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Fuel prices in India lowest, claims Union Minister Puri



WORLD | PAGE 09

Netanyahu vows retaliation against Hezbollah

Our response will come, and it will be severe, says Israeli Prime Minister



SPORT | PAGE 10

Paris Olympics: India hold Argentina to 1-1 draw

In a nutshell

J&K: Four killed in mysterious blast
SRINAGAR: Four persons were killed in a mysterious blast in J&K's Sopore on Monday. "Four people sustained critical injuries when a mysterious blast occurred in the Shair colony. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors declared three of the injured brought dead. "The 4th injured person was shifted to SKIMS hospital in Srinagar, but he succumbed to injuries on the way," an official said. IANS

Indian, 'hired' for Russia, dies in war
CHANDIGARH: A 22-year-old Haryana man "sent to the frontline by the Russian Army to fight against Ukrainian forces" died, his family claimed. The Indian embassy in Moscow confirmed the death of Ravi Moun, who hailed from Matour village, his brother Ajay Moun said. Moun went to Russia on January 13 after being "hired" for a transportation job but was inducted into the military, his brother claimed. PTI

13 coaching centres sealed
NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has taken action against "illegal" coaching centres in Old Rajinder Nagar after three UPSC aspirants lost their lives due to flooding in the basement of a coaching institute. The civic body sealed at least 13 coaching centres that were operating illegally in the area late on Sunday night, following the directive of MCD Mayor Shaili Oberoi. NATION PAGE 7

Woman found chained to tree
MUMBAI: A 50-year-old woman was found tied to a tree with an iron chain in a forest in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, and a photocopy of her US passport as well as other documents, including an Aadhaar card with a Tamil Nadu address, were recovered from her, a police official said. A shepherd heard her cries and alerted police after finding her chained. NATION PAGE 7

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 94
Retail live.....	Rs. 116
With skin.....	Rs. 168
Skinless.....	Rs. 191
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 62



Sanjay treats fans on his 65th b'day
 The actor unveils first look as Dhak Deva from KD-The Devil

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No need for third party role in LAC issue, says India

MEA admits ties with China not good

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday ruled out any role for a third party in India's border dispute with China, saying the two neighbours have an issue and it is for them to find a way out. "We are not looking to other countries to sort out what is really an issue between India and China," Jaishankar said while responding to a series of questions at a press conference in Tokyo. Jaishankar, who is here to attend a Quad Foreign Ministerial meeting, also said that India's relationship with China is not good and it's not doing well. "We have a problem, or, I would say, an issue between India and China...I think it is for two of us to talk it over and to find a way," he said. "Obviously, other countries in the world would have an interest in the matter, because we are two big countries and the state of our relationship has an impact on the rest of the world. But we are not looking to other countries to sort out what is really an issue

We are not looking to other countries to sort out what is really an issue between us — S JAISHANKAR
 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

between us," he said, recalling his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi twice this month. Jaishankar and Wang met last week in the Laotian capital where they participated in the meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During their meeting, they agreed on the need to give strong guidance to complete the disengagement process following the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. India has been maintaining that its ties with

China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. Jaishankar's remarks came amid the dragging border row in eastern Ladakh that entered its fifth year in May. On July 4, Jaishankar and Wang met in the Kazakh capital city of Astana on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points. The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. The two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. India has been pressing the PLA to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

Oppn not an enemy, says Telangana Guv

AGARTALA
 Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma said that the "opposition parties are not an enemy". Dev Varma, appointed as the Governor of Telangana replacing CP Radhakrishnan, said he would assume charge in the gubernatorial post in Hyderabad on July 31 and would attend the Governors' conference in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on August 1. Asked about Congress-ruled Telangana, Dev Varma, said that "any opposition party is not an enemy". "As a Constitutional head of State, I would discharge my constitutional responsibility in consultation with the CM," he said. IANS

Cong foresight made State self-sufficient in power: CM

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad
 Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that it was due to the foresightedness of the Congress to incorporate allocation of more share of power to Telangana in the AP Reorganisation Act-2014 that helped the State in overcoming the power crisis during its initial years and that the BRS had no role in it becoming self-sufficient in power. Taking part in the discussion on the demand for grants in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the BRS was misleading the people of the State stating that it had made the State self-sufficient in power. The people's representatives of Telangana brought to the notice of then Union Minister S Jaipal Reddy that if the



division of power were done based on population, then Telangana would face power shortages, hence it should be done based on consumption, he said, adding that Jaipal Reddy took the matter to UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who agreed to it and the State got 53.46 per cent share in power. Revealing the generation capacity, he said that at the time of Telangana forma-

tion, the installed generation capacity of TGGenco was 4,365.26 MW. During the bifurcation 2,960 MW of power was conceived and the projects were commissioned after Telangana came into being, he said, adding that the power situation in the newly formed Telangana was stable with the State getting an additional 1,800 MW beyond its installed capacity due to the special provisions in the AP Reorganisation Act. He said this enabled the smooth power supply despite the BRS government's failures. Stating that the BRS mismanaged the installation of new power plants, he said the 1,080 MW BTPS was planned with sub-critical technology and was envisaged to be completed in two years at Rs. 6.75 crore per MW. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

