



NATION | PAGE 07

PM Modi to launch 94 projects in Andhra today



WORLD | PAGE 09

US, Ukraine sign crucial mineral deal

This gives America access to the country's valuable mineral wealth



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

Amitji, Mithun inspired me: Chiranjeevi at Waves 2025

## In a nutshell

### Plaint against Vijay Devarakonda

**HYDERABAD:** A complaint was lodged against actor Vijay Devarakonda for his alleged derogatory comments made against tribal people, at the SR Nagar police station on Thursday. Lal Chauhan, a city-based lawyer, alleged that the actor, who had recently attended the pre-release event of a Tamil movie starring actor Suriya Sivakumar, in his speech remarked that the Pahalgam attacks in Kashmir were akin to the clashes involving tribal communities hundreds of years ago. The police said necessary action as per law will be taken after a legal opinion.

### ATM usage cost up by Rs 2 to Rs 23

**NEW DELHI:** The RBI's instructions on revised ATM usage cost have come into effect from Thursday under which banks can charge Rs 23 per cash withdrawal once a customer exhausts the free permissible limit in a month. Earlier, banks were allowed to charge up to Rs 21 per such transaction. Customers are eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial) every month from their own bank ATMs. They are also eligible for free transactions (financial and non-financial) from other bank ATMs. **PTI**

### GST revenue hits record high

**NEW DELHI:** GST collection rose 12.6 per cent Y-o-Y to an all-time high of about Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April, which the government said shows resilience of the Indian economy and the effectiveness of cooperative federalism. The gross GST mop-up was Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April 2024 — the second highest collection ever since GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The net mop-up was Rs 1.92 lakh crore. In March 2025, the collection was Rs 1.96 lakh crore. In a post on X, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed gratitude to the taxpayers. **PTI**

# 13 lakh farmers await Rythu Bharosa funds

As Yasangi harvest season ends, Rs 4,000 crore pending

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

As the Yasangi harvest season gets under way in Telangana, lakhs of farmers are still awaiting the promised Rythu Bharosa investment support, raising serious concerns among farmers. Unlike the previous BRS regime, which ensured investment assistance under Rythu Bandhu was disbursed ahead of crop seasons, Rythu Bharosa funds have not yet reached many farmers. The Rythu Bharosa scheme, launched with much fanfare on January 26, promised Rs 6,000 per acre to all farmers in a phased manner. Chief Minsiter A Revanth Reddy himself assured that the disbursement of the investment support will be completed before March 31. Yet the disbursal remains sluggish. Till now, the government claims to have deposited Rs



Rythu Bharosa, launched with much fanfare on January 26, promised Rs 6,000 per acre to all farmers in a phased manner.

5,057 crore into the accounts of around 57 lakh farmers covering 84.28 lakh acres, mostly benefiting those with landholdings under four acres. But approximately Rs 4,000 crore is still pending for nearly 13 lakh farmers, especially those owning more than four acres. The delay is attributed to a strained State treasury, with

officials depositing funds in small tranches every two-three days.

This delay comes at a critical juncture, as Yasangi (Rabi) crops are already ready for harvest. In districts such as Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Kamareddy, procurement of paddy has started. Yet, many farmers say they are forced to man-

age without the vital investment support that was meant to ease cultivation expenses. Farmers are now caught in a cash crunch just as they prepare for the next monsoon crop cycle, set to begin in June. Despite the urgency, authorities have diverted focus towards publicity, allocating Rs 28.35 crore for flexi banners to list out Rythu Bharosa and loan waiver beneficiaries, even as the actual assistance remains undelivered for many.

Officials themselves admit to lacking clarity on the exact area covered or the reasons for the lapses.

Sources said Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao is expected to provide clarity in this regard during the first week of May. With that deadline missed and the Vaanakalam (Kharif) season looming in June, farmers now fear further delays in next season's aid as well.

# Cannot demoralise forces: SC on Pahalgam

Refuses to hear PIL seeking judicial probe

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the petitioners and refused to hear their PIL seeking a judicial probe into the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people were killed.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh castigated the petitioners for seeking a retired judge to monitor the probe into the Pahalgam attack and said retired judges were not experts. "In this crucial time, each and every citizen of the country has joined hands to fight terror. Do you want to demoralise the security forces by filing this kind of PIL? Don't bring this kind of issue to the judicial domain," the Bench said.

Petitioners Fathesh Kumar Saahu and others were consequently asked to withdraw the PIL. The top court asked the petitioners to realise the sensitivity of the issue and not make any prayer in court which demoralised the forces.

"You are asking a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate. Since when the retired judges of the High Court and Supreme Court became experts in investigation? They can only adjudicate and decide an issue. Don't ask us to pass an



Soldiers patrol the streets of Srinagar in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attacks, on Thursday. — Photo: AP

...each and every citizen of the country has joined hands to fight terror. Do you want to demoralise the security forces by filing this kind of PIL?

— SUPREME COURT

order. Go wherever you want to go. Better you withdraw," the Bench told one of the petitioners.

Justice Kant asked the petitioners to exercise caution while filing a PIL and expressed displeasure over the nature of prayers in the petition. The PIL was filed by advocates Fatesh Kumar Sahu and Vicky Kumar aside from Kashmir resident Junaid Mohd. They sought a direction to the Centre and the J&K Union Territory ad-

ministration to ensure the safety of tourists. The plea sought minimum security standards for tourist sites in areas prone to conflicts, such as Jammu and Kashmir. The plea also sought an action plan for the safety of the people in tourist areas of J&K by CRPF, NIA and the UT administration.

