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Sindhu, Kiran march into India Super 750 quarters

In a nutshell

12 naxalites gunned down
BIJAPUR: As many as 12 naxalites were killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Thursday, police said. The gunfight broke out around 9 am in a forest of south Bijapur when a joint team of security personnel was out an anti-naxalite operation and the intermittent exchange of fire lasted till late in the evening. Personnel belonging to the State police's DRG from three districts, five battalions of CoBRA and the 229th battalion of CRPF were involved in the operation. PTI

Nod for 8th Pay Commission
NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday decided to set up the 8th Pay Commission to revise the salaries of Central government employees and allowances of pensioners. The decision to set up the 8th Pay Commission was taken by PM Modi, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The term of the 7th Pay Commission will end in 2026. The chairman and two members of the Commission will be appointed soon, he added. There are over 49 lakh Central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners. PTI

KTR dares Revanth for live lie detector test

Criticises CM for using probe agencies for political vendetta

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In a bold counter to the ongoing allegations against him, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to a live lie detector test before a judge to settle cases of corruption rather than wasting public money in investigations for political vendetta.

He said the investigation into the cases filed against him were costing Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore for investigation.

Addressing the media after a seven-hour marathon questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Formula-E case, Rama Rao criticised the Chief Minister for using investigative agencies as tools for political vendetta. He reiterated that the corruption cases against him were filed with malafide intentions and political vendetta. He said as Revanth Reddy faced ACB and ED cases, similar cases were filed against him as well.

"I have a Sankranti offer to Revanth Reddy. Let us un-



BRS working president addressing media persons after a seven-hour marathon questioning by the Enforcement Directorate, in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

dergo a lie detector test together and face questioning by judges in front of the media with live telecast. I am ready to appear anywhere, anytime. Let the truth come out," he said.

He charged Revanth Reddy with orchestrating false cases to distract the public from his own legal troubles in the Cash-for-Vote scam and called on the Chief Minister to stop wast-

ing public money on baseless investigations.

The BRS working president reaffirmed his cooperation with investigative agencies, stating that he had appeared before the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on January 9 and the ED on January 16, despite no evidence of wrongdoing or corruption. "Both agencies asked the same questions, and I have answered every-

thing transparently," he said, reiterating his confidence in the judiciary. The ACB had asked about 80 questions, while the ED about 40, he said. Questioning the basis of the allegations, Rama Rao said, "Where is the case here? Every transaction has been transparent and accounted for. This cannot be classified as money laundering."

(SEE PAGE 2)

ISRO docks 2 sats in space, scripts history

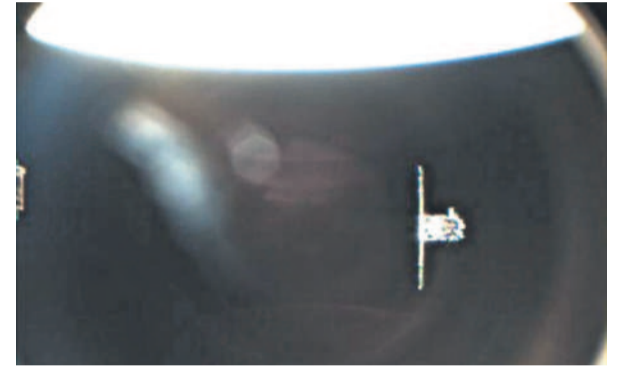
Becomes fourth country to achieve feat

BENGALURU

In a major boost to India's ambitious future space missions, ISRO on Thursday successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and announced that post docking, control of two satellites as a single object was also achieved.

"India docked its name in space history! Good Morning India ISRO's SpaDeX mission accomplishes historic docking success. Proud to witness this moment!" ISRO said in a post on X. With the successful docking of satellites — Chaser and Target — India has become the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to accomplish the technological feat.

Docking technology is essential when multiple rocket launches are required to achieve common mission objectives. The docking experiment is crucial for the smooth conduct of the country's ambitious future missions, including Chandrayaan-4, Gaganyaan, setting up a space station and landing an astronaut on the moon. PTI



A Space Docking Experiment project satellite of the ISRO is seen during a trial attempt of its docking process. — Photo:PTI

SpaDeX has Hyderabad connection

HYDERABAD: The success of SpaDeX, Indian Space Research Organisation's first-ever docking mission, on Thursday has a Hyderabad connection. Ananth Technologies (ATL), which as a trusted partner of ISRO, played a crucial role in the mission, had delivered critical components, including Rendezvous Processing Units (RPU) and DC-DC converters for SDX01 and SDX02, among others.

