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Eliminating terrorism new normal, says Rajnath



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Russia-Ukraine peace talks end within two hours

Both sides agree on large prisoner swap, remain far apart on conditions for ending war



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IPL resumes with RCB vs KKR face-off; Kohli in focus

In a nutshell

6 terrorists killed in 2 major ops

AWANTIPORA: Security forces turned the focus of their anti-terror operations to specific south Kashmir areas in the wake of the Pahalgam attack and eliminated six terrorists in the last three days, officials said on Friday. "The security agencies reviewed their strategy according to the situation in the wake of terror activities in the last one month and our intensified focus was on operations," VK Birdi, IGP, Kashmir, said. He termed the elimination of the ultras "significant achievements". PTI

PSLV to mark 63rd launch on May 18

NEW DELHI: The indigenous PSLV is set to mark its 63rd launch with Earth Observation Satellite-09 (EOS-09) on May 18, said ISRO Chairman V Narayanan on Friday. He noted that EOS-09 will be the 101st satellite to be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. "At 5.59 am, we have scheduled the 101st launch of India. The PSLV-C61 rocket will carry the Earth Observation Satellite-09," Narayanan told reporters. NATION PAGE 8

Narco-smuggling module busted

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Police on Friday said it has busted a Pakistan-based and ISI-controlled narco-smuggling module and arrested its Indian operative with 85 kg of heroin. The module was being operated by a UK-based drug handler, it said. Director General of Punjab Police Gaurav Yadav termed it the "biggest drug seizure of 2025". He said the Indian operative has been identified as Amarjot Singh alias Jota Sandhu, a resident of Bhittevad village in Amritsar. PTI

Rushdie's attacker gets 25 yrs in jail

MAYVILLE: The man convicted of stabbing Salman Rushdie on a New York lecture stage in 2022, leaving the author blind in one eye, was sentenced on Friday to serve 25 years in prison. A jury found Hadi Matar guilty of attempted murder and assault in February. Rushdie did not return to court for his assailant's sentencing but submitted a victim impact statement. During the trial, the 77-year-old author was the key witness. AP



Tollywood actors turn producers

Say experience reminds them of joy and purpose

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TG's fiscal woes put brakes on govt schemes

Latest CAG report paints troubling picture of a govt under severe financial strain

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana is staring at an increasingly fragile fiscal condition as the State's provisional accounts for 2024-25 reveal sharp slippages in revenue mobilisation and an alarming rise in both revenue and fiscal deficits.

Against a budgeted revenue surplus of Rs 297 crore, Telangana ended the year with a revenue deficit of Rs 8,782 crore, a steep reversal indicating that the government spent significantly more than it earned in recurring income and affecting the State's ability to fund development and welfare programmes without incurring debt.

CAG report

The latest report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) paints a troubling picture of a government under severe financial strain and increasing dependence on borrowings to stay afloat. The State's fiscal deficit, which is the gap between total receipts and expenditure excluding borrowings, stood at Rs 48,322 crore, nearly touching the

Bare Facts

Revenue receipts: **Rs 1,68 lakh cr**
Fiscal deficit: **Rs 48,322 cr**

• Tax revenue: **Rs 1.36 lakh cr**
• GST: **Rs 50,343 cr**

• Stamps and Registration: **Rs 8,473 cr**
• Sales tax: **Rs 31,815 cr**

• Excise: **Rs 18,603 cr**
• State's share of union taxes: **Rs 19,149 cr**

• Borrowings & Other Liabilities (net): **Rs 48,322 cr**
• Revenue deficit: **Rs 8,782 cr**

budget estimate of Rs 49,255 crore. Though the percentage utilisation (98.11 per cent) may appear within control, it must be viewed in the context of reduced revenue receipts, which have left the State with less inter-

nal capacity to repay or manage debt sustainably.

Revenue receipts

Telangana realised only 75.85 per cent of its estimated revenue receipts, i.e. Rs 1.68 lakh crore against the Rs 2.21 lakh crore target, falling short by a massive Rs 53,000 crore. During previous fiscal, the State generated nearly 78 per cent of the revenue receipts.

