



NATION | PAGE 07

Fresh violence in Bengal during anti- Waqf Act protests



WORLD | PAGE 09

China ensures stability in the neighbourhood, says Xi

President reaches out to neighbours amid the raging tariff war with the US.



SPORT | PAGE 10

Dhoni is back as CSK beats LSG by five wickets

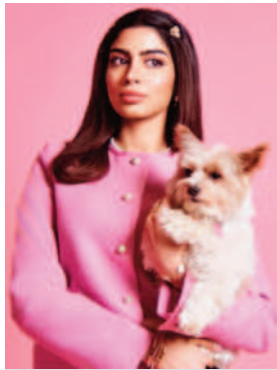
In a nutshell

Israel hits 35 targets in Gaza

Jerusalem: The Israeli military said on Monday it launched a new wave of strikes across the Gaza Strip, hitting about 35 targets, while Gaza health authorities said the death toll from renewed Israeli attacks had reached 1,613. Among the sites hit were a weapons manufacturing facility in southern Gaza and a launch site containing rocket launchers aimed at Israeli territory, the military said in a statement. In northern Gaza, Israeli soldiers identified an “ambush” of militants several hundred metres from their position, opened fire, and eliminated the “terrorists” in coordination with the Israeli Air Force, the military added.

Next US-Iran talks in Rome

Rome: Talks between Iran and the United States over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme appeared ready Monday to leave the Middle East, as an Italian source said the next round of negotiations would take place in Rome. Meanwhile, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog confirmed he would be taking a trip to Iran, possibly to discuss ways to improve access for his inspectors to Tehran's programme. US President Donald Trump repeatedly has threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's nuclear programme if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon.



Kushi on Sridevi's wardrobe

Says she still wears her late mother's clothes.

12

Ambedkar Jayanti shocker: Dalits stripped, abused by cops

Tension in Kamareddy over putting up banners; BRS condemns police action

STATE BUREAU
KAMAREDDY

Tension prevailed at Lingampet mandal in the district on Monday after a few Dalits were stripped, abused and humiliated for putting up banners on the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary celebrations. Heated arguments took place between Dalits and police personnel at the venue. Videos of a person being dragged in his innerwear from the venue are going viral on social media platforms.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has condemned the inhuman act by the police personnel under the Congress government. Party working president KT Rama Rao demanded immediate action against every police official involved.

“Just Another Day in Mohabbat Ka Dukaan! A Dalit man was stripped and arrested right under Babasaheb's shadow on his birth anniversary in Congress ruled Telangana! I demand to know how is tying a banner for Ambedkar Jayanthi a crime so heinous that this



Video grab of a Dalit man being dragged by the police in Lingampet mandal of Kamareddy.

kind of brutality had to be meted out? Dear @rahulgandhi, how many more pages will Revanth Reddy's government be allowed to tear apart from the constitution? I demand immediate & severe action on every police official involved...” he posted on X.

“Unimaginable brutality against Dalits on Ambedkar Jayanti, what a shameful reflection of governance. Is this Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution in action, or CM Revanth Reddy's personal rulebook?,” BRS MLC K

Kavitha said on X. Sharing videos on X, she said dalits in Lingampet Mandal, Kamareddy were stripped, humiliated and arrested by the police. “For what? Putting up banners for Ambedkar Jayanti?” she asked.

“The police acted like unruly mobs not public servants. What kind of police feel bold enough to do something like this, unless they know they're protected from above? This is not just brutality, this is a hate crime and humiliating,” the BRS MLC said.

AMBEDKAR STATUE OPENED FOR PUBLIC

HYDERABAD: After being closed to the general public for over a year, the 125 feet statue of Father of Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar next to the Secretariat was opened to people on Monday. The Congress government had closed the place for public access citing different reasons. However, following the pressure exerted by Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the State government provided access to the general public on Monday.

(SEE PAGE 5)

AMBEDKAR FLAGS DUMPED IN DRAIN; POLICE BEGIN PROBE

ADILABAD: Unidentified persons dumped flags of Dr BR Ambedkar in a roadside drain at Pippiri village in Bazarhathnoor mandal on Monday, insulting the leader on his birth anniversary. Police said that certain unidentified persons had thrown the flags in a drain causing disgrace to Ambedkar and creating a flutter in the village. They stated that a case was registered and investigations were taken up. The police added that they were scanning footages from CCTV cameras installed in different parts of the village to detect the offenders. Locals demanded the police initiate stern action against the perpetrators by probing the incident.



A flag of Dr Ambedkar dumped in a drain at Pippiri village in Bazarhathnoor mandal on Monday.

Choksi arrested in Belgium

NEW DELHI

Absconding diamondaire Mehul Choksi has been arrested in Belgium following an extradition request by Indian probe agencies for his involvement in the Rs 13,000 crore PNB bank loan “fraud” case, official sources said on Monday.