On Thursday, Ananth Technologies congratulated ISRO on the successful docking mission. Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri, CMD of Ananth Technologies, said, "We are proud to be a major contributor in another landmark program in India's space journey. ISRO's success inspires all of us in the space ecosystem to continue striving for excellence and innovation." A statement said Ananth Technologies has been a trusted partner of ISRO for over three decades, contributing cutting-edge solutions in satellite systems, launch vehicle components, and mission-critical technologies.

Actor Saif stabbed in Mumbai home

MUMBAI

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan was repeatedly stabbed by an intruder in his highrise apartment in upscale Bandra early on Thursday and rushed to hospital with the blade still lodged in his spine, an audacious attack that raises intriguing questions about security and celebrity life in the showbiz hub.

The 54-year-old, who received six stab injuries, including in his neck, was out of danger following an emergency surgery at the Lilavati Hospital where he was taken after the attack outside his younger son Jeh's room around 2.30 am.

The entire family — Khan, his wife, fellow star Kareena Kapoor, and their two sons, four-year-old Jeh and eight-year-old Taimur — were home in the 12th floor apartment along with their five house helps.

In a statement to the police, Jeh's nanny Eliyama Philip, who first encountered the armed attacker, said he asked for Rs 1 crore. The intruder did not force

'WRONG TO BRAND MUMBAI AS UNSAFE'

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Thursday said the attack on Saif Ali Khan was a serious incident, but it would be wrong to call Mumbai unsafe because of it. Police were taking action, and the government will take steps to make the country's financial capital safer, said Fadnis, who holds the Home portfolio. "I think Mumbai is the safest among mega cities in the country. It is true that some incidents take place sometimes and they must be taken seriously. But to say that Mumbai is unsafe due to such incidents is not right... Its image gets maligned (due to such comments)," he said. PTI

his entry or break into the actor's flat but possibly sneaked in at some point during the night with the intention of robbery, police officials said. The attacker, who made his escape through the stairs, remains on the run.

A 2.5-inch piece of the blade was removed from Khan's spine, doctors at the Lilavati Hospital said. PTI

2 behind Bidar heist shoot at bus cleaner

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A manager-cum-cleaner working at a travel agency was injured when two persons shot at him at Afzalgunj on Thursday evening.

According to DCP (east) K Bala Swamy, the victim, Jahangir, who works at Roshan Travels, was checking the baggage of a passenger who was behaving suspiciously when he noticed wades of currency notes. He grew suspicious about the cash and enquired with the passenger about it. The suspect then took out a countrymade pistol and shot one round at

Jahangir before escaping with the bag.

The suspects had come to the Roshan Travels office around 3.30 pm and booked tickets for Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Around 6.30 pm, they were being accommodated in a mini-bus that transports passengers from Afzalgunj to the Bowenpally boarding point where the luxury buses start for their destinations.

"We have formed four teams to identify and nab the suspects. After looking at the footage of closed circuit cameras, we suspect these are the same persons who committed a heist at Bidar," said Swamy. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

BRS moves SC on MLA defections

HYDERABAD: The BRS approached the Supreme Court and filed two separate petitions, seeking directions for action against 10 MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress. Following deliberations with former Minister and senior leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday, the party advocates filed the petitions in the Supreme Court. While a writ petition was filed seeking directions on seven of its MLAs — Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Kale Yadaiah, Sanjay Kumar, Krishnamohan Reddy, Mahipal Reddy, Prakash Goud and Arekapudi Gandhi — a special leave petition was filed on behalf of the party seeking directions on the defection of Danam Nagender, Tellam Venkatrao and Kadiyam Srihari. (SEE PAGE 2)

Chowraasta recreates vintage song

SANTOSH PADALA
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

Yashwanth Nag, music director and founder of Chowraasta music band, has recreated the immensely popular Palleturi Pillagada song from the movie Maa Bhumi directed by B Narsinga Rao in 1979. The song will be released by Collector Venkatesh Dothre at Mohinda village in Tiryani mandal on Friday.

The music composer said he remade the song to carry forward it to future generations and show the present generation how privileged they were due to the sacrifices of the previous generations. It would also be a tribute to the makers of the



Music director Yashwanth Nag with the tribal boy who acted in the 'Palleturi Pillagada' song from 'Maa Bhumi' movie.

original song, he noted. Yashwanth spent around a month in Tiryani mandal making the song. He re-

vealed that he had used a local tribal boy as the lead role in it. He and his crew members stayed at a tribal

woman's house during the shoot, he said, adding that he was amazed by the hospitality and purity of the tribals, who lead a simple lifestyle.

The music director said he was planning to set up a music studio in a tribal village in Tiryani mandal soon to provide an opportunity to local musicians to record their works and train enthusiastic learners. He added that he was running a music school, Little Bards, at Hampi of Bellary in Karnataka. The Palleturi Pillagada song was originally sung by Sandhya, while the lyrics were penned by Suddala Hanumanthu. The music was composed by Vinjamuri Seethadevi and Goutham Ghosh.

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