



WAKE UP



TELANGANA

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

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KTR recalls Telangana Simhagarjana of 2001: P8

Rain knocks out Kolkata off playoffs race, RCB step closer to next stage: P7

T'gana supplying uninterrupted power despite record demand: P8



Brief Insights

2 Terrorists, Linked To 2023 Pune Terror Conspiracy, Arrested In Mumbai



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two operatives of the banned terrorist outfit ISIS, who were part of a sleeper module involved in the fabrication and testing of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Pune, Maharashtra.

The arrests were made in connection with a 2023 terror conspiracy case.

The accused, Abdullah Faiyaz Shaikh alias Diaperwala, and Talha Khan, were intercepted at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Terminal 2 by the Bureau of Immigration.

The two had been hiding in Jakarta, Indonesia, and were taken into custody by the NIA upon arrival in India.

According to the NIA, the two had been on the run for over two years and were wanted in connection with Case RC-05/2023/NIA/MUM.

Non-bailable warrants had been issued against them by the NIA Special Court in Mumbai, and a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh each was announced for information leading to their arrest. **CONT:P5**

Narrow Escape For Helicopter Ambulance



Three people had a narrow escape on Saturday when a heli ambulance had to make an emergency landing in Kedarnath after it developed a technical snag, an official said. The heli ambulance operated by AIIMS, Rishikesh had gone to Kedarnath to rescue a pilgrim suffering from respiratory distress when its tail rotor broke, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing, District Tourism Development Officer Rahul Chaubey said.

Two doctors and a pilot were on board the heli ambulance when it made an emergency landing, said Mr Chaubey, who is also the nodal officer for the Heli Service. All of them are safe, he said.

Centre Unleashes Diplomatic War Against Pak Over Terror

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

The Modi government on Saturday announced the formation of seven teams to launch a full-scale diplomatic offensive against Pakistan on the international stage. Opposition leaders Shashi Tharoor of the Congress, Supriya Sule of the NCP(SP) and DMK's Kanimozhi will join members of the ruling alliance in leading the three all-party delegations to key partner countries to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism following Operation Sindoor. BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad and Baijayant 'Jay' Panda, Shiv



Sena's Shrikant Shinde and JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha will lead the remaining four teams.

The government picked MPs from different parties to present India's "anti-terrorism national consensus" globally, including to the UN Security Council members. Anurag Thakur, Aparajita Sarangi, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Samik Bhattacharya, Brij Lal,

Sarfraz Ahmad, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Vikramjit Sawhney, Sasmit Patra, Salman Khurshid, Anand Sharma, Tejasvi Surya, John Brittas, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Bhuvaneshwar Kalita will be part of the seven delegations. All the Opposition parties have supported and welcomed the delegation. The Congress struck a discordant note, accusing the government of "playing games" with a "mischievous mindset" by announcing names of the heads of delegations from outside the four MPs suggested by the party. The government has retained only Anand Sharma out of the four names given by

the Congress. A statement issued by the parliamentary affairs ministry on Saturday said, "The all-party delegations will project India's national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations. They will carry forth to the world the country's strong message of zero tolerance against terrorism." In a post on X, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said, "In moments that matter most, Bharat stands united. Seven all-party delegations will soon visit key partner nations, carrying our shared message of zero tolerance for terrorism." **CONT:P4**

Ukraine War Talks Yield POW Swap, But No Truce Europe

Istanbul
WUT | May. 18

Russia and Ukraine agreed a large-scale prisoner exchange, said they would trade ideas on a possible ceasefire and discussed a potential meeting between Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Putin in their first direct talks in over three years on Friday. But coming out of the highly anticipated talks in Istanbul, which lasted just over 90 minutes, there were few signs of more significant progress toward ending the three-year war.

Kyiv was seeking an "unconditional ceasefire" to pause a conflict that has destroyed large swathes of Ukraine and displaced millions of people. Mos-



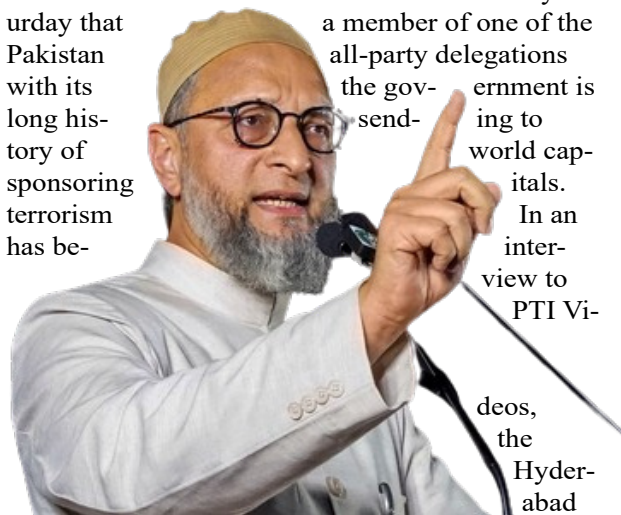
cow has consistently rebuffed those calls and the only concrete agreement appeared to be a deal to exchange 1,000 prisoners each. The two sides said they would "present their vision of a possible future ceasefire", according to Russia's top negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky. They did not agree any suspension of the fighting. "Overall, we are satisfied with the results and ready to continue contacts," Medinsky said. Ukraine's top negotiator, Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, said

the "next step" would be a meeting between the two presidents. Russia said it took note of the request. "We understand that if we want to make progress, we need to have this meeting of leaders," Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Georgiy Tykhy said later, praising the prisoner swap as a "great result". Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who presided over the meeting, said the sides had "agreed in principle to meet again" and would present ceasefire ideas "in writing". Fidan sat at the head of a table in front of Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian flags at Istanbul's Dolmabahce Palace for the talks -- with Russian and Ukrainian delegations facing each **CONT:P4**

"India Big Victim Of Pak-Sponsored Terrorism": A Owaisi's Big Message To World

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said on Saturday that Pakistan with its long history of sponsoring terrorism has be-



come a threat to humanity, affirming that this will be the heart of his message to the international community as a member of one of the all-party delegations the government is sending to world capitals. In an interview to PTI Videos, the Hyderabad

MP said the world will have to be told about the slaughtering of innocent citizens by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists for a long spell of time. He said, "India has been a big victim of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. We all have seen the tamasha, slaughtering of people since the time of Zia-ul-Haq." Mr Owaisi, however, added that he is yet to be briefed by the government about the details of the diplomatic drive. The firebrand par-

liamentarian said it is necessary to call out Pakistan over its projection of itself as an Islamic country in its confrontation with India. "This is nonsense. Nearly 20 crore Muslims live in India. This too must be conveyed." Asserting that destabilising India, fomenting communal divide and stalling the country's economic rise is part of Pakistan's unwritten ideology, Mr Owaisi said this has always been the objective of the Pakistani deep state and its

military. India should have understood Pakistan's design long back when it had sent tribal invaders into Jammu and Kashmir after its independence in 1947, he said. "They are doing this tamasha since then. They will continue to do it tomorrow and are not going to stop. However, India's patience ran out with the Pahalgam terror attack," he said. Pakistan has become a threat to humanity by arming, training and financing terrorists, he said.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Draws Parallel Between Op Sindoor, Osama Bin Laden's Killing

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday drew similarities between Operation Sindoor and the killing of Osama bin Laden by US forces in Pakistan.

Describing attacks on nine terror sites in Pakistan as the "deepest-ever cross-border strike" by India, the vice president recalled the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States. Without naming bin

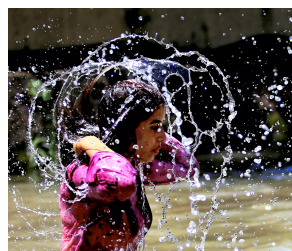
Laden, he said that on May 2, 2011, a global terrorist who planned, supervised, and executed September 11 attacks inside the US was "dealt with" by the US forces "similarly". "Bharat has done it. And done it to the knowledge of the world," he said addressing an event of Jaipuria institutions here. He said that a new "global benchmark" has been set. While maintaining the spirit of peace, the objective has been to strike at terrorism. For the

first time, precise strikes were carried out deep across the International Border on the strongholds of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. He said the strikes were so precise that only terrorists were harmed. Mr Dhankhar said that after the Pahalgam terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a message to the global community from Bihar. "Those were not empty words. The world has now realised," he said.

Plan To Increase Ranbir Canal

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

After putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack, the Centre is planning to double the length of the 60-km Ranbir canal in Jammu and Kashmir on the Chenab river, to optimise the water resource for domestic use. The present length of the canal is 60 km, which, according to sources, will likely be doubled. Till now, India has been using limited water from Chenab, mostly for irrigation, but with the



IWT in abeyance, there is scope for expanding its use, especially in the power generation sector, sources said. India was planning to ramp up its current hydropower capacity of around 3,000 megawatts on the rivers that were earlier being used by Pakistan and a feasibility study to that effect is on the cards. **CONT:P4**

Israeli Strikes Kill 146 Palestinians In Gaza In 24 hours

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

Israel's airforce killed at least 146 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza over the past 24 hours and injured many more, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press

ahead with a new ground offensive. Israeli strikes since Thursday have seen one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came as U.S. President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with

no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire. "Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan

Al-Sultan. Local health authorities said 459 people had been injured in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours. Israel's military said on Saturday it was conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in **CONT:P4**



ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaage
baar baar aage

5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

Etela Rajender Leads Patriotic Rally at Tank Bund, Echoes Support for Armed Forces

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

In a powerful display of patriotism and solidarity, Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender led a massive rally at Tank Bund today, raising slogans of “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan” and reaffirming the nation’s unwavering support for its armed forces. Addressing the gathering, Etela Rajender paid rich tributes to the countless freedom fighters and martyrs who laid down their lives or endured imprisonment for the honor of the Indian tricolor. He emphasized that India has emerged as a rising global power, poised to become the world’s largest economy, and declared that any attempts to destabilize the nation would be met with a fitting response. He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s strong warning to adversaries, stating that India will not tolerate any attack on its sovereignty or unity. “India will not survive on anyone’s kindness. We have the strength to stand on our own feet and face any challenge,” Rajender quoted Modi as saying, lauding the PM as a visionary leader.