BRS to move privilege motion against Revanth

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad
 In a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, former Minister and senior BRS legislator T Harish Rao charged the former with repeatedly misleading the State Assembly with false statements. Amid heated debates in the Assembly, he said the Chief Minister was raising issues with misleading information to divert the discussion whenever the ruling party was on the defensive, thereby leading the House astray. "We have already filed an adjournment motion. We will also move a privilege motion against the Chief Minister for misleading the House," he said. In an informal interaction on the Assembly premises on Monday, Harish Rao

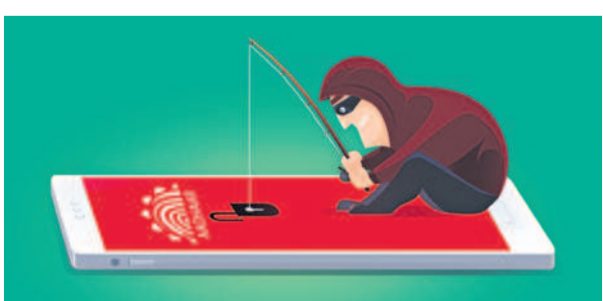


ridiculed the Chief Minister for holding the BRS responsible for the construction of the Pothireddy padu project during the YS Rajasekhara Reddy government in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He reminded that the government order for the project was issued on December 19, 2005, six months after BRS (then TRS) leaders resigned from the YS Rajasekhara Reddy Cabinet on July 5, 2005. The former Minister also refuted Revanth

Reddy's statement about the installation of electricity meters for agricultural connections. He pointed out that the Chief Minister falsely linked the UDAY scheme document with that of the Centre's mandate to install electricity meters to agricultural connections and also deliberately omitted the phrase "other than agriculture motors" from the UDAY scheme's smart meter installation clause. Further, Harish Rao rubbished the Chief Minister's claim that retired engineers had deemed the Medigadda project unfeasible. He explained that the retired engineers' team had only stated that a direct connection from Medigadda to Mid Manair was not possible, necessitating the construction of Annaram and Sundilla barrages. (SEE PAGE 2)

Study finds new Aadhaar-SIM fraud

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad
 Cyber fraudsters are now employing a unique operative style of using Aadhaar cards with outdated pictures of children to falsely obtain SIM cards for nefarious activities, a study by Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB)-Institute of Data Science, Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) and Centre of Excellence for Cyber Security of Telangana State said. The study 'Telecom SIM Subscription Frauds: Global Policy Trends, Risk Assessments and Recommendations' says that SIM card fraud is a significant part of cybercrimes, and only a robust identity verification solution can stop such crimes.



Fraudsters using Aadhaar cards with outdated pictures of children to falsely obtain SIM cards for nefarious activities

The study found that 64.5 per cent of Indian consumers prefer digital KYC for SIM registration, with Aadhaar being the preferred identity document. Notably, 89 per cent of alternative numbers provided are not

linked to Aadhaar, indicating a significant gap in verification processes. "Often the alternative numbers used for authentication purposes were linked to other criminals. The study recommends incorporating online identification and validation methods, enhancing electronic identification processes and increasing customer education to combat the fraud," said Director TGCSB, Shikha Goel. The study utilised subscriber data from Customer Acquisition Forms (CAFs) from across all telecom service providers. A total of 1,600 CAFs phone numbers belonging to criminals reported by people across Telangana were obtained and real-time analysis of the data was extracted using AI models. "An extensive analysis of SIM registration policies in 160 countries was conducted to benchmark global best practices, offering valuable insights for enhancing local protocols," said the official. (SEE PAGE 2)

