



# WAKE UP



# TELANGANA

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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**Kavitha slams Congress over land, debt; hints at unrest within BRS: P8**

**Traffic Diversions in Old City for Miss World Heritage Walk, Dinner: P8**

**Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket End of an Era for the Format: P7**



## Brief Insights

**IndiGo Flight Returns to Delhi Due to Amritsar Blackout**



An IndiGo flight en route to Amritsar was forced to return to Delhi on Monday evening after precautionary blackout measures were implemented at Amritsar Airport. Flight 6E2045, which had already departed from Delhi, turned back after being airborne for a short time, according to flight tracking data from Flightradar24. The airport in Amritsar was temporarily closed due to the blackout. Amritsar was one of 32 airports reopened for civilian flights on Monday, following a temporary closure due to the ongoing military conflict between India and Pakistan. Located near the 553-kilometre-long border with Pakistan, Amritsar was put on high alert with an air-raid siren sounding. Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney confirmed the blackout measures and advised people to stay away from windows for safety. IndiGo has yet to provide an official statement regarding the incident.

**Distress Calls Decline at T Bhavan in Delhi**



Hyderabad: With the improvement of the situation on the India-Pakistan border and the Line of Control on Sunday, the number of distress calls being received at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi has reduced. About 162 Telangana natives, mostly students, arrived in Telangana Bhavan by Monday seeking the government's help to transport them to the state safely. However, students said they were not keen to return to their universities or colleges and preferred to return to their native places. Out of 162 individuals, 56 were students from educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir and 106 from Punjab. Out of these, 130 persons have departed for their hometowns **CONT:P2**

# Modi Warns Pakistan: Operation Sindoor Paused Not Over, India Won't Yield to Nuclear Blackmail

**New delhi**  
**Wakeup Telangana**  
May. 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his first national address since the India-Pakistan ceasefire, issued a stern warning on Monday, declaring that India "will not bow to any form of nuclear blackmail." Emphasizing that "Operation Sindoor" has only been paused and not halted, the Prime Minister made it clear that India remains on high alert and is keeping Pakistan under close watch. He asserted that any misstep from across the border would invite serious consequences. Reiterating India's firm stance, Modi stated, "Terror and talks cannot go hand in hand, terror and trade cannot coexist," and defended the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty by saying, "Water and blood cannot flow together."

Calling Operation Sindoor the "new normal," Modi said it is not just a military operation but a reflection of the will of the Indian people. He outlined India's clear policy that any dialogue with Pakistan will focus solely on terrorism and that any negotiations would center around Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Emphasizing the importance of strength in safeguarding

## Key Pillars of India's New Security Doctrine, as Outlined by PM Modi

■ **Decisive Retaliation** : Any terrorist attack on India will be met with strong and resolute action, targeting terror hubs at their roots.

■ **Zero Tolerance for Nuclear Blackmail** : India will not be intimidated by nuclear threats; any such tactic will face precise strikes.

■ **No Distinction Between Terrorists and Their Sponsors**: India will treat terror groups and the states that harbor them as one and the same.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation, the first after Operation Sindoor, on Monday.

India will not tolerate terrorism or nuclear threats. Operation Sindoor is the new normal, and any misstep by Pakistan will face a strong and united Indian response. in unique sand short. — PM MODI

peace, he invoked the teachings of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, stressing that India's commitment to peace must be underpinned by the capacity to act decisively when provoked.

The Prime Minister laid out three foundational pillars of India's new secu-

city doctrine — decisive retaliation against any terrorist attack, zero tolerance for nuclear threats, and treating terrorist groups and the governments that sponsor them as indistinguishable. He revealed that India had carried out targeted missile and drone strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan,

eliminating over 100 terrorists, including long-wanted figures linked to attacks in India and around the world. Locations like Bahawalpur and Muridke, previously known for harboring global terrorists, were specifically targeted, delivering a strong message of deterrence. **CONT:P4**

## Pak Had No Chance To Breach Multi-Layered Indian Defence

**New delhi**  
**WUT** | May. 13

:Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai said on Monday that with India's multi-layered air defence system, there was no chance that Pakistan could have broken through and targeted Indian airfields and logistic installation. India also found the debris of Chinese PL-15 air-to-air missiles and the wreckage of the Turkish-origin YIHA and Songar drones which were used by Pakistan. The officials



also released pictures of a downed Pakistani Mirage jet.

Director-General of Air Operations, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, trashed social media rumours that the IAF had hit Pakistan's Kirana Hills, which reportedly has a nuclear

facility. "We have not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there," he said. The DGAO was asked about social media rumours that India had hit a site called Kirana Hills, which reportedly has a nuclear storage facility during its counter-offensive. Re-

garding the air defence systems, Lt Gen. Ghai said during a joint services press conference: "In our inventory, we have a unique mixture of counter-unmanned aerial systems, air defence weapons and mediums of electronic warfare. That is why you saw when the Pakistan Air Force attacked our airfields and logistic installation on May 9 and 10, they failed to breach this strong air defence grid." Lt Gen. Ghai used a cricket analogy to show the robustness of India's air defence **CONT:P4**

## Congress Seeks Debate on Pahalgam Attack, Ceasefire

**Hyderabad**  
**WUT** | May. 13

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday reiterated his call for the central government to convene a special session of Parliament to address the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the developments surrounding cross-border firing, including the newly announced "ceasefire." Speaking as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge emphasized that while peace is desired by all, the country must be defended when necessary,



the Indian armed forces have shown full strength in doing so. Kharge, alongside Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging for a special Parliament session to discuss the current situation in the country, developments in Pakistan, and the necessary measures to

safeguard citizens. "We want a discussion to take place. Let's see what steps the government takes," Kharge stated in an interview with PTI. Both Kharge and Gandhi reiterated their request in separate letters to Prime Minister Modi, representing a unified plea from opposition parties for a special session. They expressed concerns over the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire agreements announced recently by India and Pakistan, including one from Washington DC. **CONT:P4**

## AAI To Resume Flights From Shut Airports

**New delhi**  
**WUT** | May. 13

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday said flight operations at some airports, which were suspended because of border security, will soon resume. The affected airports include Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot. After the AAI advisory, Air India said it is working progressively to restart its flights to and from the affected cities. The airline has requested passengers to stay tuned for updates as their teams work to bring back nor-



mal operations. Air India will resume flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot starting on Tuesday. IndiGo has already started restoring its services in a phased manner. According to its advisory, the airline began resuming operations from May 12 itself. "Our teams are working diligently to ensure a **CONT:P4**

## BCCI Announces IPL Finals Date

**Hyderabad**  
**WUT** | May. 13

The BCCI on Monday decided to resume the IPL season across six venues from May 17 with the final slated for June 3 as per the revised schedule. The IPL was halted on May 8 after the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off after Pakistan tried to invade Indian



air space near Chandigarh, forcing a blackout in the stadium. "BCCI is pleased to announce the resumption of the TATA IPL 2025. After extensive consultations **CONT:P7**

## Telangana Got Rs.3 Lakh Crore Investments in 17 Months : CM Revanth

**Hyderabad**  
**WUT** | May. 13

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said that Telangana had attracted Rs.3 lakh crore investments, which resulted in the creation of over one lakh private sector jobs in just 17 months since the party assumed office in

December 2023. The Chief Minister said that the state's rapid economic growth and investment inflow are a direct result of the Congress government's pro-business policies and international outreach initiatives. Revanth Reddy also highlighted that the ongoing Miss World competition

in Hyderabad was just the beginning of more global events to be hosted in the city in the coming days. After inaugurating Sonata Software's new facility at Nanakramguda on Monday, Revanth Reddy urged the support of all sections to achieve the state government's ambitious goals. "To achieve a \$1

trillion economy and transform Hyderabad into the world's most amazing city, I need your support. We have to do it together. Become brand ambassadors of Hyderabad and showcase our achievements to the world," the Chief Minister appealed. Revanth Reddy said Telangana **CONT:P2**



ESTD - 1960

# ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaage  
baar baar aage



## Distress Calls Decline at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

With the situation easing along the India-Pakistan border and the Line of Control, the number of distress calls from Telangana residents has significantly declined since Sunday, officials at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi confirmed.As of Monday, a total of 162 Telangana natives—primarily students—had reached Telangana Bhavan seeking assistance to return to their home state. Among them, 56 were students studying in Jammu and Kashmir, while 106 had been residing in Punjab.Out of the total arrivals, 130 individuals have al-

ready left for their respective hometowns after receiving the required assistance from state authorities. The remaining people are currently being accommodated at Telangana Bhavan and are expected to depart in the coming days.Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal personally reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the students on Monday. Although university authorities are requesting students to return to campuses due to the improving security situation, most students expressed a strong preference to first reunite with their families and return only when the situation fully stabilizes.In response to

student concerns, Uppal contacted university administrations and urged them to offer online classes temporarily. The institutions responded positively and agreed to extend support. A few final-year students also indicated that they would wait a few more days before making any decisions about returning. With conditions continuing to stabilize, Telangana Bhavan officials reported a sharp decline in distress calls since Sunday evening, and only a limited number of new arrivals are expected. However, Uppal assured that the Telangana government will continue to provide all necessary support until every citizen .