Highlighting the importance of national security, Rajender stressed the need to strengthen the economy, eradicate terrorism, and transform India into an indomitable global force. “As part of this resolve, we are prepared to take four steps forward and, if needed, four steps back — but never compromise on the integrity and safety of the nation,” he asserted. The rally, part of a nationwide campaign, was aimed at demonstrating that all 140 crore Indians stand firmly behind the armed forces. Rajender also paid homage to fallen soldiers, particularly saluting local hero Murali Naik for his supreme sacrifice. The event concluded with chants of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai,” echoing the spirit of unity and pride among the participants.

Mulugu Forest Dept Turns Bamboo Into Livelihood

Mulugu
WUT | May. 18

In a novel initiative aimed at preventing illegal bamboo harvesting and empowering rural artisans, Mulugu District Forest Officer (DFO) Rahul Kishan Jadhav has launched a bamboo craft training programme for local communities. Rather than taking punitive measures against those involved in illicit cutting, the forest department is offering free training to individuals skilled in traditional bamboo craftsmanship. As part of the initiative, raw materials and meals are provided free of cost. The training aims to help participants convert raw bamboo into decorative, marketable products. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Forest Range Officer D. Shankar said 20 hectares of forest land rich in bamboo have been earmarked for the project under the DFO’s direction. A 20-day training session was recently conducted at the forest department campus in Mulugu district headquarters for 30 participants. Expert artisans from Madhya Pradesh —



Gagan Dhadeshwar and Gagan Daiheril — led the training, which covered the creation of 108 bamboo products. These included items such as decorative bullock carts, peacocks, bird nests, trays, boats, pen stands, mobile holders, and flower pieces. The hand-crafted items have already attracted public interest. “During the recent visit of Miss World contestants to the historic Ramappa Temple, bamboo items

crafted by our trainees were presented to them. They were impressed and even requested more items,” Shankar added. Moluguri Poojitha, a trainee with BSc and BED qualifications, shared her experience: “Though I struggled to find a job earlier, this training has allowed me to express my creativity through bamboo craftsmanship.” Another participant, Shanigarapu Harika from the Medara community, said her family has a legacy of working with bamboo. “Earlier, we made only household items. This training helped us gain confidence to try new decorative designs. We have already started receiving orders,” she said. DFO Rahul Kishan Jadhav emphasized that the programme’s primary goal is to generate rural employment. He noted that the department is seeking state-level support to promote and sell the products. During a recent visit by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka showcased the bamboo items, which were well received. “We are planning a state-level exhibition in Hyderabad to highlight the work of rural artisans. Additionally, talks are underway with e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart to provide wider market access,” the DFO added.

CM Revanth Vows to Make One Crore Women ‘Crorepatis’ to Transform Telangana into \$1 Trillion

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday reaffirmed his government’s commitment to women’s empowerment, unveiling an ambitious vision to transform one crore women in the state into “crorepatis” (millionaires) as part of a broader goal to build a \$1 trillion economy. Speaking at the launch of the WeHub Women Acceleration Programme, a flagship initiative aimed

at promoting women entrepreneurship, the Chief Minister emphasized that women’s empowerment is central to the economic development strategy of the Congress-led government. “Telangana’s prosperity lies in the hands of empowered women,” Revanth Reddy declared, highlighting that various women-centric schemes are already being implemented to uplift women economically and socially. Recalling examples of historic “mahila shakti,”



the CM referenced the leadership of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the India-China and India-Pakistan wars, noting that India’s victories in those conflicts

were emblematic of women’s strength. He also praised the pivotal roles of Congress stalwarts Sonia Gandhi in initiating key reforms such as the Food Security Act and the

Right to Education. Revanth Reddy detailed several ongoing initiatives: Mahalakshmi Scheme: Free bus travel for women, saving beneficiaries up to ₹5,000 per month, with the state allocating ₹5,200 crore over 17 months to sustain the program. Women-led SHGs: Empowerment through the allocation of petrol bunks and solar power projects. Notably, a 1,000 MW solar power project has already been handed over to

SHGs, with another 1,000 MW in the pipeline. Entrepreneurial Support: Women SHGs are now managing businesses traditionally dominated by large corporates. Amma Adarsh Schools: Entrusting women with the administration of government schools. Stitching and Marketing Support: Contracts for stitching school uniforms and free stalls at venues like Shilparamam have been given to women groups. “Women are role models

of financial discipline,” the CM noted. “While corporate defaulters have failed on ₹16 lakh crore in loans, our SHGs are repaying their debts on time.” The government plans to increase the number of women-led SHGs from 70 lakh to one crore and is launching a special drive to expand their reach, especially in urban areas. Revanth Reddy also linked the empowerment initiatives to the Congress party’s political future, expressing confidence

that the support of one crore women would help the party retain power in the next Assembly elections. “We secured 92 lakh votes in 2023 to form the government. If one crore women support us in the next elections, we will return to power with ease,” he said. The Chief Minister’s remarks underscore the Congress government’s strategy of combining social empowerment with economic development as a cornerstone of governance in Telangana.

Mala JAC Slams Caste Bias, Demands Minister’s Dismissal

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

In a strongly worded statement, Adarsh Mourya, Member of the Mala Political Joint Action Committee (JAC), has condemned an incident of political caste discrimination allegedly targeting Gaddam Vamshi Krishna, Member of Parliament. Mourya described the incident as “deeply disturbing” and “a serious affront to democratic values and constitutional principles.” The Mala Political JAC leader emphasized that caste-based discrimination—particularly within political and administrative systems—is not only unconstitutional but also undermines the



confidence of marginalized communities in the democratic process.” This shameful act is a direct insult to the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who fought relentlessly for social equality and justice,” Mourya stated. Calling for swift and stringent action, Mourya demanded the dismissal of

the minister involved, along with any officials or individuals who facilitated or condoned the discriminatory behavior. He asserted that accountability at the highest levels is crucial to reinforce the message that casteism has no place in public life. He also appealed to civil society, political leaders, and the general public to stand united against caste discrimination and work collectively toward creating a more inclusive and just political atmosphere. “Let this not fade away as another forgotten headline. This must become a turning point in our collective pursuit of social justice and political integrity,” Mourya concluded.

Aadi Srinivas Praises Revanth’s Employee

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Aadi Srinivas, Government Whip and spokesperson at the CLP Media Center, emphasized the Telangana government’s firm commitment to resolving the longstanding issues faced by government employees. According to Srinivas, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

has prioritized the welfare of employees since assuming office, setting a new standard in government engagement. “In over three hours of dialogue with employee union leaders soon after taking office, CM Revanth Reddy demonstrated unprecedented dedication. No previous Chief Minister has devoted such time to gov-



ernment employees,” Srinivas stated. He outlined several key achievements of the current administration, including the clearance of pending promotions and transfers. “We have transferred teachers

who had been waiting for over 15 years and ensured salaries are paid promptly on the first of every month,” he added. Srinivas contrasted this with the previous BRS government’s record, noting employees often received salaries only after the 15th of the month. The Government Whip criticized the former

BRS administration under K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for neglecting employee welfare, highlighting that four Dearness Allowances (DAs) remained unpaid throughout their decade in power. “The previous government delayed payment of employee bills worth ₹8,000 crore, holding up dues for years,” he said.

Distribution of 2 BHK Pattas to 515 Beneficiaries in Bojagutta, Hyderabad

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

The Telangana government, under the leadership of State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharathi, has distributed pattas for 515 double-bedroom houses to eligible beneficiaries

in Bojagutta, Nampally constituency. The distribution ceremony took place at the Collectorate meeting hall, with officials including Nampally MLA Majid Hussain, Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, Hyderabad Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi, and Dis-



trict Collector Anudeep Durisetty in attendance. Minister Ponnampallabharathi emphasized that the allocation was conducted transparently,

using a randomized system to ensure fairness and merit-based selection without discrimination. Special provisions were made to allot lower-floor houses to disabled individuals and single women. He further assured that 73 housing blocks would be con-

structed, benefiting around 1,800 people within six months. Addressing concerns about construction hindrances, the minister warned that strict action would be taken against those attempting to obstruct development activities in the area.

Loksamastha Human Rights Protection Council Celebrates Mother’s Day and Welcomes New Leadership

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

The Telangana State Branch of the Loksamastha Human Rights Protection Council of International Liberation celebrated Mother’s Day with great reverence and enthusiasm, paying tribute to the strength, sacrifices, and unconditional love of mothers across the globe. The event included inspiring speeches, cultural performances, and heartfelt tributes that underscored the vital role of mothers in



fostering peace, compassion, and humanity. As part of the celebrations, the Council also announced the induction of new members into its leadership and working committees. This significant step aims to strengthen the organization’s efforts in promoting justice, equality,

and human dignity. The newly appointed members are expected to bring fresh perspectives and renewed dedication to the Council’s mission. Dedicated to defending human rights and uplifting marginalized communities, the Council continues to advocate for meaningful policy reforms, awareness

campaigns, and global solidarity. It remains steadfast in its mission to protect the rights of every individual, especially the vulnerable and oppressed, while working towards a just and equitable world. The Telangana branch reaffirmed its commitment to the global cause of human rights, emphasizing that the spirit of motherhood embodies the values of care, resilience, and universal harmony the Council strives to uphold.

Spiritual Zeal Marks Temple Anniversaries in Seetharampuram

Hyderabad
Dp srinivas rao
WUT | May. 18

A wave of devotion swept through Seetharampuram as two major temples celebrated their anniversaries with grand rituals and community participation. The 23rd anniversary of the Veeranjaneeya Shiva Panchayatana Temple in Ward 6 of the Cantonment Board was observed with traditional fervor over two days—Friday and Saturday. The celebrations featured elaborate spiritual rituals including Ankurarpana, Akanda Deeparadhana, Ganapati Puja, Aradhana,



Rudrahomam, Shantika-lyanam, and the symbolic Shiva-Parvati Kalyanam. The event culminated in Annadanam, the sacred distribution of food to devotees. Former Cantonment Board vice-president Jampana Pratap, known for his support of religious initiatives, led the arrangements.

