



NATION | PAGE 07

We'll go deep into Pakistan if provoked: Jaishankar



WORLD | PAGE 09

Nine dead in Austria school shooting

Those killed include 7 students, gunman; Mayor describes event as a 'terrible tragedy'



SPORT | PAGE 10

Australia faces South Africa in WTC final starting today

In a nutshell

KCR to appear before panel

HYDERABAD: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao will appear before the PC Ghose Commission on Wednesday in connection with the inquiry into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. The session is scheduled to be held at Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Bhavan at 11.30 am. The Commission is probing allegations of irregularities in the implementation of the ambitious project.

3 killed in Delhi fire mishap

New Delhi: Three members of a family, including two children, were killed after they jumped from a balcony to escape a massive fire that broke out in their eighth and ninth-floor duplex flat in Delhi's Dwarka area on Tuesday morning, police said. The fire started from a temple inside the house located on the eighth floor of the building and quickly spread through PVC panels, a senior police official said. Black smoke billowed from the upper floors.

Iran executes 9 IS militants

Dubai: Iran said on Tuesday it executed nine militants of the Islamic State group detained after a 2018 attack. The Iranian judiciary's Mizan news agency announced the executions on Tuesday, saying the death sentences had been upheld by the country's top court. It described the militants as being detained after they were in a clash in the country's western region with Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.



This love means everything

Bellamkonda says his box office success has earned appreciation

12

State to go ahead with ethanol plant

Despite protests, Govt to implement the project

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Barely a week after violent protests erupted in Pedda Dhanwada village of Jogulamba Gadwal district against the construction of an ethanol plant, the State government has announced that it will go ahead with the controversial project, brushing aside environmental and livelihood concerns raised by farmers and residents.

Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Tuesday made it clear that the ethanol plant would be established, even as he accused the Opposition, particularly the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), of provoking farmers with ulterior motives instead of engaging with their concerns.

"It could get delayed by a few days, but the ethanol plant will be established," he said, adding that the Centre was actively promoting ethanol units and the State government was facilitating the project "duly following Central government norms."



Pedda Dhanwada villagers holding a meeting as part of protest against the proposed ethanol plant.

Villagers to boycott festivals

JOGULAMBA GADWAL: Residents of Pedda Dhanwada have resolved not to celebrate any festival, including Eruvaka Pournami, an important occasion for farming community, until the government withdraws plans to establish ethanol plant in the area. Traditionally, farmers mark Eruvaka Pournami by preparing their fields for sowing, including tilling the land and making other arrangements. However, villagers and families of farmers who have been jailed over protests against the proposed plant decided to forgo the celebrations this year. "When our family heads are in jail, how can we celebrate the festival?" they asked, according to reports.

"If there are any violations of rules stipulated by the Centre, we will not support it," he said. He also claimed that the plant would

not cause pollution due to the use of advanced technology. "Farmers were taken for a field visit and convinced, except for a few who

are obstructing the plant after being instigated by the BRS," he alleged.

When asked about cases being booked against farmers and journalists, Sridhar Babu dismissed political motives behind the police action. "If anyone violates rules, action will be initiated as per law," he said, while accusing the BRS of "trying to create hurdles" in the State's progress.

'Issue politicised'

"I appeal to the Opposition not to politicise the issue. They should not damage the State's reputation and stall investments and progress," he said, claiming that the Congress had supported the State government on several occasions in the past and "never stood in the way" of industrialisation. On being reminded that the Congress had previously opposed the plant, the Minister clarified that the objection then was over the use of "obsolete technology". "Now, the use of advanced technology is being ensured," the Minister claimed.

(SEE PAGE 2)

What's cooking? Cong summons Uttam to Delhi

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In a sudden development that has set rumour mills working overtime inside and outside Gandhi Bhavan, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy was to New Delhi by the AICC even as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was holding meetings with the high command since Monday.

The Irrigation Minister, along with his wife and Kodad MLA N Padmavathi Reddy, has already left for the national capital, triggering speculations. Suspense is high since the Chief Minister has been in New Delhi since Monday to discuss allotment of portfolios to the newly inducted three Ministers. With the Irrigation Minister being summoned to the national capital, discussions are gathering steam over a possible reshuffling of portfolios apart from allotment of departments to the three new Ministers.



The Chief Minister had met AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Monday night. This was followed by another meeting with AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi at Indira Bhavan, which lasted for over an hour. Amidst these meetings, the high command instructing the Irrigation Minister to reach New Delhi has left many guessing. In fact, Uttam Kumar Reddy was slated to fly to the national capital on Wednesday to meet a few officials and union

Ministers to discuss pending official issues, a senior party leader said. "There is no clarity over the high command's sudden orders to the Irrigation Minister," the leader said. The cabinet expansion had triggered dissent among aspirants. MLA Malreddy Rangareddy insisted that one MLA should be appointed as Minister from erstwhile Rangareddy.

(SEE PAGE 2)

HC junks election petition against Harish Rao

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

Justice Khaja Sharath of the Telangana High Court has dismissed the election petition filed against Siddipet MLA and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao.

The petition was filed by Ghadagoni Chakradhar Goud of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), who had unsuccessfully contested the MLA election from Siddipet. In his petition, Goud alleged misrepresentation in Form 26 affidavit submitted by Harish Rao, including non-disclosure of property details and pending criminal cases.

Harish Rao filed an interlocutory application seeking dismissal of the election petition on the ground that it failed to meet statutory requirements. Advocate Chandrasekhara, representing Rao, argued that the allegations were baseless. He submitted that Rao had served as an MLA from Siddipet for seven terms and held several ministerial portfolios.