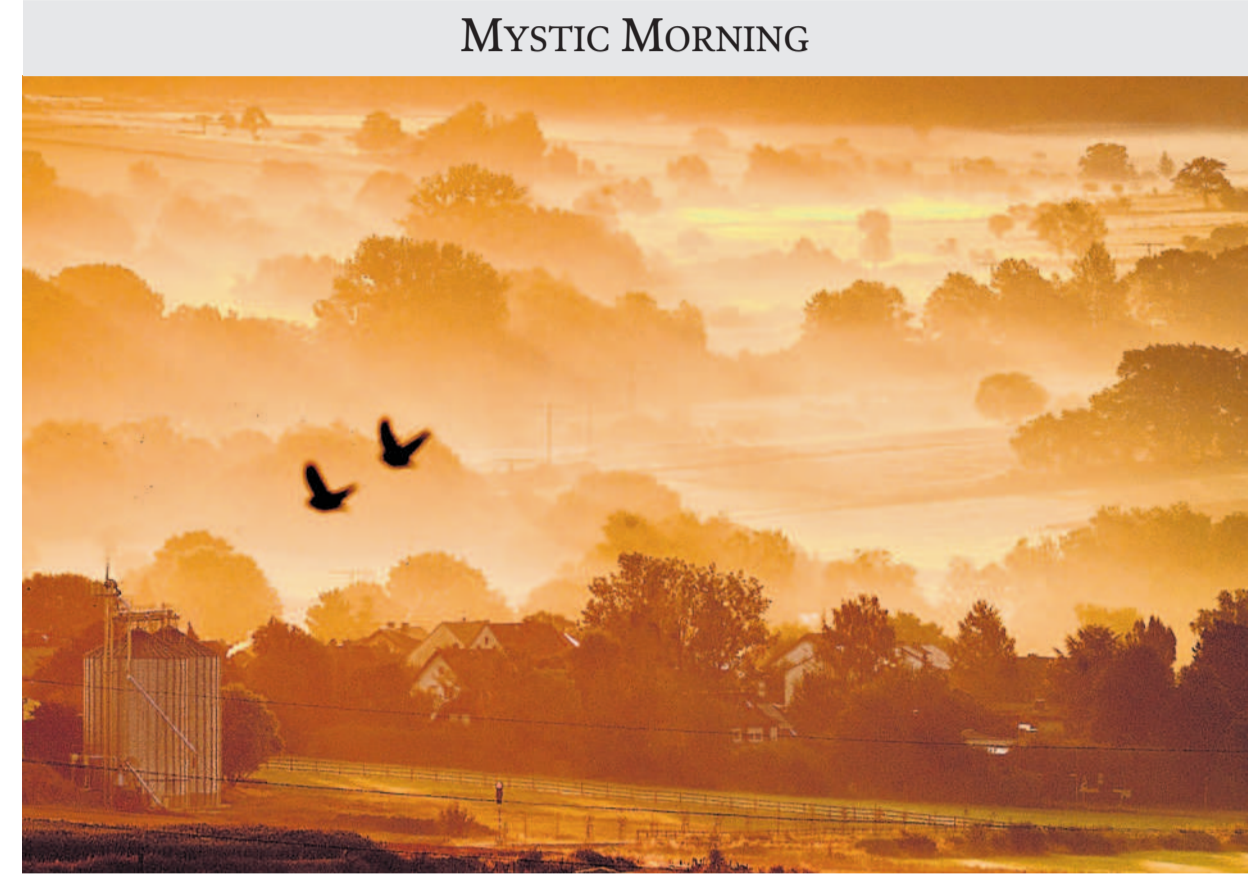
Law & order failed in State, says MIM

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad
 Lashing out at the Congress government for law and order failure in the State, AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi said he would be compelled to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against police over increasing atrocities against the common people. "The police was resorting to lathi-charge in Old City. Private employees returning home were not being spared, and even those visiting hospitals were being questioned," he said during a discussion on demands for grants in the Assembly on Monday. "Taskforce is meant to act against crimi-

nals and control crime. In Hyderabad, the Taskforce is using 'danda' on common people at nights and was sleeping during morning hours," Akbaruddin Owaisi said. As Congress members tried to object to his remarks, AIMIM members shot back and asked them to occupy their seats. Continuing his tirade against the Congress government, the AIMIM Floor Leader said there was a spurt in murders, and the crime rate has increased considerably. "GHMC elections are fast approaching, I am trying to explain a few things to you (Congress members), the rest is up to you," Akbaruddin Owaisi replied. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

Pakistani woman travels to Rajasthan for love

ISLAMABAD
 In yet another cross-border love story, a 25-year-old Pakistani woman crossed the international border last week to join a man from Rajasthan, whom she had befriended on a social media platform and later got married to. It was after the failure of her first marriage in 2018 that Mehvish, who resides in Islamabad, befriended Rehman of Rajasthan's Bikaner who was working as a transporter in Kuwait. After several interactions on social media, the two fell in love, leading to a marriage proposal on March 13, 2022, and "marriage via videoconference" three days later. (SEE PAGE 2)



MYSTIC MORNING

Birds fly over fields in Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany during sunrise on Monday. — Photo: AP

Dry Mid Manair comes alive

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad
 Holding out hope for the parched landscape that was part of its vast command, the Mid Manair Reservoir in Rajanna Sircilla district finally received Godavari water. Two days of pumping operations at the Nandi Medaram pumphouse and the Gayatri pumphouse helped in lifting nearly two TMC of water into Mid Manair.

Two days of pumping ops at Nandi Medaram pumphouse and Gayatri pumphouse helped in lifting nearly two TMC of water into the project

About 15,600 cusecs was being discharged from Nandi pumphouse, with five of its seven pumping units in operation since Saturday night. The net inflow received at the Mid Manair was 11,868 cusecs. The drop in the flow at the receiving

end was attributed to evaporation and seepages. The present storage at Mid Manair Reservoir touched 7.19 TMC, as against its gross storage of 27.50 TMC. Around the same time last year, Mid Manair had a storage of

20.85 TMC as the project was filled with advance planning to support irrigation for the Vanakalam crops under a string of reservoirs fed by it. The storage level in Mid Manair will be filled to the level of 15 TMC before giving water for further distribution or feeding other reservoirs, including Mallanna Sagar and Ranganayaka Sagar. (THREE GATES OF SRISAILAM LIFTED PAGE 5)