



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Nehru Zoo upgrades Safari, adds animals



WORLD | PAGE 09

Russia, Ukraine trade long-range strikes

Outcome of push by Trump's administration to swiftly end fighting remains unclear



SPORT | PAGE 10

Vaibhav's fireworks set up win for Rajasthan

In a nutshell

Over 1,000 Indians leave Pakistan

LAHORE: More than 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days after they were forced to cut short their visits because of the cancellation of visas in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, an official said on Monday. "Over 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days. Similarly, more than 800 Pakistanis have returned home by Monday," a government official said. **NATION PAGE 7**

Pak violates ceasefire again

JAMMU: Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Kupwara districts, continuing with their ceasefire violations along the LoC, Army officials said on Monday. This was the fourth consecutive night that Pakistan resorted to small-arms fire along the LoC. A defence spokesperson said, "During the night of April 27-28, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC in areas opposite Kupwara and Poonch." **PTI**

Tahawwur Rana custody extended

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday extended by 12 more days the NIA custody of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana. Special NIA judge Chander Jit Singh extended Rana's custody on NIA's request after his previous 18-day remand got over. Rana was produced in court with his face covered amid tight security. The NIA said Rana had to be confronted with various evidences, including "voluminous documents" which required further interrogation. **PTI**

Conclave to elect new Pope on May 7

VATICAN CITY: Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days so they can get to know one another better and find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel. The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of informal meetings following the funeral. The conclave could have opened on May 5, but the cardinals gave themselves extra time. **AP**

India, France sign Rafale deal

To procure 26 naval variants of fighter jets

NEW DELHI

India and France on Monday inked an intergovernmental agreement to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 64,000 crore for the Indian Navy.

The pact provides for setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for aircraft engines, sensors and weapons in India, according to the Defence Ministry. The agreement will also facilitate the transfer of technology for the integration of indigenous weapons in India, it said without elaborating.

The Ministry said the delivery of the aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

India is procuring the jets for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. Manufactured by French defence major Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a



Manufactured by French defence major Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft.

carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in the maritime environment.

The sealing of the mega deal came three weeks after the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement. Under the terms of reference, the delivery of the jets will have to start around five

years after the signing of the contract. In July 2023, the Defence Ministry accorded the initial approval for the mega acquisition following a series of deliberations and evaluation tests of the platform. Under the deal, the Indian Navy will also get associated ancillary equipment including weapon systems and spares from Dassault Aviation. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Fiery KCR pumps up BRS cadre, gives Cong jitters

His aggression likely to reshape Telangana's political narrative

STATE BUREAU

HYDERABAD

From revolving around the goofups, missed deadlines and failed promises of the Congress government, and the reprimands from the Supreme Court to the Chief Minister, perhaps to the most for any CM in recent history, Telangana's politics turned a new leaf on Sunday.

"I did not criticise them for 16 months to give them time, but with the State crumbling, silence is no longer an option" — a declaration that was met with thunderous applause indicated what lay ahead in the days to come for the Congress. If the massive turnout at the BRS public meeting in Elkathurthy and the fiery speech by party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao undoubtedly re-energised the BRS cadre, it also gave the Congress the jitters.

The show of strength through the Warangal meeting proved that the BRS was in no mood to concede political space. Chandrashekhara Rao's aggressive and combative tone, tearing into the Congress over its failures to deliver on election promises and dismissing any plans to topple the government, has rekindled the morale of the party workers, making it clear that the BRS would question each and every move the Congress took against the interests of Telangana and its people.

His sharp remarks on various issues plaguing the State in tune with questions raised by the people res-



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao addressing the massive public meeting in Elkathurthy, Warangal.

onated strongly with the BRS rank and file. The visible public support, despite logistical chaos and massive traffic jams, further emboldened the leadership, projecting the image of a party regaining its footing. While returning from the public meeting and even on Monday morning, reports indicated that the BRS cadre were visibly fully charged, ready to take on the Congress, head on.

The Congress, which had sensed the potential resurgence of the BRS days before the meeting, had tried its best to control the damage, by digging up an NDSA report that was gathering dust for two months in Delhi, to even desperate measures like tearing BRS posters and using police and transport officials to block vehicles carrying BRS cadre to Elkathurthy. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

Congress in a huddle after Warangal meet

HYDERABAD: One hour of K Chandrashekhara Rao standing behind a microphone before a massive crowd was enough to trigger confusion, indecision and fear within the Congress, leaving the ruling party in utter chaos.