## Telangana Got Rs.3 Lakh Crore Investments in 17 Months: CM

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that Telangana had attracted investments worth Rs. 3 lakh crore in just 17 months since the Congress government assumed office in December 2023. This influx of investments has led to the creation of over 100,000 private sector jobs. The Chief Minister credited the state's rapid economic growth to the Congress government's pro-business policies and its international outreach efforts.Revanth Reddy also pointed to the ongoing Miss World competition in Hyderabad as a sign of the city's rising global profile, emphasizing that it was only the

beginning of more international events set to be hosted in the city in the near future.While inaugurating Sonata Software's new facility at Nanakramguda, the Chief Minister appealed for support from all sections of society to achieve the state's ambitious goals. "To reach a \$1 trillion economy and transform Hyderabad into the world's most amazing city, I need your support. We must do this together and showcase our achievements to the world," he said.Highlighting Telangana's growing position as a leading investment hub, Revanth Reddy shared details of his participation in international business forums, including the World Economic Forum (WEF) in

Davos and investor meetings in the US, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore. His efforts have helped position Telangana as a top destination for both domestic and foreign investments. During the WEF summit, Telangana secured investments worth Rs. 1.78 lakh crore, making it No. 1 in India for investment inflows.The Chief Minister also highlighted Hyderabad's growing status as a global business hub, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), software, life sciences, and manufacturing. He pointed out that major IT companies such as Microsoft, Cognizant, HCL Tech, Infosys, and Wipro are expanding their operations in the city, which is becoming a Global Capa-

bility Centre hub.Revanth Reddy also emphasized Telangana's leadership in key sectors, including policing, law and order, inflation management, job creation, and tax collections, based on recent reports from the government of India. He shared details of several ambitious initiatives his government is working on, such as the country's largest entrepreneur funding and mentoring programme, which aims to empower 66 lakh women through self-help groups (SHGs). Additionally, the Chief Minister announced plans to support young entrepreneurs under the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam programme.Furthering Telangana's commitment to inclusivity, Revanth

Reddy announced that the state had become the first in India to recruit transgenderers into the Hyderabad Traffic Police force as volunteers. "We are ensuring that every section of society is represented in the workforce," he said.On the infrastructure front, the Chief Minister outlined several significant projects, including the construction of a dry port connected to a seaport in Andhra Pradesh, along with dedicated road and rail corridors. He also spoke about the development of the "Future City" in Hyderabad, which will feature an AI-driven city plan, as well as the establishment of the Young India Skills University and the Young India Sports University.

## Fresh tenders to be invited for Garden View Mall adjacent to Haj House: Shabbir Ali

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

The Telangana Government has decided to call fresh tenders to lease out the Garden View Mall, the Waqf-owned commercial complex adjacent to the Haj House in Nampally. The decision was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on

Monday. The seven-storey structure, built with two basement levels and a total built-up area of 1.65 lakh square feet, was constructed during the previous Congress regime. Despite ₹22 crore being spent by the Waqf Board, the complex has remained unused and incomplete under the BRS Government, leading to its dilapidation. Shabbir Ali, who had overseen the project as a

minister in the earlier Congress government, said the complex was intended to be a key revenue-generating asset for the Waqf Board. He recalled that two additional properties adjacent to the Haj House were acquired by the Congress government at considerable cost to support minority welfare and Waqf development. However, the lack of follow-up action over the past several years resulted in neglect



and loss of potential income. Global tenders were first invited in 2017, but stringent conditions - such as a strict ban on alcohol and illegal activities and the requirement to keep two floors vacant

during the Haj season - slowed the process. Officials at Monday's meeting agreed to reissue tenders with the same moral and cultural safeguards in place. Government Secretary Tafseer Iqbal, Waqf Board CEO Md Asadullah, and other senior officials participated in the meeting, which also reviewed arrangements for the upcoming Haj pilgrimage. Shabbir Ali said Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally flag off the batch of Haj pilgrims from the Haj House on May 16. Instructions were given to ensure seamless arrangements for the pilgrims, including accommodation, transport, and other facilities. The meeting also discussed a longstanding concern raised by Mu-harram Juloos organisers regarding the unavailability of an elephant, a

tradition historically fulfilled by the Nizam Trust. Earlier, the elephant was housed in the Hyderabad Zoo and used during religious processions. Following its death, organisers have struggled to maintain the custom. The meeting explored the possibility of government intervention, including the potential purchase of an elephant. The issue is now under discussion with the Forest Department, Zoo of-

ficials, and wildlife authorities. The Waqf Board CEO has been directed to convene a meeting to find a permanent solution. Shabbir Ali reiterated the Congress Government's commitment to rejuvenating Waqf properties and fulfilling promises made to the Muslim community. He said all pending projects would be completed with renewed urgency and transparency.

## CPI demands Congress government to waive pending crop loans

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

The Communist Party of India (CPI) State unit demanded the Congress government to complete the pending waiver of farmers' crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh. As per terms and conditions imposed by the State government, each family was being considered as a unit for crop loan waiver eligibility. Accordingly, 40 per cent farmers' crop loans were not waived, CPI National Executive member Chada Venkat Reddy said.With government considering family as a unit, the loans secured



by the house owner, his wife, son and daughter-in-law were higher than the Rs 2 lakh ceiling limit. For instance, under Chigurumamidi mandal in Karimnagar, 9,588 farmers were eligible for crop loan waiver and of these only 5,864 farmers' loans were waived. The balance 3,724 farmers were running around banks and agriculture offices to get their loans waived, he

explained. The CPI leader met Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao on Monday and submitted a representation over the pending crop loan waiver. He also said there was uncertainty over crop loans. If farmers do not renew their crop loans before June, the interest component would not be waived as per the terms and conditions. On the other hand, there were doubts among the farmers that if they renew the crop loans, their existing loan would not be waived, the CPI leader said.

## Negligence in Cantonment Board: Funds Misused, Civic Issues Unresolved, Alleges Former VP Jampana Pratap

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | May. 13

Former Vice President of the Cantonment Board, Jampana Pratap, has leveled serious allegations against board officials, accusing them of negligence and misuse of public funds. During an inspection of drainage works in the Boinpally Pension Line area, Pratap criticized the apparent lack of accountability among key departments and called for urgent inter-departmental coordination. Pratap expressed concern over what he described as inconsistent prioritization of civic projects, where essential services are being



overlooked while resources are diverted to less critical works. "Basic issues like sewage overflowing from manholes remain unresolved, yet huge sums are being spent on larger, avoidable works," he said, singling out the Health and Engineering Departments for their inefficiency. Highlighting the per-

sistent inaction on public grievances, Pratap stated that many complaints submitted to various circle offices remain pending for long durations. He urged the Chief Executive Officer Madhukar Nayak and department heads to adopt a more responsive and transparent approach to governance. To address these systemic failures, Pratap

recommended regular coordination meetings among heads of Health, Sanitation, and Engineering departments. "Only through collaboration can we ensure timely redressal of public issues and efficient use of public funds," he asserted. While acknowledging the ongoing drainage works in the Boinpally Pension Line, Pratap emphasized that such projects should not come at the cost of everyday civic maintenance. "Development is not just about big-ticket projects—it's about solving the smaller, day-to-day issues that directly impact people's lives," he said. Stressing the impor-

tance of a robust grievance redressal mechanism, Pratap called for regular reviews of public complaints and their swift resolution. He urged officials to adopt a citizen-first mindset and restore public confidence through transparent and accountable administration. Jampana Pratap's remarks spotlight the urgent need for improved governance within the Cantonment Board. His inspection and critique serve as a reminder that sustainable development requires not just investment but also responsiveness, coordination, and a deep commitment to public welfare.

## Hero MotoCorp Conducts Road Safety Awareness Program on Mother's Day

Hyderabad  
Dp srinivas rao  
WUT | May. 13

Hero MotoCorp Limited marked Mother's Day with a unique and impactful initiative by conducting a road safety awareness program at the Hero Traffic Training Park in Begumpet. This program aimed to spread awareness about road safety, especially among women, and to promote responsible driving habits.The event wit-



nessed active participation from women, including female traffic police personnel, emphasizing the importance of safety on the roads. Interactive sessions and demonstrations highlighted key road

safety practices and precautions to be followed to prevent accidents.The program was graced by the presence of Mr. Ramesh, Inspector of Police, Begumpet Traffic Police Station, and Mr. Sadik

Sagar, Manager of Hero MotoCorp Limited. Both dignitaries stressed the importance of creating a safer road environment and commended Hero MotoCorp for its consistent efforts in promoting road safety.This Mother's Day initiative stands as a testament to Hero MotoCorp's commitment to the well-being of the community, especially focusing on empowering women with knowledge and tools for safer commuting.

## AAI To Resume Flights From Shut Airports

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday announced that flight operations, which were earlier suspended due to heightened border security measures, will soon resume at several key airports. The airports affected include Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh, and Rajkot.Following the advisory from AAI, Air India confirmed that it will resume flights to and from these cities starting Tuesday. The airline urged passengers to stay informed through official updates as efforts are underway to restore normalcy.IndiGo, on the



other hand, has already begun phased restoration of its services from May 12. According to a statement by the airline, operations have resumed from Delhi to Jammu, Chandigarh, and Amritsar. However, no flights operated from Hyderabad to any of the affected destinations on Monday.Despite the initial suspension, IndiGo has listed flights from Hyderabad to these cities

starting May 13, 2025. As per its online schedule, six flights are available to Amritsar, seven to Srinagar, four to Jammu, and two to Leh for Tuesday. Nonetheless, flights to Jammu, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot remain cancelled for May 13, according to the latest advisory.Airline officials emphasized that services are being reinstated in phases and flights from Hyderabad to the affected airports will be operational in the coming days. Passengers are strongly advised to check airline websites for real-time updates before proceeding to the airport, as full-scale operations may take additional time to normalize.



# Telangana local body elections: Congress MLAs, leaders apprehensive over visiting

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

With speculations rife over the State government’s plans to conduct local body elections in June or July, Congress MLAs and leaders are getting anxious over visiting villages and conducting campaigns, with the government’s failure to fulfil electoral promises made to the people making them apprehensive of the public’s reaction. Partial implementation of three out of the four welfare schemes that were launched on January 26 is another cause of worry for the MLAs and leaders at mandal and village levels. The Congress government had formally launched Rythu Bharosa, Indira Atmeeya Bharosa and Indiramma Houses on the Republic Day. It was announced that distribution of ration cards would

also begin on the same day but the scheme is yet to take off. The government had selected one village in each mandal to implement these schemes on saturation mode. However, many farmers and farm labourers are complaining that they are yet to receive the benefits as promised by the Congress government. At the Rythu Mahotsavam programme at Nizamabad on April 21, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao admitted the delay in release of Rythu Bharosa assistance. He even tendered an apology to the farmers and assured that the assistance would be deposited in their bank accounts shortly. Likewise, Nizamabad Rural MLA Bhupathi Reddy said crop loans of several farmers were yet to be waived. Despite their loans being under the Rs 2 lakh ceil-



ing, many farmers were running from pillar to post to get their loans waived, he had said. On the other hand, Indiramma Indlu applicants are up in arms against the government and alleging that priority was being accorded to Congress workers in the sanctioning of houses. There was also a delay in release of funds for the few eligible beneficiaries, citing different reasons. At the Congress Legislative Party meeting on April 15, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had instructed the MLAs, public

representatives and leaders to visit villages and conduct grassroots level outreach programmes. However, not many leaders have responded positively to the Chief Minister’s instructions. Already, a few MLAs and leaders are learnt to have expressed their concerns with the State leadership in private while a few have openly shared their views at different occasions. Last week at the Telangana Panchayat Secretaries Federation programme in the city,

Munugode MLA Komati-reddy Rajgopal Reddy exposed the challenging situations in panchayats. He openly informed Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister D Anasuya that Panchayat Secretaries were pledging gold and ‘mangalsutras’ of their wives to execute different works in their panchayats due to delay in clearing bills. The biggest worrying factor for Congress leaders is how to convince the people about extending 42 per cent reservations to Backward Classes communities. Though the Congress government had conducted a caste survey, there is uncertainty over its validity. The Chief Minister had explained that as the union government had decided to conduct caste enumeration in the census, it would prevail over the State government’s caste survey.

