

NATION | PAGE 08

Xi pitches for free trade with South East Asia amid tariff war



WORLD | PAGE 09

Trump freezes USD 2.2 billion in grants to Harvard

The university had said it won't comply with the demands to limit activism on campus



SPORT | PAGE 10

Punjab Kings defend lowest total, beat KKR

In a nutshell

## NHRC team for Murshidabad

**New Delhi:** Taking cognisance of the violence in West Bengal's Murshidabad during protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, the NHRC on Tuesday said it will send a team from its investigation division to conduct an on-spot inquiry, given the "seriousness" of the matter. The National Human Rights Commission said that the action comes after submission of a complaint to it. The inquiry report should be submitted within a period of three weeks, it said.

## Pak, Bangladesh to hold talks

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh will hold its first foreign office consultation (FOC) with Pakistan after a gap of 15 years in the capital on Thursday, officials said on Tuesday. "Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka to lead her country's delegation at the talks," BSS news agency reported. It said that Bangladesh's foreign secretary M Jashim Uddin will lead the Bangladesh side at the first foreign office consultation.

## Nitish to be CM candidate: JD (U)

**New Delhi:** The Janata Dal (United) asserted on Tuesday that Nitish Kumar will be the NDA's Chief Ministerial face in the Bihar Assembly polls, a day after Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini created a flutter saying that BJP leader and Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary will deliver victory. The JD(U) supremo's son Nishant also claimed that his father will be the Chief Minister's face.

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Season after season, misery after misery is plaguing the farmers of Telangana.

From inordinate delays in the Rythu Bandhu/Rythu Bharosa input assistance from the State government, to shortage of seed and fertilizer, and then shortage of water for irrigation, paddy farmers in the Rabi (Yasangi) season had to go through tough times, which they, however, managed to tackle. But the suffering is just not ending.

Withstanding all pressures, they sowed and took care of the paddy crop, digging open wells and sinking borewells to find water even as the State government just stood mute. Now, just when it was time for harvest, unseasonal rains came as the next challenge.

While several farmers were hit by the damage wreaked by the rains and hailstorms on standing crop, even those who harvested the crop are now in dire straits, courtesy a total failure of the system to help them. And this has been quite a recurring cycle of misery for farmers ever since the Congress government took over.

Inexplicable delays in procurement and arrangement of a smooth procurement system is now threatening to push them into deep crisis. Battered by heavy downpour for the last one week, farmers were forced to look for immediate options to dispose of their stocks so as to avoid further losses. Finding no takers for

# Total system failure hits Telangana farmers hard

Community in dire straits over untimely rains, lack of procurement

## Video of crying farmer couple exposes Congress' failure



A woman is inconsolable after rains damaged paddy at a procurement centre in Khammam.

STATE BUREAU  
Khammam

A video of a couple lamenting over the loss they suffered due to alleged negligence of the State government in procuring paddy has gone viral on social media.

The couple Bollam Ramaiah and Chandrakala of Pullaiah Banjara village of Kallur mandal in the

district brought paddy to the local purchase centre 20 days ago. The produce was soaked and swollen due to untimely rains as the authorities failed to purchase paddy even after 20 days. The couple's pain has moved everyone and many have questioned the government failure to purchase paddy.

Though the authorities have claimed to have set

up a large number of paddy procurement centres, many of them have not started purchasing paddy. In Khammam, it was planned to set up 344 rabi paddy procurement centres with a target of procuring 2.58 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. In Kothagudem, it was planned to set up 144 procurement centres and 124 opened.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Farmer dies of heart stroke while drying paddy

**JAGTIAL:** A farmer, Pundra Jalapathi Reddy (50), died reportedly of heart stroke while drying paddy in a paddy procurement centre in Dulur of Kathalapur mandal on Tuesday. According to local people, Jalapathi, who shifted his crop to a purchasing centre recently, had gone to the centre to dry it. He collapsed all of a sudden while drying the paddy. Other farmers performed a CPR and shifted him to a hospital in Kathalapur. However, he was declared brought dead by doctors.

## Protest to save crops in CM's home district

**WANAPARTHY:** Demanding sufficient water supply to save crops, farmers staged a protest at the Jurala project here on Tuesday. Raising slogans against the government, the farmers assembled in large numbers at the project and demanded that water be supplied to their crops from the left canal. Farmers from Mulamalla, Nandimalla Guntipally, Motampally, Arepally, Kattepally, Thumpally and other villages reached the project and blocked the road. Tension prevailed at the project.

# Stalin pushes for autonomy, sets up panel

Says move meant to protect 'legitimate rights' of States

THE STEADY ENCROACHMENT OF THE UNION INTO THE RIGHTFUL DOMAINS OF THE STATES DISRUPTED CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCE...A STRONG UNION IS BUILT BY EMPOWERING STATES



BOTH THE UNION AND THE STATES ARE CREATED BY THE CONSTITUTION...THE ONE IS NOT SUBORDINATE TO THE OTHER IN ITS OWN FIELD AND THE AUTHORITY OF ONE IS CO-ORDINATE WITH THAT OF THE OTHER

— M K STALIN, TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

CHENNAI

Making a strong pitch for empowering States, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday alleged that their rights were gradually being snatched by the Centre, and announced the constitution of a panel on State autonomy that will be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

The establishment of the high-level panel, marking half-a-century of DMK government's 'historic' State autonomy resolution moved in the Tamil Nadu Assembly by then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, was aimed at re-asserting the principles of State autonomy in today's context, he said while making a statement in the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

The move was meant to protect the 'legitimate

rights' of States and to improve relations between the union and the State governments, he claimed in the Assembly.