The first signs of this was when four-five Ministers jumped into reacting to what Chandrashekhara Rao spoke, barely minutes after the Elkathurthy meeting ended. And then, on Monday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy rushed into a huddle with senior Congress leader and former Minister K Jana Reddy at his residence. Meanwhile, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, apart from other Con-

gress leaders, kept making bids to make light of the BRS meeting.

The CM's visit to Jana Reddy's residence, according to officials, was "officially" to discuss Operation Kagar and his government's stance on the same. But when Revanth Reddy himself had said the government would announce its stance only after the party high command decided, revealed that the meeting was much beyond Operation Kagar. During the meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, leaders, including Advisors K Keshava Rao and Vem Narendar Reddy, are learnt to have discussed the public meeting. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Padma awards conferred

NEW DELHI

Telugu superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna, also known as Balayya, and chairman of AIG Hospitals D Nageshwar Reddy were among 71 prominent personalities conferred with Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday. Altogether 139 distinguished persons were named for the country's civilian awards — Padma



D Nageshwar Reddy Nandamuri Balakrishna

Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri — on the eve of the 76th Republic Day on January 25. While 71 of them were given the

awards at the Rashtrapati Bhavan's majestic Durbar Hall on Monday in the presence of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the remaining will be conferred with the decorations at a separate function soon. While Reddy received the Padma Vibhushan, Balakrishna was conferred with the Padma Bhushan. **PTI**

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

B'deshi national caught staying in Hyd illegally

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The Pocharam IT Corridor police arrested a Bangladeshi national on charges of illegally migrating to Hyderabad by crossing international borders and obtaining various proofs such as Aadhaar card, voter identity card, PAN card and other residential proofs claiming to be native, here on Sunday.

The fake identity proofs were recovered from him. The arrested person was identified as Raheel alias Mohd Raheel (31), a private employee residing at Venkatsai Prem Nagar in Chowdariguda, according to the police.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Bhoodan Yagna Board land scam: ED searches in city

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches at various locations in the city reportedly in connection with the multi-crore Bhoodan Yagna Board land scam.

Teams of the ED swooped on the houses of prominent land dealers linked to the scam in early hours of Monday. The agency officials were escorted by the CRPF personnel. The searches were conducted at Yakutpura, Santoshnagar and other locations in the older parts of the city.

The scam centres around fraudulent sale of 103 acres at Nagaram village in Ran-

Scam centres around fraudulent sale of 103 acres at Nagaram in Rangareddy district; several IAS, IPS officers bought land

gareddy district. Several IAS and IPS officials are among those who allegedly purchased the land. The searches are believed to be a continuation of the investigations that began in October last year, with the central agency questioning senior IAS officer D Amoy Kumar, currently posted in the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Depart-

ment, who had earlier served as the district collector of Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri districts.

The IAS officer was questioned by the ED in connection with the dispute that occurred when he was the collector of Rangareddy district. Though Amoy Kumar was not named as an accused in the FIR, his role regarding the use of the Dhara portal and registration of properties under prohibited categories came under scrutiny. The ED officials were conducting searches at the houses of Munawar Khan, Khaderunnisa, Sharfan and others in the old city in connection with a case registered in 2023.

(With agency inputs)

Centre blocks 16 Pak YouTube channels

NEW DELHI

The Centre has blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for allegedly disseminating "false, provocative and communally sensitive content" about India and has also strongly objected to the BBC's reportage on the Pahalgam attack, officials said on Monday.

Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs will be monitoring reporting of the BBC, which termed terrorists as militants, officials said. The YouTube channels blocked include Dawn News and others. **PTI**

Ryot's unique protest against official apathy



Farmer V Jeevan hangs himself upside down from a tree at Mangalapally village in Rangareddy district.

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Vexed with the apathy of the State government in addressing his land-related grievance, a farmer staged a unique protest by suspending himself upside down on a tree in his fields at Mangalapally village in Rangareddy district.


The farmer, V Jeevan, had obtained some land from his father and was cultivating on the land since the last few years. The land was purchased by his father from a person some 20 years ago.

Despite Jeevan possessing a passbook, title deed, Pahan and other related documents, officials included the land in the Prohibited Lands category in the records, according to reports.

Raising objections and proving ownership of land, Jeevan had been contending that the ceiling holder had misled the officials by registering the land with two different survey numbers. To this effect, he filed applications in the Chief Minister's Office, MRO and other offices. Yet, his issue was not addressed, the reports said.

Having run from pillar to post for over a year and appealing to the officials to remove his land from the Prohibited Category, Jeevan suspended himself upside down from a neem tree in his fields.

He also fixed all the land documents to the tree. Images and videos of Jeevan's unique protest are going viral on different social media platforms.



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