Former board member Pandu Yadav also graced the occasion. Guests were honored with Tirtha Prasadam, symbolizing divine blessings. On Saturday, the New Boinapalli Chintalabasti Nagadevata Temple also celebrated its anniversary with equal devotion. Rituals such as Kalashasthapanam, Ganapati Puja, Nagadevata Homam, and Kalyanam ceremonies were performed. Once again, Jampana Pratap was the chief guest. Organizers including Pothuraj Lakshman Raju, Balaveer, and Prasanna Kumar were recognized for their efforts. In his address, Pratap em-

phasized that such religious gatherings promote unity and spiritual consciousness. “These rituals are more than traditions—they are instruments of harmony, values, and service,” he said. The events drew large crowds, highlighting the community’s strong spiritual engagement. The ceremonies served not only as religious observances but as platforms for cultural preservation and community bonding. These celebrations reaffirm the enduring role of temples in nurturing devotion, spreading peace, and fostering a sense of collective identity in modern society.

Chital Deer Fall Prey to Stray Dogs in Telangana's Damagundam Forest

The Damagundam reserve forest in Vikarabad district is fast turning into a killing ground for chital, or spotted deer, the Telangana state animal.

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

The Damagundam Reserve Forest in Vikarabad district, home to Telangana's state animal—the chital or spotted deer—is fast turning into a killing ground, with at least six deer reportedly killed in just the past week by packs of stray dogs.

The situation has taken a grim turn as some of the deer, in a desperate attempt to escape attacks, sought refuge at the historic Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy temple located within the forest—only to meet their end there. "People come here to worship, but these deer come here to die," lamented a



deeply disturbed Stayananda Swami, popularly known as Damagundam Swami, who runs an ashram near the temple.

On Saturday, the carcass of a male chital was discovered floating in the temple's sacred tank (gundam), while another injured deer was found hiding in the waterbody. "We keep informing the forest de-

partment. They come, collect the injured animals, and leave. Nothing else is done," Swami added.

It is not just chital that are falling victim to the dogs. Even four-horned antelopes—a Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act and classified as 'vulnerable' by the IUCN—have reportedly been killed in the area.

These attacks, though currently peaking, are not a recent phenomenon. A Deccan Chronicle report from 2022 had already highlighted the growing threat to wildlife in the Vikarabad forests under the headline "Vikarabad forests turn unsafe for state animal".

When contacted, forest department officials expressed helplessness, stating that the responsibility of managing stray dogs lies with local civic bodies. "As per law, stray dogs can only be sterilised and released back into the area they were captured from. There is little the forest department can do beyond that," an official explained.

Local residents blame a recent increase in dog population on the large-scale clearing of forest land for a Navy project. "With labour colonies set up nearby, more dogs are now roaming freely in the area. No one seems to be taking responsibility," said a resident.

"Why do deer in urban areas like the University of Hyderabad receive special protection, with even the Supreme Court intervening to control dog attacks, while those in our forests are left to be killed every day?" questioned Damagundam Swami, calling for urgent action to protect the region's wildlife.

SC Verdict on Kanchi Lands Welcomed, CM Caught: Vivekananda

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18



Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Saturday hailed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership, stating that the State had become a model for the rest of the country.

Speaking at a press conference, Goud lauded the Congress government's initiatives for the empowerment of backward classes, calling the decision to implement 42% reservation a historic milestone. He credited the caste-based survey, inspired by Rahul Gandhi's vision, as a landmark step towards social justice.

Goud announced plans to strengthen the party structure further and reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to public-centric govern-

ance and fulfilling poll promises.

Taking aim at the opposition, Goud alleged that the BRS was plagued by internal discord, with a power struggle underway between Kalvakuntla Kavitha, K. T. Rama Rao, and T. Harish Rao, while party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao remained secluded at his farmhouse. He predicted that the BRS would become politically irrelevant by the next elections.

Commenting on national politics, Goud accused the BJP of exploiting religion for political gain and criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that "Operation Sindoor" reflected the

party's hunger for power. Referring to recent India-Pakistan tensions, Goud questioned the Centre's silence and demanded transparency. "What did the country lose and gain in this war? Why is the truth being hidden from the public?" he asked.

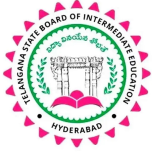
He also condemned a misinformation campaign targeting Minister Konda Surekha, alleging that her remarks were distorted and confirming that a cybercrime complaint had been filed.

Dismissing rumours of leadership changes in the State, Goud termed them as baseless opposition propaganda. He said the Congress government was steadily implementing key welfare schemes, including free rice distribution, improved public transport, and enhanced education and health services.

Telangana Intermediate Board releases hall tickets for advanced supplementary exams

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) has released hall tickets for students appearing in the Intermediate Advanced Supplementary Examinations scheduled from 22 to 29 May. Board officials informed



that students can download their hall tickets from the official website www.tgbie.cgg.gov.in. The exams will be con-

ducted in two sessions each day. First-year exams will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, while second-year exams will take place from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Students are advised to download and carry their hall tickets to the examination centres without fail.

Dalit Leaders Demand Apology, Justice Over Protocol Violation at Saraswati Pushkaralu

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Tensions flared within Dalit communities over an alleged protocol violation involving Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsikrishna during the ongoing Saraswati Pushkaralu. Dalit leaders, convening in Hyderguda, accused the Devadaya Department of caste-based discrimination by excluding the MP from official invitations and omitting his photograph from event materials.

Leaders issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the state government, demanding an unconditional apology and proper protocol acknowledgment by inviting the MP before the Pushkaralu concludes on the 26th. Failing this, they warned of statewide protests and a siege of the Commissioner of Religion's office.

They also plan to raise the issue in Parliament, seeking suspension of responsible officials. National Dalit Rights Forum (DBF) Secretary P. Shankar, speaking from Siddipet, condemned the incident and de-



manded cases under the SC/ST Atrocities Act against Devadaya officials. A formal complaint was submitted to SC/ST Commissioner Bakki Venkataiah, who has reportedly issued a notice to the Chief Secretary.

High Court Advocate Diwakar Poole, along with leaders Bitla Venkateswarlu and Raju Vastad, extended support, stressing that such incidents contradict Ambedkar's principles and threaten the dignity of Dalit representatives. District-wide protests are set to begin, with legal and constitutional measures underway to ensure justice and systemic reform.

N. Ramchander Rao Backs One Nation, One Election Drive

Hyderabad
Santosh chowdary
WUT | May. 18

Former MLC Shri N. Ramchander Rao has extended his support to the ongoing 'One Nation - One Election' campaign, which is currently being promoted across the country through a series of awareness meetings. The initiative is drawing participation from prominent individuals across various fields, including politicians, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and other professionals.

As part of the outreach, over 500 meetings and group discussions have been held across Telangana, with events continu-



ing at the district level to generate public awareness and support for the concept. Several national leaders are scheduled to participate in the campaign, including Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and G. Kishan Reddy, BJP National General Secretary Sunil Bansal, and Anil K. Antony, who is serving as the National In-charge of the

'One Nation - One Election' program. Speaking to the media, Ramchander Rao noted that the idea of simultaneous elections is not new. "From 1952 to 1967, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were conducted simultaneously in India," he said. "However, the Congress party misused the office of the Governor post-1967, frequently dis-

solving state governments and disrupting the constitutional process. This has led to a cycle where elections are held every two to three months in some part of the country."

He emphasized that such frequent elections have a significant economic impact, costing nearly 1.5% of the country's GDP, with each election costing approximately Rs. 1,500 per citizen. Rao cited the Ram Nath Kovind Committee's recommendation, which suggests that even local body elections be completed within 100 days to allow the remaining four years for uninterrupted development.

"Once elections are done, politics should take a back

seat, and development should be the focus," he stated. On a separate note, Rao criticized the Congress party for what he called a "conspiratorial mindset," alleging that while meetings were being held in Gandhi Bhaban, unwarranted security arrangements were being made in front of the BJP office. He warned Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to control his party workers and prevent any attempts to create unrest.

"We are cautioning the Congress party to change its confrontational approach. Development should take precedence over political vendetta," Rao concluded.

T BJP Slams Congress Over Tharoor Delegation Row

Hyderabad
SANTOSH CHOWDARY
WUT | May. 18

The Telangana BJP unit has sharply criticized the Congress party for prioritizing partisan politics over national interest. This follows Congress's opposition to senior MP Dr. Shashi Tharoor being named head of an international outreach delegation explaining the recent India-Pakistan conflict.

N.V. Subhash, BJP Telangana Chief Spokesperson and Media



Incharge, condemned Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh for publicly objecting to the Modi government's decision to appoint Dr. Tharoor, one of Congress's most respected parliamentarians, as one of seven leaders heading delegations abroad. "At a time when India must speak with one voice and

show unity to the world, it is disappointing that Congress is focused on scoring political points," Subhash said. He praised the government's inclusive approach in choosing Dr. Tharoor, an internationally respected diplomat and seasoned parliamentarian. Recalling history, Subhash cited former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao nominating BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee to represent India at the United Nations, an example of statesmanship beyond

party lines. "Today's Congress seems to have forgotten that legacy," he added.

Dr. Tharoor, a former UN Under-Secretary-General with nearly three decades in global diplomacy, currently chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. His foreign policy expertise makes him an ideal representative for India. The controversy arose after the Centre announced a seven-member delegation with leaders from multiple parties, in-

cluding BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad, Bajajant Panda, and Kirron Kher, DMK's Kanimozhi, NCP's Supriya Sule, and Congress's Tharoor. Congress proposed alternative names but the final decision rests with the government. Subhash claimed Congress's public objections expose internal contradictions and a tendency to politicize national matters. "When it matters most, Congress fails the national interest test every time," he asserted.

GHMC Jambagh Division conducted National Dengue Day Awareness Rally



Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

On the occasion of National Dengue Day, Jambagh Division conducted a special Awareness Rally to create the awareness the public about dengue prevention and hygiene practices. Rakesh Jaiswal ji, Corporator, Jam-

bagh Division flagged off the rally, inspiring citizens to stay vigilant and adopt mosquito control measures. Let us unite to keep our community dengue-free and healthy! Lal Singh Corporator Goshamahal, SE Gangappa ji, Raju Ji Dilip With Entomology Staff Participated In This Programme.

