



BUSINESS | PAGE 08
Retail inflation hits nine-month high to 5.49%



WORLD | PAGE 09
21 killed in Israeli strike on Lebanon
Another strike on hospital tent camp in Gaza kills 4, many sustain severe burns



SPORT | PAGE 10
'Team's focus is on playing high-risk cricket'

In a nutshell

Delhi bans sale, use of firecrackers

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government imposed an immediate ban on the production, sale, and use of firecrackers across the city, effective until January 1. Minister Gopal Rai made the announcement and urged residents to support the efforts to curb pollution. "In view of increasing pollution in winter, a ban has been imposed on the production, storage, sale, and use of firecrackers from today till January 1," he said. **PTI**

Meitei, Kuki, Naga MLAs meet today

IMPHAL: For the first time since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur last year, a number of MLAs of Meitei, Kuki and Naga communities are set to hold a joint meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday under the supervision of the Home Ministry, officials said. "The talks are part of the Centre's efforts to facilitate a dialogue between the warring communities and seek a solution to the crisis," an official said. Over 200 people have been killed in Manipur since 2023. **PTI**

Indian sentenced in Singapore

SINGAPORE: A 47-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to nine weeks' jail by a Singapore court after he failed to return SGD 25,000 (Rs 16 lakh) mistakenly transferred to his bank account, despite knowing the money did not belong to him. On October 14, Periyasamy Mathiyazhagan pleaded guilty to misappropriating the money and told the court that he had used the money to pay off his debts and remitted some of it to his family in India. **PTI**

Jaishankar to visit Pakistan today

LAHORE: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to land in Pakistan on Tuesday to attend a conclave of the SCO, in the first high-level visit from India in years amid continuing strain in ties between the two neighbours. Shortly after he arrives in Islamabad, the EAM is likely to attend a banquet reception hosted by Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif to welcome the delegates from the SCO member nations. **WORLD PAGE 9**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 126
Retail live.....	Rs. 148
With skin.....	Rs. 215
Skinless.....	Rs. 244
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72

India, Canada expel envoys as rift deepens

Move comes after Ottawa links Indian diplomat to Nijjar case

PTI
NEW DELHI

India on Monday expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced withdrawing its High Commissioner and other "targeted" officials from Canada after strongly dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Sikh extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in a major downturn in already frosty ties between the two nations.

India's decision to recall High Commissioner Sanjay Verma and some other diplomats came shortly after the Canadian Charge d'Affaires Stewart Wheelers was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Wheelers was bluntly told that baseless "targeting" of the Indian envoy and other officials was "completely unacceptable". The Washington Post, quoting unnamed Canadian officials, reported that Canada on Monday ordered

Pannun case: Indian team for US today

WASHINGTON: An Indian inquiry committee established to investigate the American allegations of the involvement of an Indian government official in a foiled plot to assassinate a US national will be visiting here on Tuesday, the US Department of State said. "The Enquiry Committee will be travelling to Washington, DC on October 15th, as part of their ongoing investigations to discuss the case, including information they have obtained, and to receive an update from US authorities regarding the US case that is proceeding," it said. **PTI**

WE HAVE NO FAITH IN CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THEIR SECURITY. THEREFORE, INDIA DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND OTHER DIPLOMATS

— MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

six Indian diplomats to leave the country, including Verma and the top consular official in Toronto. In a late evening statement, the MEA said India has asked six Canadian diplomats including Charge d'Affaires Wheelers and Deputy High Commissioner Patrick

Hebert to leave India by or before 11:59 pm on October 19. The other diplomats expelled are Marie Catherine Joly, Ian Ross David Trites, Adam James Chuijka and Paula Orjuela (all first secretaries). In its reaction to Canada's charges against Verma, New Delhi de-

scribed them as "concocted" and "preposterous imputations" and ascribed the allegations to the "political agenda of the Trudeau government that is centred around vote bank politics".

In its statement, the MEA said India received a "diplomatic communication from Canada suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are 'persons of interest' in a matter related to an investigation in that country".

Wheelers was summoned by MEA's Secretary Jaideep Mazumdar and it was underlined to him that in an atmosphere of extremism and violence, the Trudeau government's actions "endangered" the safety of Indian diplomats. "We have no faith in Canadian government's commitment to ensure their security. Therefore, India has decided to withdraw the High Commissioner and other targeted diplomats and officials," the MEA said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Navy radar station threat to Musi: BRS

KTR says party will fight against the project

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Rajnath, CM to lay foundation today

HYDERABAD: Even as the Indian Navy is preparing for the foundation stone laying ceremony of its VLF station at Pudur village under Damagundam reserve forest block in Vikarabad on Tuesday, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to be the chief guest, people from different sections are intensifying their protest against the project and demanding the State government to re-think its permission for the land to the Navy. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

project that could cause irreversible damage to the river's source.

'Eco Sensitive Zone' Rama Rao demanded that the Damagundam forest, where the Musi originates, be declared an 'Eco Sensitive Zone' to protect it from harmful development. He emphasised the need to safeguard Telangana's natural heritage and the Musi River for future generations. "Why is a radar station being set up in Telangana's dense forests, endangering not just 2,900 acres of land, but also 12 lakh trees and also Musi River's origination point?"

he asked, highlighting the severe environmental damage that would result from the project. He criticised Revanth Reddy for backing the foundation laying of the radar station, stating that the Congress government was betraying Telangana's interests for unclear benefits. The BRS working president reminded that despite pressures for nearly 10 years, the BRS government rejected the radar project to protect the State's ecological balance. He also drew attention to the Haritha Haram initiative, which was launched to expand forest cover in Telangana. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Lanka govt to reconsider nod for Adani project

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's new government led by Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday told the Supreme Court that it would reconsider the approval granted by the previous government to India's Adani Group for a wind power project.

