POLICE SEIZE ADULTERATED GINGER AND GARLIC PASTE

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, Khairtabad Zone Team, alongside GHMC food safety officers, has busted illegal manufacturing units and apprehended an owner for producing substandard ginger and garlic paste. Officials seized a significant quantity of the paste and other food products worth Rs 4.5 lakh during the primary operation. The team conducted a surprise inspection at the premises of A1 Sahara Gold Ginger & Garlic Paste, located at Madhura Nagar in Borabanda. During the raid, it was discovered that the accused, Mohd Abdullah, was manufacturing the paste in plastic containers under extremely unhygienic conditions. Investigators found that the product was being created by mixing chemicals such as acetic acid and salt with substandard raw materials, including shells.

Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, DCP Task Force, stated that the prepared paste was stored in open plastic tubs, exposed to dust, flies, and other contaminants, rendering it unsafe for human consumption. The adulterated product was supplied to various wholesale stores and catering services, allowing the accused to gain huge illegal profits. The DCP warned that such adulterated paste is hazardous to human life. Police noted that Abdullah managed the business using an FSSAI licence obtained in his father's name. The apprehended individual and the seized materials were handed over to Borabanda police for further legal action.

In a separate operation, police conducted another surprise inspection at Sahara India in Tappachabutra, Karwan. During this raid, the owner, Mohammed Zafar Alam, was booked for similar offences. The inspection revealed that the accused was manufacturing ginger and garlic paste in plastic containers under highly unhygienic conditions by mixing chemicals such as citric acid and salt. Police seized adulterated stock worth approximately Rs 2.50 lakh from this unit. Zafar Alam was reportedly engaged in the large-scale manufacture and sale of these tainted products to restaurants and retail shops across Hyderabad.

The total value of seized material from both operations amounts to Rs 7 lakh. The accused from the second raid was handed over to Tappachabutra police for further proceedings.

These coordinated efforts by the Task Force and GHMC highlight a rigorous crackdown on food adulteration units that bypass health regulations to exploit public demand. Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious manufacturing activities to ensure community health and safety across the city.

'NOT FOR ALL LPG CONSUMERS'

Govt clarifies on eKYC norms for LPG

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Tuesday clarified that LPG biometric Aadhaar authentication (eKYC) is only required for unauthenticated LPG customers and not for all customers. The clarification came as some news report have been circulating on the issue of biometric Aadhaar authentication for LPG consumers. In a post by the Ministry is a part of the ongoing efforts of the Government to encourage more LPG consumers to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication.

LS revokes suspension of 8 Oppn MPs

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked the suspension of eight Opposition Members of Parliament after the House unanimously adopted a motion moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju following Question Hour. The motion to reinstate Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, B. Manickam Tagore, Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and S Venkatesan was passed with complete unanimity through a voice vote, reflecting consensus across party lines after days of disruptions. The breakthrough came a day after an all-party meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, where leaders from both the government and the Opposition agreed to resolve the impasse and restore normal functioning of the House during the ongoing Budget session.

Maha passes Freedom of Religion Bill

NOT AGAINST ANY RELIGION: FADNAVIS

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 was passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Monday.

The law is aimed at prohibiting religious conversions carried out through fraud, coercion, inducement or marriage-related deception. Speaking on the Bill, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, said the law is not directed against any religion and is meant only to prevent unlawful conversions. He said the Bill does not restrict a person's constitutional right to practice religion under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, but it does not include the right to convert others through coercion or deceit.

According to the government, the law applies equally to all religions and its objective is to ensure that conversions are voluntary and transparent. Complaints can be filed by the affected person or close relatives, and authorities or police may take action on suspected unlawful conversions.

Mojtaba rejects ceasefire push

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has rejected proposals for reducing tensions or for a possible ceasefire with the United States that were conveyed to Tehran by two intermediary countries, a senior Iranian official said on Tuesday.

The official claimed that Khamenei's position for revenge against the US and Israel in his first foreign policy session was "very tough and serious". However, he did not clarify if Khamenei attended the sessions in person.

