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## Haj kicks off with first group of pilgrims from Hyderabad



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## Carney wins Canadian polls, Conservative leader loses

Khalistan sympathiser Jagmeet Singh fails to win own seat, set to resign as NDP chief



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## Sonam Kapoor on her 'unexpected week off'

### In a nutshell

#### Justice Gavai appointed 52nd CJI

**NEW DELHI:** Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was on Tuesday appointed the next Chief Justice of India. He would enter the office of the CJI on May 14, a day after incumbent CJI Justice Sanjiv Khanna demits office. The Law Ministry issued a notification announcing Justice Gavai's appointment as 52nd chief justice of India. As per laid down procedure, his name was recommended by CJI Khanna on April 16 to the Central government. [PTI](#)

#### Char Dham yatra from today

**DEHRADUN:** The Char Dham Yatra to the four Himalayan shrines in Uttarakhand will begin on Wednesday with the opening of the doors to the Gangotri and Yamunotri temples for devotees on the occasion of Akshay Tritiya, officials said on Tuesday. The doors to the other two Dhams -- Kedarnath and Badrinath -- will open on May 2 and May 4, respectively. The four temples remain closed for six months during winter. All preparations, have been completed.

#### Waqf Act: 'Lights out' protest today

**NEW DELHI:** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has appealed to the people of the country to switch off the lights of their homes, offices and businesses on Wednesday from 9 pm to 9:15 pm to protest the Waqf (Amendment) Act. In a statement, AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said that the Board launched a nationwide movement on April 10 against the "discriminatory and constitutionally incompatible" amendments made to the Waqf Act. "Various programmes are being organised across the country," he said.

#### SSC results to be declared today

**HYDERABAD:** The School Education Department on Tuesday announced that SSC Public Examinations 2025 results will be declared on Wednesday at Ravindra Bharathi at 1 pm. Following announcement, students can view their results on: <https://results.bsetelangana.gov.in> or <https://bse.telangana.gov.in> A total of 5,09,403 students, including 2,58,895 boys and 2,50,508 girls, registered for examinations conducted from March 21 to April 4.

# FREE HAND TO FORCES

Modi asks them to decide mode, targets and timing of their attacks



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs high-level meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, and Chiefs of three services.

IAN S  
NEW DELHI

In a high-stakes emergency meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that India will deal a crushing blow to terrorism.

The Prime Minister, addressing the top security brass, affirmed his complete faith in the professional capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces and assured them of full operational freedom to decide the "mode, targets, and timing" of their response to the Pakistan-based terror threat.

"India is determined to deliver a crushing blow to terrorism," government sources quoted the Prime Minister, signalling the start of a massive retaliation in the works. This bold declaration came after the Pahalgal massacre in which 26 innocent lives were lost, most of them tourists, and the nation waits on edge for the imminent response. This signals that India is gearing

#### PAK A ROGUE STATE, INDIA AT UN

**UNITED NATIONS:** India said that the open confession of Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif admitting to his country's history of supporting and funding terrorist organisations exposes Pakistan as a "rogue state" fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel delivered a strong Right of Reply at the hybrid launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism here Monday when Pakistan's delegate made a reference to the Pahalgal terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is unfortunate that one particular delegation has chosen to misuse and undermine this forum to indulge in propaganda and make baseless allegations against India," Patel said.

up to unleash a powerful and uncompromising retaliation against terrorists and their backers, with a response that could reshape the battlefield.

The urgent meeting, which also included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, was dubbed by sources as "extraordinary

in urgency and nature". The gathering was held just days after the ruthless Pahalgal attack, sending an unmistakable message of impending action.

The agenda was clear: a complete review of actionable intelligence and a deep dive into military and strategic options aimed at dismantling terror infrastructure across the border. With

#### RSS CHIEF BHAGWAT MEETS MODI

**New Delhi:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, an interaction which has come in the backdrop of the Pahalgal terror attack which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead. With the Hindutva organisation considered the ideological mentor to the ruling BJP and spread across the country, the meeting assumes significance. [PTI](#)

Lashkar-e-Taiba and other Pakistan-based terror outfits under the microscope, sources revealed that the meeting mapped out a decisive strategy to punish the perpetrators and their backers. Following the terror attack, India has placed its military forces on heightened alert, particularly along the Line of Control and the international border. Surveil-

lance drones, satellite imagery, and electronic intercepts have been actively monitoring terrorist launchpads across PoK. In the aftermath of the Pahalgal attack, the Centre has already taken powerful measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and the expulsion of Pakistani nationals with short-term visas. PM Modi had earlier vowed to pursue every terrorist and their backers "to the ends of the earth."

