



NATION | PAGE 07

Kamal Haasan's comments on Kannada stir controversy



BUSINESS | PAGE 08

Lokpal's clean chit to former SEBI chief Madhabi Buch

Terms charges as 'presumptions, assumptions' not supported by any verifiable material



SPORT | PAGE 10

Punjab Kings in clash with RCB for spot in IPL final

In a nutshell

Sebi bans IndusInd Bank ex-CEO

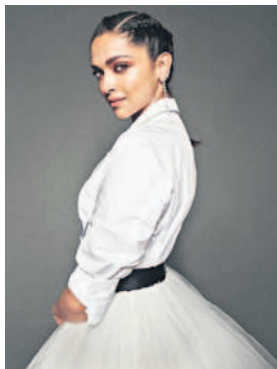
NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday barred former Chief Executive Officer of IndusInd Bank Sumant Kathpalia and four others from accessing the securities markets, in connection with an alleged case of insider trading in the bank's shares. Also, the regulator has imposed Rs 19.78 crore collectively from the five individuals. The other officials restrained are Arun Khurana, Sushant Sourav, Rohan Jathanna and Anil Marco Rao. **PTI**

Three Indians missing in Iran

TEHRAN: The Indian Embassy here on Wednesday said it has strongly taken up with Iranian authorities the case of three missing Indian citizens, all from the same family, who went missing after reaching Iran. "Family members of three Indian citizens have informed the Embassy of India that their relatives are missing after having travelled to Iran," the Embassy said on X. But, it did not clarify when and where the three went missing. **PTI**

Drills in border States today

NEW DELHI: The Centre has decided to carry out a civil defence exercise on Thursday in all districts of States and Union Territories adjoining the western border — from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat — on how to face air raids from enemy aircraft, drones, missile attacks among others. The exercise, 'Operation Shield', will be held in J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Chandigarh. **PTI**



Deepika listens to her 'inner voice'

Amid 'Spirit' row, actress says she stands by her decisions

12

Students' American dream comes crashing

US halts new visa interviews as it expands social media vetting

AP

WASHINGTON

The US State Department has halted the scheduling of new visa interviews for foreign students hoping to study in the US while it prepares to expand the screening of their activity on social media, officials said.

A US official said the suspension is intended to be temporary and does not apply to applicants who already had scheduled their visa interviews. A cable signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and obtained by *The Associated Press* says the State Department plans to issue guidance on expanded social media vetting. "Effective immediately, in preparation for an expansion of required social media screening and vetting, consulate sections should not add any additional student or exchange visitor visa appointment capacity" until the guidance is issued, the cable says.

Asked about the suspension at a briefing on Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the US uses



THE MOVE IS THE LATEST IN THE DONALD TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S CRACKDOWN ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. EXTENDED PAUSE IN SCHEDULING VISAS COULD LEAD TO DELAYS THAT MAY DISRUPT STUDENTS' PLANS TO ENROL IN SUMMER, FALL TERMS

every available resource to vet people applying for visas. "We will continue to use every tool we can to assess who it is that's coming here, whether they are students or otherwise," he said.

The move, first reported by *Politico*, is the latest in the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on international students. Last week, the Trump administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enrol international students, removing the college from the programme that allows schools to sponsor foreign students for visas. That effort was quickly challenged

in court and for now is blocked by a federal judge.

This spring, the administration also revoked the legal status of thousands of international students already in the country, leading some to leave the US out of fear of deportation. After many students filed successful legal challenges, the administration said it was restoring the students' legal status. But the government also expanded the grounds for terminating international students' legal status going forward.

Trump's previous administration stepped up scrutiny of all visa appli-

cants, introducing reviews of their social media accounts. The policy remained during former president Joe Biden's administration.

An extended pause in scheduling student visas could lead to delays that may disrupt college, boarding-school or exchange students' plans to enrol in summer and fall terms.

A downturn in enrolment of international students could hurt university budgets. To make up for cuts in federal research funding, some colleges shifted to enrolling more international students, who often pay full tuition. **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

Another top Hamas leader eliminated

CAIRO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Mohammed Sinwar, believed to be the head of Hamas' armed wing, has been killed, apparently confirming his death in a recent strike in the Gaza Strip. There was no confirmation from Hamas.

Sinwar is the younger brother of Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader who helped mastermind the October 7, 2023, attack that started the Israel-Hamas war, and who was killed by Israeli forces in October 2024. Israeli strikes have decimated Hamas' leadership during the 19-month war, and Mohammed Sinwar was one of the last widely known leaders still alive in Gaza.

As the head of Hamas' armed wing, Sinwar would have had the final word on any agreement to release the hostages, and his death could further complicate US and Arab efforts to broker a ceasefire. **AP**

(RELATED REPORT PAGE 9)

Justice Varma likely to face impeachment

NEW DELHI

In a show of unity, both the BJP and the Congress have extended their support to the Central government which is exploring options to initiate impeachment proceedings against Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma.

The move comes in the wake of a Supreme Court-appointed in-house committee finding him guilty of possessing unaccounted cash at his official residence in Delhi. The Centre is currently weighing the possibility of tabling the impeachment motion during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is set to begin in mid-July.

The Supreme Court had earlier advised Justice Varma to step down following the findings of the committee. However, upon his refusal to resign, the then CJI Sanjiv Khanna, forwarded the committee's report to the President, recommending Justice Varma's impeachment.

Commenting on the development, BJP MLA Ram Kadam said, "If the person who is supposed to deliver justice is himself involved in a major act of corruption while sitting on the Bench, then the government and Parliament must ensure justice for all. The judge must answer where such large sums of money came from. Appropriate action should be taken."

BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli echoed the sentiment, saying, "It is a serious and sensitive matter. If unaccounted and even burnt money is found at the residence of a sitting judge, the truth must come out. Then CJI Sanjiv

Khanna constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe the matter. Today, all four pillars of democracy are seeking answers. Under Article 124, Justice Varma may be removed from office, and an FIR could follow as these are criminal charges. Whatever decision is taken, it will be made public." **(SEE PAGE 2)**



BJP, CONG EXTEND SUPPORT TO CENTRE AS IT EXPLORES OPTIONS TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS

KTR calls NDSA report on KLIS 'political fiction'

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao welcomed the strong rebuttal by construction major L&T, questioning the NDSA report on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) without conducting basic technical and field study.

He blasted the Congress and BJP for indulging in cheap politics over the Kaleshwaram project in general and the Medigadda barrage in particular. "I am glad that L&T is standing up against the utter political mudslinging via an unscientific report and pointing out what the BRS had always said. We were not wrong in calling it an NDA report," he stated.

Reacting to the L&T statement, Rama Rao termed the National Dam Safety Authority's (NDSA) report a conjured up piece of vile imagination, driven

by political agenda. He charged both the State and Central governments with orchestrating a smear campaign against the Kaleshwaram project, the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation system, purely to target former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and undermine BRS's achievements. "Without tests and

without any scientific data, the Congress and BJP jointly kept attacking Kaleshwaram. One can create as many conspiracy theories as you feel like but the fact will remain, Kaleshwaram is the lifeline of Telangana and KCR garu is a visionary," he added.

The BRS working president said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had committed an unforgivable sin by letting political vengeance dry up Telangana's farmlands, without taking up repair works at the Medigadda barrage. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



WELCOMES STRONG REBUTTAL BY L&T; BLASTS CONG, BJP FOR INDULGING IN CHEAP POLITICS



Sailors practising at the Hussain Sagar in Tank Bund on a pleasant Wednesday evening. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

PLEASANT OUTING

Manipur: NDA stakes claim

IMPHAL

Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a new government in Manipur, BJP legislator Thokchom Radheshyam Singh claimed on Wednesday after meeting Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Singh, along with nine other MLAs, met the Gover-

nor at Raj Bhavan. "Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a government as per the wishes of the people. We have conveyed this to the Governor. We also discussed what solutions can be there for the issue," he said. Asked if they would stake a claim to form the government, he said the

central leadership of the BJP will take the decision. "However, to inform that we are ready is similar to staking a claim to form a government. Speaker Th Satyabrata individually and jointly met the MLAs. There is no one who opposes the formation of a new government," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Man dies after falling into open nala in Suraram

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

A man died allegedly after falling into an open nala and drowning during the heavy rains which lashed the city in Suraram on Tuesday late night. As per available information, K Padmarao

(40), reportedly was washed away after he accidentally fell into an open nala. The locals informed the police that the person fell into the nala.

Police are verifying if he was in an inebriated condition. The Suraram police are investigating.

Ryots' protests escalate over delayed paddy procurement

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

With delays in paddy procurement pushing them to the brink of desperation, farmers across Telangana switched to protest mode on Wednesday.

Scenes of anguish unfolded in multiple districts with farmers' families going to the extent of touching the feet of officials seeking justice. In a bid to draw the attention of the people in power, they resorted to dra-

matic measures, including blocking highways and burning paddy bags. The situation, which exposed systemic failures, highlighted acute distress of farmers as their harvested crops were at risk.

In Suryapet district, farmers and their families protested on NH-365, stacking paddy bags along the Dantalapalli-Suryapet road to demand action at the Bollampalli PACS-run procurement centre. Holding sprouted grains and pesti-

cide bottles, they highlighted their financial ruin, with wet paddy left not considered for procurement due to official inaction.

In Narsimhapet, Mahabubabad, two women farmers publicly touched the Mandal Revenue Officer's feet, urging him to ensure that their paddy was weighed and purchased. The emotional plea, made before the village elders, left the officer embarrassed, but failed to deliver prompt action. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The annual fish prasadam distribution by Bathini Goud family on Mrigasira Karthi day will begin at Nampally Exhibition Grounds on June 8 at 10 am.

Bathini family members on Wednesday told the media persons that necessary preparations were being made in coordination with various government departments including the Hyderabad Collector, DGP,



THE BATHINI GOUD FAMILY SAYS THE FISH PRASADAM DISTRIBUTION WILL START AT 10 AM ON JUNE 8 AND CONTINUE TILL 10 AM ON JUNE 9 AT THE NAMPALLY EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Police Commissioners, GHMC, Water Works, RTC, Municipality, Police, and Electricity. The Fisheries department is also prepar-

ing to supply necessary fish to the family for distributing the medicine to asthma patients. The family said they have been providing the fish

prasadam as was told to their family elders by a sage about 190 years ago. Since then, they have been selflessly providing it free of charge to lakhs of patients with respiratory issues.

The family acknowledged the support from Badri Vishalal Pannalal Pitti chairman Sharath Pitti, volunteer organisations such as Agarwal Seva Dal which provide food, coffee, tea, buttermilk, and drinking water to patients. Emergency medical facil-

ities are also provided to ensure patients waiting in the queues do not face any difficulties.

The fish prasadam distribution will start at 10 am on June 8 and continue till 10 am on June 9, the family said.

Bathini family members Bathini Amarnath Goud, Sivasankar Goud, Gouri Shankara Goud, Chandrashekar Goud, Santhosh Goud and Siva Goud were present at the meet on Wednesday.