Khamenei, in his first statement since his appointment, vowed to avenge those killed in the war and claimed that Iran would "obtain compensation" from its enemy. He said that if it refuses to do so, Iran will "take from its assets" or destroy them to the same extent. "A limited amount of this revenge has so far taken concrete form, but until it is fully achieved, this case will remain among our priorities," he said. He said that Iran will never retreat and will resist with "full force" and will avenge not just the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei but every citizen who lost their life in the war. "We will not forget the revenge for the blood of the martyrs," he said.

3 lakh MT LPG stranded at Hormuz

New Delhi

NEARLY 3 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is currently stranded at the Strait of Hormuz, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said on Tuesday. During a key briefing, the senior government official said that multiple vessels carrying LPG are unable to move due to the situation in the crucial shipping route. He explained that six ships are currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, with each vessel carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG. "Six ships are currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, with each vessel carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG," Sinha mentioned. Together, this accounts for roughly 3 lakh metric tonnes of fuel that is yet to reach its destination. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime routes for energy supplies, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

Iran security chief Larijani killed in Israel strike?

JERUSALEM: Ali Larijani, Iran's security chief, was among those targeted in Israeli strikes on Iran overnight, according to Israeli media reports. It remains unclear if Larijani, a top figure in Iran's establishment, was killed or injured in the strike. Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz, has also claimed that Larijani has been killed. Iran has, however, not yet commented the reports. Larijani, a former nuclear negotiator who serves as secretary of Iran's National Security Council, is widely seen as one of the most influential figures in Iran's power structure.

If his death is confirmed, Larijani would be the most senior Iranian official to be killed after the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who died on the first day of the war. Larijani was a close ally of Ali Khamenei.

400 killed, 250 injured in Pak strike on Kabul hospital

KABUL

AT least 400 people have been killed and around 250 injured in a Pakistani airstrike at a hospital in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, a Taliban spokesperson said on Tuesday. Afghanistan's deputy government spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat said the airstrike hit the drug rehabilitation hospital at about 9 pm local time, destroying large sections of the 2,000-bed facility.

Pakistan denied the Afghan government's allegations and called them "baseless", saying that no hospital was targeted in Kabul.

Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the strike, accusing Pakistan of "targeting hospitals and civilian sites to perpetrate horrors". "The Pakistani military regime has once again violated Afghanistan's airspace and targeted a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, resulting in the death and injury of addicts who were undergoing treatment," he posted on X. "We strongly condemn this crime and consider such an act to be against all accepted principles and a crime against humanity," he further said.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said that the Pakistani military had "carried out precision airstrikes" targeting military installations in Kabul and the eastern province of Nangarhar. He said "technical support infrastructure and ammunition storage facilities" at two locations in Kabul were destroyed.

LPG situation a matter of concern, says govt

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"Petrol and diesel are available in sufficient quantity. Regarding natural gas, as I told you, the Government of India is making efforts, and it would be beneficial if all commercial LPG consumers shifted to PNG," Sharma said. Sharma also warned against hoarding and black marketing, saying that adequate measures are in place to ensure smooth distribution across the country. "Regarding enforcement action, so far, about twelve thousand raids have been conducted in the last few days. About fifteen thousand cylinders have been seized... Yesterday in Delhi, about six hundred cylinders were seized. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, about four hundred and fifty inspections and raids have been conducted in the last few days.

Meanwhile, various state governments are undertaking enforcement measures to prevent hoarding and black marketing of petrol, diesel and LPG. Raids are being carried out in several states to check hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders. Alternate fuels such as kerosene and coal have been activated for certain sectors, including hospitality and restaurants, to ease pressure on LPG supplies.

Cabinet meet to ratify Budget on March 20

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In view of the Centre's positive response to the state government's plea to allocate more funds for infrastructure projects, the government would also earmark substantial allocations to Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2, Musi Rejuvenation project, road development projects, etc.

Sources said that the Irrigation Department would also get more allocations under scheme expenditure this time. Major portion of the allocations in the last two years were utilized to pay the debts and interest payments.

