



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Tandoori chai sizzles; smoky kulhad brew in vogue



WORLD | PAGE 09

Donald Trump's travel ban takes effect

Tension over immigration enforcement rises; Order applies to citizens of 12 nations



SPORT | PAGE 11

Nations League: Portugal beats Spain

In a nutshell

**YouTuber sent to judicial custody**

**CHANDIGARH:** A Mohali court on Monday sent Punjab-based YouTuber Jasbir Singh arrested on espionage charges to judicial custody. Singh was produced before the court after the completion of this two-day police remand. Post his arrest on June 4, he was sent to three days of police remand following which it was extended for two days. Singh's counsel Mohit Dhupar said he will be produced in court again on June 23. Jasbir Singh was running a YouTube channel "JaanMahal Video". PTI

**HC to hear RCB, DNA pleas**

Bengaluru: Karnataka High Court on Monday said that it will hear on June 10 the petitions of Royal Challengers Bengaluru and DNA Entertainment Pvt Ltd challenging criminal cases against them in the stadium stampede incident. The stampede near M Chinnaswamy Stadium, which occurred on June 4, claimed 11 lives. On Monday, RCB and DNA Entertainment filed separate petitions challenging FIRs against them.

NATION PAGE 7

**Cannot hold talks on IWT: India**

**NEW DELHI:** India will not engage with Pakistan on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) till New Delhi's concerns regarding terrorism are addressed and the pact is completely revamped, sources said. They said Pakistan's Water Resources Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza has reached out multiple times, urging India to reconsider the decision to put the IWT in abeyance. In multiple letters to his Indian counterpart, Debashree Mukherjee, Murtaza has repeatedly expressed readiness to discuss objections.



**Akhil, Zainab's reception**

Actors Mahesh Babu, Yash, Venkatesh, Ram Charan attend

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## KLIS stabilised irrigation across Telangana: Harish

**Backs move to relocate water intake point in his deposition before Ghose panel**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

In a detailed and evidence-backed deposition before the Justice PC Ghose Commission on Monday, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao strongly defended the decision to relocate the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project's water intake point from Tummididi Hatti to Medigadda.

Rao attributed the shift to three critical factors: Maharashtra's unrelenting opposition, environmental constraints, and the critical issue of water availability, which rendered the original site unfeasible. His submission, supported by extensive documentation, aimed to counter allegations of mismanagement and political motives levelled by the Congress government.

Rao elaborated that Maharashtra's refusal to approve the required 152-metre Full Reservoir Level (FRL) at Tummididi Hatti, restricting it to 148 metres, severely limited water availability, making the site

**The Central Water Commission had cautioned about insufficient water at Tummididi Hatti and recommended enhancing storage through new reservoirs. Medigadda offered water availability far surpassing Tummididi Hatti's limited capacity**

untenable for the ambitious Pranahita-Chevella project. "The CWC had cautioned about insufficient water at Tummididi Hatti and recommended enhancing storage through new reservoirs," Rao stated, presenting official CWC reports to substantiate his claims. Additionally, the proximity of the Chapral Wildlife Sanctuary at Tummididi Hatti posed significant environmental challenges, stalling progress for nearly a decade due to concerns over ecological impact. To address these hurdles, Rao explained that

**Shifting to Medigadda was a pragmatic solution to bypass constraints while maximising the project's potential**



WAPCOS, a Central government PSU affiliated with the CWC, conducted a comprehensive assessment, including a LiDAR survey, which identified Medigadda as a viable alternative. "Medigadda offered water availability far surpassing Tummididi Hatti's capacity," Rao emphasised. This shift facilitated the construction of three key barrages — Medigadda, An-

**All queries from the Justice PC Ghose Commission have been addressed with comprehensive evidence - letters, reports, and data from CWC, WAPCOS, and other authoritative sources**

— T HARISH RAO, BRS MLA

naram and Sundilla, with a combined storage capacity of 38 TMC, irrigating over 20 lakh acres and transforming Telangana's agricultural landscape.

He said the decision was grounded in rigorous scientific and hydrological assessments, with all related correspondence and evidence submitted to the commission for scrutiny. Rao said the Tummididi Hatti site's proximity to a wildlife sanctuary created obstacles.

