



BUSINESS | PAGE 08

Gold prices drop sharply by Rs 2,375, silver also falls



WORLD | PAGE 09

Putin skips peace talks with Zelenskyy in Turkiye
A low-ranking Russian delegation arrives to meet Ukrainian team



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

Zeenat on rediscovering her love for cinema

In a nutshell

3 JeM terrorists killed in encounter

SRINAGAR: Three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Nader Tral area of Awantipora in the south Kashmir district after receiving specific inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said. The search operation turned into a gunfight after the terrorists opened fire at the forces, who retaliated. (PTI)

Indo-Pak ceasefire extended

ISLAMABAD: DGMOs of Pakistan and India talked over a hotline to discuss the ceasefire, which has now been extended until May 18, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar claimed. Pakistan's DGMO Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah and his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai spoke over a hotline on Wednesday, Dar told the Senate. There was no response from the Indian side on Dar's claim. "...it has been decided to continue the confidence building measures so as to reduce the alertness level," an Indian Army official said. (PTI)

'Restore Kancha forest or officials face jail'

SC raps TG govt, says felling of trees appears pre-planned

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said felling of trees next to the University of Hyderabad (UoH) prima facie appeared to be "pre-planned" and asked the Telangana government to restore it or its officials could land in jail.

A Bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said it was for the State to make a choice between restoring the forest or wanting to send their officials to prison.

The Bench questioned why trees were felled taking advantage of a long weekend when the courts were not available. "Prime facie, it appears that it was all pre-planned. Three days holidays coming and you took advantage as court would not be available," the CJ said. While taking suo motu cognisance of the deforestation activities in the Kancha Gachibowli Forest, the apex court on April 3 ordered a status quo until further orders, except the protection of trees already existing

DECLARE KANCHA GACHIBOWLI FOREST LAND: SC COMMITTEE

HYDERABAD: The SC-appointed Central Empowered Committee has exposed a pattern of systematic violations by the State government in the Kancha Gachibowli forest area. The committee has also issued strong corrective measures, including declaration of the area as forest land, with control handed to the Forest Department. The addendum to Report No. 18 of 2025 points to deliberate deforestation, data suppression and disregard for environmental obligations. (REPORT PAGE 5)

REVANTH RESPONSIBLE FOR TREE FELLING, SAYS KTR

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directly responsible for the large-scale felling of trees in Kancha Gachibowli. He castigated the CM for making the officials face the Supreme Court's wrath for his misdeeds. Taking to X, Rama Rao said Revanth Reddy's misdeeds have brought Telangana officials to the brink of jail. He asserted that immediate restoration of Kancha Gachibowli forest is non-negotiable. (SEE PAGE 2)

there by the state or any authority. On Thursday, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Telangana government, said there was no activity being carried out at the site and assured of complying with the top court's directives in "letter and spirit".

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, assisting the top court as an amicus curiae, said the Forest Survey of India gave a report to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) after using satellite imagery indicating only 60 per cent of the total

104 acre area, where trees were felled, was moderately dense and heavily dense forest. "If you want to be saved from contempt, better take a decision to restore the forest," the Bench told the state's counsel.

The Bench went on, "We are putting you on guard. If you try to defend such a thing, the chief secretary and all those officers involved will be in trouble." It added, "You should not have indulged into this. Taking advantage of a long weekend, you do all this thing." Referring to the pho-

tographs, the Bench said the authorities had managed to arrange dozens of bulldozers to fell the trees. For felling trees, the bench observed, the state was required to take requisite permission. "If you had bonafide, then why did you not start it on a Monday? Why only started it at the beginning of a long weekend?" the Bench asked.

Singhvi, who said the State has filed a counter affidavit in the court, argued he would deal with these aspects during his arguments. (SEE PAGE 2)

Trump wants Apple to quit India; can't shift, says tech giant

NEW DELHI

iPhone maker Apple's investment plans for India are intact and the company proposes to have a major manufacturing base for its products in the country, government sources said.

Soon after US President Donald Trump made a statement that he has asked Apple CEO Tim Cook to cut India manufacturing, Indian officials spoke to executives of the Cupertino-based firm.