Tax revenue was down to Rs 1.36 lakh crore from a projected Rs 1.64 lakh crore. Notably, stamps and registration receipts collapsed to just 46.48 per cent of the projections, while excise collections also lagged, achieving only 72.6 per cent of the target. The non-tax revenue hit just 67 per cent of estimates and grants-in-aid from the Centre also remained only 36.5 per cent of the expected amount.

However, the State's net borrowings stood at Rs 48,322 crore, accounting for over 98 per cent of the budgeted estimate. While capital expenditure marginally overshot targets with Rs 36,209 crore against Rs 33,486 crore, it was serviced by debt rather than tax revenues. (SEE PAGE 2)

India to increase defence budget

NEW DELHI

India's defence preparedness may receive a major financial push, with government sources indicating a likely Rs 50,000 crore increase in the nation's military budget following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor.

A report quoting government sources stated, the additional funds are expected to be allocated through a supplementary budget later this year, potentially pushing the total Defence outlay beyond the Rs 7 lakh-crore mark for the first time.

The union Budget for 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, had already earmarked a record Rs 6.81 lakh crore for defence. This figure marked a significant 9.2 per cent rise from the previous year's Rs

Likely to go up by Rs 50,000 crore following successful execution of Operation Sindoor, say sources

6.22 lakh crore. If the additional allocation is approved, it will further underscore the government's strategic priority towards military modernisation and national security.

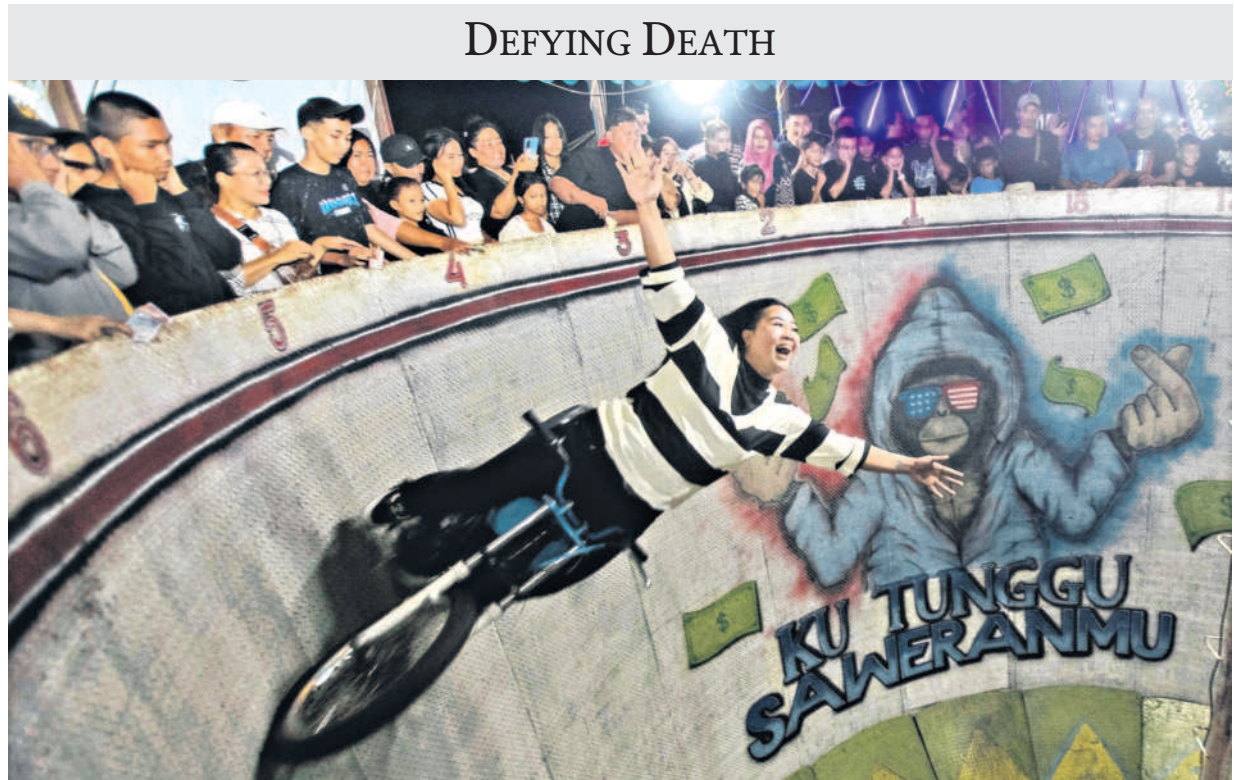
Sources said the extra funds will be channelled into key areas such as R&D, procurement of advanced weaponry, replenishment of ammunition stocks, and acquisition of state-of-the-art military hardware. The proposal is likely to be tabled during the Winter Session. IAN S