A five-member Supreme Court (SC) Bench was told on behalf of the attorney general that the decision to review the project had been taken at a Cabinet meeting held on October 7. The final decision of the new govern-

President Dissanayake, in run-up to the poll, had pledged that his NPP alliance would annul the project

ment would be conveyed after the installation of the new Cabinet after the November 14 parliamentary election, the court was told. President Dissanayake in the run-up to the September 21 presidential election had

pledged that his National People's Power (NPP) alliance would annul the project. The NPP claimed that the project posed a threat to Sri Lanka's energy sector sovereignty and promised that it would be cancelled in the event of their victory.

The Adani Group was set to invest over \$440 million in the 20-year agreement for the development of 484 megawatts of wind power in the northeastern regions of Mannar and Pooneryn. The project faced fundamental rights litigation in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. **PTI**

Fee dues: TG pvt colleges announce indefinite bandh

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Private Degree and PG Colleges Management Association (TPDMA) on Monday announced an indefinite bandh until the Congress government clears fee reimbursement arrears. The managements will not conduct classes, as it has become untenable to run colleges due to the non-release of fee reimbursement arrears by the State government, it said.

"Due to the non-cooperation of our employees and college building owners, we have decided to hold an indefinite bandh until the government clears fee dues," said Bojja Suryanarayana Reddy and Yada Ramakrishna, president and secretary, respectively of TPDMA.

The State government has been allocating Rs 2,500 crore annually towards fee reimbursement for both professional and non-professional courses. Of the total amount, except for en-

gineering programmes, all other programmes get 50 per cent, which translates to Rs 1,250 crore. The colleges have been extending education to 11 lakh students in Telangana, TPMA said.

Fee reimbursement dues to the tune of around 20 per cent in 2021-22, 70 per cent in 2022-23 and 100 per cent for the academic year 2023-24 are pending, they said, adding that in the last 10 months, tokens worth Rs.1,200 crore were issued to colleges but the amount was not released. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



Kenya Wildlife Service rangers and capture team release five elephants at Aberdare National Park, Kenya, on Monday. — Photo: AP

Violence grips UP's Bahraich

BAHRAICH

Restless crowds, some people armed with sticks and iron rods, roamed the streets and shops were set on fire as tension escalated in Bahraich on Monday, a day after a 22-year-old man was killed in communal violence during a Durga idol immersion procession.

Police have booked a man and detained around 30 peo-

ple in connection with the unrest that broke out in the Mahrajanj area of Mansoor village when a Durga idol immersion procession passed through on Sunday. Around half a dozen people were injured in stone pelting and firing.

There were protests at several places and slogans raised against police and administrative officials, even as police forces conducted

flag marches in the area. Black smoke billowed into the sky from some shops, houses and vehicles set ablaze. Officials said Home Secretary Sanjeev Gupta and Addl DGP Amitabh Yash have reached the spot to take stock of the situation. "The situation is being brought under control and anti-social elements are being chased away," police officials said. **PTI**

No toll for LMVs entering Mumbai

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Monday announced a complete toll waiver for light motor vehicles (LMVs) entering Mumbai at all five booths, with effect from October 14 midnight. "There was a demand for the toll waiver due to the traffic jams at the toll booths," Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said.

The move comes ahead of the upcoming State Assembly polls, likely to be announced in a day, an official said. The toll waiver is expected to bring relief to people travelling in and out of Mumbai ahead of Diwali. Commuters will be able to travel without paying toll at the five booths — Dahisar, LBS Road-Mulund, Eastern Express Highway-Mulund, Airoli Creek Bridge and Vashi. Light motor vehicles include cars (hatchbacks, sedans and SUVs), jeeps, vans, auto-rickshaws, taxis, delivery vans and small trucks. **PTI**

Opposition MPs boycott Wakf meet

NEW DELHI

Several opposition MPs boycotted a meeting of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill alleging that the panel is not functioning in accordance with rules.

The lengthy meetings of the Joint Committee of Parliament have been marked by the exchange of heated words between its BJP and opposition members, and

things turned especially stormy on Monday as the latter questioned the rationale behind calling members of Hindu groups for deposition on a law concerning Muslims. Opposition MPs walked out in protest against the submission of Anwar Manippady, a former chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission and the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Alert RPF personnel avert tragedy, rescue woman

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a remarkable display of bravery and quick response, RPF Constable Vishwajeet Kumar and P Rajeshkar, Head Constable, RPF, Lingampalli, averted a potential tragedy at Lingampalli railway station on Sunday.

On Sunday, at 9.28 am, Train No. 17647 (HYB-Purna Express) arrived on platform number one at Lingampalli station for its two-minute halt. Later, a



RPF personnel rescuing a woman who accidentally lost her footing and got trapped between the train and the platform, at Lingampalli.

woman passenger, while attempting to board the moving train, accidentally lost her footing and got trapped between the train and the



platform. The alert RPF personnel reacted swiftly and managed to rescue the passenger. Their prompt action saved the woman's life, and



in the process, Constable Vishwajeet Kumar sustained minor injuries. Under the Operation Jeevan Raksha initiative, RPF Secunder-

abad Division saved four lives in 2024, preventing potential accidents involving individuals at risk of being run over by trains. **(SEE PAGE 2)**