Apple executives assured the Indian government officials that the company's investment plans are intact and the country would be a major manufacturing base of Apple.

"Apple has said that its investment plans in India are intact and it proposes to continue to have India as a major manufacturing base for its products," the source said. E-mail query sent to Apple in this regard elicited no immediate response.

Earlier in the day, Trump said he spoke to Cook and told him that he doesn't want Apple to make its products in India and instead increase production in the US. "We have Apple, as

India offering US zero tariff trade deal, claims POTUS

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday India has offered to enter a bilateral trade deal with the US that "basically" proposes that "no tariffs" would be levied on a range of American goods. "They are offering us a deal where basically they are willing to literally charge us no tariffs," Trump said during a meeting with business executives in Qatar's capital Doha where he is on a state visit. However, Trump did not offer any further details. As part of ongoing discussions on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, representatives of India's Department of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representative held fruitful discussions in April. (REPORT PAGE 8)

you know, it's coming in. And I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday. I said to him, Tim, you're my friend. I treated you very well. You're coming in with USD 500 billion. But now I hear you're building all over India. I don't want you building in India. You can build in India if you want to take care of India," Trump said.

He said that India is one of the highest tariff nations in the world and it is very hard to sell into India. "They've (India) offered us a deal where basically

they're willing to literally charge us no tariff. So we go from the highest tariff. You couldn't do business in India... But I said to Tim...we treated you really good. We put up with all the plants that you built in China for years. Now you got to build us. We're not interested in you building in India. India can take care of themselves. They're doing very well. We want you to build here. And they're going to be upping their production in the United States, Apple," Trump said. (PTI)

Turkish airport services firm loses security clearance

NEW DELHI

Aviation watchdog Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) on Thursday revoked the security clearance for Turkish ground handling company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd in the "interest of national security".

The decision came days after Turkiye backed Islamabad and condemned India's recent strikes on terror camps in Pakistan. Celebi Airport Services India, which is part of Turkiye-based Celebi, offers services at nine airports — Mumbai, Delhi, Cochin, Kannur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Goa (GOX), Ahmedabad and Chennai. "... the security clearance in r/o Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd is hereby revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security," BCAS said.

According to Celebi's website, its presence in India grew exponentially with three entities. "Celebi's first step into India started off with a joint venture with a mandate to provide comprehensive and world-class services at Mumbai Interna-

MANUU cancels MoU with Turkiye institute

HYDERABAD: The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) on Thursday announced the cancellation of its academic MoU with Yunus Emre Institute, Turkiye with immediate effect. The decision has been taken in protest against Turkiye's support for Pakistan's terrorist activities in the backdrop of Indo-Pak tensions. The University had on January 2, 2024, signed a MoU with Yunus Emre Institute, Turkiye, for a period of five years, under which a diploma in Turkish language was started at the School of Languages, Linguistics & Indology. Services of a visiting professor were hired for this. It is also worth mentioning that the visiting professor from Turkiye has already returned to his country, the MANUU said. With this decision, the MANUU has joined the growing list of Indian universities withdrawing from the collaboration with Turkish educational institutions. The Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, was the first university to formally announce the halting of its collaboration with Inonu University in Malatya, Turkiye, over 'national security concerns'. Following this, Jamia Millia Islamia has decided to put its partnership with institutions affiliated with Turkiye.

tional Airport. Within a year, Celebi was registered in India to provide ground handling as Celebi Airport Services India and cargo services as Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India at Delhi International Airport," the website added. Meanwhile, Adani

Airport Holdings has scrapped its agreement with Turkish company DragonPass to provide the latter's customers access to its airport lounges. Adani Digital Labs had only last week announced its partnership with DragonPass. AGENCIES (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

NEW DELHI

India's relations and dealings with Pakistan will be "strictly bilateral", which is a national consensus for many years and there is "absolutely no change" in that consensus, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event, he also said the Indus Waters Treaty (ISWT) will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" stops its support for cross-border terrorism. He said the UN Security Council had underlined the need to hold the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack accountable, and on May 7 morning, "we held them accountable through Operation Sindoor".