## Cradle centre ‘Ooyala’ for abandoned newborns opens in Telangana’s Karimnagar

Karimnagar  
WUT | May. 13



In order to protect abandoned newborns, the district administration launched a cradle centre ‘Ooyala’. The Child Protection wing of the Women and Child Welfare Department established the ‘Ooyala’ facility at the Mother and Child Health Centre, Karimnagar. Inaugurating the facility on Monday, Collector Pamela Satpathy advised the people who were unable to take care of newborns to utilise the facility and hand over babies at the centre instead of abandoning them on the roads and in garbage dumps. If the newborns had any health issues, they

would be provided treatment and would later be shifted to the Shishu Gruha. Informing that there would not be CCTV camera surveillance at the ‘Ooyala’ facility, she said there would not be any surveillance or enquiry on the people who leave children at the centre. People who want to hand over babies directly could consult with the organisers by calling on 94908 81098. Their details would be kept confidential, she said.

With a number of childless couples approaching officials to adopt children, the abandoned children would be given for adoption following norms, she said, adding that ‘Ooyala’ centres would be opened at Jammikunta, Huzurabad and Choppadandi government hospitals besides at bus-stands and railway stations. If there was an emergency, people could consult officials by dialling child helpline number 1098.

## Government, private hospitals celebrate International Nurses Day

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

Acknowledging their role as the backbone of the healthcare system, government and private hospitals celebrated International Nurses Day on Monday, which marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. On the occasion, a huge cake was cut at Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in the presence of its Director, Professor Bheerappa, senior nursing staff and doctors. Similar events were also organised at Gandhi Hospital and Osmania General Hospital in Hyderabad. Care Hospitals, Hyderabad marked the day with a week-long series of celebrations and community outreach initiatives, honouring the commitment and contributions of its nursing workforce across its network of hospitals.



Apollo Hospitals Group celebrated International Nurses Day 2025 by honouring its nursing staff, called ‘Care Champions’, and organising various activities across its hospitals. American Oncology Institute (AOI) along with Citizens Specialty Hospital launched the campaign ‘Our Nurses. Our Future’, initiative to honour the dedication, compassion, and resilience of nurses.

## Miss World contestants visit Buddhavanam

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

The contestants of the 72nd Miss World festival (from Asian and Oceanic region) visited the iconic Buddhavanam at Nagarjuna Sagar on the eve of Buddha Purnima on Monday. The visit was aimed at highlighting the rich history and diverse cultural heritage of Telangana, offering contestants a deeper connection to the region’s profound spiritual and historical legacy. Buddhavanam is part



of an integrated Buddhist Circuit, and is designed to showcase the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha. The contestants explored the Buddhacharitha Vanam, depicting the life of Buddha, Jakata Park, which high-

lights stories from Buddha’s previous lives, Dhyana Vanam for meditation, and the Stupa Vanam, home to the imposing Maha Stupa, before visiting the Buddhist Heritage Museum.

## ‘TANDANANA’ – A Global Music Contest Honoring the Legacy of Annamacharya

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini (ABV) has launched “TANDANANA” – The Annamacharya International Music Competition 2025, commemorating the 617th birth anniversary of the saint-poet Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya. The inauguration ceremony, held at Annamayyapuram near Hitex, was led by Pujyasri Sakshiroopnanda Swamiji of Chinmaya Mission, Hyderabad. He formally unveiled the competition alongside special guests Smt. Sailaja Kiran, MD, Margadarsi Chit Funds; Dr. Shobha Raju, Founder-President, ABV;



Annamacharya Sankertanas being rendered by popular playback singers and students of Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini, at the unveiling of the Annamacharya International Music Competition 2025. “TANDANANA” being organized by Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini (ABV), to celebrate the 617th Annamacharya Jayanthi; at Annamayyapuram, Hitex, today; Dr. Shobha Raju, Founder – President, ABV; Dr. Shobha Raju (Extreme Left), Founder – President, ABV; is also seen.

and Dr. Nandakumar, Managing Trustee, ABV. The event featured soulful renditions of Annamacharya Keertanas by renowned playback singers and ABV students. Speaking on the occasion, Swamiji emphasized the spiritual essence of Annamacharya’s works and their alignment with the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, particularly the concept of divine oneness. He also highlighted Chinmaya Mission’s initiatives,

including a national Gita competition and upcoming international celebrations. Dr. Shobha Raju expressed that TANDANANA is more than a competition; it’s a global cultural movement to in-

still Annamacharya’s devotional wisdom in future generations. In a time marked by unrest and uncertainty, these keertanas offer healing and spiritual strength. The contest is open globally, inviting participants in three age categories: Sub-Junior (below 6 years), Junior (7–15 years), and Senior (16 years and above). Registration and video submissions are open until August 31, and are free of cost. Entries can be submitted via this link. The grand finale will be held on October 8, 2025, at Annamayyapuram, Hyderabad, followed by a prize distribution in Amaravati, graced by Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu.

## Nurses Felicitated at Hafizpet PHC on International Nurse Day

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

On the occasion of International Nurse Day, a felicitation program was organized at the Primary Health Care Center in Hafizpet Division, under the Serilingampalli constituency. The event was held under the leadership of BJP Seril-



ingampalli Assembly Minority Morcha leader MD Salim. BJP State OBC Mor-

cha Executive Member Boini Mahesh Yadav graced the occasion and felicitated doctors and

nurses in recognition of their dedicated service to public health. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the nursing community for their tireless efforts and commitment, often risking their own lives to care for others. During his visit, Mahesh Yadav inspected the hospital premises and addressed several

concerns. He took immediate steps to resolve issues related to drinking water and sanitation and assured that remaining problems would also be addressed promptly. The event was attended by Dr. Anusha and BJP district leaders including Babu Reddy, Pawan, Devender Das, Raj Deep, and others.

## Pharma companies face scrutiny over controversial Forced Swim Test

Hyderabad  
WUT | May. 13

The controversial Forced Swim Test (FST), which involves drowning small animals such as mice, guinea pigs, rats and hamsters in inescapable water containers to understand depression in humans, a practice which is widely followed even today by pharma companies, may soon become a thing of the past. A few days ago, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has directed its member constituents and pharma companies to review and take action on the continued use

of this experiment, following a series of study papers presented by PETA over the efficacy of such tests. In the forced swim test, researchers put mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, or gerbils in inescapable containers filled with water. The panicked animals try to escape by attempting to climb up the sides of the beakers or even diving underwater in search of an exit. They paddle furiously, desperately trying to keep their heads above water. Eventually, they’ll start to float. In the 1970s, a researcher Roger Porsolt made this test famous as the Porsolt Test or



Behavioral Despair Test. He found that rats that had been given human antidepressant

drugs would struggle and swim for longer than other rats, and he concluded that

those who swam for less time were depressed. Even today, after four decades after Porsolt’s experiments, laboratories in universities and pharmaceutical companies utilise this test. Small animals are administered doses of experimental drugs and then dropped in cylinders of water so that researchers can measure how long they struggle. According to PETA studies, the forced swim test doesn’t accurately predict whether a drug will work as a human antidepressant. It yields positive results for compounds that aren’t prescribed as human antidepressants, such

as caffeine. Importantly, antidepressant compounds that might work in humans may be mistakenly abandoned based on the test. The bottom line is that the forced swim test is bad science. These experiments do nothing more than terrify animals and delay the development of new effective treatments that are so desperately needed, PETA in its studies said. According to the animal welfare association, several government agencies, universities and world’s top pharma companies have already pledged to not to permit/ conduct/ fund forced swim tests.

## Ashish Goud Leads Hanuman Chalisa Chant for Nation's Safety



In a heartfelt spiritual gesture, Telangana BJP Yuva Morcha leader Ashish Goud Thouti, along with his family and friends, offered special prayers to Lord Hanuman. The group collectively chanted the Hanuman Chalisa 108 times, seeking divine blessings for the success of Operation Sindhoor, the protection of India’s brave soldiers stationed at the borders, and the safety of innocent citizens across the nation.



India, Pak Agree to Cut Number of Troops at Border

New delhi WUT | May. 13

In a major development at reduction of tensions at the border and the Line of Control, the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday agreed that both sides will consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the borders and forward areas. The second round of talks between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan was held on Monday evening over the hotline. “Issues related to continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action against each other were discussed,” said the statement issued by the

Indian Army. “It was also agreed that both sides consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the borders and forward areas,” it added. The understanding on cessation of hostilities was announced following talks between the two DGMOs on Saturday. Though there were cases of violation of the understanding by the Pakistani military on Saturday night, there were no such incidents on Sunday night. “The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu & Kashmir and other areas along the international border,” the Army said in a brief statement on Monday morning. “No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days,” it said.

