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In a nutshell

Indian killed in Canada
NEW YORK/ TARN TARAN: A 21-year-old Indian student was killed in Canada after being struck by a stray bullet while waiting at a bus stop, as shots were fired from a passing car. Harsimrat Randhawa, a student at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, was on her way to work on Wednesday when the incident occurred. Hamilton Police, called her an innocent bystander. Back in Punjab, her family has urged the Indian government for their assistance in bringing back her body.

Actor held in drug case, out on bail

Kochi: Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko was arrested on Saturday in connection with alleged drug use but was re-released on station bail the same day. He was granted bail after a medical examination and other formalities. Police have directed him to appear again on April 21. The arrest followed a nearly four-hour-long interrogation related to an incident in which Chacko allegedly fled from a Kochi hotel during a narcotics raid. According to police, he was booked under Section 238 of the BNS.

Modi to visit Saudi Arabia next week

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Saudi Arabia next week is set to witness both sides expanding cooperation in an array of crucial areas, such as energy, defence and trade, besides expediting Riyadh's USD 100-billion investment plan for India. Modi is scheduled to pay a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning Tuesday to hold wide-ranging talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to boost the overall bilateral ties and exchange views on pressing regional and global issues.

Kedarnath to reopen on May 20

Rudraprayag: The doors of Shri Kedarnath Dham will officially reopen on May 2 while that of Shri Badrinath Dham will open on May 4, a spokesperson from the Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee said. "This evening, the advance team of the Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee reached Shri Kedarnath Dham and they will The doors of Shri Kedarnath Dham are going to open on May 2," the spokesperson added saying all arrangements have been made.

'Busy Ministers turn insensitive'

Mulugu episode snowballs into major issue



A family protests with the body of their child to draw the attention of Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Seethakka to the alleged medical negligence that led to their child's death in Mulugu.

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

A case of alleged medical negligence at the government hospital in Mulugu district resulting in the death of a newborn, triggering a protest by the grieving family and two Ministers passing by as part of a road show completely ignoring their pain is snowballing into a major issue for the Congress government.

The Ministers, who chose to ignore the grieving family despite them protesting with the body of the child on the highway, have drawn heavy flak for the insensitivity displayed by them.

The protest staged by the family had coincided with the arrival of Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

BRS TO BOYCOTT HYDERABAD LOCAL BODY MLC ELECTIONS

Hyderabad: BRS working president, K T Rama Rao on Saturday announced the party's decision to boycott the upcoming Hyderabad Local Body MLC elections. He stated that a whip would be issued to party councillors and warned that strict action would be initiated against those who venture to defy it. Addressing a preparatory meeting of party leaders and elected representatives at Telangana Bhavan, ahead of the BRS silver Jubilee celebrations, he also hinted at imminent by-elections in the State, urging members to gear up for the challenges ahead. Looking beyond immediate electoral battles, Rama Rao outlined plans for the party's future, including the launch of a digital membership drive post the April 21 rally and the organization of training sessions for constituency-level workers. (SEE PAGE 2)

and Seethakka, who were en route to a revenue conference in Venkatapuram on an open-top vehicle.

Police highhandedness

Protestors attempted to draw the Ministers' attention to their plight by displaying the infant's body. While Seethakka, without

stopping, briefly assured from atop her vehicle that action would be taken against those responsible, she did not interact further with the grieving family. Adding to the callousness was the police, who forcibly removed the protestors to clear the way for the Ministers' convoy. (SEE PAGE 2)

Putin announces Easter ceasefire

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a temporary Easter ceasefire in Ukraine starting Saturday, citing humanitarian reasons, as Russia and Ukraine swapped hundreds of captured soldiers in the largest exchange since Moscow's full-scale invasion started over three years ago.

According to the Kremlin, the ceasefire will last from 6 pm Moscow time (1500 GMT) on Saturday to midnight (2100 GMT) following Easter Sunday.

"We assume that the Ukrainian side will follow our example. At the same time, our troops must be ready to repel possible violations of the truce and provocations from the enemy, any of its aggressive actions," Putin said at a meeting with Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, in a video shared by the Kremlin's Press Service. Ukrainian President



Vladimir Putin

Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the ceasefire "another attempt by Putin to play with human lives." He wrote on X that "air raid alerts are spreading across Ukraine," and "Shahed drones in our skies reveal Putin's true attitude toward Easter and toward human life." The two sides meanwhile exchanged hundreds of POWs on Saturday. Russia's Ministry of Defence said that 246 Russian service members were returned from territory controlled by Kyiv, and that "as a gesture of goodwill" 31 wounded Ukrainian POWs were transferred in exchange.

Villagers arrange generator for water, phone charging

STATE BUREAU
Vikarabad

Vexed with official apathy in restoring power supply, residents of Tatepally village in Peddamul mandal here collected donations and arranged a generator to supply water for households and to charge their mobile phones.

After rains and gales uprooted trees, damaged crops and snapped power lines, power supply in the village was disrupted for the last three days.