Following the reports of introducing new schemes in the new financial years, officials said that agriculture, education, women development and child welfare, SC, ST, BC and Minority welfare wings will also receive substantial funds to speed up the implementation of the schemes and existing development programmes.

The officials of the Finance department said that the ministers were also suggested to accord priority to the implementation of the promises. EV Scooters to the college going girls and the enhancement of old age pension amount are already under active consideration. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also keen on introducing a slew of development programmes in Education, Municipal Administration and Home departments in the budget.

Mamata locks horns with BJP's Suvendu again

Kolkata

TRINAMOOL Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will fight her protege turned bitter rival, the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, from Bhabanipur in Kolkata in the 2026 Assembly elections.

The ruling TMC announced its list of candidates for the upcoming polls, with Mamata Banerjee contesting from the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency.

Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Banerjee said: "We will contest 291 of the 294 seats. The remaining three seats will be contested by our ally, Anit Thapa-led BGPM, in the Darjeeling hills," Banerjee said, while announcing the names of candidates. Banerjee expressed confidence that the Trinamool would retain power with a comfortable majority in the 2026 Assembly elections. She predicted that her party would secure more than 226 seats in the elections.

In the 2021 election, Adhikari defeated Banerjee in Nandigram by 1,956 votes, following which the Chief Minister had to shift to the Bhabanipur seat from where she won a bypoll and which she currently represents.

Asked about the challenge Adhikari, who was named the BJP candidate on Monday, will pose, Banerjee said, "We will win with the maximum number of votes from Bhabanipur."

The Chief Minister also sought to reassure party leaders and workers who could not find a place in the candidate list, saying they would be accommodated in the organisation.

"All those who could not be accommodated in the candidate list will be accommodated in the organisation," she said. Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party, Banerjee said the saffron party would see its numbers decline in the upcoming polls. "The BJP's tally will decrease in this election. They will receive a befitting reply for their anti-people policies," she said.

The announcement of the candidates sets the stage for an intense electoral contest in West Bengal, where the Trinamool is seeking to return to power for a fourth consecutive term.

Parl panel suggests ₹7,500 EPF pension

Continued from P1

The Committee further take note of the submission of the Ministry of Labour and Employment that the Government of India is already extending financial support towards the Scheme, including the contribution of 1.16 per cent for currently serving members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the budgetary support provided for ensuring the minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month.

However, the Committee stated that it is of the considered view that the existing minimum pension amount is inadequate to meet even the basic needs of pensioners, particularly in the present economic scenario marked by inflation and rising health care and living expenses.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of the minimum pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, with a view to enhancing it to a more realistic and dignified level. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry explore the possibility of increasing budgetary support to the Scheme, so as to ensure that pensioners receive a reasonable minimum pension commensurate with present-day living costs, thereby providing greater social security and financial stability to lakhs of retired workers covered under the Scheme.