Fadnavis Reviews Security Preparedness in Mumbai

Mumbai WUT | May. 13

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said that Mumbai’s status as India’s economic capital makes it a potential target due to the proxy wars conducted by Pakistan. “Pakistan knows they cannot win with India in a direct war. But we have seen in history that they have chosen proxy wars, which makes Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, vulnerable,” said Fadnavis, who is also the state Home Minister, after holding a review meeting with defence forces at his official residence Varsha, to discuss the state’s security and preparedness against the backdrop of rising tensions between India and Pakistan. The CM said that any terror threat to Mumbai

could directly impact the country’s economic foundation due to its importance as India’s financial capital. “A city like Mumbai is extremely important. During previous attacks, the enemy tried to show that they were targeting the country’s economic hub. In such a situation, intelligence sharing will be extremely important and adequate care needs to be taken on the cyber security front. Hence, the state government and defence forces must work together in greater coordination,” he added. The meeting discussed improved intelligence sharing, greater use of technology, necessary precautionary measures and the expected cooperation from the state government to defence forces along with setting up a faster coordination mechanism.

Pak Had No Chance To Breach Multi-Layered Indian Defence

New delhi WUT | May. 13

India’s multi-layered air defence grid effectively neutralized Pakistani aerial attacks on May 9 and 10, ensuring the safety of key airfields and logistic installations, said Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai at a joint services press conference on Monday. He emphasized that the robust combination of counter-unmanned aerial systems, air defence weapons, and electronic warfare platforms ensured that no Pakistani aircraft or missile could penetrate Indian defences. “Whatever the enemy’s intentions were, some



part of our layered air defence grid intercepted and neutralized the threat,” said Lt. Gen. Ghai, drawing an analogy from cricket: “From Ashes to Ashes, from Dust to Dust, if Thommo don’t get ya, then Lilee surely must.” He used the analogy to illustrate the impenetrability of India’s layered defence, comparing it to the famed Australian bowling duo’s relentless at-

tack in the 1970s Ashes series. Indian officials confirmed the recovery of debris from Chinese-made PL-15 air-to-air missiles and the wreckage of Turkish-origin YIHA and Songar drones used by Pakistan. The Indian military also released images of a downed Pakistani Mirage jet. Refuting social media speculation, Director-General of Air Operations (DGAO) Air

Marshal A.K. Bharti dismissed claims that the Indian Air Force (IAF) had struck Pakistan’s Kirana Hills, a location speculated to host nuclear storage. “We have not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there,” he stated firmly. Air Marshal Bharti also addressed the performance of India’s defence systems under Operation Sindoor, stating that even older systems like the Pechora, OSA-AK, and LLAD guns proved effective against Pakistani threats. He further highlighted the significant contribution of indigenous systems, particularly the Akash surface-to-air missile system. “All this was brought together into an efficient and effective

air defence environment through the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), which enables us to operate in a net-centric manner,” Bharti noted. India’s counterstrikes targeted an airbase in Sargodha, and while some reports linked the location to the Kirana Hills facility, Indian officials maintained that all military bases remain fully operational despite minor damages. In a powerful cultural reference during a video presentation, Air Marshal Bharti quoted a famous couplet by Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, evoking the moment Lord Ram prepared to take military action after peace-

ful overtures failed: “Vinay Na Manat Jaldhi Jad, Bhaye Teen Din Beet, Bole Ram Sakop Tab, Bhai Bin Hoi Na Preet.” (“The ocean remained unmoved by humble requests for three days. Then Lord Ram, in anger, declared: without fear, there can be no love.”) “So, a hint is enough for an intelligent person,” Bharti added, suggesting the Indian military’s patience had limits when provoked. He concluded by stating that India’s fight remains against terrorism and its supporting infrastructure. “It’s a pity that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists,” he said.

PM Modi: India Won’t Yield to Nuclear Blackmail

New delhi WUT | May. 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his first national address since the India-Pakistan ceasefire, issued a stern warning on Monday, declaring that India “will not bow to any form of nuclear blackmail.” Emphasizing that “Operation Sindoor” has only been paused and not halted, the Prime Minister made it clear that India remains on high alert and is keeping Pakistan under close watch. He asserted that any misstep from across the border would invite serious consequences. Reiterating India’s firm stance, Modi stated, “Terror and talks cannot go hand in hand, terror and trade cannot co-exist,” and defended the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty by saying, “Water and blood cannot flow together.” Calling Operation Sindoor the “new

normal,” Modi said it is not just a military operation but a reflection of the will of the Indian people. He outlined India’s clear policy that any dialogue with Pakistan will focus solely on terrorism and that any negotiations would center around Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Emphasizing the importance of strength in safeguarding peace, he invoked the teachings of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, stressing that India’s commitment to peace must be underpinned by the capacity to act decisively when provoked. The Prime Minister laid out three foundational pillars of India’s new security doctrine — decisive retaliation against any terrorist attack, zero tolerance for nuclear threats, and treating terrorist groups and the governments that sponsor them as indistinguishable. He revealed that India had

carried out targeted missile and drone strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan, eliminating over 100 terrorists, including long-wanted figures linked to attacks in India and around the world. Locations like Bahawalpur and Muridke, previously known for harboring global terrorists, were specifically targeted, delivering a strong message of deterrence. Condemning the recent barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam, Modi said the incident, in which civilians were killed after being questioned about their faith, was not only a heinous act of violence but also an attempt to fracture the nation’s social harmony. Expressing personal anguish, he emphasized that the nation stood united in demanding action. He added that India’s armed forces had been given complete operational freedom and responded with

precise and impactful strikes. In retaliation, Pakistan launched attacks on Indian civilian and religious infrastructure, but these were effectively neutralized by India’s advanced air defense systems. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan’s military, after suffering heavy losses and the destruction of major terror infrastructure, reached out to India’s Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) on May 10, expressing a willingness to cease hostilities and dismantle terror operations. Based on this assurance, India decided to temporarily suspend counter-operations. However, Modi made it clear that this was not a conclusion but merely a pause. India will continue to monitor every move by Pakistan to ensure its commitments are upheld, maintaining that national security remains.

RBI FY25 Annual Dividend To Overshoot Estimates

New delhi WUT | May. 13

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to transfer a record Rs 2.8 lakh crore to Rs 3.1 lakh crore as dividend to the central government for accounting year 2024-2025 compared to a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore it had paid in the previous year. Higher profit on massive dollar sales, increase in interest earnings from government bonds and foreign currency assets should contribute to the increase in the dividend payout, economists said. The windfall would help the government in managing the fiscal numbers.



Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay said, “We expect RBI dividend transfer of around Rs 2.8 lakh crore to Rs 3.1 lakh crore versus Rs 2.1-Rs 2.2 lakh crore expected in the Union Budget. This will likely buffer the fiscal math for any slippages on the tax revenue front and possible mild increase in the defence revenue.” Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda said, “It could be higher than last year’s payout, maybe in the region of Rs 2 to 2.5 lakh crore aided by dollar sales, RBI’s lending to banks in the form of Variable Reverse Repo auction and revaluation of forex reserves. So, all these factors would contribute to higher income for the RBI and help the government in managing fiscal numbers.”

The RBI is expected to declare its surplus funds transfer to the government later this month. In the Union Budget speech on February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government expects to receive dividends of Rs.2.56 lakh crore in FY26 from the RBI and public sector banks. The central bank annually pays out a surplus to the government, drawn from income generated through investments, valuation gains on its dollar reserves, and fees from printing currency. This amount is determined after accounting for provisioning for bad loans, asset depreciation, employee benefits, and other statutory expenses under the RBI Act.

The central bank’s actions, especially its strategic dollar sales to support the rupee, have played a critical role in minimizing the volatility of the Indian currency compared to its Asian and global counterparts. From April to February in FY25, the RBI engaged in heavy dollar selling amounting to \$371.551 billion while purchasing \$322.685 billion. These operations not only helped in defending the rupee against the dollar but also are expected to have boosted the RBI’s revenues significantly.

Kharge Demands Special Parliament Session on Security Issues

New delhi WUT | May. 13

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday reiterated his call for the central government to convene a special session of Parliament to address the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the developments surrounding cross-border firing, including the newly announced "ceasefire." Speaking as the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge emphasized that while peace is desired by all, the country must be defended when necessary, and the Indian armed forces have shown full strength in doing so. Kharge, alongside Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging for a special Parliament session to discuss the current situation in the country, developments in Pakistan, and the necessary measures to safe-

guard citizens. "We want a discussion to take place. Let’s see what steps the government takes," Kharge stated in an interview with PTI. Both Kharge and Gandhi reiterated their request in separate letters to Prime Minister Modi, representing a unified plea from opposition parties for a special session. They expressed concerns over the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire agreements announced recently by India and Pakistan, including one from Washington DC. India and Pakistan reached a ceasefire agreement on Saturday to halt all firing and military actions following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. Kharge remarked that while India strives to uphold its promises, Pakistan often breaks them, using terrorism as a means of conflict rather than direct military en-

gagement. "If Pakistan stays quiet, we will maintain peace. If they continue provocations, we will be compelled to respond," Kharge said. On Buddha Purnima, which commemorates the birth of Gautama Buddha, Kharge highlighted the universal longing for peace, aligning with the Buddha’s teachings that India has followed for over two millennia. "While we desire peace everywhere, the security of the country is paramount, and we must be prepared to defend it," he added, lauding the courage and dedication of the Indian armed forces. Kharge also criticized the government’s reluctance to address these pressing issues in Parliament, asserting, "The prime minister speaks openly in public meetings and on TV, but he must bring these matters to Parliament as well." Regarding US President.