Let's boycott the Turkish products and tourism: Rakesh Jaiswal

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | May. 18

BJP's senior leader and jambagh division corporator shri Rakesh Jaiswal ji Today, organized a program at the BJP State Office, in Nampally, to boycott Turkish products and Turkey tourism as a mark of protest supporting neighbour enemy country. He appealed to the all sections of the people Let us stand united in safeguarding our nation's interests and values. In this programme Srinivas Yadav, Mayor Kalekar, Anil Yadav, Anand, Rajkumar, Praveen, Janardan, Sandeep, Ravi, Anil Yadav Attended The Programme.



Rain lashes Telangana; two teens killed in lightning strike in Medak

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and lightning lashed several parts of Telangana on Saturday evening, leading to tragic incidents in Medak and Nalgonda districts.

In Medak district's Toopran municipality limits, two teenagers died and one was injured after lightning struck a

tree under which they had taken shelter. The incident occurred in Peddalapalli village around 4 pm when 16-year-old Prasad, 17-year-old Yashwanth, and 14-year-old Kiran were playing cricket on the village outskirts. As the rain began, they stood under a tree, which was then struck by lightning. Prasad and Yashwanth died on the spot, while Kiran sustained serious injuries

and was rushed to the hospital.

Toopran Police have registered a case and begun an investigation.

In a separate incident in Palleshcharla village of Nalgonda district, the roof of a mud house collapsed due to heavy rainfall. The house belonged to Sheikh Chanabasha. Fortunately, no one was inside at the time, and a major tragedy was averted.

"Level Of Anger Between India And Pak Was Not A Good Thing": Trump

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

US President Donald Trump, who has made repeated claims that his administration brokered a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, on Friday described it as a "big success" and said the level of anger between the two neighbours "was not a good thing."

"We are very happy with what happened with, I hope it continues, and I think it will, but what happens with India and Pakistan. That was a big success. If you had seen the level of anger between the two, that was not a good thing," Trump said during a gaggle with the press on Air Force One on May 16 as he was returning to Washington from his Gulf trip.

This is the seventh time since May 10 that Trump has claimed that the US

brokered the "ceasefire" between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Trump, who visited Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates during his four-day visit to the region, repeated his claim that he "helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan when he addressed US troops at the Al Udeid Air Base on Thursday in Doha, Qatar, the largest US military base in the Middle East.

India carried out precision strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

X Accounts Of TRT World, Global Times Restored In India After Brief Suspension

Mumbai
WUT | May. 18

Turkish news broadcaster, TRT World and the account of the Chinese state-run propaganda mouthpiece, Global Times, are now available in India.

India briefly blocked both media outlets due to concerns over misinformation related to recent tensions between India and Pakistan, as observed on Wednesday. After a short suspension, access to both TRT World and Global Times' X accounts has been restored in India.

The Indian government took action against both media outlets, withholding their X accounts in response to legal de-

mands. Users attempting to access these accounts received a notice stating "Account withheld" due to a legal demand.

This follows after the call given in recent times for a boycott on Turkish products and services after Turkish origin military equipment such as Asisguard Songar model drones were found to have been deployed against India by Pakistan during its attack on civilian and military infrastructure of India in the wake of Operation Sindoor launched by India, targeting nine key terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), avenging the April 22.

Israeli Strikes Kill 146 Palestinians In Gaza In 24 hours

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

Israel's airforce killed at least 146 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza over the past 24 hours and injured many more, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press ahead with a new ground offensive.

Israeli strikes since Thursday have seen one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came as U.S. President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire.

"Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the di-



rector of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Al-Sultan.

Local health authorities said 459 people had been injured in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours.

Israel's military said on Saturday it was conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in the Gaza Strip and achieve "operational control" in areas of the Palestinian enclave.

The Gaza health system is barely operational with hospitals hit repeatedly by the Israeli military during the 19-month war and medical supplies drying up as Israel tightened its blockade since March.

The escalation, which includes the build-up of armoured forces along the border, is part of the initial stages of 'Operation Gideon's Wagons', which Israel says is aimed at defeating Hamas and getting its hostages back.

An Israeli defence official said earlier this month the operation would not be launched before Trump concluded his visit to the Middle East.

"We are gradually increasing forces; Hamas remains defiant," the military said on Saturday.

United Nations experts warn that famine looms in Gaza after Israel blocked aid deliveries to the strip 76 days ago, with UN aid chief Tom Fletcher asking the Security Council this week if it would act to "prevent genocide".

Trump on Friday acknowledged Gaza's growing hunger crisis and the need for aid deliveries, as international pressure grows on Israel to resume ceasefire talks and end its blockade of Gaza.

A U.S.-backed foundation aims to start dis-

tributing aid to Gazans by the end of May, using private U.S. security and logistics firms, but the U.N. has said it won't work with the foundation because it is not impartial, neutral or independent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on May 5 that Israel was planning an expanded, intensive offensive against Hamas as his security cabinet approved plans that could involve seizing the entire Gaza Strip and controlling aid. On Friday Israel's military ordered Gazans to move south after heavy strikes in the northern town of Beit Lahia and the Jabalia refugee camp.

Residents, however, said tanks were advancing towards the southern city of Khan Younis.

Israel's declared goal in Gaza is the elimination of the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas, which attacked Israeli communities on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and seizing about 250 hostages.

Its military campaign has devastated the tiny, crowded enclave, pushing nearly all its 2 million inhabitants from their homes and killing more than 53,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities.

NBC News reported on Friday, citing five people with knowledge of the matter, that the Trump administration is working on a plan to permanently relocate as many as one million Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Libya.

Palestinians, including Hamas, and the rival authority of President Mahmoud Abbas reject any displacement of people outside their land.

Plan To Increase Ranbir Canal Length

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

After putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack, the Centre is planning to double the length of the 60-km Ranbir canal in Jammu and Kashmir on the Chenab river, to optimise the water resource for domestic use.

The present length of the canal is 60 km, which, according to sources, will likely be doubled. Till now, India has been using limited water from Chenab, mostly for irrigation, but with the IWT in abeyance, there is scope for expanding its use, especially in the power generation sector, sources said.

India was planning to ramp up its current hydropower capacity of around 3,000 megawatts on the rivers that were earlier being used by Pakistan

and a feasibility study to that effect is on the cards.

It is learnt that the cost of the expansion of the canal network will be borne by the Central government, and if needed, the Union home ministry may allocate additional funds to the J&K government. The exercise for desilting the Ranbir canal, along with other similar systems in Jammu and Kashmir, is under consideration for execution in a phased manner. The main aim of the desilting is to increase their water-carrying capacity to increase the irrigation cover in the Union territory. Already the process of desilting has started on Kathua, Ravi and Paragwal canals, the official said.

The Ranbir canal is one of the two major canals of the Jammu district, which takes off from the left bank of the Chenab river. It was initially constructed by the erstwhile ruler of Jammu and Kashmir state and was completed in the year 1905.

Being a major source of surface water irrigation, it catered to the Kandi belts of Jammu district, primarily the areas abutting Akhnoor Road, Bishnah, R.S. Pura and Arnia belts, among others. The canal was designed initially for net irrigated land of 16,460 hectares.

As per the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, Ranbir Canal is to carry 1,000 cusecs for irrigation purposes and 250 cusecs for hydropower use, besides water withdrawal for silt extraction from April 15 to October 14 every year.

Meanwhile, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mr Omar Abdullah has called to revive the stalled Tulbul Navigation Barrage on the Wular Lake in North Kashmir. "It was started

in the early 1980s but had to be abandoned under pressure from Pakistan citing IWT. Now that the IWT has been temporarily suspended,' I wonder if we will be able to resume the project," Mr Abdullah had written on X.

He claimed this project will allow the people of J-K to use Jhelum River water for navigation and improve power generation during winters.Brokered by the World Bank in 1960 after nine years of negotiation, the IWT governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan. But India decided to suspend the treaty after the Pahalgam attack and has since then maintained that the treaty will remain suspended "until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

Centre Unleashes Diplomatic War Against Pak Over Terror

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

In a major diplomatic initiative following the recent Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, the Modi government on Saturday unveiled the formation of seven high-level, all-party delegations tasked with launching a comprehensive international campaign to present India's strong stance on terrorism. The move reflects an effort to project national unity and consensus on combating terrorism beyond political lines.

The delegations, comprising members from across the political spectrum—including ruling alliance leaders and prominent Opposition figures—will travel to key partner nations across multiple continents to engage with foreign governments, lawmakers, and influential policy stakeholders. Their primary mission will be to communicate India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism, particularly cross-border terror, and to reinforce the country's position on the global stage as a steadfast opponent of terrorism in all forms.

The delegations are strategically designed to ensure balanced representation, with leaders from parties such as the BJP, Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), DMK, JD(U), and Shiv Sena. Among the leaders who will head the delegations are BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad and Jay Panda, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, NCP(SP)'s Supriya Sule, DMK's Kanimozhi, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, and JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha. Shashi Tharoor will lead the delegation to the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, and Guyana; Kanimozhi will head the team visiting Russia, Spain, Greece, and Slovenia; Ravi

Shankar Prasad will lead the group to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Algeria; Supriya Sule's delegation will visit Qatar, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Egypt; Sanjay Jha will lead the team to Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, and Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation; Shinde's delegation will head to the UAE, Liberia, Congo, and Sierra Leone; while Jay Panda's delegation is expected to visit key European and African countries. Three delegations will include nine members each, and the remaining four will consist of eight members.Each team will meet with top-level officials, lawmakers, and policy influencers in their designated countries to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and India's long-standing concerns about cross-border terrorism. The effort includes the participation of a diverse group of parliamentarians such as Anurag Thakur, Aparajita Sarangi, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Samik Bhattacharya, Brij Lal, Sarfaraz Ahmad, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Vikramjit Sawhney, Sasmit Patra, Salman Khurshid, Anand Sharma, Tejvasi Surya, John Brittas, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Bhubaneswar Kalita. In addition to elected representatives, the delegations will be supported by seasoned former diplomats like Pankaj Saran, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Jawad Ashraf, and Syed Akbaruddin, who will provide strategic diplomatic guidance to enhance the impact of India's message abroad.The initiative, while largely welcomed across the political spectrum, did generate a minor controversy with the Congress party expressing displeasure.

Celebi to Legally Challenge Termination of India Agreements

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

Turkiye's Celebi Hava Servisi AS on Friday announced that it will pursue all available administrative and legal remedies to challenge the termination of various licence and concession agreements in India after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoked the security clearance for its Indian subsidiaries, citing national security concerns.