"To me things are fairly clear. So, let me take this opportunity to spell out our position. One, where Pakistan is concerned, our relations, our dealings with them will be bilateral, and strictly bilateral. That is a national consensus for many years, and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilat-



Hoteliers, pony riders and tour guides carrying the Tricolour during a Tiranga Yatra in Pahalgam, J&K, on Thursday. — Photo: AP

eral," Jaishankar said. "...Pakistan has a list of terrorists, who need to be handed over. They have to shut down terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do," the External Affairs Minister said. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

PAKISTAN PLEADS WITH INDIA TO RECONSIDER INDUS WATERS TREATY

Weeks after India placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, Pakistan signalled its willingness to discuss New Delhi's long-standing concerns about the treaty, sources said. According to the sources, Pakistan's Water Resources Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza responded to the Indian government's notification on the suspension. He expressed his government's readiness to discuss specific objections raised by New Delhi. (PTI)

Foot-washing: BRS writes to Sonia

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The BRS came down heavily on the Congress government for orchestrating an "insulting spectacle" during a Miss World pre-event in Warangal, where Dalit, tribal and economically disadvantaged women were allegedly made to wash and wipe the feet of foreign participants.

Dubbing it as a grave affront to Telangana's dignity, the BRS condemned the incident as humiliating and unacceptable. In a strongly worded letter to senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, BRS leaders P Sabitha Indra



Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, V Sunita Laxma Reddy and MLA Kova Laxmi, among others, urged immediate intervention to restore the State's self-respect. They demanded an unconditional public apology from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy

and called for swift corrective measures to address public anger and outrage.

The leaders termed the incident a "shameful betrayal" of the ideals of the Telangana statehood movement. "Reducing Dalit and tribal women to props in a

global publicity stunt, undermines sacrifices of martyrs and violates the very essence of our struggle," they said. They blamed the Congress government for promoting a servile mindset that runs counter to Telangana's identity and pride.


The BRS criticised the Congress for its 18 months of deception, wherein the government failed to deliver on key promises under the Mahalakshmi scheme, such as Rs 2,500 monthly support and scooters for girl students. "While claiming financial constraints to fulfil promises, it spent Rs 200 crore on beauty pageants," the leaders said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Metro ride turns costly

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) on Thursday announced revised fare structures across all its services in the twin cities, which will come into effect from Saturday, May 17.

The L&T Metro Rail said the Fare Fixation Committee of the Hyderabad Metro Rail, after taking into consideration affordability and financial sustainability, has recommended the revised fare structure. The HMR officials said in accordance with Section 34 of Metro Railways (Operation & Maintenance) Act, 2002, a

THE REVISED FARES ARE		
Up to 2 km	Rs 12	
More than 2 km up to 4 km	Rs 18	
More than 4 km up to 6 km	Rs 30	
More than 6 km up to 9 km	Rs 40	
More than 9 km up to 12 km	Rs 50	
More than 12 km up to 15 km	Rs 55	
More than 15 km up to 18 km	Rs 60	
More than 18 km up to 21 km	Rs 66	
More than 21 km up to 24 km	Rs 70	
More than 24 km	Rs 75	

Fare Fixation Committee under the Chairmanship of former Judge of the High Court was constituted for recommending a revised fare structure. The Fare Fixation Committee submitted its report recommending

the revised fare structure on January 25, 2023. As per Section 37 of the Metro Railway O&M Act, the recommendations made by the FFC shall be binding on the Metro Railway Administration. (SEE PAGE 2)

AIIMS Bibinagar medico ends life

HYDERABAD

A MBBS student at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, reportedly died by suicide, police said on Thursday.

Abhijeet (23) ended his life allegedly by jumping into Pedda Cheruvu lake at Bibinagar in Yadadri-Bhongir district, about 40 km from Hyderabad. Police, with the help of expert swimmers, pulled out his body from the lake and shifted it for autopsy. His two-wheeler, footwear and phone were found near the lake. (FULL REPORT PAGE 4)