Support Pours in for FS Misri Amid Online Trolling

New delhi WUT | May. 13

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who came under intense trolling on social media following his statement on the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement, has received widespread support from senior diplomats, political leaders, and the National Commission for Women (NCW). The backlash against Misri intensified after he read out a brief statement on Saturday announcing that India and Pakistan had reached an understanding to halt military action. The trolling, which included personal attacks on his family—particularly his daughter—has sparked outrage among many quarters. Former foreign secretary Nirupama Menon Rao called the targeting of Misri and his family "utterly shameful" and urged people to stand

behind India’s diplomats. “Doxxing his daughter and abusing his loved ones crosses every line of decency. This toxic hate must stop,” she wrote on X (formerly Twitter). The Association of Indian Diplomats also condemned the attacks, describing them as “appalling and completely unacceptable.” The body emphasized that Misri is an “outstanding professional with an impeccable record” and demanded strict action against those responsible. Support also poured in from political leaders across the spectrum. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi defended Misri, stating, “Our civil servants work under the executive... they shouldn’t be blamed for the decisions taken by the political leadership.” He praised Misri as a decent, honest, and hardworking diplomat. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav crit-

icized the central government’s silence, saying, “It is the government’s responsibility to take decisions — not individual officers. Some anti-social criminal elements are openly crossing all limits of abusive language... but neither the BJP government nor its ministers are coming forward to protect his honour.” The NCW, in a statement issued by Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, strongly condemned the doxxing of Misri’s daughter and called such acts “grossly irresponsible and morally indefensible.” The commission urged the public to maintain dignity and responsible conduct both online and offline. Left parties also denounced the attacks. The CPI(M) questioned the silence of the BJP-led Centre, stating, “Shame on the trolls.” Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas from CPI(M) added.





EDITO -

TECH TRASH, GROWING E-WASTE CRISIS

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Have you ever wondered where your old smartphone goes after you toss it? That tiny device — filled with valuable metals and toxic chemicals — doesn't just vanish. More often, it ends up in landfills or is dismantled under hazardous conditions in developing countries.

With technology evolving rapidly, devices are being replaced at an alarming rate, fueling a growing e-waste crisis. E-waste, or electronic waste, includes discarded gadgets like smartphones, computers and TVs. While no universal definition exists, it generally covers expensive, durable products used for data processing, communication and entertainment.

As lifespans shrink due to rapid innovation, global e-waste surged to 62 million tonnes in 2022 and is projected to hit 82 million tonnes by 2030 (Statista, 2025). Poor recycling rates,

informal processing and weak regulations intensify the crisis, posing severe environmental and health risks. Per Capita e-waste Per capita production is the average amount of e-waste each person in a country produces. In 2022, the average per capita e-waste production was 7.8 kilograms. While Asia generated the largest quantity of e-waste overall, Europe and Oceania had the highest per capita rates, producing 17.6 kilograms and 16.1 kilograms per person, respectively. This shows that e-waste is not evenly distributed worldwide, and different regions handle it in different ways.

Within this vast waste stream, valuable metals such as gold, silver and platinum can be found in recoverable amounts. Valuable metals in e-waste were worth \$9.6 billion in 2022 and could reach \$13.6 billion by 2029. However, only 22.3% was properly recycled, while 48 million tonnes were informally handled, with 29%

likely ending up in landfills. Weak enforcement of laws, such as the 2016 Municipal Solid Waste Rules (Turaga & Bhaskar), allows illegal e-waste exports in low to middle-income countries, where workers, including women and children, face toxic exposure. Poverty forces many communities to rely on e-waste scavenging despite serious health risks.

Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable, facing higher risks of neurodevelopmental disorders, respiratory diseases and toxic exposure. Studies link informal recycling to premature birth, stillbirth, and cognitive impairments. Addressing this crisis requires stronger regulations, safer recycling practices and technological innovations.

Toxic Wasteland In Ghana, one of the world's largest e-waste dumps, children as young as ten can be seen rummaging through mountains of discarded electronics, hoping to find valuable metals like copper and gold. Their hands, often bare, are cov-



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**The Editor**

Railway Staff Pension Rules Separate

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court allowed two writ appeals filed by the South Central Railway (SCR), Rail Nilayam, on the question of payment of gratuity to its retired employees. The crux of the controversy related to whether employees of the SCR were entitled to pension under the P&G (Central) Rules of Railway Services (Pension Rules). The panel comprising Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili and Justice Laxmi Narayana

Alishetty set aside the verdict of a single judge and ruled that the calculations were not faulty. Earlier, the concerned employee had filed a petition before the controlling authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act. The authority allowed the application and directed the Railways to make the balance payments. The Railways unsuccessfully challenged the order before a single judge.

It is the case of the Railways that it has its own rules, in the form of the Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993.



Therefore, the order dated 10.09.2015 passed by the controlling authority under the Act, 1972, as well as the impugned order dated 26.07.2016 passed by the single judge, were liable to be set aside. It was the case of the employees that, under the

Railway Rules, 1993, less gratuity was being paid than what was payable under the Act, 1972.

In contrast, the Railways contended that all its employees were governed by the Rules, 1993, and the employees are being paid retiral

benefits, including gratuity, pension, and all other benefits, under them. A perusal of the Amendment Act indicated that any person who holds a post under the Central government or a state government and is governed by any other Act or by any rules providing for the payment of gratuity is not covered under the definition of "employee" under Section 2(e) of the Act, 1972. Therefore, the respondents, who are employees of the railways under the ministry of railways, are not covered under Section 2(e)

of the Act, 1972. The panel proceeded to refer to various judgments of the apex court and declared that the employees of the railways are not covered under the definition of "employee" under Section 2(e) of the Act, 1972, after the amendment, and thus, they are exempted from the provisions of the Act, 1972. Therefore, in view of the amendment to Section 2(e) of the Act, 1972, the respondents are not covered under the Act, 1972, but are governed by the Railway Services (Pension) Rules, 1993.

Hyderabad I-T Commissioner Held for Bribery; ED to Probe Money

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

In a major crackdown on corruption within the Income Tax Department, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Jeevan Lal Lavidiya, Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions Appeals Units 7 and 8), stationed at the office of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Hyderabad. He was taken into custody on charges of accepting bribes to pass favourable orders in ap-

peal cases. The case has triggered a larger financial investigation, with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) expected to launch an inquiry into possible money laundering violations connected to the case. According to the CBI, Lavidiya was part of a larger network involved in accepting illegal gratification in exchange for favourable appeal outcomes. The agency has registered cases against 14 individuals, including Lavidiya. Key accomplices identified in the



case include Natta Veera Naga Sri Ram Gopal from Visakhapatnam, Sairam Palisetty from Srikakulam, Rayapureddy Narendra from Hyderabad, Dandela Venkateswarlu from Khammam, and Landa Varahalu from Visakhapatnam. These individuals are accused of facilitating bribe col-

lections and transferring funds through hawala channels. The investigation revealed that Lavidiya had accepted bribes amounting to Rs 20 lakh and Rs 15 lakh from Ventura Securities based in Thane and Anand Rao Shitole of Mumbai, respectively. The payments were made

through middlemen and routed via the bank accounts of Landa Varahalu and through hawala operators. In another instance, Lavidiya allegedly received Rs 15 lakh from Hemant Kumar Rajendrakumar Shah of Ahmedabad in connection with an appeal, using similar channels for fund transfer. Sources in the CBI disclosed that Lavidiya established several links with hawala operators to facilitate the illicit movement of funds to various desti-

nations. The agency has intensified its probe into the financial trail and is expected to seek police custody of the commissioner and his associates for further interrogation. The developments in this case have raised serious concerns about corruption in key financial institutions, with the ED likely to examine the money laundering aspect under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



People Lose Rs.3 Crore in Real Estate Scam

Over 50 people have allegedly lost more than Rs.3 crore in a real estate scam involving Klay Infra and Developers, which promised to sell flats at low prices. According to the victims, the scam began near popular shopping malls, where people were offered coupons. Later, they received phone calls claiming that they had won prizes and were offered plots at discounted prices. One of the victims, who requested anonymity, said he had shared his contact number at a mall and later received a call saying he had won a prize.

When he visited the location as he was directed to, company representatives explained details about a project being offered at low rates. He was told to pay the amount in instalments over three years, after which the registration would be completed. He ended up paying ₹27 lakh. "In January 2025, I received an email saying the registration would happen by the end of the month. In February, I received another email which again said that the project registration would be done by this month. Since then, there has been no response from their side," the victim said. Another victim, who paid Rs.7 lakh, said Klay Infra and Developers were marketing ventures on behalf of different landowners. "There are many poor and innocent people who have fallen into this trap," he added. Victims said that while those who paid in the first phase had their registrations completed, those in the second phase have been left without any contact or information. "We don't know whether it is an internal issue or if they have used all our money, but we have not received any intimation or response from them," said another victim. "I come from a poor family and invested all my life's savings into this project, hoping to secure a home for my children. Now I don't know what will happen. We just want justice," said one of the victims, an electrician.



Actress Vijayalakshmi on the one thing she regrets in life!

**Mumbai**  
WUT | May. 13

Actress Vijayalakshmi, who is also the daughter of National Award winning director Agathiyan, has now penned an emotional tribute to her mom, in which she has disclosed the only thing that she regrets in her life.

On the occasion of Mother’s Day, Vijayalakshmi took to her Instagram page to pen a moving tribute to her mother.

She wrote, “My Mom was a GOAT. One morning, that teenage girl woke up and decided to change her name from Ramuthavee to Radha. Said the name sounded outdated. A

rebellious soul who broke boundaries. She wanted to become an IAS officer. After her MA degree, she prepped hard and wrote the exam, but didn’t do well in her General Knowledge paper. Boom. Life took a turn.”

Pointing out that her mother was the firstborn in a middle class police family, Vijayalakshmi said, “Big sister to six siblings. Had her own room while the rest slept together. Treated like a queen. My father then came. She fell for a man with wild cinema dreams. Her family didn’t approve. She eloped. That’s what rebels do.”

Stating that her father treated her mother like a



queen too, Vijayalakshmi said, “But then, life happened. After three daughters and years of struggle, she was forced to forget who she was. While Appa kept knocking on iron doors in the film world, Amma became everything. Salesgirl, kindergarten teacher, hustler, provider. Caught in the vortex, their marriage

wasn’t easy either. Amma was enigmatic in our childhood. For months, she’d be on edge. Shouting, irritated, like a storm walking. We hated that phase.”

She then said, “Then came what we three kids secretly called ‘Amma good mummy aagitanga.’ She would go silent. No yelling, no shoutings. Just

quiet. She wouldn’t step out of the house or meet anyone. Even if we break something, she would silently clean it. Without even looking up. We loved her like that.”

“But now I know that silence wasn’t peace. That silence was bipolar depression. What we celebrated as calm was actually her soul locking itself in,” the actress disclosed.