(SEE PAGE 2)

(KTR EXPOSES 'VILE MISINFO CAMPAIGN' PAGE 5)

Reaffirms faith in judiciary

**HYDERABAD:** BRS leader and MLA T Harish Rao reaffirmed his party's faith in judiciary, Constitution and the legal system ahead of his scheduled appearance on Monday before the Justice PC Ghose Commission probing the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

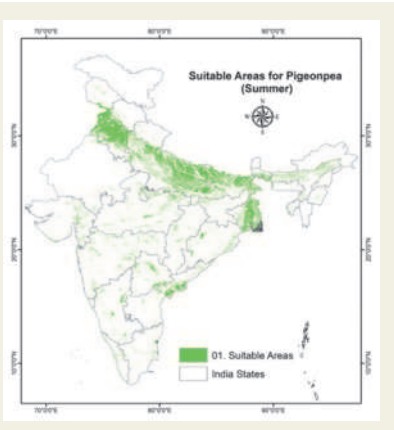
Speaking from his residence in Kokapet before heading to Telangana Bhavan, he said, "We have immense faith in the judiciary, the laws, and the Constitution. That is why we are appearing before the commission. We will answer all the questions posed by the commission."

Rao accused it of acting vindictively and doing injustice to Telangana's farmers. "The government should not think with a sense of vengeance. The State government is doing injustice to the farmers of Telangana," he remarked.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**LANDMARK RESEARCH BY ICRISAT**

Scientists develop ICPV 25444, world's first pigeonpea cultivar capable of maturing in just 125 days. The heat-tolerant, photo and thermo-insensitive variety has been successfully tested in Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana. This allows pigeonpea cultivation beyond the traditional kharif season



STATE BUREAU  
Sangareddy

In a major breakthrough for Indian and African agriculture, scientists at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have developed ICPV 25444, the world's first pigeonpea cultivar capable of withstanding extreme summer heat and maturing in just 125 days, compared to the traditional six-month cycle.

The heat-tolerant, photo and thermo-insensitive variety has been successfully tested in Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana, recording yields of up to 2 tonnes per

hectare. Importantly, this development allows pigeonpea cultivation beyond the traditional kharif season, including during peak summer when temperatures can reach 45°C.

Showcasing the crop during a field visit to the ICRISAT campus on Monday, Director General Dr Himanshu Pathak hailed the development as a landmark in climate-resilient agriculture. "This is a shining example of what science can achieve when driven by urgency and purpose. Our scientists have delivered a solution to address pulse shortages and climate challenges," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## ASP killed in IED blast by naxals

SUKMA

An Additional Superintendent of Police was killed and two officers injured in a pressure IED blast while patrolling in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Monday, marking the first fatality of a high-ranking police officer in the state after 14 years amid intensified anti-Naxalite operations.

In May 2011, an ASP and eight other policemen were killed when Maoists blew up a tractor they were travelling in, in Gariaband district. The latest incident indicates that the police officers walked into the trap set by Naxalites who had planted the pressure-activated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) near a burnt earth-mover.

According to Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P, the explosion occurred near Dondra village on the Konta Errabor road on Monday. The officers were patrolling on foot after police received information that Naxalites had torched an earth-mover the previous night.



**Marks the first fatality of a high-ranking police officer in the State after 14 years**

The explosion occurred as the ASP approached the burnt machine, which was parked about a kilometre off National Highway 30 inside a stone quarry.

ASP (Konta Division) Akash Rao Girepunje, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Bhanupratap Chandrakar, and Station House Officer (SHO) Sonal Gwala sustained injuries in the blast. (SEE PAGE 2)

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

After a break in rainfall that lasted over a week, Hyderabad and neighbouring districts should brace for more wet weather. The Hyderabad MET department on Monday morning issued a warning of widespread thunderstorms across all parts of Telangana for the next one week.

Thanks to a swift change in weather conditions, Hyderabad on Monday experienced overcast skies and a cool breeze. The cloudy conditions provided a welcome respite from the hot weather that had persisted throughout last week.

