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 Heat wave grips State; many districts record 45°C



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 Twelve killed as Russia strikes Kyiv
 This is the biggest attack on Ukrainian capital since last summer



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 RCB breaks jinx at home, finally, beats RR by 11 runs

In a nutshell

Six Maoists killed in encounter
MULUGU: As many as six Maoists were killed in an encounter on Thursday on the hillocks of Karregutta spread over Telangana and Chhattisgarh States. Police were yet to confirm the death of naxals while the number of casualties on the naxal side might increase as the security forces launched a massive offensive against Maoists as part of ‘Operation Kagar’. Search operations were going on in the forests of Karregutta for the past three days.

Mizoram, Assam talks today
AIZAWL: A seven-member Mizoram delegation led by State Home Secretary Vanlalhmawia left for Guwahati on Thursday to engage in official-level discussion with Assam to resolve the long-standing boundary dispute between the two North-eastern states, an official said. The talks will be held on Friday and is expected to focus on issues in which both States are yet to reach a consensus, technicalities and the nitty-gritty of the border issue.

Kashmiri students get threats
DEHRADUN: Days after the Pahalgam terror attack, Hindu Raksha Dal on Thursday issued online threats to Kashmiri students living in Dehradun, asking them to leave the State immediately. Scared by the threats issued through videos floating on social media platforms, the Kashmiri students approached the police, seeking protection. Dehradun SSP Ajai Singh said he held a meeting with the personnel of all police stations after receiving complaints.



Esha Deol gets nostalgic

Gives glimpse of an 80s morning with mother Hema Malini

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Terrorists will be hunted to the ends of the earth: PM

Says will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers

PTI
MADHUBANI (BIHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday declared that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued “to the ends of the earth” and promised to “identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers”. In his first speech after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, the Prime Minister vowed to punish terrorists behind the strike and said India’s spirit will never be broken by terrorism.

Modi spoke briefly in English and said, “Friends, today from the soil of Bihar, I say to the whole world India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth. India’s spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished.”

In the stern message, he said, “Every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone who believes in humanity is with us. I thank the people of various countries and their leaders who have stood with us in these times.” In a message to Pakistan without naming the country, Modi said he will state it categorically that the terrorists who carried out the attack and those who hatched the conspiracy, they will be punished beyond their imagination.



Indian paramilitary soldiers patrol a busy market in Srinagar, Kashmir, on Thursday. — Photo: AP

“Punishment will definitely be served.”

The Prime minister said the willpower of 140 crore Indians will break the back of patrons of terrorism. Paying condolences to the victims and their families, he said citizens across the country are in mourning over the brutal manner in which terrorists killed 26 innocent civilians in Kashmir on April 22. The nation stands with their families, he said.

Modi, other leaders on the dais and the crowd observed silence to pay homage to the victims of the attack at the beginning of the Prime Minister’s speech. (SEE PAGE 2)

AI, Indigo flights rerouted, fares may rise
NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI: International flights, especially from Delhi and other northern cities, will take a longer time to reach their destinations and fares are also likely to rise in the near term, with Pakistan closing its airspace for Indian airlines. Air India and IndiGo said some of its international flights have been impacted, with the airline mentioning that its flights connecting North America, UK, Europe, and Middle East may take an extended route. (SEE PAGE 2)

Pakistan puts Simla Agreement on hold

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Thursday put Simla Agreement and other bilateral accords with India on hold, suspended all trade, closed its airspace for Indian airlines and said any attempt to divert the water meant for it under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an Act of War.

Islamabad also closed the Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave -- mirroring steps taken the previous evening by India over the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistani announcements followed a meeting here of its National Security Committee chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in response to the Indian decision on Wednesday to suspend the Indus Water Treaty and downgrade diplomatic ties with Islamabad. That call was taken by India after the attack Tuesday in Pahalgam

Suspends airspace for Indian airlines and says move to divert Indus water will be considered as an act of war

that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility for the attack.

A statement issued after the Islamabad meeting, which included key Minister and the three services chiefs, said Pakistan’s armed forces “remain fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any misadventure”. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said there were reports that India was planning to target different cities through terrorist acts. “If our citizens are targeted then Indian people will also suffer,” he told reporters after the meeting. (SEE PAGE 2)

All parties back Centre’s response

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday briefed leaders of various political parties on the Pahalgam massacre and heard their views at an All-party meeting in Delhi.

At the beginning of the All-party meeting, a moment of silence was observed for the victims of the attack.

After the meeting, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the government

assured leaders of action against terror.

He also said that all parties are with the government against terror.