“My ‘I don’t care about grammar’ came from her. She was a hippie. Wild. And flowing. She wasn’t ready for motherhood or for being the wife of a struggling AD. Yet she coped. She buried her wild energy and wore the mask,” the actress said

and added, “I’m regretless in life, except for one thing.”

“Now, I’m filled with abundance. I heal people with my positivity. I counsel strangers in my DMs. I hold space for others. I listen. I comfort. But I couldn’t heal her,” she rued and said, “She battled alone. And died with questions. If I had been a little older, a little more aware, I might’ve helped her. Might’ve hugged her tight. I wouldn’t have celebrated her painful silence.” The actress said that she didn’t pray to her mother, asking for things. “I just manifest her somewhere in la la land, under a golden sunset, messy haired.

Tovino Thomas-starrer ‘Narivetta’ to hit screens on May 23

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | May. 13

Director Anuraj Manohar’s eagerly-awaited Malayalam action drama ‘Narivetta’, featuring actor Tovino Thomas in the lead, will hit screens worldwide on May 23 this year, its makers have now announced. The makers of the film, Indian Cinema Company, took to their Instagram page to make the announcement. It said, “Date Locked & Loaded!! #Narivetta Releasing On May 23.”

It may be recalled that only on Saturday, the team announced that the Censor Board had cleared the film for release with a U/A certificate. The film, which is based on true events, has triggered huge expectations as it will mark the acting debut of ace Tamil film director Cheran in Malayalam.

A trailer of the film released recently gave away the fact that Tovino Thomas, director Cheran and actor Suraj Venjarmoodu all play cops in the film.

While Cheran plays the role of a Tamilian, Tovino plays a cop character that is ranked much lower to him.

The trailer makes it clear, right at the start,



that the film is about a revolution and the fight for justice. It begins with the police moving in to demolish huts, which the police claim has been built illegally on forest land.

Cheran, who plays a senior police officer, is seen seeking the cooperation of the locals. However, even as they look to convince the locals to leave the area, the police use third degree methods.

A tribal is asked if he was hurt by the cops. The brutal beatings that the poor tribals have been subjected to makes them fear the police so much that the man is scared to even acknowledge what has happened to him. At one point, the trailer shows Cheran chiding Tovino, saying, “Don’t try to play the hero.” It does not take long for you to realise from the trailer that the battle is for land.

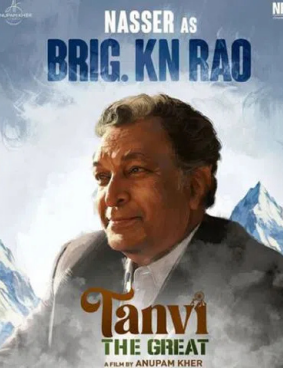
Why Nassar broke down in tears after listening to the script of ‘Tanvi the Great’

**Mumbai**  
WUT | May. 13

Veteran actor Nassar was moved to tears after hearing the script of Tanvi the Great, the upcoming film directed by Anupam Kher. In a recent post, Kher revealed that Nassar found the story so emotionally stirring that he couldn’t hold back his emotions—highlighting just how impactful the film promises to be. On Monday, Anupam Kher shared the first-look poster of Nassar as Brig. Rao, along with a heartfelt note in which he praised the Baahubali

star’s acting journey.

In the caption of the post, the ‘Special 26’ actor revealed that he had envisioned only Nassar in the role of Brig. Rao, a key character in his upcoming film. What moved him most was Nassar’s immediate agreement to join the project — without even hearing the full script. Anupam wrote, “Actors of Tanvi The Great: Even though #NasserSir is younger than me, it is because of his legendary film career that the ‘SIR’ comes out automatically when I am referring to him. His acting graph



and his list of films are an actor’s dream. Thevar Magan, Bombay, Anne Sivam, Nayakan, Bahubali.... I can go on and on. The list is endless. 552 and counting. But it is The Person that makes him The Tallest man. He is an

Outstanding actor, highly respected and generous!.” (sic)

“I wanted only him to play Brig. Rao in Tanvi The Great! Without listening to the details, he said he is doing the film. It is only when I shot with him on the first day that I narrated him the script and his role in detail. He had tears in his eyes, and I had the character on the sets. Thank you, Nasser Sir, for your Magnanimity, large-heartedness, and a BRILLIANT performance. Your helping Shubhangi (Tanvi) during the shoot was priceless.

Vignesh Shivan’s ‘Love Insurance Kompany’ to hit screens on September 18

**Mumbai**  
WUT | May. 13

Director Vignesh Shivan’s eagerly-awaited romantic entertainer ‘Love Insurance Kompany’, featuring actors Pradeep Ranganathan and Krithi Shetty in the lead, will hit screens on September 18 this year, its makers announced on Monday. The film has been produced by actress Nayanthara, who is also the wife of director Vignesh Shivan.

Seven Screen Studio, the production house that is presenting the film, took to its X timeline to make the announcement. Posting a video clip to an-



nounce the release date of the film, the production house wrote, “This SEPTEMBER 18th, come and celebrate the festival of LOVE in theatres.” Taking to his Instagram timeline, Vignesh Shivan wrote, “LIK from September 18th. Need all your blessings, love & support.”

BUSSINESS

Rare’Z by Rare Rabbit Launches Premium Leather Slip-Ons for Men

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | May. 13

Rare’Z by Rare Rabbit, the contemporary menswear label under The House of Rare, has stepped into new territory with the launch of its first-ever open footwear category: Premium Leather Slip-Ons for Men. The new collection features five distinct styles in color options such as Beige,



Bordo, Silver, Black, Sand, Tan, and Navy. Crafted from genuine leather and featuring cus-

tom ergonomic soles, the slip-ons are designed for comfort, durability, and everyday versatility. From casual lounging to travel, the styles offer a premium solution for the modern Indian man’s evolving lifestyle.

“With strong demand in South India and a noticeable gap in the premium slip-on category, we saw an opportunity to blend comfort and aesthetics in

a way that reflects our design values,” said Pulkit Verma, Chief Business Officer, The House of Rare.

The launch taps into a growing market, with the global sandals segment projected to hit USD 102.21 billion in 2025 and the Indian market surpassing USD 10.26 billion. Despite its scale, high-quality open footwear remains limited—Rare’Z

aims to change that. The brand will begin its roll-out in South Indian states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, expanding gradually nationwide. The slip-ons will become a permanent category alongside Rare’Z’s closed footwear range. Available now at www.thehouseofrare.com and select Rare Rabbit stores across India. Price: Starts at INR 3,299.

ReNew Power funds Rs 22,000 cr to establish India’s largest renewable energy complex in Andhra Pradesh

**Mumbai**  
WUT | May. 13

ReNew Power, a leading green energy company, is set to invest Rs 22,000 crore in establishing India’s largest renewable energy complex in Andhra Pradesh, marking its return to the state after five years.

ReNew will set up a 1,800 megawatt solar energy plant and another 1,000 MW wind facility along with a battery energy storage system (BESS) of 2 gigawatt hour (GWh) in two phases at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The company will also set up a 100-kilometre extra-high voltage (EVH) line for transmission of the clean power. Groundbreaking for the project is planned for May 16, which is likely to be attended by Nara Lokesh, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, and Human Resources Development in the Andhra Pradesh government.

In the first phase, ReNew will set up 587 MW of solar plant and a



250.8 MW wind project alongside a 415 MWh BESS, they said, adding that the remaining capacity would be developed in the subsequent phases.

An email sent to the company for comments remained unanswered. This would be the largest renewable energy complex in India. The Andhra Pradesh government approved the projects under the new integrated clean energy policy launched in October 2024.

The investments mark the re-entry of the renewable energy major in Andhra Pradesh after a five-year lull. The Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government in the State had in 2019 ordered a review of all electricity tariffs agreements signed with green companies. The renegotiation of the power purchase agreements (PPAs) put at risk about 5.2 GW of solar

and wind power projects in the State.

The move hurt 14 major renewable energy companies, including ACME Solar, ReNew Power, Greenko Holding, Axis Wind farms, Azure Power and Mytrah. The firms dragged the State government to court, and the result was a lull in investments.

Sources said no renewable capacity in the state was added from 2019 to 2024. After coming to power, the government led by N Chandrababu Naidu has made renewed efforts to bring investments and companies to the State.

The re-entry of ReNew, whose 777 MW project was impacted by the PPA review by the previous government, into Andhra Pradesh is being seen as a vote of confidence in the government led by N Chandrababu Naidu.

PL Asset Management Launches INR 500 Crore Performing Credit Fund

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | May. 13

PL Capital, the alternative investment arm of the Prabhudas Lilladher Group, has launched its first Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), the PL Capital Performing Credit Fund. This Category II AIF targets a corpus of INR 500 crore with a green-shoe option of an additional INR 500 crore. The fund is designed to offer capital protection and superior risk-adjusted returns by investing in secured private credit opportunities across India’s mid-market corporates, excluding the real estate sector. It aims to provide investors with regular income via loan interest and amortisation, along with potential event-linked upside returns that are less correlated with broader market volatility. Backed by PL’s 80-year legacy in capital markets, the fund benefits from a strong origination en-

gine supported by its integrated investment banking, equity research, and wealth distribution platform. The investment committee comprises industry veterans such as Ms. Amisha Vora, Mr. Rajnish Kumar, Dr. Punita Kumar-Sinha, Mr. Nilesh Vikamsey, and Mr. Abizer Diwanji, ensuring strong governance and expert oversight. The advisory board includes Mr. Ashok Barat and Mr. Rajesh Narain Gupta, bringing deep legal and corporate experience. The fund is led by Samir Satyam and Kapil Sachdeva, both seasoned professionals in credit, lending, and structured finance. According to Amisha Vora, Chairperson and MD of PL Capital, this fund marks a strategic step in providing innovative credit solutions for UHNIs, HNIs, family offices, and institutional investors looking for diversified income-generating alternatives.

Tally Solutions Launches TallyPrime 6.0 with Connected Banking for SMEs

**Hyderabad**  
WUT | May. 13

Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd., India’s leading business software provider, has launched TallyPrime 6.0, a powerful upgrade aimed at simplifying financial operations for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With a focus on Connected Banking, this version brings real-time integration with major banks like Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, allowing users to manage bank transactions, view live balances, and reconcile accounts—all from within Tally.