The top court was urged to passe directions to the Press Council of India for ensuring only "fair and true" reporting. **PTI**

# US urges India, Pak to de-escalate tensions

NEW DELHI

The US has urged India and Pakistan to de-escalate their tensions over the Pahalgam terror attack as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held separate phone conversations with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to emphasise on avoiding further escalation.

In his phone conversation with Jaishankar on Wednesday night, Rubio expressed his "sorrow" for the lives lost in the "horrific" terror attack and reaffirmed the US' commitment to cooperation with India against ter-

rorism, according to the US State Department. The US Secretary of State called on Sharif for Islamabad's cooperation in investigating the "unconscionable" attack that killed 26 civilians.

On his part, Jaishankar told Rubio that the perpetrators, backers and planners of the Pahalgam terror attack must be brought to justice. "Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack with US @SecRubio yesterday. Its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice," the External Affairs Minister said on X on Thursday.

(SEE PAGE 2)  
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

# US clears supply of critical military hardware to India

NEW DELHI

The United States has cleared a proposal to supply critical military hardware and logistic support assets worth \$131 million to India, in line with the strategic ties between the two countries.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency that operates under the Pentagon has delivered the required certification for the military supplies and notified the US Congress of the possible sale, according to an American readout. It said India had requested to buy "sea-vision software and "remote software". **PTI**

# State's caste census may prove futile, says Revanth

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Telangana government's effort to conduct the BC caste survey by spending over Rs 160 crore and involving 90,000 enumerators is likely to be a futile exercise with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy admitting that the Central government census would prevail over the State census.

As there was no data earlier, the Telangana caste survey (Socio, Economical, Education, Employment, Political and caste survey) prevailed. Now that the Centre has decided to conduct the exercise, it would prevail, the Chief Minister clarified at a press conference here on Thursday.

On the possibilities of any difference in the State survey and the proposed Central government survey outcome, he defended saying it was not possible. "Why will people share false information? They might share false

## CM APPEALS TO RTC UNIONS TO AVOID STRIKES, CITES FINANCIAL STRAIN

**HYDERABAD:** Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appealed to TGSRTC unions not to be influenced by political parties and resort to strikes, warning that even a single misstep could adversely impact the corporation. "Do not get carried away just because things are falling into place. If there are any issues, the unions can meet the Minister. At this juncture, any strike will result in irreparable loss to the State," the Chief Minister told RTC unions during May Day celebrations on Thursday.

"We will do our best to address your concerns, if not hand over the State's income to you. The Finance Minister, Chief Secretary and others will sit with you and suggest which schemes can be taken up and which can be deferred. You set up an advisory board and take decisions," Revanth Reddy said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

information pertaining to assets and liabilities, but regarding caste details, they will not," Revanth Reddy said.

He welcomed the Centre's decision to conduct the caste enumeration in the next census and suggested that a group of union Cabinet Ministers and experts committees should be con-

stituted for taking up the exercise. Before commencing the task, a comprehensive study should be conducted across the country as there were different caste equations in different States. For instance, the Boya community in Telangana was considered as BC, but in Karnataka it was categorised as 'tribal'. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

# Harish refutes exit rumours

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Amid growing criticism of the Congress government's performance in Telangana, the ruling party appears to be resorting to desperate tactics to divert public attention, including attempts to fabricate internal fissures within the BRS.

Despite repeated clarifications from BRS leaders, a section of online media con-

tinues to publish speculative reports about a supposed rift within the party leadership, particularly targeting senior leader T Harish Rao.

The latest in this alleged misinformation campaign was an online report claiming that former Minister Harish Rao was being sidelined within the party and was considering an exit. Responding to the report, Harish Rao issued a sharp re-

buttal, describing the claims as "entirely false and malicious." He accused the Telangana Congress and its IT cell of orchestrating such narratives through selective media leaks and unfounded speculation. "The Congress government is inefficient and incapable of governing the State, and lacks the courage to face public scrutiny. But the party ranks number one in misinformation," he added. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

# Hyd to get another zoo, will house exotic animals

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

Hyderabad will soon be home to another zoo, focusing mainly on exotic animals.

To be developed in 200 acres near the proposed Future City and with focus on species that are exotic in nature, the new zoological park will be in addition to the present Nehru Zoological Park at Bahadurpura. The State government has

allocated 200 acres of land at Mucherla and development will be taken up by the Telangana Forest Development Corporation.

The project will come up under a public-private-partnership (PPP) model with private entities expected to play a role in various areas, including design and management.

Unlike the present collection at the Nehru Zoological Park, the new zoo will focus entirely on exotic animals

**The upcoming facility, which will be in addition to the Nehru Zoological Park, will be developed in 200 acres at Mucherla**

and collection is expected to include species from Africa, South America, Europe and Australia. "There is a plan to set up another zoo and the

State government has allocated 200 acres in Mucherla. The new development will be on the lines of the Singapore Zoo," Dr Sunil S Hiremath, Director of Zoo Parks Telangana, told 'Telangana Today'.

Initially, there were speculations about relocating the Nehru Zoological Park to Shadnagar to make way for construction of the new building for the High Court.

However, the plan was said to have been shelved

given stringent regulations, approvals from the Central Zoo Authority and union Ministry of Environment and Forest besides cumbersome processes involved in shifting the zoo.

Later, the Telangana government had allocated 100 acres in Premavathipet and Budwel villages of Rajendranagar mandal in Rangareddy district for new High Court buildings construction.

**(SEE PAGE 2)**