The decision has led to the suspension of operations of several Celebi entities, including Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd (CASI), Celebi GH India Pvt Ltd (CGHI), Celebi Nas Airport Services India Pvt Ltd, Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Pvt Ltd, and Celebi GS Chennai Pvt Ltd (CGSC).Celebi, which has been active in the Indian aviation sector for over 15 years and employs more than 10,000 people, was offering ground handling and cargo services at nine airports including Delhi,

Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Goa (Mopa), Kannur, and Cochin. In a filing to Turkiye's stock exchange, the company confirmed that four major concession and licence agreements have been unilaterally terminated by Indian airport authorities. These include the cargo terminal concession agreement between Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Pvt Ltd and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), valid until 2034, in which Celebi holds a 74 percent stake; the ground handling licence agreement between CGHI and Ahmedabad International Airport Ltd (AIAL), valid until 2032, where Celebi owns 61 percent; the bridge mounted equipment service and ground handling concession agreements between Celebi Nas and Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), valid until 2036 and 2029 respectively, with Celebi holding 59 percent stake; and the ground handling concession agreement between CASI and DIAL,

valid until 2030, where Celebi holds a 99.9 percent share.Celebi Hava Servisi AS asserted that none of its subsidiaries have engaged in any activity that violates Indian laws or national security regulations and described the allegations as unfounded. The company reiterated its intent to challenge the BCAS decision through all possible legal and administrative channels and seek annulment of the agreement terminations. The move to revoke Celebi's clearance came days after Turkiye backed Pakistan and condemned India's strikes on terror camps across the border, leading to speculation over geopolitical motives.Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu stated that national interest and public safety remain paramount and non-negotiable. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said it is actively co-ordinating with airport operators to ensure a smooth transition of services and is working to retain Celebi's existing workforce

"Kashmir Has Been Used As Weapon To Unite Pak": Ex Army Chief

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

The role of the Director General of Military Operations is in focus after the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan was declared following a call between officers holding the rank in both countries.

The position, which also involves planning and overseeing military operations, was equally important - if not more so - when India and Pakistan fought the Kargil war in 1999. The man occupying the post at the time was Nirmal Chander Vij, who went on to become the Army chief in 2005 and was instrumental in the decision to construct a 740-km fence along the Line of Control.

In an exclusive interview with NDTV on Friday, General Vij (retired) said that, after Operation Sindoor - during which India struck terror bases in Pakistan, including the headquarters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed - Islamabad has been sent a clear message that its nuclear bluff will not work anymore and that India will go to any extent to make sure its national integrity is safeguarded.

General Vij also said his experience has taught him that Pakistan is incorrigible and lying is part of its ethos. State-Sponsored Terror Asked about the recent hostilities, the former Army chief, who has written a new book, 'Alone In The Ring - Decision-Making In Critical Times', said, "In many ways, I think this book has turned out to be prophetic. Because I have written that our western neighbours are so incorrigible and so untrustworthy that you really cannot say anything about them for sure. And despite all the efforts by India to maintain peace, they have been indulging in terrorism promoted by the state."

General Vij recalled his interactions with General Tauqir Zia, who was the Pakistani DGMO during the Kargil war, and said that's when the country's propensity for lying and obfuscating became very apparent to him.

"You could make out that telling lies is a part of their very ethos and ecosystem... Once, I told him, after point

5140 was captured (during the Kargil war), that we have found lots of maps which were duly marked, all he could say in reply was 'ahmaq', which means 'fool' or 'stupid'. That's the problem with them... they will not speak the truth," he said.

The former Army chief said that despite the understanding being reached with Pakistan, India will maintain a state of alertness for "quite some time", until it's clear what line the other side will adopt. This, he said, was also important since PM Narendra Modi has made it clear that any act of terror originating in Pakistan will be seen as an act of war.

On Operation Sindoor, which was carried out in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, General Vij said some very important messages had been sent out to Pakistan.

"All along, we have been worried about nuclear responses. Our anti-terror operations were restricted to an extent. Even during the Kargil war, we didn't cross the Line of Control... Now, the PM has said your nuclear



Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing and your attitude when you have everything.

Imam Ali

EDITORIAL

INDIA MUST BUILD A TRULY CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

By 2030, India is poised to become the world's third-largest economy. Yet, amid this remarkable ascent lies a growing mountain — of garbage. India generates 1,60,038 tonnes of waste per day (TPD), but only half of this is treated. A staggering 29,427 TPD is dumped in landfills, while nearly 51,000 TPD disappears unaccounted for. These numbers speak not just of poor waste management but also of an economic model that's still stuck in a linear loop of "take, make, dispose."

The circular economy (CE) — a model that designs out waste and pollution, keeps products and materials in use and regenerates natural systems — is no longer a theoretical ideal. It is a practical necessity. Yet, while India has signalled bold ambitions to embrace circularity, the path remains strewn with policy bottlenecks, capacity

gaps and systemic inertia. Promise and Problem

India's policy discourse on circularity has expanded in recent years. From the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules to flagship forums like CITIIS 2.0 and the 12th Regional 3R and CE Forum hosted in Jaipur, the government has sent strong signals about its intentions. In 2024 alone, CITIIS projects worth over Rs 1,800 crore were signed, with 18 cities selected for 'Lighthouse Projects' to integrate CE into urban planning.

However, these efforts remain isolated. The Central Pollution Control Board reports that 31.7% of India's municipal solid waste remains untraced. Delhi, India's capital, presents a grotesque symbol of this failure. The Ghazipur landfill alone emits 15.3 Gg (greenhouse gas) of methane annually — 1-3% of India's total landfills emit methane — posing grave health and environmental risks.

What plagues India's transition is not a lack of ambition but fragmented execution. State and municipal capacities for waste collection, segregation and treatment remain disjointed. While cities like Pune and Bengaluru have piloted decentralised waste solutions, most continue to rely on antiquated systems. The informal sector, a key player in waste collection and recycling, remains largely outside formal policy frameworks, leading to resource leakage and missed synergies.

Amid the circular conversation, one sector demands urgent attention — India's 5.93 crore Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These businesses employ over 25 crore people and accounted for 30.1% of the country's gross value added (GVA) and 45.79% of India's total exports in 2024-25. But they also contribute significantly to industrial waste.



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2 Terrorists, Linked To 2023 Pune Terror Conspiracy, Arrested In Mumbai

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two operatives of the banned terrorist outfit ISIS, who were part of a sleeper module involved in the fabrication and testing of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Pune, Maharashtra.

"They had conspired to commit terrorist acts with the aim to disturb India's peace and communal harmony by waging a war against the Government of India in furtherance of the ISIS agenda to establish Is-

lamic rule in the country through violence and terror," the agency stated.

Abdullah Faiyaz Shaikh had rented a house in Kondhwa, Pune, which was used as a hub for assembling IEDs.

The NIA said that during 2022 and 2023, the accused not only fabricated IEDs but also conducted training workshops in bomb making and even carried out a controlled explosion to test one of their devices.

The investigative agency, which has been actively working to dismantle ISIS-linked networks operating in India, had previously



filed a chargesheet against all ten accused under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act, and the Indian Penal Code. In addition to Abdullah Faiyaz Shaikh and Talha

Khan, the other eight accused currently in judicial custody include Mohammed Imran Khan, Mohammed Yunus Saki, Abdul Kadir Pathan, Simab Nasiruddin Kazi, Zulfikar Ali Barodawala, Shamil Nachan, Akif Nachan, and

Shahnawaz Alam.

The NIA said that investigations in the case are ongoing. The arrests were made in connection with a 2023 terror conspiracy case.

The accused, Abdullah Faiyaz Shaikh alias Diaperwala, and Talha Khan, were intercepted at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Terminal 2 by the Bureau of Immigration.

The two had been hiding in Jakarta, Indonesia, and were taken into custody by the NIA upon arrival in India.

According to the NIA, the

two had been on the run for over two years and were wanted in connection with Case RC-05/2023/NIA/MUM. Non-bailable warrants had been issued against them by the NIA Special Court in Mumbai, and a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh each was announced for information leading to their arrest.

The NIA said the case pertains to a larger conspiracy by ten individuals, including the two recently arrested, to carry out terrorist activities and wage war against the Government of India.



7 Cattle Checkposts Set Up In Khammam

Khammam police have established seven checkposts at state and district borders to curb the illegal transportation of cattle to Hyderabad from Andhra Pradesh. This move comes after intelligence revealed that some individuals were using routes through the district to smuggle cattle.

The checkposts have been set up at Paladugu in Wyrma mandal, Basvapuram Cross Road in Konijerla mandal, Hanuman Thanda in Kalluru mandal, Venkatagiri Cross Road in Khammam Rural mandal, Subled Cross Road in Tirumalapem mandal, Sigarenipally Toll Plaza in Kusumanchi mandal and Valabhi in Mudigonda mandal.

Khammam police commissioner Sunil Dutt, in a video conference with police officials, said round-the-clock surveillance would be maintained at these checkposts. Police personnel and staff from the animal husbandry department have been deployed to oversee the operations. The special checkposts aim to prevent any law and order problems caused by illegal cattle transport. Police have warned of strict action and legal cases against those involved. The commissioner also directed officials to step up monitoring ahead of Bakrid next month. He warned that stringent action would be taken against anyone spreading communal disharmony through social media posts. A special monitoring cell has been formed to identify and act against such offenders.

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

In a noteworthy environmental effort, the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) has successfully translocated two prominent trees—a Peepal (Raavi Chettu) and an Irka—from the vicinity of the collapsed compound wall near the JBS bus stand to the serene Picket Garden, also known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Park.

This initiative reflects SCB's commitment to preserving the region's green heritage amidst ongoing urban expansion. The Peepal and Irka trees, both ecologically and culturally significant, now have a new home in one of Secunderabad's key green spaces.

The Peepal tree, revered in Indian tradition and



known for its natural air-purifying properties, plays a vital role in urban biodiversity, providing shelter to birds and insects. The Irka tree, with its strong roots and dense canopy, aids in soil conservation and contributes to the ecological balance in congested city areas.

Moving such large, mature trees is a complex operation, requiring expert

handling to ensure their health and survival. Led by the Horticulture Department, the translocation process began at dawn and concluded smoothly.

