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Basmati shipments to Iran stuck at ports



WORLD | PAGE 09

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 10, injure over dozen

Drones and missiles hit residential areas, hospitals and sports infrastructure across Kyiv



SPORT | PAGE 10

Rahul, Rishabh score tons; India set 371-run target

In a nutshell

AI flight to Jammu returns to Delhi

JAMMU: An Air India Express flight from Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu returned to its origin airport before landing here on Monday afternoon. The flight returned to Delhi as a precautionary step following a "GPS interference" and an alternative aircraft was later provided to the passengers to reach their destination. The officials said that the flight IX-2564 was supposed to land in Jammu around noon before leaving for Srinagar, but it hovered over the Jammu airport for some time before its pilot decided to return to Delhi without landing. PTI

Achuthanandan hospitalised

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Former Kerala CM and veteran CPI (M) leader VS Achuthanandan has been admitted to a private hospital here following a cardiac attack, hospital sources said here on Monday. The 101-year-old leader is reported to be in stable condition and is under observation, they said. CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan, who visited Achuthanandan at the hospital, told reporters that a team of cardiologists is monitoring his health. "Doctors have said his condition is stable for now," he said. PTI

Pak extends airspace ban

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan authorities on Monday announced extension of airspace ban on Indian aircraft for another month. The ban was initially imposed on April 23 for one month in the wake of tension between the two countries following the Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed at least 26 people. Later, it was extended for another month on May 23.



It shook me: Abhignya on her new role

Viraataapalem is set in a village surrounded by superstition and fear

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Seethakka skips Cabinet meet; sparks buzz

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

The absence of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister D Anasuya, popularly known as Seethakka, from Monday's Cabinet meeting, expected to discuss the long-overdue local body elections under her portfolio, has triggered speculation about internal rifts at the top level of the Congress party.

Adding to the intrigue are conflicting reports about her whereabouts. While official sources re-

mained evasive about her presence in Telangana, there are strong indications that the Minister was in Dubai on a private visit even as the Cabinet met at the Secretariat.

Photographs posted on Instagram and Facebook confirmed her presence in Dubai on Sunday. In one image, Seethakka was seen presenting the 'Woman Icon of the Year' award to entrepreneur Devu Vimal Ravindranath, Executive Director and CFO of Al Zaabi Group, at the Master Vision International Excel-



Minister Seethakka presenting an award to Al Zaabi Group CFO and Executive Director Devu Vimal Ravindranath in Dubai.

lence Awards and Business Conclave 2025 held on Sunday (June 22) at a five-star

hotel in Deira. It remains unclear whether the Minister returned to Hyderabad

on Monday. Her staff, while confirming she did not attend the Cabinet meeting, were vague on whether she was in the city and why she skipped the crucial meeting.

Among other key issues, the Cabinet was expected to deliberate on the conduct of the local body elections, which have been pending since February. Interestingly, Seethakka had earlier announced that the notification for the polls would be issued by the end of this month. However, she later retracted her

statement, clarifying that she had only suggested that elections could be held soon. This was reportedly after murmurs within the party, especially from TPCC leadership, questioning how she could make such a declaration.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy had also made a similar announcement regarding the poll notification, prompting a public reprimand from TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud. He instructed Ministers and elected representatives to refrain from

making administrative or government-related announcements. "The issue of conducting local body elections is sub judice. Unless there are clear court orders, Ministers should not make any such announcements," Goud had stated.

The Congress had promised 42% quota for Backward Classes in local body elections. However, implementation of such reservations lies outside the State government's purview and would require a parliamentary decision by the Central government. (SEE PAGE 2)

Iran strikes US bases in Qatar, Iraq

Qatar intercepts missiles, says no casualties reported, airspace now safe

DUBAI

Iran launched missile attacks Monday on US military bases in Qatar and Iraq, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites and escalating tensions in the volatile region.

Qatar condemned the attack on Al Udeid Air Base attack, but said it successfully intercepted the missiles and no casualties were reported. It said its airspace was now safe. Iran said the attack in Qatar matched the number of bombs dropped by the United States on its nuclear sites this weekend, signalling its likely desire to de-escalate. Iran also said it targeted the base because it was outside of populated areas.