Leaders across party lines sought decisive action for destroying terror camps. The opposition MPs raised the issue of security lapses but assured that they are with the government in dealing with the menace of terrorism. AAP’s Sanjay Singh said all the parties demanded action by govt for

destruction of terror camps.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi offered full support to govt to take any action.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force is carrying out ‘Exercise Aakraman’ in the central sector with its mainstream fighter aircraft taking part in it, sources said on Thursday.

India’s frontline fighter jets include Rafales, Su-30s and other aircraft.

Turncoat Nagender praises KCR, BRS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Turncoat MLA from Khairatabad Danam Nagender has said that he was expecting the BRS public meeting on Sunday at Warangal would be a grand success as people were curious to listen to BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao.

“Whatever I am speaking is turning sensational. People are keen to listen and watch BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao as he will be addressing the huge gathering. I expect the public meeting to be a grand success,” Nagender said here on Thursday. Videos of the MLA are going viral on social media platforms. The Khairatabad MLA, who

shifted loyalties from the BRS to Congress after the 2023 Assembly elections, said people would turn up in large numbers for the public meeting.

Nagender also defended senior IAS officer Smita Sabharwal, who had reposted an AI generated image on the contentious Kancha Gachibowli lands recently. The Gachibowli police had

served a notice to the IAS officer and sought her explanation.

“Smita Sabharwal is an honest officer. She had retweeted only facts on the Central university lands and I don’t think she wanted to blame the government,” Nagender said, adding that he expected the State government to reconsider the Kancha Gachibowli land issue.

Villagers reject Indiramma houses

JAMES EDWIN
Kothagudem

Exposing arbitrary implementation of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, residents and the members of the Indiramma Committee of a village in the district have passed a resolution rejecting allotment of houses to the village.

The incident took place in Ramannagudem gram panchayat of Aswaraopet mandal. It was said that while there were 200 families in the village, 60 families did not have houses. After identifying 20 families as eligible, the authorities announced a list and only four families were allotted houses.

The Indiramma Committee members held a meeting with the villagers to protest against the government for granting only four houses. Committee members Korsa Prasad, Rachakonda Bangaram, K Udaykumar and Naram Kumari said they had discussed the matter to-

gether and unanimously passed a resolution refusing allotment of those four houses.

They wanted the government to grant houses to the 60 eligible families while warning that villagers would not accept the allotment of four houses. The villagers led by former Sarpanch Swaroopa along with Indiramma Committee members also staged a dharna on the Aswaraopet-Ramannagudem main road demanding to sanction houses to the poor.

In a similar protest in Chandugonda mandal’s Maddukur village the residents took to the streets alleging that Indiramma houses were not granted to the eligible families, but only to the leaders of the ruling Congress party.

The villagers said while houses were granted to 42 families in the village, most of them were ineligible. Injustice was meted out to the poor persons who did not have houses.

Baldness cure scam busted, man detained

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In yet another incident, where the desire of bald men to have full grown hair was cashed, one person identified as Harish from Rajanayak Thanda in Suryapet district promised to regrow hair on bald heads. Advertisements were made on social media claiming that he would regrow hair on bald heads. A special app was also set up.

People who believed this came to Uppal Bhagayat in large numbers on Wednesday. The organisers collected Rs 1,000 from each person and gave them oil and shampoo bottles.

People who had lost their hair and went bald, flocked to Uppal with hope of regrowing their hair. Special tents were set up in Uppal Bhagayat for them.

A large number of people came from Telangana and AP. Following a complaint by locals, Harish was detained and police are questioning him.

AI gives voice to 150-year-old tree in Dublin

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

We have come across talking trees in our mythological stories and movies but couldn’t even fathom that possibility in real life.

However, in a groundbreaking experiment, a researcher has blended nature and the power of AI to give voice to a 150-year-old chestnut tree in Dublin, which now is able to reflect on its own existence and even interact with visitors.

The innovative project is



EVAN GREALLY, HEAD OF CREATIVE TECH AND INNOVATION AT DROGA5 MERGED NATURE WITH AI TO GIVE VOICE TO A 150-YEAR-OLD CHESTNUT TREE, ENABLING IT TO REFLECT ON ITS EXISTENCE AND ENGAGE WITH VISITORS

the brainchild of Evan Greally, Head of creative tech and innovation at Droga5 Dublin, part of Accenture Song. According to reports

and interviews that have appeared across multiple news platforms in the last few weeks, Evan Greally’s experiment collects real-time

environmental data, including bioelectrical signals, wind speed, and soil moisture, collected through sensors that are connected to

the Chestnut tree at various locations.

The information collected through these sensors are fed into a localised large language model, which gives the tree its own unique personality, voice and even agency, which is far more evolved than mere routine chatbot interactions.

Utilising the LLM model, the tree just doesn’t answer like a chatbot but it contemplates life, responds to its environment, surroundings and even verbally interacts with people. (SEE PAGE 2)