The team employed advanced methods, including cranes and root-ball preservation techniques, to safely transfer the trees. Prior to relocation, Picket Garden was carefully prepared to match the trees' ecological needs, offering optimal conditions for their adaptation and growth.

The department's meticulous planning and execution have earned widespread praise, with many hailing the move as a benchmark in sustainable urban management.

The addition of the Peepal and Irka trees further enriches the biodiversity and aesthetic appeal of Picket

Garden, a popular destination for recreation and environmental education.

Their presence will serve as a living reminder of the Board's efforts to balance development with ecological responsibility.

Residents and environmental advocates have applauded the Board's initiative, recognizing it as a step in the right direction for urban sustainability. The successful translocation sets an encouraging example for other city administrations to follow.

Looking ahead, the Secunderabad Cantonment Board remains committed to green initiatives and sustainable urban development, demonstrating that infrastructure growth can go hand in hand with environmental stewardship.



How mental health is making space in southern cinema?

Mumbai
WUT | May. 18

For a long time, South Indian movies mostly showed strong heroes who never cried, never shared emotions, and never talked about mental health. But things are finally changing. In 2025, filmmakers across Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada industries are making movies that openly talk about mental health. These films show emotional struggles in a real and honest way—and audience are truly connecting with them. This change didn’t happen overnight. In Telugu cinema, the shift started with 1: Nenokka-

dine in 2014. In it, Mahesh Babu played a rock-star living with schizophrenia. Later came Awe (2018), where a woman suffers from dissociative identity disorder. These films opened the door for conversations around mental illness. Then came Dear Comrade, which talked about PTSD and trauma after abuse. Mental Madhilo showed the daily life of a man struggling with decision-making and social anxiety, while Malli Raava quietly explored emotional pain from unresolved love. Even commercial films like Prathi Roju Pandage touched on the loneliness of old age. In Tamil cinema, the idea



of therapy became more accepted thanks to films like Irugapatru (2023), where couples go for marriage counseling. Actress Shraddha Srinath, who played a therapist, shared in an interview with The Federal, that she tried to make her character feel kind and easy to talk to, so that people

power. Malayalam cinema has also handled mental health with care. Kumbalangi Nights (2019) showed how toxic masculinity can harm mental wellbeing in families. Uyare told the inspiring story of a woman healing emotionally after an acid attack. The film Thanmathra gave a touching look at Alzheimer’s and how it affects families. Even older movies like Chithram carried hidden stories of grief under the surface of comedy. Recent film Sarkeet (2025) focused on the silent stress faced by Gulf migrants. North 24 Kaatham followed a man with OCD on a journey that

slowly changed his life. Kannada films are also part of this mental health wave. Lucia (2013) took us into the mind of a man with insomnia and blurred reality. Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu showed the heartbreak of dealing with a loved one who has Alzheimer’s. In Nathi-charami, a widow tries to deal with grief, loneliness, and suppressed desire. And in the recent film Kapati (2025), the impact of digital addiction on the human mind was explored. Other thrillers like U Turn and Kavaludaari touched on guilt, obsession, and emotional confusion.

I don’t check the number of kilos I have lost, says actor Vijay Sethupathi



Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Actor Vijay Sethupathi, who now looks fit as a fiddle after having lost a lot of weight, says he worked out consistently to lose the extra kilos for director Arumugakumar’s eagerly-awaited romantic action drama, Ace, and jokingly admits that he never checks the number of kilos he’s lost as doing so often leaves him depressed. The versatile actor, who participated in a media conference called by the unit of the film, ‘Ace’, ahead of the film’s release on May 23, was asked about his new slim look. “I worked out quite a bit. Certain food items did not suit me. I made an effort to avoid them. I succeeded 70 per cent of the time in this attempt to avoid such food items. I failed around 30 per cent of the time and ended up eating these foods,” he said with a smile. To another question on how many kilos he had lost and the time period he had taken to lose that weight, Sethupathi said, “I also don’t check the number of kilos I’ve lost because I get

depressed when I see numbers. I only see if I can carry myself. Otherwise I don’t check.” The actor then said, “My body weight does not stay constant. I lost weight and it increased again and then again, it went down. It has never been stable for me.” “It is only now that I have understood some facts. What we learn by ourselves is one thing and what science tells us is another thing. So, I have found out what science tells us about weight loss and then have gone about implementing it,” the actor said and explained further. “Science tells you that every individual’s body requirements are different. One must take what is required for one’s body and that is what I have done now.” Apart from Vijay Sethupathi and Yogi Babu, ‘Ace’ will also feature Rukmini Vasanth, B.S. Avinash, Divya Pillai, Babloo, and Rajkumar in pivotal roles. The film has been produced on a lavish scale by Arumugakumar under the banner of 7Cs Entertainment and is positioned as a commercial action entertainer.



Tom Cruise is in love with Hindi cinema, wants to make a Bollywood movie

Mumbai
WUT | May. 18

Hollywood legend Tom Cruise, who is releasing the final part of his ‘Mission: Impossible’ franchise in India, is in love with Hindi cinema and has also expressed his wish to make a Hindi film. During the global promotions of ‘Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning’, Tom shared his memorable experiences and affection for Indian culture, cinema, and people.

He said, “I feel so much love for India. India is an amazing country, people, and culture. I have to say the whole experience has been etched in my memory. Every single moment. From the moment I landed, going to the Taj Mahal, and spending time in Mumbai, I remember each moment quite vividly”. He continued, “I would love to go back to India and make a film there. I love Bollywood films; the skill that it takes to do what you all do is so natural. I love it when, in

a scene, someone suddenly breaks into a song. I love it. It’s something that I have grown up watching, musicals from different countries. I love Bollywood movies. You can just break out into a song, it’s so beautiful. I love the dancing, singing, and the actors. That is such a unique experience and craftsmanship of the actors to be able to sing, dance, and act”. He further mentioned that he cannot wait to go back to India as he has so many friends there.

The actor recollected meeting “such amazing people” in the country. “I would love to make a Bollywood-style movie. It would be so much fun and amazing to do that. I love the dancing and the singing (in Indian films), it would be so much fun to do that”, he added. Meanwhile, ‘Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning’ has been released in India in English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu in 4Dx and IMAX, 6 days before its US release.

BUSSINESS

ASUS ROG Launches Latest RTX 5000 Series Laptops in India

New delhi
WUT | May. 18

ASUS India’s Republic of Gamers (ROG), the country’s leading gaming brand, has officially launched its highly anticipated 2025 lineup of ROG laptops powered by the NVIDIA RTX 5000 series. These next-generation laptops are now available for purchase across India via ASUS e-shop, Flipkart, Amazon, ROG-authorized retailers, and ASUS Exclusive Stores. The new lineup features the ROG Strix Scar 16



and Scar 18, Strix G16, Zephyrus G16, Zephyrus G14, and the convertible Flow Z13. Designed for

gamers, content creators, and professionals, the devices offer top-tier performance, advanced

cooling systems, and AI-powered capabilities. The ROG Strix Scar 16 and Scar 18, both powered by Intel Core Ultra 9 processors, start at ₹379,990 and ₹449,990 respectively. The Zephyrus G16, also featuring Intel Core Ultra 9, is priced from ₹359,990. The Zephyrus G14, equipped with AMD Ryzen™ AI 9 HX, starts at ₹279,990. The Strix G16, powered by Intel® Core™ Ultra 9, is priced from ₹259,990. Meanwhile, the ROG Flow Z13, with AMD Ryzen AI Max, is the most afford-

able in the lineup, starting at ₹199,990. The Zephyrus models are also available at retail partners like Croma, Vijay Sales, and Reliance Digital. ASUS promises these new machines offer a powerful blend of gaming performance, portability, and AI enhancements, making them ideal for both high-end gaming and demanding creative workflows. With sleek designs and top-tier specs, ASUS ROG continues to set benchmarks in the Indian gaming laptop segment.

India will play lead role in shaping upcoming 6G technology regulations: Scindia

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday emphasized that India is emerging as a global leader in the ongoing telecommunication revolution under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, observed on May 17 to promote awareness about the impact of internet and communication technologies and to bridge the digital divide, Scindia underlined the country’s achievements and future vision in the telecom sector.



He highlighted that the rollout of 5G services in India has been exceptionally rapid, reaching 82% of the population across 99% of the districts in just 22 months. “This is not just a technological milestone but a testament to India’s ability to adopt and scale innovations swiftly. In the days to come, India will not only participate but lead in shaping global regulations for 6G technology,” Scindia as-

serted. Alongside developments in telecom, Scindia also praised the modernization of India Post, calling it one of the largest logistics and distribution systems in the world. With over 1.64 lakh (164,000) post offices and 2.5 lakh (250,000) postal workers, India Post plays a critical role in reaching even the remotest parts of the country. He fondly recalled his association with the postal department, mentioning that he designed its logo in 2008 with the slogan “Postal Service is Public Service.” He lauded the commitment of postal workers, stating that they continue to serve the nation with dedication and public spirit. On the international front, Scindia addressed the recent citizen-led boycott of Türkiye and Azerbaijan after their

support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. He endorsed the move, stating, “This is the will of the people. The nation comes first.” He added that the boycott was a spontaneous, emotional decision made by citizens in the interest of national pride and security. “No citizen of this country will ever compromise when it comes to national interest,” he said. In conclusion, Scindia reiterated that India stands at the forefront of technological advancement and digital inclusion. Whether through the expansion of 5G, or the transformation of the postal system, India is not only keeping pace with global trends but is shaping them. He affirmed that the country will continue to lead in both innovation and national unity.