SIT to probe Moinabad farmhouse drug case

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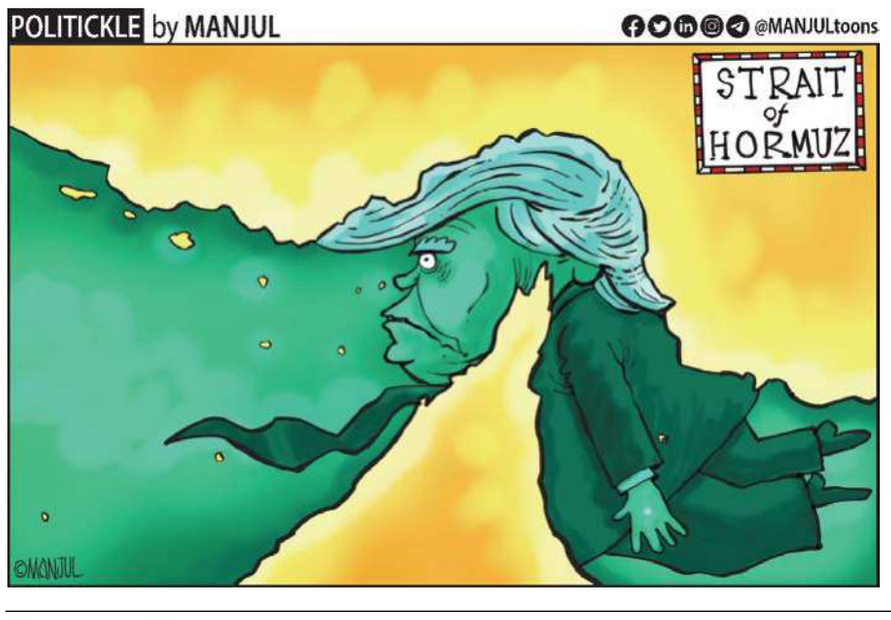
The team comprises officers from law and order, Greyhounds and the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) - Yogesh Goutham, DCP, Chevella, M Ravinder Reddy, Group Commander, Greyhounds, Ch. Sirisha, DCP, Shadnagar, C Harish Chandra Reddy and N Buchaiah (both DSPs EAGLE) Y Mallikarjun Reddy, SHO, Moinabad (the Investigating Officer) and SIs C Koteshwara Rao, N Venkanna and Sadath Ali.

The investigating team will draw out possible links to larger drug networks, officials said and added that all the 11 arrested persons, including TDP MP from Eluru Mahesh Kumar Yadav and BRS leader 'Pilot' Rohit Reddy, would be questioned. Rohit Reddy, his brother Ritesh Reddy and Delhi-based businessman Namith Sharma have already been produced before a magistrate and remanded into 14 days judicial custody. Six of those detained tested positive for drug consumption, including Rohit Reddy and Mahesh Kumar, who along with seven others were subsequently released on station bail.

The case came to light on March 14 following a raid by the EAGLE Force at a farmhouse in Moinabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad that belongs to Rohit Reddy.

Meanwhile, Namith Sharma allegedly opened fire using a revolver during the raid. The weapon is said to be a licensed .32 calibre revolver belonging to Ritesh Reddy. Police seized the firearm along with live and empty cartridges.

Another accused, Silveri Sharath Kumar, was reportedly found holding empty cartridge cases at the scene. A small quantity of cocaine (0.26 grams) was seized from Sharath Kumar, who allegedly confessed to procuring it through a supplier identified as Kaushik Ravi.



'Can't support Iran war in good conscience'

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"I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby," he added. In a strongly worded message directed at Trump, Kent said he continued to support the President's earlier foreign policy approach. "I support the values and the foreign policies that you campaigned on in 2016, 2020, 2024, which you enacted in your first term. Until June of 2025, you understood that the wars in the Middle East were a trap that robbed America of the precious lives of our patriots and depleted the wealth and prosperity of our nation." "In your first administration, you understood better than any modern President how to decisively apply military power without getting us drawn into never-ending wars. You demonstrated this by killing Qasam Solamani and by defeating ISIS," he added. Kent alleged that the current conflict was driven in part by external pressure and a coordinated misinformation campaign. He claimed that early in the administration, senior Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign that wholly undermined your America First platform and sowed pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran. "This echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing that Iran posed an imminent threat to the United States, and that should you strike now, there was a clear path to a swift victory. This was a lie and is the same tactic the Israelis used to draw us into the disastrous Iraq war that cost our nation the lives of thousands of our best men and women. We cannot make this mistake again," he said. Kent further said, "As a veteran who deployed to combat 11 times and as a Gold Star husband who lost my beloved wife Shannon in a war manufactured by Israel, I cannot support sending the next generation off to fight and die in a war that serves no benefit to the American people nor justifies the cost of American lives." He concluded with an appeal to the President, saying, "I pray that you will reflect upon what we are doing in Iran, and who we are doing it for. The time for bold action is now." "You can reverse course and chart a new path for our nation, or you can allow us to slip further toward decline and chaos. You hold the cards. It was an honour to serve in your administration and to serve our great nation." Kent, a former political candidate with links to right-wing extremist circles, was confirmed to his position in July.