urged them to inform over 8712671111 about drug peddling. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 3)

Apart from counselling sessions, the motive is to encourage them to come out of the habit and join mainstream

courts and sending them to prison will not be of much help. Sandeep Shandilya, Director TGANB, in a press release, stated that the police will make sure the drug addicts join a de-addiction centre. The motive is to encourage them to come out of

'NEET' re-test if sanctity lost'

SC seeks details from NTA, CBI about timing of paper leak

NEW DELHI

Observing that a re-test has to be ordered if the sanctity of the NEET-UG 2024 is 'lost', the Supreme Court on Monday sought information from the National Testing Agency and the CBI about the timing of the question paper leak and duration between leak and actual test.

The apex court also sought the number of wrongdoers identified so far and the methodology adopted for the paper leak.

"One thing is clear that leak of question paper has taken place," a Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said, adding that the extent of the question paper leak and the beneficiaries across geographical boundaries have to be ascertained before the court may order re-test in the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam conducted on May 5.

Posting for July 11 the next hearing on a batch of pleas alleging irregularities in the NEET-UG, the court directed the investigating

officer of the CBI, which is conducting a probe into the allegations of malpractices, OMR sheet manipulation, impersonation and cheating, to place before it a report indicating the status of the probe.

Referring to the legal position on ordering a re-test, the top court said it would have to be "scrutinised whether the alleged breach has taken place at systemic level, whether the breach has affected integrity of the entire exam process and whether it is possible to segregate the beneficiaries of fraud from the untainted students".

"In a situation where breach affects the entirety of the process and it is not possible to segregate the beneficiaries from others, it may be necessary to order a re-test," said the Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. It said the NTA must disclose about the steps taken so far for the identification of beneficiaries of wrongdoings.

The Bench further asked the NTA to apprise it about the steps taken to identify the centres and cities where the question paper leak took place, the modalities followed for identifying the beneficiaries and their numbers ascertained so far. PTI

53.3°C heat kills biker in California

LOS ANGELES

A visitor to Death Valley National Park died from heat exposure and another person was hospitalised as the temperature reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit (53.3 C) in eastern California, officials said.

The duo was part of a group of six motorcyclists riding through the Badwater Basin area amid scorching weather, the park said in a statement.

The person who died was not identified. The other motorcyclist was shifted to a hospital in Las Vegas for "severe heat illness", the

statement said. The other four members of the party were treated at the scene. "High heat like this can pose real threats to your health," said park Superintendent Mike Reynolds. The death comes as a long-running heat wave has shattered temperature records across the US.

A long-running heat wave that has already shattered previous records across the US will persist, baking parts of the West with dangerous temperatures that will soar into the 100s and holding the East in its hot and humid grip throughout the week, forecasters said. AP