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**Stalin dares  
Amit Shah on  
NEET and  
delimitation**



WORLD | PAGE 09

**74 killed in US strikes on  
Yemeni oil port**

171 injured as single deadliest airstrikes ever  
since Trump took over, target Ras Isa port



SPORT | PAGE 10

**All eyes on  
Siraj, Starc as  
GT takes on  
Delhi Capitals**

In a nutshell

**33 Naxalites  
surrender**

**SUKMA:** At least 33 Naxalites, 17 of them carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 49 lakh, surrendered before security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Friday, police said. While 22 cadres, including nine women, turned themselves in before senior officials of the police CRPF earlier in the day, later 11 others, including two women, surrendered before police officials, they said. The surrendered cadres cited disappointment with Maoist ideology.

**Wanted terrorist  
arrested in US**

**NEW YORK/CHANDIGARH:** Gangster-turned-terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passia, wanted in connection with multiple terror attacks across Punjab and who is alleged to have collaborated with Pakistan's ISI and Khalistani group BKL, has been arrested in the US. Passia alias Jora, who had illegally entered the US, was arrested by the FBI and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations in Sacramento. **NATION PAGE 7**

**AP liquor scam:  
Vijayasai grilled**

**VIJAYAWADA:** Former MP V Vijayasai Reddy on Friday appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged multi-crore liquor scam that occurred in Andhra Pradesh during the YSR Congress Party regime. The SIT, which had summoned Vijayasai Reddy as a witness, examined him for nearly three hours. He later told the media he was asked by SIT officials about two meetings. What was discussed and who attended them.

**Trump floats  
US-Europe meet**

**ROME:** U S Vice President JD Vance met with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome on Friday for a second day of talks on tariffs, and the White House suggested a broader U.S.-Europe summit was under consideration when US President Donald Trump visits. "I've been missing you," Meloni jokingly told Vance as he entered the courtyard of Chigi Palace, the premier's office. They had seen each other just the previous day in the Oval Office, where Trump lavished praise on the Italian leader for her crackdown on migration but didn't yield on tariff plans that increased tensions. **AP**

## Kancha row: Centre's silence questioned

**Experts, environmentalists accuse BJP of double standards**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Despite nationwide outrage over the Congress government's destruction of 100 acres of forest land in University of Hyderabad (UoH), the Centre has remained conspicuously silent, drawing sharp criticism from legal experts, environmentalists and civil society.

Over three days, the Revanth Reddy government reportedly deployed nearly 400 bulldozers to raze 100 acres of green cover adjacent to UoH in round-the-clock operations, triggering allegations of forest, wildlife and financial violations. The police lathi-charged students and cordoned off the campus for days while the government pushed through land transfers in alleged violation of due process.

The Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the Congress government's demolition drive and issued stay orders on all illegal activities. The apex court has directed restoration of the damaged forest land and



Though PM Modi criticised the actions of Revanth Reddy government, there has been no response from the PMO.

warned of possible jail terms for State officials, if its orders are not followed. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), in its 69-page report to the Supreme Court, also flagged illegal land transfers, environmental violations and commercial exploitation.

However, central agencies like the ED, CBI, IT, and Ministry of Environment and Forests have shown no urgency. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself criticised the actions of the Revanth Reddy

government, there has been no response from the Ministry of Education, the Environment and Forests Ministry or the Prime Minister's Office. Though the MoEF asked for a factual report, no one knows what happened after that.

The silence is stark when compared to the Centre's past urgency - dispatching teams for minor sand scams or investigating a Rs 10 lakh jewellery export in Surat. Even a viral video of a Rs 50 crore wolf-dog in Bengaluru led to an ED inquiry.

**HUGE TASK  
ON HAND FOR  
FORESTERS**

**HYDERABAD:** After the SC's strong warning to the State government against felling of trees in Kancha Gachibowli and instructions to prepare a restoration plan, a team of forest officials inspected the lands to draw up plans for the regeneration of trees and protection of wild animals. However, the department is facing major challenges, including the relocation of street dogs to achieve these tasks. It would take at least five to six years for trees to come up. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**



Some parts of the city witnessed heavy rain bringing some respite from the sweltering heat on Friday. However, certain areas of the city were not as fortunate, with local temperatures hovering between 38 degree Celsius and 39 degree Celsius. — Photo: Surya Sridhar **(REPORT PAGE 3)**

## PM, Musk for firming up ties

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a discussion with Tesla CEO Elon Musk on a range of topics, including the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation.

