



NATION | PAGE 05

Central, State
GST officers
detect 25,000
fake firms



WORLD | PAGE 07

Russian attacks kill
three in Ukraine

The attacks during the 30-hour Easter
ceasefire targeted Kherson region



SPORT | PAGE 08

Gujarat Titans
defeat Kolkata
Knight Riders
by 39 runs

In a nutshell

Three of family killed in mishap

MEDAK: Three members of a family, including a one-year-old boy, died when a speeding car hit another car coming in the opposite direction at Kowdipally late on Sunday night. According to police, Mohd Ali (45), Ajeema Begum and Mohd Ghouse (1), along with six other family members, were heading towards Medak from Hyderabad when a speeding car coming in the opposite direction hit their car. A case was registered.

Wife held in K'taka ex-DGP's murder

Bengaluru: Police probing former Karnataka DGP Om Prakash's murder case have arrested his wife Pallavi on a complaint by their son Kartikesh that he suspected that his mother and sister were involved in the murder. "Investigation Officer has arrested Pallavi Om Prakash (64). She will be produced before the Magistrate," an officer said on Monday. Meanwhile, ex DGP was cremated with full state honours. **NATION PAGE 5**

Cases against KTR quashed

HYDERABAD: In a relief to former Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao, the Telangana High Court on Monday quashed multiple criminal cases filed against him in connection with the Medigadda barrage drone incident and his public statements on the Musi River restoration project. Justice K Lakshman, while hearing petitions, found that the offences did not warrant prosecution under the invoked provisions. **STATE PAGE 4**



Ananya shares rare moments

Actress drops a photo
dump from her camera
roll on Easter

10

Torture, vendetta at Lagacherla, says NHRC

Report highlights targeting of opposition parties BRS and BJP

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Highhandedness by the police, torture of villagers and political vendetta by targeting of opposition parties BRS and BJP have been highlighted by the Investigation Division team of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that did a spot inquiry into the violence at Lagacherla on November 11, 2024, following the Congress government's attempt to forcibly acquire land for a proposed Pharma Village.

According to the report submitted by the team, villagers who were arrested at night were beaten up at the Parigi police station and were also threatened not to speak about the beating in front of the magistrate. The villagers were kept in the police station but this was not mentioned in the GD entry, it says, also noting that many people who were neither at the spot nor went to any protest and their land is also not affected due to the project were also ar-

Tracing glaring flaws

NHRC INVESTIGATION DIVISION TEAM REPORT SAYS

- Report mentions non-compliance of legal provisions by police
- Lagacherla villagers kept in Parigi police station not mentioned in GD entry
- Villagers beaten up, threatened against disclose it before judicial officer
- Those not involved in the incident also arrested
- CCTV cameras of lockup and CI office found to be non-functional
- GD entries not updated by police
- Report mentions political vendetta angle
- Supporters of non-ruling political party arrested
- Cases booked against minors, students, govt officials

rested by the police. Lapses on part of the police regarding non-compliance of legal provisions and guidelines have been noticed as all the persons arrested by the police have stated that they were subjected to physical torture and were threatened not to disclose it before the judicial officer.

While the order of and acquisition was issued by government agencies as per law, the way of handling by police officials was not as per law. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

HC quashes FIRs against farmers

HYDERABAD: In yet another embarrassment to the Congress government on Monday, after the Human Rights Commission report highlighted police torture of Lagacherla villagers, Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Monday quashed two additional First Information Reports (FIRs) registered in connection with the Lagacherla land acquisition incident. **(REPORT PAGE 4)**

SLBC tunnel ops end, no trace of missing six



Absence of emergency audits or escape routes in the tunnel design came in as a rude shocker for rescue teams.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

After 58 days of continuous rescue efforts, the operation at the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel has come to a close. Despite the tireless work of 12 specialised agencies, the mission is wrapping up without locating the six missing workers who were trapped after the tunnel roof collapsed on February 22.

The disaster abruptly halted work and triggered one of the longest rescue operations in recent history. The future course of action

is expected to be determined in a high-level meeting once Chief Minister Revanth Reddy returns from his official tour of Japan.

The 12-member technical committee, which has been overseeing the rescue efforts, had planned to present its findings and recommendations to the Chief Minister and key cabinet officials.

One of the critical decisions to be made by the government is whether to attempt excavation of the 43-meter collapsed section, which remains untouched. **(SEE PAGES 2, 3)**

Commander among 8 naxals gunned down

RANCHI/NEW DELHI

Eight naxals, including a top rung central committee member of the extremists carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, were killed in an encounter with CoBRA commandos of the CRPF and police in Bokaro district of Jharkhand on Monday, officials said.