Tuesday's meeting is seen as the first step in fulfilling that vow, as India prepares for a thunderous response. While official details remain under wraps, the mood in Delhi is undeniably tense and determined.

As the crosshairs lock onto the perpetrators of the Pahalgal bloodbath, India stands ready for the storm that is about to unfold. The nation is bracing for action, and it might be closer than anyone thinks.

# Medigadda: 'Politics can wait, not ryots'

Uttam distorting NDSA report for political gains, says Harish

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a pointed rebuttal, senior BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao countered Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy's allegations over Medigadda barrage, charging him with distorting the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) report for political gains.

He urged the Congress government to prioritise farmers and expedite repairs at the Medigadda barrage instead of indulging in blame game. "Politics can wait till elections, but farmers should not," he asserted. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Harish Rao criticised the Congress Minister for offering little substance beyond political rhetoric. He accused the Congress leadership of duplicity and deliberate misinformation, particularly concerning the Kaleshwaram project and Medigadda barrage.

#### NDSA's selective activism

The former Irrigation Minister questioned the NDSA why it had not inspected Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram project, despite the collapse of its diaphragm and guide walls, but rushed to visit Medigadda within five days of damage being reported. "Why this selective activism? Polavaram's struc-

Why this selective activism? Polavaram's structural failures more serious, yet NDSA silent

— T HARISH RAO  
SENIOR BRS MLA

tural failures are far more serious, yet the NDSA remains silent," he remarked, suggesting a political nexus between Congress and BJP.

He noted that the NDSA report made no mention of corruption, but Uttam Kumar Reddy was hallucinating about it. "The total expenditure under the BRS government was around Rs.90,000 crore, yet the Congress continues to inflate the figure to Rs 1 lakh crore," Rao said.

Harish Rao also questioned the timing of successive reports, pointing out that the preliminary report came before the Assembly elections, the interim report during Lok Sabha polls, and the final version right before the BRS's silver jubilee celebrations. "The timing is clearly orchestrated to divert attention from our successful meeting and our leader K Chandrashekhara Rao's powerful speech," he said. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

# What is wrong in using spyware against terrorists: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered what was wrong in using the "spyware against terrorists" and said any report which touched upon the country's "security and sovereignty" won't be made public.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh indicated it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach but the report of the technical committee was no document to discuss "on the streets".

#### Individual apprehensions

The Bench said, "Any report which touches the security and sovereignty of the country will not be touched. But individuals who want to know whether they are included, that can be informed. Yes,

"Any report which touched upon country's security, sovereignty won't be made public"

individual apprehension must be addressed but it cannot be made a document for discussion on the streets."

The top court added it will examine the extent to which the technical panel report could be shared in public.

Advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the question was whether the government had the spyware and used it. "If they have it, there is nothing to prevent them from using it

continuously even today," he added. The bench responded, "Please make submissions with regard to disclosure regarding individuals. The kind of scenario we are facing nowadays, let us be slightly responsible...We will see to what extent the report can be shared."

The top court went on, "What is wrong if the country is using the spyware against the terrorists? To have spyware is not wrong, against whom you are using is the question. You can't compromise with the security of nation. Private civil individual who has right to privacy will be protected under the Constitution," the bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta, referred to a US district court judgment.

# State employees to hit the streets

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

One more section of Telangana society is all set to hit the streets against the apathy of the Congress government, pointing out its failure to keep its promises.

Government employees in the State are the latest to join the long list of farmers, unemployed youth, students, women, constables among others who have launched protests to get their issues addressed.

#### Action programme

To begin with, a large-scale meeting of all government employees is scheduled to be held on May 5 in the city, which will be followed with protests in all district headquarters on May 15.