"Spoke to Elon Musk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in

Washington DC earlier this year. We discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the US in these domains," Modi said on X.

The Prime Minister had met Musk in Washington during his visit to the US in February this year. Modi's conversation with Musk

comes at a time when Tesla is reportedly poised to enter the Indian market.

The development also comes against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement between India and the US. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had also held a meeting with top executives of Elon Musk's Starlink to discuss its investment plans for India.

## Desiltation programme: TG eyes Rs 10,000 cr

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Huge revenue is said to be the main attraction behind the State's proposed desiltation programme, which is otherwise facing challenges including a looming monsoon, tight timelines and complex environmental requirements.

The State government has already finalised agencies for taking up the exercise on a pilot basis in the Lower Manair, Mid Manair and Kaddam projects. The overall plan aims to dredge approximately 1,696.78 lakh tonnes of silt across all three reservoirs over the 20-year period, with more than Rs.10,000 crore expected to be raked in.

The reason behind the State's push to embark on the tough exercise is the huge potential in terms of revenue from sand to be extracted from the projects. From the Kaddam project, approximately 2.8 million cubic metres of material will be removed. Some 2.2 million cubic metres of silt is to be lifted from the Lower

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projects**

Manair project. Mid Manair, where the storage capacity is to be reclaimed by some seven TMCs, may yield about 41.85 million cubic meters. The overall cost involved would be Rs.1440 crore, with the revenue generated, according to officials, to be much higher.

The implementation agencies are yet ready to take up the work immediately. They are still in the process of making their arrangements. The work may take off in time only with regard to Lower Manair dam. The government is ready with 50 acres to be handed over to the agency for silt dumping. In the other two projects, the process is still on for acquiring land which is not available. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## JEE Main session-II final keys out

CITY BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has finally released the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main session - II final keys on Friday, paving the way for results declaration. The NTA also said it would declare JEE Main 2025 Session-II results by April 19.

As per the final keys of the paper - I (BE/BTech), questions with IDs 347577562 and 347577939 in the physics subject were dropped in the examination that was conducted in the first shift on April 3 in both domestic and international centres respectively. The final keys can be downloaded from the website <https://jeemain.nta.nic.in/>. On Thursday, the NTA released the final keys on its website only to be removed after a couple of

Earlier aspirants and experts flagged nine errors in the preliminary answer keys of the JEE Main session II held on April 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8.

According to students from Kota, there were four errors in physics, three in chemistry and two in mathematics in answer keys, which were released on April 11.

## Gita, Natyashastra in UNESCO register

NEW DELHI

Manuscripts of Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra are among 74 new documentary heritage collections that have been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Entries on scientific revolution, women's contribution to history and major milestones of multilateralism from 72 countries and four international organisations are included in the register, according to UNESCO.

The register consists of books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, sound or video recordings as a documentary

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heritage of humanity. The development comes on World Heritage Day on April 18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, on Friday described the inscriptions as "a proud moment for every Indian across the world".

Preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and codified around

the 2nd century BC, the Natyashastra of Bharat Muni is "an epitome of the Natyaveda, an oral body of knowledge of performing art containing 36,000 verses known as the Gandharvaveda," the UNESCO said in its citation list about the new inscriptions.

Bharat Muni makes a "groundbreaking statement

in Natyashastra, asserting that 'no meaning can blossom forth without rasa', a profound contribution to world literature," it said.

The Natyashastra embodies a comprehensive set of rules that define natya (drama), abhinaya (performance), rasa (aesthetic experience), bhava (emotion), sangita (music), among others, thus articulating the character of Indian theatre, poetics, aesthetics, dance and music.

The "Manuscript collection of Bhagavadgita: ancient samgraha-grantha of Indian thought has worldwide readership. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



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