The villagers lodged complaints with the electricity department to restore power supply. However, as the problem persisted, all the residents of Tatepally collected donations to arrange a diesel generator. It is now being used to operate pumps to supply drinking water to households and sockets to charge mobile phones. (SEE PAGE 2)



People enjoy blooming cherry blossoms during the start of the famous cherry blossom season, in Berlin, Germany, on Saturday. — Photo: AP

Hindu leader's murder: India tears into B'desh

Condemns 'systematic persecution' of minorities

NEW DELHI

India on Saturday issued a sharp condemnation of the abduction and brutal killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent Hindu community leader in northern Bangladesh, calling it part of a "pattern of systematic persecution" of minorities under the country's interim government.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal voiced India's grave concern, stating that the incident reflects an alarming trend of targeted violence against Hindus and other minority groups in Bangladesh.

"We have noted with dis-

US issues travel advisory to its citizens

WASHINGTON: The US has reissued a travel advisory to its citizens stating that they must reconsider travel to Bangladesh due to civil unrest, crime, and terrorism in the country under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. There is also a risk of terrorist violence, including terrorist attacks and other activity in Bangladesh, said the US Department of State travel advisory on Friday. The advisory urged the citizens not to travel to Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban.

stress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh. This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government, even as the perpetrators of previous such events

roam with impunity," Jaiswal said on social media platform X.

He added, "We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing ex-

cuses or making distinctions." India has previously expressed similar concerns over rising attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, but this latest incident has drawn particular attention due to Roy's prominence in the Hindu community.

Roy, who served as the vice-president of the Biral unit of the Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Parishad, was abducted from his residence in Dinajpur district on Thursday evening. According to police and family accounts, he received a phone call around 4.30 p.m., after which four unidentified men arrived on motorcycles and forcibly took him to Narabari village. IANS

11 killed in Delhi building collapse

NEW DELHI

A multi-storey residential building collapsed in north-east Delhi's Shakti Vihar area in the early hours of Saturday, leaving 11 people dead and 11 injured.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old four-storey structure that collapsed in the Mustafabad area of the national capital around 3 am. According to police, there were 22 people at the building, most of them families. The owner of the building, Tehseen, and six from his family were among the 11 who died in the building collapse.



A boy being taken to a hospital from the debris of the building.

A police source said construction work in "two-three shops" on the ground floor could have led to the collapse. Locals also expressed concern about the fragile state of four to five buildings.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in a statement, said that the structure was

around 20 years old and was fully occupied. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta ordered a probe into the incident and expressed sadness over the incident. Residents of nearby buildings who also felt the tremors described it as an earthquake and said the floor beneath them was shaking. PTI

Is it 'selective targeting': IAS officer

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Senior IAS officer and State Tourism Secretary Smita Sabharwal on Saturday appeared before the Gachibowli police in connection with the notice served to her related to the Kancha Gachibowli land case.

Later, responding on her official 'X' account, Sabharwal said she had fully cooperated with the Gachibowli police. "As a law abiding citizen, I have given my de-

tailed statement today to the Gachibowli police authorities under BNSS Act," she wrote. The senior bureaucrat further said the post was re-shared by as many as 2,000 individuals on the social networking site and sought clarification on whether same action was initiated for all. "If not, this raises concerns about selective targeting, that in turn compromises the #principles of #natural justice and equality before the Law," she said.

Three from Telangana top JEE Main

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Telangana students have once again made their mark in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2025 with three not just scoring a perfect 100 percentile but also securing top ranks in one of the toughest examinations.

Both Vangala Ajay Reddy and Bani Brata Majee shared the all India first rank in common ranking list, while Harsh A Gupta bagged 15th rank in the JEE Main paper - I (BE/BTech) results de-



clared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday night.

Speaking to 'Telangana Today' Ajay Reddy said he is gearing up to crack the JEE Advanced. "In the first session I scored 99.996 percentile. I am ecstatic about bagging first rank now. At present, I am preparing for

the JEE Advanced and I want to pursue CSE at IIT-Bombay," he said.

On his preparation strategy, Ajay Reddy said he studied about 10 hours daily and took weekly and monthly tests conducted at his Sri Chaitanya Junior College. "Weekly and monthly tests helped me better pre-

pare for the examination. Teachers have really been helpful in my preparation," Ajay Reddy said, adding that his brother, a student at IIT-Kharagpur, gave tips to crack the exam.

'No social media'

With focus on cracking one of the toughest exams, Ajay Reddy stayed away from social media. "Although I am on social media, I used it only when I went home for holidays like thrice in a year. My focus was only on cracking the JEE Main," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Looking forward to India visit: Musk

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Saturday said he is looking forward to visiting India later this year.

The tech billionaire's remarks came a day after he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke and discussed the immense potential for collaboration in technology and innovation.

"It was an honor to speak with PM Modi. I am looking forward to visiting India

later this year!" Musk said in a post on X.

Musk is considered one of the most influential persons in the Donald Trump administration and is spearheading the Department of Government Efficiency aimed at cutting government expenditure and reducing federal workforce.

After their talk on Friday, Modi took to X and said, "Spoke to <@>elonmusk and talked about various issues." PTI