Samsung Expands ‘Galaxy Empowered’ Initiative to Bhutan, Bringing Immersive Training to Educators

Hyderabad
WUT | May. 18

Samsung, India’s largest consumer electronics brand, has extended its flagship education initiative, ‘Galaxy Empowered’, to Bhutan, offering immersive training to teachers from remote and underserved communities. Launched in India in December 2024, ‘Galaxy Empowered’ is a community-driven programme that equips educators with digital tools and modern teaching practices. The programme includes on-ground workshops, online training, and self-paced



learning — all free of charge. To mark the Bhutan launch, Samsung hosted an Immersion Programme at its Executive Business Centre in Gurugram. Bhutanese educators engaged hands-on with Samsung’s Galaxy ecosystem, includ-

ing smartphones, tablets, Galaxy Books, interactive flipboards, and displays. They also explored AI-powered teaching tools designed for inclusive and engaging learning. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Teacher and Educational

Leadership Division (TELD) under Bhutan’s Ministry of Education and Skills Development. “I had never used an interactive whiteboard before. Seeing it gave me many ideas to make lessons more engaging,” said Khandu, a teacher from Wangdue Primary School. Educators from various Bhutanese schools — including those in Samtse, Sarpang, Punakha Dzongkhag, Pema Gatsel, Phuentsholing Thromde, and Chhukha Dzongkhag — participated. “The technology we saw today showed how class-

rooms can become more exciting. Even small changes could make a big impact,” said Ghana Shyam Dhungana, Academic Head, Pelrihang HSS. Since its inception, the programme has certified over 4,800 Indian teachers from 250+ schools. Samsung aims to reach 20,000 teachers across 600 Indian schools by the end of 2025. “Empowering teachers transforms classrooms into creative, connected spaces,” said a Samsung India spokesperson. “We’re proud to grow this initiative globally.”

CITY CLICKS

Sania Mirza backs ‘Sundays On Cycle’ for healthier, fitter India



Six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza is among the many celebrities who have endorsed ‘Sundays On Cycle’, on May 18, commemorating eight years of GST and promoting a healthier, fitter India. The event is being organised in collaboration with the CBIC-Goods and Services Tax (GST) department and is set to host the nation’s largest cycling event.

The event will span over various locations nationwide, including 200 CBIC-GST centers, uniting lakhs of cycling enthusiasts in a collective push towards fitness and well-being.

Prominent figures such as Sania Mirza, Milind Soman, Sunil Shetty, Emran Hashmi, Imtiaz Ali, John Abraham, Dara Singh, and Shankar Mahadevan have endorsed the initiative on social media, emphasizing the importance of fitness and cycling as integral components of a healthy lifestyle.

In Delhi, the event will feature a special appearance by Tania Sachdev, an International Master and Woman Grandmaster in chess, who recently clinched a gold medal at the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Joining her will be Rohtash Choudhury, known as the ‘Push-Up Man of India’, along with activities including Yoga, Rope Skipping, and Zumba sessions. “India is coming together to take a step towards fitness by cycling. I urge everyone to join our officers this Sunday and make it a memorable event,” said Shankar Mahadevan in his video. “Fit Hum, Toh Fit India,” added Milind Soman. The Fit India Movement’s cycling initiative, which commenced in December 2024, has witnessed participation from over 3 lakh individuals across 5,500 locations in India. Notably, badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, have lauded the initiative for its role in promoting fitness and environmental sustainability.

With 90m monkey off his back, Neeraj says aiming to throw farther now



Relieved, happy but a touch disappointed too, Indian javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra said now that he is done breaching the 90m mark, he would be striving to go farther as his body is more or less free of the niggles that plagued him in the past few years.

The 27-year-old two-time Olympic medallist sent his spear to 90.23m in the Diamond League season opener here on Friday but finished second overall after Germany’s Julian Weber took the top spot with a 91.06m effort in his final throw.

“I am very happy with the 90m mark, but it’s a little bit of a bittersweet experience actually. But never mind, I and my coach (the legendary Jan Zelezny) are still working on some aspects of my throw.

“We started working together only in February this year. I am still learning things,” Chopra said after the event. Zelezny, who holds the world record for the longest throw (98.48m), doesn’t normally attend Diamond Leagues but the Czech came with Chopra last night because he felt “today is the day to achieve 90m.”

“I was always feeling something in my groin in the last few years. I did not give my best because of that. This year I feel much better, we will also work on some aspects and so I believe I can throw more than 90m in the upcoming events this year till the World Championships,” Chopra said.

The Haryana lad will enter the September 13 to 21 world championship in Tokyo as the defending gold-medallist in his event. The throw here would do a world of good to his confidence.

Rain knocks out Kolkata off playoffs race, RCB step closer to next stage

RCB tops the points table after match cancelled due to incessant rain and both teams sharing a point each

Bengaluru WUT | May. 18

A persistent downpour brought disappointment to fans and players alike as the much-anticipated IPL 2025 clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium was abandoned without a ball being bowled. The relentless rain, which began around 6 PM on Saturday, showed no signs of relenting through the evening, forcing the match officials to call off the game at 10:24 PM.

Despite the weather-induced stalemate, RCB walked away from the encounter with a valuable point, pushing them closer to the playoffs. The team now stands at 17 points from 12 matches, occupying the top spot on the points table, just ahead of Gujarat Titans, who have 16 points. With two league matches remaining, RCB needs just one more win to mathematically secure their spot in the playoffs.

Their remaining fixtures include a home game against the already-eliminated Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 23, followed by an away clash with Lucknow Super Giants on May 27. The side, led by Faf du Plessis and driven by consistent performances from key players including Virat Kohli, looks well-positioned to break their



long-standing quest for an IPL title.

On the other side, the washed-out match marked a sorrowful end to Kolkata Knight Riders’ campaign in the IPL 2025. The defending champions, who came into this game with only 11 points from 12 matches, needed nothing less than a victory to stay alive in the playoff race. With this no-result, they now have 11 points from 13 matches, and even if they win their final game, their maximum potential tally of 13 points will not be sufficient to make the cut.

This brings an abrupt halt to a season marked by inconsistency for KKR. The team showed flashes of brilliance but lacked the momentum and stability needed to sustain a playoff push. With seasoned players underperforming and the younger lot unable

to carry the burden, the franchise will now turn their attention to rebuilding for the next season.

A Rain-Soaked Tribute to Kohli: Fans Drape Bengaluru in White to Honour Test Retirement Although the match was rained out, the evening at Chinnaswamy Stadium witnessed an emotional and symbolic moment that transcended cricket. The Bengaluru crowd turned up in thousands, not just to watch the match, but to honour one of India’s most iconic cricketers — Virat Kohli — who recently announced his retirement from Test cricket.

In a moving gesture, fans wore white jerseys, mirroring the whites of Test cricket, to pay tribute to the man who revitalized the longest format of the game and brought it back to the forefront of public



imagination. Large banners draped the stands, with messages like “Every single one of us loves you Virat Kohli. Thank you for making Red Ball cricket exciting again,” particularly prominent near the Roger Binny Stand. The city, which has embraced Kohli as one of its own over the past 18 years, showed up in force despite the looming clouds. Fans started queuing up around the stadium as early as 4:30 PM, clad in white attire with Kohli’s iconic No. 18 emblazoned on their backs. Many carried handmade posters and placards, hoping for a glimpse of their hero. Even though the

players didn’t take to the field, there was a palpable sense of purpose and pride in the air. “Sir, avaru yavaga baruthare? (When will he come?),” an eager young fan asked a group of journalists, his eyes scanning every arriving bus for a sight of Kohli, who usually sits in the front row.

This wasn’t just cricket fandom — it was a deeply emotional farewell to a man who gave everything to Indian cricket and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. For Kohli, who has remained loyal to the RCB franchise since its inception, the city has been more than just a cricketering base — it has

been home.

Kohli’s passion for the red-ball format, his fierce competitiveness, and his larger-than-life presence on the field made him a global ambassador for Test cricket. While the team’s game may have been called off, the fans ensured that the evening still belonged to Kohli. As the rain continued to fall, it failed to wash away the emotions and tributes that poured in for the Indian great. It was an evening where cricket took a backseat, and the love for a cricketer came to the fore — a love that runs deep in Bengaluru’s heart.

Confident India takes on Bangladesh

New delhi WUT | May. 18

India takes on Bangladesh in the SAFF under-19 football championship final at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh) on Sunday with the target of extending its record of wins in the age groups having won the under-15, 16, 17 twice each and the under-18, 19 and 20 once each. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes has won three of them and is looking for his fourth on Sunday. Bangladesh are familiar opponents for the Blue Colts, the two having met in four SAAF age group finals and India winning all of them. “Yesterday, we saw so many fans under



such heavy rain and nobody moved out of the stands. They were still there supporting us till the end of the game and that was amazing,” Fernandes and captain Singamayum Shami said in the pre-match briefing.

“I would like to call the fans to come back tomorrow as well. We will give our best on the pitch and make sure that we don’t leave anything behind,” said Fernandes.

Midfielder Shami, who was named the

player of the match against Maldives, said, the Arunachal people love football so much. “We’re very happy to see so many people coming and supporting us. As players, we feel proud playing in front of them. We’re ready for the final and will give our best tomorrow.”

“We didn’t play Bangladesh in the tournament, but have seen them play and know how good they are. They have shown good character in the tournament, espe-

cially in the semi-finals, beating Nepal. We respect that, and we will prepare and get ourselves ready and make sure we give our best efforts in the finals,” said Fernandes.

Bangladesh head coach Golam Robbani Choton said his boys had played good football in all the matches so far, they’ve learnt a lot, and now they were quite confident in their abilities. “We are ready for the final,” he said.

Bangladesh captain Faysal said there would always be a certain level of excitement surrounding any final. “It’s the last match of the tournament, and both teams want to win it. We’ve come here to fulfil our objective,

Pro Kabaddi League announces players list



The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) announced the ‘Elite Retained Players’, ‘Retained Young Players’, and ‘New Young Players’ for Season 12 on Saturday, with the season 12 auction set to take place on May 31 and June 1 in Mumbai.

While most franchises have retained their key players, they will also be looking to build stronger units in the upcoming PKL Season 12 Player Auction.

Top players retained by their respective teams include Sunil Kumar and Amirmohammad Zafardanesh (U Mumbai), Jaideep Dahiya (Haryana Steelers), Surender Gill (UP Yoddhas), and the Puneri Paltan duo of Aslam Inamdar and Mohit Goyat.

Meanwhile, a total of 83 players were retained across three categories: 25 in the Elite Retained Players (ERP) category, 23 in the Retained Young Players (RYP) category, and 35 in the New Young Players (NYP) category. 500 players, including notable Indian players like Pawan Sehrawat, Arjun Deshwal, Ashu Malik and PKL 11’s top raider Devank Dalal, are set to go under the hammer. Iranian powerhouses Fazel Atrachali and Mohammadreza Shadlou alongside PKL veterans Maninder Singh, and Pardeep Narwal, will also enter the PKL 12 auction.