He pointed out that Rao had secured a majority of around 83,000 votes in the recent election, whereas Goud had polled only 16,610 votes. (SEE PAGE 2)

India's population hits 1.46 bn, fertility below replacement rate: UN

NEW DELHI

India's population is estimated to reach 1.46 billion in 2025, continuing to be the highest in the world, according to a new UN demographic report, which also revealed the country's total fertility rate has fallen below the replacement rate.

UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) Report, The Real Fertility Crisis, calls for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals. Millions of people are not able to realise their real fertility goals, it asserts.

This is the real crisis, not underpopulation or overpopulation, and the answer lies in greater reproductive agency - a person's ability to make free and informed 150

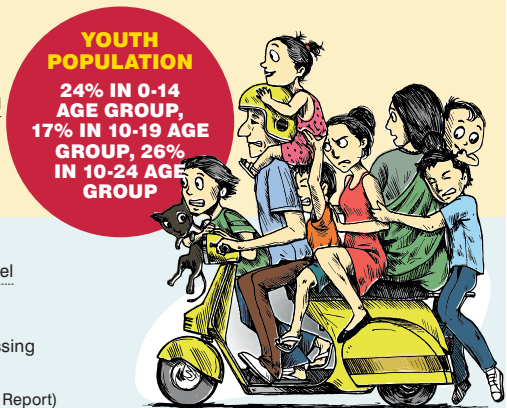
Big numbers

- India's population stands at **1,463.9 million**
- Number may grow to **1.7 bn** before it begins to fall
- 68%** of population is of working age (**15-64**)
- Elderly population (65 and above) stands at **7%**
- Life expectancy at birth - 71 years for men and **74 years** for women

THE REAL CRISIS

- India's fertility rate falls below replacement level
- Declines to **1.9 births per woman**, below the replacement level of **2.1**
- UN report calls for a shift from panic to addressing unmet reproductive goals

(Source: UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population Report)



per cent choices about sex, contraception and starting a family, it says.

The report also reveals key shifts in population composition, fertility, and life expectancy, signalling a

major demographic transition. The report found that India's total fertility rate has declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1. This means that, on average, In-

dian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration. India's youth population remains significant. PTI

Indian handcuffed: MEA raises matter with US

New Delhi/New York: The government has reacted strongly to a social media post claiming that an Indian national has been detained at Newark Airport in New Jersey, formally raising the matter with the US Embassy in New Delhi, top sources revealed on Tuesday. "Our Embassy in Washington DC and the Indian Consulate in New York have also been in touch with the US authorities to ascertain the details. We have not received any details so far," an MEA official said.

Close watch on weather ahead of Axiom-4 launch

NEW DELHI: SpaceX, NASA and Axiom Space are closely watching weather patterns at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida where Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others look forward to their travel to the International Space Station (ISS), now scheduled for Wednesday. SpaceX vice president William Gerstenmaier said engineers had fixed some snags in the Falcon-9 rocket that were discovered during the static fire test.

Unused/expired drugs? Flush it down the toilet 18 rescued from blaze-hit ship

MSAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

Ever wondered what to do with those expired and unwanted medicines that are lying in your cabinet? We often hoard them, unsure how to safely dispose of them. Surprisingly, there's a class of drugs that can be simply flushed down the toilet!

Yes, instead of allowing them to gather dust in the cabinet or accidentally falling into the wrong hands, such as a toddler or a family member for whom the medicine was not prescribed, it



is better to flush such medicines down the toilet.

Unsafe locations

A recent guideline document titled 'Disposal of Unused/Expired Drug' from the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO), under the union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has released a 'flush list'.

This list specifies a set of medicines that people can flush down the toilet, pre-

venting them from being kept in unsafe locations. The guideline, released recently said "There is a small number of medicines that may be especially harmful and in some cases, fatal with just one dose if they are used by

someone other than the person for whom the medicine was prescribed. The list of expired, unwanted, or unused medicines that should be flushed down the sink or toilet to prevent danger to people and pets in the home has been prepared," the guidelines said.

The CDSCO, which is the regulatory body for drug approvals and clinical trials, also issued clear-cut guidelines to State governments and the organisations representing druggists/pharmacists to coordinate and organize 'Drug Take Back' programs. (SEE PAGE 2)

KOCHI/MANGALURU

As fire continued to rage on and explosions rocked the Singapore-flagged ship off the Kerala coast on Tuesday, authorities issued an oil spill advisory while a Chinese engineer rescued from the burning vessel suffered critical injuries.

While 18 crew members were recovered from MV Wan Hai 503 and brought to Mangaluru late on Monday, four remain unaccounted for.

Port workers described emotional scenes as the injured disembarked — some

helped by fellow crewmates, others in stretchers, whispering prayers of gratitude or anxiously inquiring about their missing colleagues. The vessel caught fire on Monday, and more than 24 hours later, flames were reported from the mid-ship area and container bay just ahead of the accommodation block, Indian Coast Guard officials said.

The forward bay fire has been brought under control, but thick smoke continues to rise from the vessel. The ship is listing approximately 10 to 15 degrees to port, and more containers have re-

portedly fallen overboard, they said.

ICG ships Samudra Prabhari and Sachet are carrying out firefighting and boundary cooling operations at sea to prevent the flames from spreading further.

Meanwhile, Coast Guard vessel Samarth, carrying a team of salvors, is being deployed from Kochi to support ongoing efforts.

An ICG Dornier aircraft conducted an aerial survey of the incident site.

The major fire broke out on board the Singapore-flagged ship after a container explosion. PTI