He utilised the occasion to flay the present AIADMK leadership, after the party MLAs staged a walkout over a different issue.

Despite their differences with the DMK, AIADMK stalwarts and late Chief Ministers M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa never compromised on state rights. "But now they (AIADMK) say that principles and alliance are different...the question is what is their stand," Stalin asked.

He said there was a need to strengthen cooperative federalism, laws, and policies related to Centre-State ties by reviewing provisions of the Constitution when States' rights were under siege. <sup>PTI</sup>

# ED books Sonia, Rahul in National Herald case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore in the National Herald case.

Special judge Vishal Gogne examined the chargesheet, which was filed on April 9, on the point of cognisance and posted the matter for further proceedings on April 25.

The chargesheet also names Congress leader Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey as accused.

Sources said the other accused include Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari.

## Vadra grilled over Haryana land deal

**New Delhi:** The ED on Tuesday recorded the statement of Robert Vadra, businessman and brother-in-law of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, for about five hours in a 2008 Haryana land deal-linked money laundering case, official sources said. He has been asked to depose again on Wednesday for questioning.

"The present prosecution complaint shall next be taken up for consideration on the aspect of cognisance before this court on April 25, 2025 when the special coun-

sel for the ED and IO shall also ensure the production of the case diaries for perusal by the court," the judge said.

The chargesheet was filed under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act by ED's special public prosecutor N K Matta.

"Let the complaint be checked and registered. The Ahlmad (court staff) shall ensure that the entire file/documents are properly paginated. The Enforcement Directorate is directed to file a soft copy of the complaint and documents in readable/OCR format by the next date," the judge said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## TENSE BORDERS



Security personnel keep vigil after a brief exchange of fire between terrorists and security forces in Lasana village of Surankote in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI



## Haj: Pvt operators failed to comply with deadlines

NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over Saudi Arabia reportedly "cutting" India's private Haj quota this year, the government on Tuesday said the Combined Haj Group Operators (CHGOs) had failed to comply with the necessary timelines set by the Saudi authorities despite reminders. The government also said that due to its intervention, the Saudi Haj Ministry has agreed to re-open the Haj Portal for the CHGOs to complete their work in respect of 10,000 pilgrims based on the current space availability in Mina. The MoMA through the Haj Committee of India looks after arrangements for the bulk of the 1,75,025 quota allotted to India. <sup>PTI</sup>

# Award-winning LHC experiment has Hyd connect

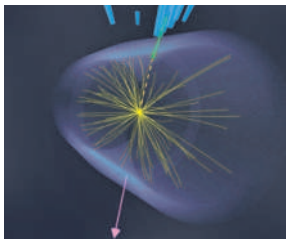
CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

A group of Hyderabad-based scientists emerged as key contributors to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment at CERN, which has been awarded the 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

The group led by Dr Bhawna Gomber at CAS-EST, School of Physics, University of Hyderabad, played a significant role, including data analysis, in the scientific achievement.

The Breakthrough Prize recognises the outstanding contributions of international scientists working at CERN who expanded the understanding of the fundamental nature of universe.

CERN is the European Organization for Nuclear Research, a particle physics laboratory located near Geneva, Switzerland. It's the world's largest particle physics laboratory and is known for its pioneering work in particle physics, including the discovery of the Higgs boson. Dr Gomber's



The LHC experiment has won prestigious Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

group has been deeply involved in the CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) experiment at CERN. Their work

included data analysis, trigger electronics, and cutting-edge research in high-energy particle interactions, making significant contributions to the success of the project.

The group is engaged in investigations of physics beyond the Standard Model, with a particular focus on the search for dark matter particles, large extra dimensions, and anomalous trilinear gauge couplings. Recent results from dark matter searches, conducted by her doctoral students Bis-

nupriya Sahu and Shriniketan Acharya, were presented at the 59th Rencontres de Moriond 2025 conference.

In parallel, the group contributed significantly to the development of firmware for the Level-1 Calorimeter Trigger upgrade of the CMS detector, in preparation for the High-Luminosity LHC.

"We are thrilled to see our years of effort recognised as part of this global milestone. It's a proud moment not just for our team, but for the Indian scientific community as a whole," said Dr Gomber.

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a complicated and rare surgery, the neurosurgeons and eye-specialists at State-run Gandhi Hospital have safely removed a screwdriver that had penetrated the right eye front lobe of a youngster.

The patient with the penetrating eye injury was referred to Gandhi Hospital's outpatient department from



a private eye care hospital and NIMS. Superintendent, Gandhi Hospital Dr Ch Rajkumari said the patient pre-

sented to the OPD of a private eye institute in Hyderabad on April 8 with a penetrating injury to the right eye caused by a screwdriver. Upon investigations, it was found that the injury had breached the frontal bone and extended to the frontal lobe. 'In view of the severity of injury and the need for neurosurgical intervention, the patient was referred to NIMS,' Dr Rajkumari Sai.

(SEE PAGE 2)