An interesting statistic to note is that star raider Naveen Kumar will go under the hammer for the first time.

GPO recruitment screening test to be held on May 25: CCLA



Chief Commissioner of Land Acquisition (CCLA) Navin Mittal announced that the screening test for recruitment to 10,954 Gram Panchayat Officer (GPO) posts in the Revenue Department will be held on 25 May. He stated that all arrangements for the examination have been completed. The screening test will be conducted from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on the scheduled date. Hall tickets have been made available on the official website http://ccla.telangana.gov.in. Details of examination centres and other important instructions have been provided on the hall tickets. Candidates are advised to carefully read the guidelines mentioned in the hall ticket before appearing for the exam.

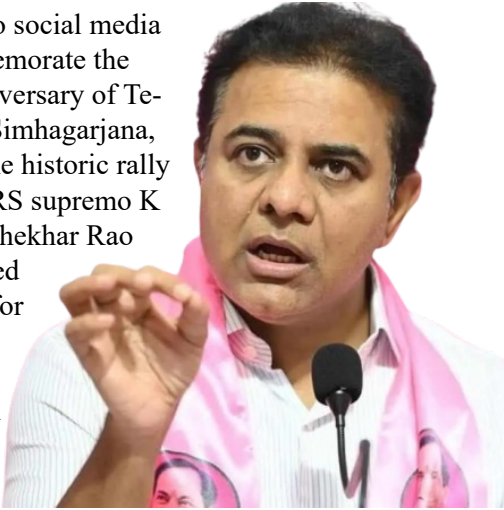
KTR recalls Telangana Simhagarjana of 2001, calls it defining moment in statehood

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

Recalling the historic Telangana Simhagarjana rally organised this day in 2001 in Karimnagar, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday described the event as a turning point that amplified the aspirations of Telangana’s people. “The roar of Telangana Simhagarjana echoed all the way to Delhi,

laying the foundation for our statehood movement,” he said. Taking to social media to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Telangana Simhagarjana, he said the historic rally led by BRS supremo K Chandrashekhar Rao had shaped the path for Telangana’s statehood movement.

The rally, attended by lakhs of



passionate supporters from across the region, was instrumental in solidifying the demand for a separate State, despite scepticism and opposition at the time. Hailing the resilience of the people and the leadership that transformed a long-standing dream into reality, he said it had ultimately paved the way for the formation of Telangana in 2014. He also lauded the

decade of progress achieved since statehood and highlighted Telangana’s rise as a model for governance and development under Chandrashekhar Rao’s leadership. “From fighting for identity to setting benchmarks in growth—this journey is a testament to the vision and commitment of Telangana’s people,” he remarked.

T’gana supplying uninterrupted power despite record demand: Bhatti

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday claimed that Telangana is ensuring uninterrupted power supply as per demand — a feat that, he said, was never achieved even in united Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a review meeting at the IDOC office in Kothagudem dis-



trict after inaugurating various developmental works along with Minister T. Nageshwar Rao, Bhatti said the State recorded one of the highest-ever power demands during this summer. He highlighted that in March this year, the power demand

touched 17,162 MW, yet supply continued without disruption. He criticised the previous BRS regime, stating that during its tenure, even a 15,000 MW demand was not met. In contrast, under the current Congress government, Telangana has managed power supply efficiently, meeting all demand without outages. He added that the credit for establish-

ing several power plants in the State goes to the earlier Congress government during the united Andhra Pradesh era. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Revanth Reddy-led government is working with a planned approach to ensure comprehensive development across the State. He stated that Telangana is now leading in sectors like software, pharma, electricity,

health, housing, and welfare compared to other Indian states. Highlighting upcoming welfare initiatives, he announced the launch of the Indiramma Suraksha Jalavikasam scheme aimed at empowering tribals and protecting forest resources. He said the government will spend ₹12,500 crore on the scheme, and beneficiaries will not have to contribute even a rupee.

Youth held for removing Israeli flag near Secretariat; sparks political row

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

A youth was arrested by Hyderabad Police on Saturday after he pulled down the Israeli flag displayed near the Telangana Secretariat as part of the Miss World event, triggering widespread political reactions and a social media storm. The youth, identified as Zakir, recorded and uploaded a video of himself removing the flag, which quickly went viral. The act sparked sharp divisions online and drew at-

tention across the State. The flags of various countries had been hoisted outside the Secretariat to promote international unity and cultural diversity for the Miss World pageant. Zakir specifically targeted the Israeli flag, citing it as a protest gesture. Public opinion was split. Several people, particularly on social media, supported Zakir, viewing the act as a symbolic stand in solidarity with Palestine. They described it as peaceful

civil disobedience. However, others condemned the act as illegal and disrespectful. Critics argued that tampering with internationally recognised symbols, especially those installed by the State for a diplomatic event, violated protocol and set a dangerous precedent. Hyderabad Police confirmed Zakir’s arrest and said a case has been registered. An investigation is currently underway to determine further legal action.

Zoo Advisory Committee recommends AR/VR based interpretation centres at Hyderabad zoo

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

The Zoo Advisory Committee, which met here on Saturday, recommended construction of the Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) – based interpretation centres to enhance visitors’ engagement through immersive wildlife learning experience at the zoo. The committee that met under chairmanship of PCCF (P&V) & CWLW Elusing Meru pitched for

collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) Bibinagar to undertake research on zoonotic diseases and establish preventive health strategies, apart from a real-time air quality monitoring system within the zoo premises. The committee sought strengthening of zoo-based conservation initiatives by recruiting subject specialists and conservation scientists and establishment of a designated conservation and research centre to promote

studies and facilitate species recovery efforts, promote collaborative research initiatives involving national and international research institutions. Zoo Parks Director Dr. Sunil S Hiremath, HMDA Joint Metropolitan Commissioner Sreevatsa Kota, HMDA Urban Forestry Director Srinivas CCMB, Hyderabad LaCONES in charge director and principal scientist, Dr. Umapathy among others participated in the meeting.

BRS MLAs urge CM to roll back Hyderabad Metro fare hike

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

Eleven BRS MLAs representing constituencies within Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits have written to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, urging the State government to withdraw the recent hike in Hyderabad Metro Rail fares. In their letter, the BRS legislators stated that the fare increase would impose a significant financial burden on Hyderabad’s residents, particularly the poor and middle-class commuters. They recalled that the Metro Rail was launched during the BRS regime to provide a convenient and affordable mode of transport for employees, students, and daily commuters in one of India’s fastest-growing cities. The MLAs criticised the

Congress government’s decision, stating that it contradicts the principle of providing low-cost public transport to the masses. They highlighted that rising prices of petrol, diesel, and essential commodities — due to the policies of both the Congress-led State government and the BJP-led Central government — have already strained household budgets. Raising the minimum Metro fare from ₹10 to ₹20, they said, would result in an additional monthly expense of ₹500 to ₹600 for regular passengers. They stressed that every responsible government must ensure affordable transport services, and pointed out that international cities like Singapore, Berlin, and Tokyo run public transport systems with government subsidies.

Toyota Hilux Boot Camp ignites adventure in Hyderabad

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), in collaboration with Harsha Toyota, Modi Toyota, and Fortune Toyota, kicked off the Hilux Boot Camp – a two-day adventure experience spotlighting the unstoppable Toyota Hilux. Held at Precision Territory, Hyderabad, the event welcomed 4×4 enthusiasts and adventure seekers to explore the full capability of the Toyota Hilux in an ultimate off-road environment. Key leadership from TKM and dealer partners including Maharaj Mukherjee, GM – South, TKM, Ajit Kumar, State Head – Telangana, TKM,



Awtar Singh, FSM, TKM, Vinayak Boodi, FSM, TKM, Puneet, Marketing Head, TKM, Prashanth Pamulaparthi, VP – Sales & Marketing, Harsha Toyota, Ramana Kusam, VP – Sales, Fortune Toyota and Rangacharyulu, CEO, Modi Toyota, participated. The event offered participants a thrilling test drive experience through rugged terrain, showcasing the power, durability, and reliability of the Toyota Hilux.

BRS to fight for rights of govt employees, pensioners

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

In a decisive move to champion the rights of government employees and pensioners, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) has announced plans to launch a coordinated campaign to pressure the Congress government into addressing long-pending demands. As the principal opposition, BRS leaders asserted that they could not remain silent while

lakhs of serving and retired government employees continued to face neglect and hardship. A key meeting was held at the residence of senior leader T Harish Rao under the leadership of party working president KT Rama Rao, which was attended by former leaders of employees’ associations, retired officials and representatives of various teachers’ and employees’ unions. The meeting discussed the deteriorating situation



over the last 18 months, pointing out that the State government had failed to deliver on its pre-election promises to employees. Core demands such as clearing pending Dearness Allowances (DAs), implementing the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) recommendations,

and releasing pensions and retirement benefits on time have remained unfulfilled. Several attendees expressed concern that even basic rights were being denied, with retired employees being forced to run from pillar to post in their old age. Both Rama Rao and Harish Rao expressed deep concern over the State government’s apathy. “It is our duty as the principal opposition to stand by government employees.

We will not stay quiet while lakhs of employees suffer at the hands of a negligent government,” they said. The leaders stressed on the need to develop a clear action plan in the coming days. The party also announced its support for serving employees’ union leaders and urged former union heads, especially those who played a vital role in the Telangana statehood movement, to take part in the party’s campaign.

BJP holds Tiranga Rally in Hyderabad celebrating success of Operation Sindoor

Hyderabad WUT | May. 18

The BJP organised a Tiranga Rally in Hyderabad on Saturday evening to celebrate the success of Operation Sindoor. The rally witnessed the participation of several senior leaders, including former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister and BJP Telangana President G. Kishan Reddy, former Governor Vidyasagar Rao, MPs Raghunandan Rao and Konda



Vishweshwar Reddy, and BJP Floor Leader Maheshwar Reddy, among others. The Tiranga Rally commenced from the statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar at Tank Bund and proceeded via the Secretariat Junction, culminating near Sainik Tank. During the rally, BJP workers raised patriotic slogans such as “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” as they marched holding the national flag.

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