On Monday, IMD-H also forecast the possibility of light to moderate showers across several regions of the State, in addition to thundershowers. It indicated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, gusty winds, and moderate showers likely at isolated places.



People take a stroll at Tank Bund as Hyderabad experiences overcast skies and cool breeze on Monday. — Photo: Anand Dharmanra

## Congress faces heat from disgruntled leaders

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The dissent brewing among Congress leaders over being denied Cabinet berths continues to intensify, with aspirants and their supporters standing firm on their demands and even threatening

to quit the party. Followers of Bodhan MLA P Sudarshan Reddy, one of the frontrunners for a ministerial berth, issued an ultimatum to the party leadership, demanding that he be inducted into the Cabinet before the upcoming local body elections.

Party workers from Bodhan and Nizamabad constituencies warned they would submit mass resignations if their leader was overlooked. They also cautioned that the Congress would face consequences in the local body polls if their demand was ignored. A few

of Sudarshan Reddy's supporters arrived in Hyderabad on Monday and are expected to meet TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud to press their case. Unconfirmed reports suggested that they called for a bandh in Bodhan on Tuesday. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 4)

## 4 dead after falling off overcrowded trains

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Four commuters died and nine sustained injuries after falling off two overcrowded local trains in Maharashtra's Thane district during the morning rush hour on Monday, officials said. The incident occurred near Mumbra railway station when the trains were passing each other on a steep turn.

Chief Public Relations Officer of the Central Railway said the victims were travelling on the footboard of the two trains, one travelling towards Kasara and another travelling towards Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai. The commuters were hanging from the doors and their backpacks brushed against each other. (SEE PAGE 2)

## TGSRTC hikes bus pass fares

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a major blow to the middle class and students, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Monday hiked bus pass fare by nearly 20 per cent. TGSRTC has increased the prices of both general and student bus passes, with the new rates effective from June 9. The fare for the Ordinary bus pass has been increased from Rs 1,150 to Rs 1,400. The Metro Express bus pass price has been hiked from Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,600, and the Metro Deluxe pass from Rs 1,450 to Rs 1,800.

The State Road Transport Corporation has also increased the fares of the Greater Hyderabad and Green Metro AC passes.

RTC officials have claimed the increase in the operational costs, increase in the demand and expenditure, apart from the 'Mahalakshmi' free travel for women scheme among other factors for the increase.

"For the past three years, there was no increase in the bus pass fares. But now, we are forced to come up with the decision for the betterment of the RTC. Due to the increase in the demand for bus services and expenditure which included procurement of new buses, paying timely salaries, loans and also the long pending DAs," said a senior RTC official.

Though the State government has been supporting to some extent financially, the certain steps are utmost needed for the survival of RTC, he added.

## Shubhanshu Shukla to lift off to ISS tomorrow

NEW DELHI

Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station has been postponed to June 11, the ISRO said on Monday evening.

SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket was scheduled to blast off from the Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) in Florida on

Tuesday evening. "Due to weather conditions, the launch of Axiom-4 mission for sending Indian Gaganyatri to International Space Station is postponed from 10th June 2025 to 11th June 2025.

The targeted time of launch is 5:30 pm IST on 11th June 2025," the Indian Space Research Organisation



(ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan said. Shukla's travel to space marks India's return to human spaceflight 41 years after Rakesh Sharma scripted history by undertaking a journey to space onboard Soviet Russia's Soyuz spacecraft in 1984. The Lucknow-born Shukla, who goes by the call sign 'Shuks', is part of an

ISRO-NASA supported commercial spaceflight by Axiom Space where all the customers are national governments.

**Axiom-4 mission**

The Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission comprises Commander Peggy Whitson, pilot Shukla and specialists Tigor Kapu of Hungary and Slawosz Uzanski-Wisniewski of Poland. The 14-day mission will "realise the return" to

human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary.

The Ax-4 crew and SpaceX teams completed a full rehearsal of launch day activities on Sunday ahead of liftoff.

"A proud global acknowledgement of India's Space capabilities... a befitting tribute to the founding fathers Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan," Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said. PTI