The action against the second “prime suspect” in this case, after Choksi's nephew diamondaire Nirav Modi, was taken on Saturday based on an extradition request moved by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Choksi, 65, was located in Belgium last year when he went there on the grounds of getting medical treatment. He had been staying in Antigua since 2018 after leaving India. Sources said the Interpol Red Notice against him for arrest was “deleted” sometime back by the global police body and the Indian agencies were pursuing him via the extradition route since then.



Mehul Choksi

At least two open-ended arrest warrants, issued by a special court in Mumbai in 2018 and 2021, have been shared by the Indian agencies with their Belgian counterparts as part of the extradition request, the sources said.

Formal paperwork is being done following the arrest/detention. Choksi may seek bail on health grounds, they said. “At the moment, he is in prison and there (Belgium), the procedure is not to apply for bail but file an appeal. During that appeal, request is made that he should not be kept in detention,” Choksi's lawyer Vijay Agarwal said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Traffic cop booked for man's death

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A traffic police constable was booked for alleged negligence in connection with the tragic death case of Joshi Babu (34), a carpenter during a regular traffic checking at Balanagar on Sunday.

During the check at IDPL junction, Joshi Babu, who was proceeding on his bike from Shapur Nagar to Balanagar, was asked to slow down and stop by the traffic constable Gopal.

The traffic constable tried to physically restrain Joshi Babu by allegedly grabbing his collar. The carpenter lost control of his vehicle and fell on the road. A TGSRTC bus, which was passing by, ran over him, killing the carpenter instantly.

Based on the complaint from the victim's family, the Balanagar police booked a case of negligence against the constable and are investigating.

HOT DESTINATION



Tourists taking a shikara ride are silhouetted against the setting sun at the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Monday. — Photo: PTI

Hotel fire: SRH team shifted

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A fire broke out at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Banjara Hills, where the Sunrisers Hyderabad IPL team was staying, on Monday afternoon. No casualties were reported and the cause of the fire was being ascertained.

The team members of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) IPL team had vacated the hotel following the fire. The cricket players were shifted

in private buses amidst high security by the hotel management and police personnel. As per available information, the fire broke out on the first floor of the star hotel while the SRH team players, support staff and members of the SRH management were lodged in rooms on the sixth floor. The fire spread thick smoke in the surrounding areas resulting in mild panic. The tourists and staff ran out in fear for safety.

On noticing the fire, the alert staff informed the hotel management, who quickly alerted the fire department and local police.

Upon receiving the information, the fire personnel rushed to the spot and doused the fire. The fire officials said that the accident occurred due to burning of electrical wires on the first floor.

They said that the situation in the hotel came immediately under control.

Golconda Blue diamond to go under hammer

NEW DELHI

A rare piece of India's royal heritage, “The Golconda Blue” — a diamond once owned by the Maharajas of Indore and Baroda — is set to make its auction debut at the Christie's sale in Geneva on May 14. The diamond is expected to fetch between USD 35 million and USD 50 million.

(REPORT PAGE 7)

Another Cong MLA eyes Cabinet berth

STATE BUREAU
Adilabad

The Congress is witnessing serious internal strife with MLAs openly challenging the party leadership in their quest for a ministerial berth. A day after Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy made his views clear, Mancheril MLA Prem Sagar Rao came out on Monday demanding a berth.

Prem Sagar Rao in fact laced his demand with a few threats as well, stating that he would not tolerate it if he was ignored during the Cabinet expansion.

Speaking at a programme in Mancheril on Monday, the Mancheril MLA stressed that if any injustice was meted out to him, it would be considered as in-

TPCC PRESIDENT IGNORES UDAIPUR DECLARATION, SAYS NO RESTRICTION ON POSTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

HYDERABAD: Completely ignoring the Congress party's Udaipur Declaration, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud said there was no restriction on the number of posts to persons from the same family. If leaders can win the people's confidence and their hearts, any number of people from a family can come. Ultimately, how many people and who should be given opportunities would be decided collectively, he said at a press conference here on Monday.

However, the TPCC president's comments are in sharp contrast of the Congress party's Udaipur Declaration adopted in 2023. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had specifically instructed the party leaders that “One family, one ticket” rule must be strictly enforced. He had also stressed on limiting the number of family members being given posts in the party. There should not be a situation where many members of a family were holding posts in the organization, he had insisted.

(SEE PAGE 2)

justice to Adivasis and erstwhile Adilabad. Interestingly, he made these comments in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on the stage.

“I struggled hard to save the party in Adilabad for 10 years and is this the recogni-

tion and respect I will be getting in return?” Prem Sagar Rao asked.

The Mancheril MLA also reminded that he had organized a grand public meeting at Indravelly and infused new energy into the Congress, which was on its last legs in the district at that time. “Interestingly, a few

MLAs, who switched loyalties to other parties in the past, are also demanding a berth in the cabinet,” Prem Sagar Rao said, taking a dig at the Munugode MLA.

Sensing internal trouble, the Congress high command had delayed the Cabinet expansion. However, the strategy seems to be backfiring.