Iran announced the attack on state television as martial music played. A caption on screen called it "a mighty and successful response" to "America's aggression." The Ain al-Assad base housing US troops in western Iraq was also targeted, an Iraqi security official who was not authorised to comment publicly said. It wasn't immediately clear if there was damage to the Iraq base or any injuries.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said the attack by Iran's Revolutionary Guards was "a flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty, its airspace, and international law." Al Udeid is also home to the Combined Air Operations Center, which provides command and control of air power across the region as well as the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, the largest expeditionary wing in the world.

The retaliation came a day after the US launched a surprise attack Sunday morning on three of Iran's nuclear sites. Just before the explosions, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian



A relatively empty beach for the season following the war with Iran in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday. — Photo: AP

wrote on the social platform X: "We neither initiated the war nor seeking it. But we will not leave invasion to the great Iran without answer." Earlier in the day, Israel expanded its war against Iran to include targets associated with the country's struggling theocracy, striking the gate of a Tehran prison notorious for holding political activists and hitting the headquarters of the military force that suppressed recent protests.

As plumes of thick smoke rose over Tehran, Israel was attacked with yet another barrage of Iranian missiles and drones. The persistent fire has become a reality for civilians in both countries since Israel started the war to target Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme. On the 11th day of the conflict, Israel said it attacked "regime targets and government repression bodies in the heart of Tehran," but Israeli officials insisted they did not seek the overthrow of Iran's government. The Israeli military warned Iranians that it would continue to attack military sites around Tehran over "the coming days". AP

OIL PRICES AT 5-MONTH HIGH

NEW DELHI: Oil prices rose to their highest level since January this year on Monday after the US strikes on nuclear facilities in Iran, with the country threatening to shut Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20 per cent of global crude supply flows. Brent crude futures was up \$1.92 or 2.49 per cent at \$78.93 a barrel early on Monday. US West Texas Intermediate crude increased \$1.89 or 2.56 per cent to \$75.73. Brent crude prices surged as much as 5 per cent. (REPORT PAGE 8)

SAUDI, RUSSIA OFFER OIL CONTINUITY

NEW DELHI: For India, which reportedly holds crude reserves for 90 days, Saudi Arabia's ability to reroute crude exports via the Red Sea offers a layer of supply continuity amid the Strait of Hormuz uncertainty, according to a report. While India sources 18-20% of its crude from Saudi, the Petrolina-Yanbu corridor ensures that a significant portion of these volumes could still reach Indian refiners even if Hormuz is disrupted. "India's import mix provides a strong cushion, Russian inflows (2.2 million barrels per day) now exceed combined Middle East supplies," report says. IANS

PTI

NEW DELHI

AAP's Gopal Italia on Monday won from Gujarat's Visavadar assembly constituency and his party also retained Punjab's Ludhiana West seat while the Congress-led UDF wrested Nilambur from the ruling LDF in Kerala, according to results of Assembly bypolls in four states.

The ruling BJP in Gujarat retained the Kadi seat, while the Trinamool Congress maintained its hold on the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal's Nadia district. The bypolls in the five constituencies were held on June 19.

Italia, the former president of the Gujarat unit of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), defeated his nearest rival, BJP candidate Kirit Patel, in Visavadar seat of Junagadh district by a margin of 17,554 votes, according to data shared by the Election Commission.

Despite its near-total dominance in the state, the BJP has not won the Visavadar seat since 2007. The seat fell vacant in De-

WINNERS ALL

Assembly constituency: **Visavadar (Gujarat)**
Party: **AAP**
Candidate: **Gopal Italia**
Votes polled: **75,942**
Winning margin: **17,554 votes**
Defeated nearest rival: **BJP's Kirit Patel**



Assembly constituency: **Kadi (Gujarat)**
Party: **BJP**
Candidate: **Rajendra Chavda**
Votes polled: **99,742**
Winning margin: **39,452 votes**
Defeated nearest rival: **Congress' Ramesh Chavda**



