

In a nutshell

7 naxals killed in Ch'garh encounter

KOTHAGUDEM: At least seven naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in the south Abujmahad of the Bastar area in Chhattisgarh. The gunfight broke out at around 3 am when a joint team of STF, CRPF and DRG of Narayanpur, Dantewada, Jagdalpur, Kondagaon were out on an anti-naxalite operation. After the exchange of fire stopped, the bodies of seven naxals were recovered.

AP student killed in UK road mishap

LONDON: A 32-year-old student from Andhra Pradesh died in a road accident in eastern England's Leicestershire while four other people were hospitalised with serious injuries, according to police. Chiranjeevi Panguluri died on the spot as a passenger in a car that ended up in a ditch and three co-passengers, one woman and two men, and the driver were all taken to hospital, police said. **PTI**

Gukesh youngest world chess champ

SINGAPORE: Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh became the youngest world chess champion at 18 years after beating title-holder Ding Liren in the last game of a nerve-racking showdown to herald a new era of dominance for the country's chess players. Gukesh became only the second Indian to clinch the coveted prize after the iconic player, Viswanathan Anand. **SPORT PAGE 11**

Shocker! Ailing ryot shackled

Lagacherla farmer, who suffered heart stroke, taken to hospital in handcuff

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

A harrowing incident, in which an arrested farmer, who complained of chest pain and a suspected heart stroke in Sangareddy jail, was taken to hospital in handcuffs and held on a chain by a constable has sparked widespread outrage. The tribal farmer, Heerya Naik, was brought to hospital in chains from jail, where he was in judicial custody along with 16 other farmers arrested for opposing land acquisition in Lagacherla a month ago.

On Wednesday night, Naik complained of chest pain and was taken to a local government clinic. However, prison officials failed to provide adequate medical care or inform his family, allegedly attempting to suppress the matter.

After another suspected heart attack on Thursday morning, Naik was taken to the Sangareddy Government Hospital in handcuffs and chains, in a police vehicle rather than an ambulance. His family, who were denied access to him at the hospital, condemned the treatment as inhumane. In response to mounting public pressure and intervention of BRS drawing media attention, authorities agreed to shift Naik to either Gandhi Hospital or NIMS in Hyderabad. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



The tribal farmer, Heerya Naik, who was brought to hospital handcuffed and chained.

GOVT BURDENING RYOTS WITH DEBT: KTR

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government for neglecting farmers by failing to implement promised welfare schemes. He criticised the administration for passing time with announcements and advertisements instead of concrete action, leaving farmers in uncertainty. He lamented the plight of farmers under the Congress regime, contrasting it with the BRS' tenure under K Chandrashekhara Rao, which instilled confidence among farmers. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

CM ORDERS PROBE

HYDERABAD: Faced with fierce criticism from all quarters over a farmer being taken to a hospital in handcuffs for treatment, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered for a detailed inquiry into the incident. He sought information from officials over Naik's health and expressed displeasure over the action of the officials. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

KIN TO STAGE STIR

HYDERABAD: Rupla Naik, the father of farmer Heerya Naik, said he would stage a protest at the residences of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his brother Tirupathi Reddy if anything happened to his son. He demanded that the Chief Minister release the farmers from jail immediately. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

'RBI report exposed Cong lies'

Even if it takes time, the truth will always prevail, says Harish

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Former Minister and senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao on Thursday rebuked the Congress government for spreading misinformation about the State's financial health and development under the BRS regime. Citing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest report, 'Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24', he said the data exposed the Congress' lies and validated the transformative progress



BRS leader T Harish Rao addressing the media in Siddipet.

achieved during K Chandrashekhara Rao's decade-long governance. Addressing a press

TT IMPACT

conference, Harish Rao asserted that the Congress government, led by Chief Minister A Revanth

Reddy, was built on "foundations of lies" and had engaged in a relentless campaign of false propaganda against BRS. "Even if it takes time, the truth will always prevail, notwithstanding attempts to hide it. The RBI's findings have laid bare the Congress' baseless claims of Telangana's bankruptcy under BRS regime," he said. The government had accused the BRS regime of burdening Telangana with unsustainable debt, alleging liabilities of Rs 7 lakh crore. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

SC halts surveys of religious places

NEW DELHI

In an important direction, the Supreme Court on Thursday restrained all the courts in the country from entertaining and passing any effective interim or final orders on any lawsuits seeking relief, including the survey of religious places under the 1991 law.

The direction of a Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan came on a batch of pleas and cross pleas relating to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The 1991 law prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. Notably, the Bench said no fresh suit

would either be filed or registered till its further orders and in the pending cases, the courts would refrain from any "effective interim or final order" till its further orders.

"We are examining the vires, contours and the ambit of 1991 Act," the Bench said, observing it would be appropriate to ask all other courts to "stay off their hands". Several lawyers, appearing for the Hindu side, opposed the order saying it should not be passed without hearing them. The Bench asked the Centre to file its reply to the pleas and cross ones in four weeks and granted a further of four weeks to other parties to file their rejoinder after the Centre filed its reply.

The Bench would accord the hearing after the completion of pleadings. **PTI**

Cabinet gives nod for ONOE Bill

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two Bills, including one to amend the Constitution to implement "One Nation, One Election", and the draft legislations are likely to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing winter session, sources said.

As of now, the Cabinet has given its nod to draft legislation to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies only, the sources said.

While a high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind had also proposed holding the municipality and panchayat polls along with the national and State elections in a phased manner, the Cabinet has decided to stay away, "as of now", from the manner in which local body

elections are conducted. The Constitution amendment Bill to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the States, the sources noted.

Another Constitution Bill proposed by the Kovind panel was aimed at creating provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, by inserting a new Article 324A. It would have required ratification by half of the State Assemblies. But the union Cabinet has kept the local body polls out as of now. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PTI**

(BRS SEEKS CLARITY PAGE 5)

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