This seamless experience bridges the gap between accounting and

banking, enabling businesses to save up to 50% of the time spent on routine financial tasks. TallyPrime 6.0 also introduces enhanced features such as automated bank reconciliation, UPI integration, and payment link generation, helping businesses streamline collections and improve cash flow.

The update strengthens existing capabilities like GST compliance, e-invoicing, and e-way bill generation, further cementing Tally’s position as an essential tool for Indian SMEs. Tejas Goenka, Managing Director of Tally Solutions, emphasized that this launch reflects the company’s mission to

reduce operational complexity and empower growth. Axis Bank’s Neeraj Gambhir echoed this sentiment, stating that the partnership aims to enhance SMEs’ digital banking experience. Ensuring robust security, TallyPrime 6.0 includes end-to-end encryption, multi-layered access control, and real-time fraud detection to protect financial data.

This launch not only simplifies operations but also aligns with the broader goal of digitally empowering businesses with smart, connected tools. With TallyPrime 6.0, Tally reaffirms its commitment to helping SMEs grow with agility, insight, and confidence.



CITY CLICKS

Inspired by Abhinav Bindra, Agrima Kanwar keeps going



For someone who didn't know much about former Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra before she started shooting, Agrima Kanwar has caught the attention of one and all winning a silver in the women's skeet event of the on-going Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar to become the first medal winner from Himachal Pradesh. "But when I started pistol shooting some years ago, my father, a Colonel in the Indian Army, gifted me a copy of Mr. Bindra's autobiography, A Shot At History. He said I would find it relatable. And he was absolutely right," Agrima informed media. "Reading about how he dealt with that failure, the patience and perfectionism he practiced, and how he bounced back made a deep impact. I realised that setbacks are a part of the journey," she said. "Whenever I feel low after a not so good day at the range, I revisit his book. Even reading a few lines reminds me that it is okay not to be perfect every day. There's always another day. That mindset has changed how I shoot, how I think," Agruna said. "My father is in the Army, so guns always fascinated me. Unlike Pistol, which is constant and indoors, skeet is influenced by outdoor factors—wind, rain, unpredictable conditions — all of which make it more challenging. I enjoy that," Agrima said. She has been groomed by Rio and Tokyo Olympian Mairaj Ahmed Khan. "I always felt connected to Himachal. I noticed that the State doesn't get a lot of representation in events like these. So, I felt like it was time to represent my roots," Agrima said. "The medal boosted my confidence. Now I know that if I can do it once, I can do it again. My father has always told me – it's one shot at a time. Don't overthink. Just focus on the next thing. That's exactly what Mr. Bindra did!" While her immediate goal is to get into the National junior squad and win medals at the coming World Cup competitions, she also dreams of meeting Abhinav Bindra someday. "I'd probably be dumbstruck, but I will surely thank him. His story has kept me going. And I know it has inspired a whole generation of athletes like me," she said.

Para shuttler Krishna dedicates medal to Indian Armed Forces

India's para shuttler Krishna Nagar settled for a bronze medal at the 6th Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International 2025. However, the Tokyo Paralympic gold medalist remained self-critical, expressing dissatisfaction with his performance and vowing to return stronger. "I know I can do better," said Krishna. "This wasn't my best, and I'm not happy with how I performed. My full focus now is on improvement and preparing for what's ahead."



The determined shuttler has already reached Bahrain for the upcoming Bahrain Para Badminton International Tournament, where he aims to correct the course and deliver the kind of performance he knows he is capable of. Training has begun in full swing as Krishna shifts his mindset to reset and rise. In a touching tribute, Krishna dedicated his bronze medal to the defence forces of India, acknowledging their relentless efforts in safeguarding the nation. "This medal is for the brave men and women in uniform who are working hard, day and night, to protect our country. Their courage motivates me to keep fighting on court." With the Bahrain tournament on the horizon, Krishna Nagar is focused, fired up, and ready to reclaim his rhythm on the international circuit.

Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket  
*End of an Era for the Format*

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

In a significant moment for world cricket, Indian batting legend Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test cricket, marking the end of a remarkable chapter in the sport's longest format. While the announcement came on Monday, it wasn't entirely unexpected, especially considering the intense spotlight that has followed Kohli throughout his illustrious career. Often hailed as the torchbearer of Test cricket in the modern era, Kohli's unwavering commitment to the format had long been credited with keeping red-ball cricket alive in an age of T20 dominance. His exit is a massive blow to the traditional form of the game. With this decision, attention now shifts to

Kohli's continued presence in ODI cricket, which may see a revival in interest as fans cling to every innings he plays in the lead-up to the next World Cup. Kohli was slated for an exciting challenge in the upcoming five-Test series against England, but signs of his departure from the longest format had been apparent. Despite maintaining peak fitness — as evident in his consistent IPL performances — Kohli appears to have



grown weary of the constant scrutiny. Speaking candidly in a recent episode of the RCB Bold Diaries podcast, Kohli opened up about the toll of relentless attention during his time as captain of both India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. "At one point, it did become tough for me. I was captaining India for 7-8 years and RCB for nine. If it wasn't the captaincy, it was the batting. I was exposed 24x7. It got too much in the end," he admitted. Kohli's decision to step down from leadership roles and take mental health breaks — including a month-long sabbatical in 2022 — reflected his shifting priorities. He has since sought quieter environments, even relocating to the UK to find peace away from constant public attention. "I stepped down because I felt like I needed to be in a place where I was happy. I wanted to play cricket without being judged," Kohli

said. Even as he slowed down in the longer format, Kohli remained a crowd magnet. Earlier this year, he attracted nearly 15,000 fans to a Ranji Trophy game — a rare feat for domestic cricket — underscoring his unmatched appeal. Though he adored the grind of Test cricket, Kohli's true dominance came in ODIs — a format that brought out the best in him. With the next 50-over World Cup still a couple of years away, there is hope that Kohli will continue to grace international cricket for a little longer. On the podcast, he also touched upon how a player knows when it's time to walk away. "When you stop feeling the nervousness or an-

anticipation of what's going to happen — that's when you know you're done," he shared. Kohli also emphasized the importance of mental strength over statistics. "It doesn't matter how many games you've played. If your mindset isn't in the right place, someone with less experience can outshine you on the day." As the curtains fall on his red-ball career, Virat Kohli departs as India's most successful Test captain, a batting giant, and a fierce competitor who helped redefine modern Test cricket. He leaves with no regrets — only a smile — and a legacy that will inspire generations.

IPL 2025 Resumes on May 17, Final on June 3

A total of 6 venues are ready for the 17 upcoming matches beginning on May 17, 2025, and the final match is going to be on June 3, 2025

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the resumption of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, which was previously suspended on May 8. The season will restart on May 17, with the final match scheduled for June 3, as per the revised timeline. The IPL had been halted after the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off due to a security scare, when Pakistan attempted to invade Indian airspace near Chandigarh, resulting in a stadium blackout. Following extensive consultations with government and security agencies, the BCCI has decided to resume the tournament. In an official statement, the board



confirmed, "BCCI is pleased to announce the resumption of the TATA IPL 2025. After thorough discussions with government, security agencies, and key stakeholders, the Board has decided to proceed with the remainder of the season."

The season will restart with an exciting fixture between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings in Bengaluru on May 17. As per the revised schedule, six venues will host the league matches: Bengaluru, Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai. The venues for the playoff matches will be announced at a later date. A total of 17 matches will be played across these six venues, with two double-header match days scheduled for Sundays. The BCCI has also stated that further updates regarding the playoff venues will follow soon. This resumption follows a period of uncertainty, but with the revised schedule in place, IPL fans can look forward to an action-packed remainder of the season.

India to take on Nepal in SAFF U19 Seeks to secure top spot in Group B



India, having already booked their place in the SAFF U19 Championship semi-finals, will aim to secure top spot in Group B when they face Nepal on Tuesday at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh). The hosts kicked off the tournament with an 8-0 rout of Sri Lanka last Friday in head coach Bibiano Fernandes' first match after his return to the national youth team setup. On Sunday, Nepal also thrashed Sri Lanka — winning 5-0 to knock them out of the tournament, while guaranteeing semi-final qualification for both India and themselves. "Both teams won their first games by big margins. But we don't read too much into the score lines. Every match is different, and Nepal have shown that they are a strong and competitive side. They were solid against Sri Lanka and created several chances," Fernandes said. "We've analysed their game and know they are well organised. For us, it's about sticking to our strengths, staying focused, and giving our best on the day. Like I always say, at this level, every team is tough, and it comes down to who wants it more," said Fernandes.



Commercial Tax Collections Swell 6%



Hyderabad: Commercial tax collections have increased six per cent in 2024-25 as compared with 2023-24. In March 2025 alone, the commercial taxes department had set a revenue target of Rs 600 crore through CST and VAT, and realised Rs 500 crore. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on revenue mobilisation reviewed the performance of revenue-generating departments at the Secretariat on Monday and found that the commercial taxes department performed better than other departments such as excise, stamps and registrations, among others. The committee directed officials to identify and rectify any revenue leakages in the excise department to enhance income. Although good progress has been seen in the sale of apartments and flats, the expected momentum is lacking in the sale of agricultural lands and open plots. The committee instructed officials to analyse the situation and take appropriate action. Regarding the transport department, the committee directed that the newly-introduced Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR).

Hyderabad’s Charminar to Welcome Miss World 2025 Delegates with Traditional Beats and Cultural Showcase

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Hyderabad is all set to roll out a grand cultural welcome for the Miss World 2025 contestants, with the iconic Charminar serving as the backdrop for a vibrant Heritage Walk scheduled for Tuesday evening. As the 140 international delegates arrive at the historic monument, they will be greeted by the rhythmic sounds of traditional ‘Hadrami marfa’ and ‘Naubat or Nakkare’ drums. A 12-member troupe will perform the energetic marfa beats at



Charminar, while a pair of Naubat nawaz musicians will play ceremonial drums at the entrance of Jullu Khana. These performances have been specially arranged to highlight Hyderabad’s rich musical and cultural legacy.