Assembly constituency: **Ludhiana West (Punjab)**
Party: **AAP**
Candidate: **Sanjeev Arora**
Votes polled: **35,179**
Winning margin: **10,637 votes**
Defeated nearest rival: **Congress' Bharat Bhushan Ashu**

Assembly constituency: **Nilambur (Kerala)**
Party: **Congress-led UDF**
Candidate: **Aryadan Shoukath**
Votes polled: **77,737**
Winning margin: **11,077 votes**
Defeated nearest rival: **CPI(M)'s M Swaraj**



Assembly constituency: **Kaliganj (West Bengal)**
Party: **TMC**
Candidate: **Alifa Ahmed**
Votes polled: **1,02,759**
Winning margin: **50,049 votes**
Defeated nearest rival: **BJP's Ashish Ghosh**



9-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN BOMB BLAST

KOLKATA: A nine-year-old girl was killed in a bomb explosion in Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district on Monday, police said. According to a police officer, the girl was wounded after being allegedly hit by a bomb that exploded on Monday afternoon at Barochandgar under Kaliganj police station limits. Counting for the Kaliganj Assembly bypolls is going on. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said police will take strict legal action against the culprits. "I am shocked and deeply saddened at the death of a young girl in an explosion at Barochandgar. My prayers and thoughts are with the family in their hour of grief," Banerjee posted on X. "Police shall take strong legal action against the culprits," she added. PTI

ember 2023 after the then AAP legislator Bhupendra Bhayani resigned and joined the ruling BJP. Punjab's rul-

ing AAP retained the Ludhiana West Assembly seat with its candidate Sanjeev Arora defeating his nearest

rival and Congress candidate Bharat Bhushan Ashu by a margin of 10,637 votes.

Arora secured 35,179 votes while Ashu got 24,542 votes, according to the Election Commission data.

BJP candidate Jiwan Gupta polled 20,323 votes while the Shiromani Akali Dal's nominee Parupkar Singh Ghuman got 8,203 votes. The byelection was necessitated following the death of AAP MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi. PTI

Ethanol: Case against police

HYDERABAD: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has registered a case against police personnel who allegedly filed false cases against farmers of Pedda Dhanwada village in Jogulamba Gadwal district for protesting against the establishment of an ethanol plant near their village, senior advocate I Rama Rao said on Monday. Rama Rao had filed a petition with the NHRC on June 5, alleging that Rajoli police had registered false cases against the protesting farmers. (SEE PAGE 2)

New head for TG REAT

HYDERABAD: Retired High Court judge Justice Anugu Santhosh Reddy has been appointed as Chairman of the Telangana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal. He took charge on Monday and presided over the court proceedings along with other members of the Tribunal. Born in Joganpally of Jagtial, he entered judicial service in 1991 as District Munsif. He was promoted to the cadre of Senior Civil Judge in 2004 and District Judge in 2010. (SEE PAGE 2)

GI tag for Balanagar custard apple?

YUVRAJ AKULA

Hyderabad

In a bid to boost local farming and gain national recognition, farmers and officials from the State have on Monday filed an application seeking Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the world-famous Balanagar custard apple.

This is the 19th GI application filing from Telangana. The application has been filed by GI Practitioner Subhajit Saha of Resolute4IP on behalf of three key farmer-based or-



ganizations: Pomal Farmer Producer Company Limited, Balanagar Farmer Producer Company Limited, and The Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society, with funding support from NABARD.

The application was technically facilitated by Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University (SKLTGHU) represented by Dr Saidaiah Pidigam, who played a pivotal role in compiling scientific documentation and validating the fruit's unique agro-morphological characteristics.

Majorly cultivated in Mahbubnagar, Vikarabad and Rangareddy districts of the State, the Balanagar custard apple is prized for its thick rind, high pulp content, minimal seeds, and long shelf life. These qualities distinguish it from other varieties and make it highly suitable for both fresh consumption and industrial processing. Once granted, the GI tag is expected to provide legal protection, strengthen brand identity, and open premium domestic and international market access for the Balanagar custard apples.

Saha said Telangana is also gearing up to file an additional six to eight GI applications from handicrafts and horticulture products in the coming days. (SEE PAGE 2)



by Kamini Saraf

Monsoon Edit

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