On June 9, a 'maha dharna' is being planned in the city, according to Eluri Srinivasa Rao, Secretary General of the Joint Action Committee

## Demands of Telangana government employees

- Abolish Contribution Pension Scheme and restore Old Pension Scheme
- Review GO Ms 317 and create supernumerary posts wherever necessary
- Implementation of unified service rules for teachers
- Reappointments or extension of employees' services after superannuation should be stopped
- Accord promotions to employees by conducting DPCs in all departments during September of the panel year itself
- Create nursing directorate to resolve nursing employees' issues
- Regularisation of contract and outsourcing employees, abolish contract system in future recruitments
- Merger of TGSRTC with government
- Sanction of pending DAs
- Clear all pending bills; abolish e-Kuber system and bills clearance should be through treasury
- Announce 51 per cent fitment as per price rise
- Implement Employees Health Scheme with equal contribution by government employees, pensioners, beneficiaries
- Sanction of special allowances to teaching doctors working in remote medical colleges

### WHAT THE GOVT HAS DONE

- Chief Minister, Deputy CM convene meeting with TGEJAC on October 24, 2024 and vow to resolve all issues by March 2025
- Constitute Cabinet Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Deputy CM to resolve issues
- Committee has not conducted meeting with employees so far
- No assurances kept, no issues solved

### EMPLOYEES' ACTION PLAN

- After meeting on March 12, the TGEJAC said it would be compelled to announce its action plan in April 29
- District-wise meetings being conducted
- Large-scale meeting of all employees in Hyderabad on May 5
- Protests in all district headquarters on May 15
- Maha dharna in Hyderabad on June 9

of Telangana Employees, Gazetted Officers, Teachers, Workers and Pensions (TGEJAC). The employees have for long been demand-

ing payment of five Dearness Allowances apart from a 51 per cent fitment as the PRC report is yet to be submitted to the government.

Similarly, the employees want the Pension System to be implemented and the Contributory Pension System scrapped. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

# Shukla for space station on May 29

NEW DELHI

Axiom Space will launch its fourth mission to the International Space Station, carrying Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on May 29.

The announcement was made by the Axiom Space at a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

Shukla's travel to space comes four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic

spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz spacecraft.

Besides Shukla, the Ax-4 crew includes members from Poland and Hungary, marking each nation's first mission to the International Space Station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years.

Slawosz Uznanski, European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut, will be the second Polish astronaut since 1978.

HYDERABAD

Yet another breakthrough in solar power generation technologies achieved is all set to revolutionise the solar power generation. Japan has already unveiled the ultrathin solar panels, which are thinner than paper. Information culled out from online media sites indicates that these ultrathin and light weight panels can be placed any surface. These panels were developed by a team of researchers from the MIT.

While the traditional solar panels weigh heavy and require support structures, these ultrathin panels require little or no supportive infrastructure

While the traditional solar panels weigh heavy and require support structures, these ultrathin panels, require little or no supportive infrastructure.

The research team led by Vladimir Bulović, printed

the electrodes on a flat sheet of plastic. After that, they glued the sheet of plastic onto a chosen surface using a slot-die coater, in which case they chose a strong fabric called Dyneema. Using screen printing, an electrode is deposited onto the structure to complete the solar

module. Lastly, they stripped the fabric, which had picked up the electrodes, resulting in a clean sheet of plastic left behind.

These ultrathin panels are bound to revolutionise the solar energy making, as they are more accessible and portable. They can be used in different scenarios. Reports speak of the panels being able to retain 90 per cent of their power generation capabilities even after rolling and unrolling the panel more than 500 times.

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Three workers of the Premier Explosive Company were killed on the spot and four others sustained serious injuries in a blast in the factory on Tuesday.

The injured have been rushed to a hospital here for better treatment. The explosives factory is located in Katepally village in Motakondur village. Sources say the blast occurred in block 18A of the company.

There were six workers in the block at the time of the massive explosion, which could be heard kilometers away. The building housing the Block 18A collapsed due to the blast impact. The dead were identified as G Sandeep, Ch Charan and Naresh.

Naresh, died while being rushed to a nearby hospital, while the bodies of two others are not yet found, the injured were Bugga Lingaswamy, Srikanth, Srikanth and Mahendar.