The Heritage Walk will take the contestants through the bustling by-lanes of the old city, including Laad Bazaar, known for its dazzling bangle shops, and Jullu Khana, home to intricate Zardosi embroidery work-

shops. They will also stop by the herbal medicine stores, or Dawasaz shops, in Moti Galli before making their way to the regal Chowmahalla Palace. During the walk, expert tour guides will narrate the history and significance of these landmarks, including the chance to ascend the Charminar and enjoy panoramic views of the city. The event, which begins at 5 PM, will culminate with a royal dinner at the Chowmahalla Palace. Although the official menu remains under wraps, sources suggest an authentic Hyderabad feast is in

store—featuring Biryani, Mirchi ka Salan, Dum ka Murgh, Kebabs, Qubani ka Meetha, and other regional delicacies. A cultural evening is also planned, with renowned artists from across India performing in the palace courtyard. To ensure the safety of the delegates and the smooth conduct of the event, Hyderabad police have implemented a comprehensive security plan. Armed reserve forces will join local police in maintaining tight security and managing crowd control in the area.

Traffic Diversions in Old City for Miss World Heritage Walk, Dinner

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

In connection with heritage walk at Charminar and dinner at Chowmahalla Palace in connection with the Miss World competition, police imposed traffic restrictions on connecting roads from 2 pm till 11 pm on Tuesday. Roads leading from Madina to Charminar, Charminar to Shalibanda, Shalibanda (Rajesh Medi-



cal Hall) to Volga junction and Volga junction to Moosabowli Via Khilwat Road will be restricted for

all types of vehicular movement. Traffic heading from Nayapul towards Charminar will be diverted at Madina junction towards City College. Traffic heading from Nagulchinha/Shalibanda towards Charminar will be diverted at Himmatpura Junction, towards Hari-bowli and Volga Junction to Fateh Darwaza Road. The traffic heading from Himmatpura towards Chowmahalla Palace will

be diverted at Volga junction towards Fateh Darwaza. Traffic coming from Fateh Darwaza will be diverted towards Himmitpura vice-versa. Traffic from Puranapul (Goodwill Café) towards Charminar/Chowmahalla Palace will be diverted at Moosabowli towards City College and Fateh Darwaza via Doodbowli. Traffic coming from Chowk Maidan towards Charminar will be di-

verted at Chowk Maidan towards Kotla Alija or Moghalpura side. Traffic coming from Etebar Chowk area towards Gulzarhouse will be diverted at Etebar Chowk towards Mandi Mir Alam Market or Bibi Bazar. At Sher-e-Baitul Kaman, traffic coming from Mitti Ka Sher towards Gulzar Hous will be diverted at Mitti-ke-Sher Junction towards Ghansi Bazaar to reach High Court Road.

Commercial Taxes Department meets targets; wider use of ANPR, tribal welfare reforms discussed

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Resource Mobilisation at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday, where key decisions were taken to improve revenue generation and ensure targeted welfare implementation. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, and Jupally Krishna Rao participated in the meeting. Bhatti Vikramarka noted that the Commercial Taxes Department had achieved a 6% overall growth com-

pared to the previous year, terming it a positive indicator. He said the department had aimed to collect ₹600 crore in March through CST and VAT, of which ₹500 crore was realised. He directed officials to strengthen planning processes and plug revenue leakages, particularly in the Excise Department. While noting good progress in the sale of apartments and flats, the Deputy CM expressed concern over the lag in sales of agricultural lands and open plots. The ministers instructed officials to analyse the slowdown and act accordingly.

On transport reforms, the committee urged the widespread adoption of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system across departments to enable mass inspections and improve enforcement. The ministers also directed the Tribal Welfare Department to ensure that sand sales in tribal areas are managed through tribal societies. They stressed the importance of identifying genuine beneficiaries and enrolling them as members to ensure that income reaches the rightful tribal individuals.

Maoist camp busted on MH-CG border; weapons, explosives recovered

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Gadchiroli Police today busted a Maoist camp near the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, following a high-intensity operation involving C-60 commandos. Acting on specific intelligence about the Bhamragad Dalam’s presence near the recently established Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Kawande, a combing operation was launched on Sunday evening.

The operation, led by Additional SP (Admin) M. Ramesh, involved around 200 C-60 commandos. On Monday morning, while conducting an area search, the commandos came under heavy fire from Maoist cadres. A fierce gun battle ensued, with intermittent exchanges of fire at three different locations over a span of two hours. Post-encounter searches led to the recovery of two weapons—an INSAS rifle and a single-shot rifle—

along with a magazine, several live rounds, detonators, a radio set, a wireless charger, three backpacks (pitthus), and a large cache of Maoist literature and personal belongings. The Maoist camp was completely destroyed in the action. Police sources said there is a possibility that some Maoists may have been injured or killed during the encounter and dragged away by their associates. Search operations in the area are continuing.

Kavitha slams Congress over land, debt; hints at unrest within BRS

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13



BRS MLC K. Kavitha launched a scathing attack on the Congress government on Monday, accusing it of secretive land deals and rising public debt, while also issuing pointed remarks aimed at dissenters within her own party. Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Kavitha alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had quietly moved to convert the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) into a public limited company, calling it a betrayal of Telangana’s land sovereignty. “During KCR’s tenure, 1.75 lakh acres were allocated to TGIIC. Now, they want to mortgage it all behind closed doors,” she said. Citing a ₹10,000 crore loan raised by pledging land in Kanch Gachibowli, Kavitha questioned the government’s transparency, asking why the Government Order was not made public. She further accused the Congress regime of pushing the state into a financial crisis. “They’ve borrowed ₹1.80 lakh crore, and only ₹80,000 crore was used to clear old debts and interest. Where has the rest gone? The people need a white paper on public fi-

nances,” she demanded. Kavitha also addressed internal tensions in the BRS, responding to what she called a coordinated smear campaign against her. “I’ve been working across 47 constituencies to rebuild public trust. While I do that, some within our own party are busy spinning lies,” she said. With emotion, she referred to her recent incarceration, saying, “Six months in jail wasn’t enough for them? They still want to drag me further? Let them try. If provoked again, I’ll respond louder than before.” Though she refrained from naming individuals, Kavitha urged the party leadership to take a stand. “I believe BRS will act. But if it doesn’t, I know how to speak for myself,” she warned. Her remarks follow her controversial statement on the state’s “incomplete social justice”, which drew sharp political reactions and was perceived by critics as a veiled critique of her father KCR’s decade-long rule.

HYDRAA Receives 61 Encroachment Complaints at Prajavani

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath spoke to complainants on Monday spoke with complainants who turned up at the agency’s Prajavani programme on Monday. HYDRAA received 61 complaints, mostly about encroachments of government and private parkland, roads and lake full tank levels. From Kukatpally, residents of Diamond Hills filed a

complaint that a nine-acre layout, which demarcated into 70 plots, was wiped out from the map and encroached. The complainants stated that despite the High Court ruling in their favour in 2024, the encroachers are not budging. Several complaints were filed from Nizampet Municipal Corporation’s limits. One set of residents reported that 1,800-sq. yard parkland in the Sai Lakshmi layout was occupied.

Cyberabad Police Recover 310 Phones Worth ₹95L in 30 Days

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

In a significant achievement, the Cyberabad Police successfully recovered 310 stolen and lost mobile phones valued at ₹95 lakhs within 30 days, under the leadership of DCP Crimes L.C. Naik. The recovery was part of the 7th phase of their mobile recovery drive, carried out by the CCS, IT Cell, and Social Media teams using the CEIR (Central Equipment



Identity Register) portal. The recovered phones were handed over to their rightful owners on May 12, 2025, at the Cyberabad Commissioner’s Office. DCP Naik urged citizens

to promptly report lost or stolen mobile phones at the nearest police station or through the CEIR portal, which is accessible nationwide. He emphasized the importance of recovering phones that

often contain personal data and memories. The DCP also advised the public to remain alert to cyber fraud and avoid suspicious links, while stressing the importance of digital literacy and data protection. Zone-wise, CCS Madhapur recovered 80 phones, followed by CCS Balanagar, Medchal, Rajendranagar, and Shamshabad with 65, 55, 55, and 55 phones respectively. Recipients of the recovered devices expressed grat-

itude for the police’s swift action. Stories included a delivery boy and a woman who had their phones recovered after multiple losses. DCP Naik also commended the dedication of officers including ACP K. Shashank Reddy, Inspectors Anjaneyulu, Sanjeev, Pavan, Raju, Dalinaidu, SI Shashidhar, and the entire CCS and IT Cell teams for their remarkable efforts in the recovery operation.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma felicitates SSC toppers of Raj Bhavan School

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma interacted with SSC toppers and teachers of Raj Bhavan School at Raj Bhavan today, celebrating the school’s academic achievements. The school registered an impressive 97% pass percentage in this year’s SSC examinations. The Governor felicitated Kum. Hasini, who secured the top rank in the district with 574 marks, along with 21 other students who

scored over 500 marks. He commended their dedication and lauded the efforts of the teaching staff. Praising the school’s faculty and staff, the Governor said their commitment played a vital role in the students’ success and wished the students continued excellence in their academic pursuits. The event was attended by Principal Secretary to the Governor, M. Dana Kishore, school faculty members, and Raj Bhavan officials.

TRSMA Raises Concerns over Draft Fee Regulation Bill; Submits Letter to Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad WUT | May. 13

Telangana Recognised School Managements Association (TRSMA) submitted a letter to minister Sridhar Babu, raising concerns and proposals about the draft bill on the Telangana Private Schools & Junior Colleges Fee Regulation & Monitoring Commission. The association, which represents around 10,000 private unaided budget schools, wrote in



the letter about the proposed parent-teacher committee structure, lack of clarity in school categorisation, and the mandatory website rule. The association argued that annual fee approvals for all schools would burden both schools and officials, and urged

exemptions for institutions charging below Rs.70,000 per annum. They also wrote about strict limits on fee increases and cash payment bans, and said that such rules are not practical, especially in rural areas. TRSMA warned that if the bill is passed as it stands, many budget schools may shut down, affecting lakhs of students. The association requested Sridhar Babu and the government to revise the bill to make it more workable.

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