The exchange of fire started around 5.30 am in Lugu Hills of Lalpania area of the district, they said. The troops of 209 Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) along with State police conducted the operation in which eight Naxals were killed and an AK series rifle, three INSAS rifles, a self-loading rifle (SLR), eight country-made guns and a pistol were seized, officials said.

Those killed include central committee member of the extremist outfit Prayag Manjhi alias Vivek, special area committee member Arvind Yadav, zonal committee member Sahebram Manjhi alias Rahul Manjhi, Mahesh Manjhi alias Mota, Talu, Ranju Manjhi, Gangaram and Mahesh. **PTI**

Ailing Pope Francis passes away at 88

The 266th
pontiff made
his last public
appearance
on Easter
Sunday



A picture of Pope Francis is displayed at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in New York, on Monday. — Photo: AP

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis, history's first Latin American pontiff who charmed the world with his humble style and concern for the poor but alienated conservatives with critiques of capitalism, died Monday. He was 88.

Bells tolled in churches from his native Argentina to the Philippines and across Rome as news spread around the world. "At 7:35 on Monday morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of his Church," Cardinal Kevin Farrell said from the chapel of the Domus Santa Marta, where Francis lived. Francis, who suffered lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, was admitted to Gemelli hospital

on February 14, 2025, for a respiratory crisis that developed into double pneumonia. He spent 38 days there, the longest hospitalisation of his 12-year papacy. He made his last public appearance on Easter Sunday — a day before his death — to bless thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, drawing wild cheers and applause.

Beforehand, he met US Vice President JD Vance. Francis performed the blessing from the same loggia where he was introduced on March 13, 2013, as the 266th pope. **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)**

A BEACON OF COMPASSION, SAYS MODI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was deeply pained by the passing of Pope Francis, adding that he will always be remembered "as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world". Modi said he was greatly inspired by the Pope's commitment to inclusive development, adding: "For those who were suffering, he ignited a spirit of hope." "In this hour of grief and remembrance, my heartfelt condolences to the global Catholic community," he said in a post on X. **AP**

MASSIVE DESTRUCTION



Vehicles stuck in debris after landslides and flash flood following heavy rainfall in Ramban district of J&K on Monday. — Photo: PTI

Modi, Vance welcome progress on trade deal

NEW DELHI

India and the US on Monday welcomed the "significant progress" in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US Vice President JD Vance held wide-ranging talks to enhance cooperation in areas of defence, energy and technologies.

Modi hosted Vance, Indian-origin US Second Lady Usha Chilukuri and their three children Ewan, Vivek and Mirabel over dinner at his 7 Lok Kalyan Marg residence after the official talks.

PM Modi conveyed to Vance his warm greetings for President Donald Trump and said that he looked forward to his visit to India later this year. The Prime Minister and the Vice President also exchanged views on various regional and



PM Modi during a meeting with US Vice President JD Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and children, in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI

global issues of mutual interest including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and called for "dialogue and diplomacy" as the way forward.

Vance and his family arrived in Delhi this morning on a four-day visit that came

weeks after President Trump imposed and then paused a sweeping tariff regime against around 60 countries including India. New Delhi and Washington are now holding negotiations to seal a trade deal. **PTI**

Drug intoxication kills student in Hyderabad

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Using medical drugs for intoxication by three students resulted in the death of one of them and hospitalization of two others. The incident which was reported from Balapur had the three youngsters procuring the medical drugs from a pharmacy without a doctor's prescription and harming themselves.

As per available information, the youths, all students, had procured the tablets and injections without doctor's prescriptions from a pharmacy for self-consumption. One Mohd Sahil sold the medical drugs to the students for intoxication.

Intermediate student Abdul Nasar died on the spot while the condition of two others is critical.

Severe heat scorches TG despite rain

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Despite scattered spells of thunderstorms, Telangana, including Hyderabad, are experiencing intense heatwave-like conditions with temperatures consistently hovering between 41 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius.

More than 50 locations in at least 15 to 20 districts of the State have experienced severe heat with average maximum temperatures hovering between 43 degrees Celsius and 43.7 degrees Celsius. The intense heat that interspersed the



NCC cadets take shelter under an umbrella as Hyderabad witnesses intense heatwave-like conditions. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

sporadic spells of thunderstorms at some places, is expected to persist, as the Indian Meteorological

Department (IMD)-Hyderabad issued an orange heat alert for 26 districts effective till Friday.

In its five-day forecast released on Monday, the IMD-Hyderabad indicated that intense heatwave-like conditions are anticipated in several districts except for Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Sangareddy, Yadadri and Vikarabad.

In districts, based on the temperature data from Telangana State Development Planning Society, more than 50 locations in 15 districts have experienced severe heat with maximum temperatures ranging from 43 degrees to 43.7 degrees Celsius between Sunday and Monday. **(SEE PAGE 2)**