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ahmedabad Zonal Unit, reportedly arrested city-based businessman, Basharith Khan, the owner of Car Lounge showroom in Gachibowli, on charges of customs duty evasion of nearly Rs 25 crore in the import of high-end luxury cars.

Based on specific intelligence inputs, the DRI found that luxury vehicles were imported into India at nearly 50 per cent of their value through deliberate under-invoicing and misdeclaration at Indian ports.

Basharith was picked up by the DRI officials on Tuesday and produced before a special court in Ahmedabad. DRI officials suspect the fraud would be around Rs



A stuntwoman performs in the 'Wall of Death', locally known as 'Tong Setan' or Satan's barrel, at a fairground in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. — Photo: AP

India to go all out to expose Pak

All-party delegations to present country's stance on terror

NEW DELHI

As part of a major diplomatic offensive, the government will send several all-party delegations to different countries, starting next week, to expose Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on the world forum.

The diplomatic exercise aimed at presenting India's stance against Pakistan on terror comes in the wake of Operation Sindoor — the Indian offensive against terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following the April 22 terror at-

tack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Senior leaders, including MPs, of various political parties, including those from the opposition, have been sounded out by the government and some parties have also given their go-ahead to the presence of their members for the diplomatic exercise.

Sources said some former Ministers would lead the delegations of MPs from different parties to a cluster of countries across the world. While there was no clarity

on the exact number of delegations or their members, some leaders said more than 30 MPs could be included in the outreach exercise.

The delegations will visit different countries for a period of 10 days. The MPs will visit different blocs of countries, as earmarked by the government. The MEA will brief the MPs before they depart. Among the parties whose MPs will be part of the delegation are the BJP, Congress, TMC, DMK, NCP (SP), JDU, BJD, CPI(M), and some others, the sources said. A leader of a party that

has been sounded out for the exercise said they were told to be ready to leave by May 22-23 for a period of 10 days and that the MEA would be in touch with them to provide the necessary details, including the itinerary.

Former Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi are among the ruling party members to be part of the delegations, the sources said. At least four MPs from the Congress, besides members of other parties, have been tapped about the diplomatic exercise. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

'Cheap' trick with luxury cars lands bizman in soup



BASHARATH KHAN, OWNER OF CAR LOUNGE, IMPORTED LUXURY VEHICLES AT NEARLY 50% OF THEIR VALUE THROUGH UNDER-INVOICING, MISDECLARATION

100 crore. DRI officials found that the vehicles originally sourced from the USA and Japan were first shipped to Dubai or Sri Lanka for conversion from left-hand drive to right-hand drive and other modifications. After these alterations, the cars were imported into India using falsified documents that significantly undervalued the vehicles, thereby evading substantial customs duties.

The probe revealed that over 30 luxury vehicles, including Hummer EV, Cadillac Escalade, Rolls-Royce, Lexus, Toyota Land Cruiser, and Lincoln Navigator, were imported using this method. Importers involved in the scheme are located in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Delhi, with total duty evasion estimated at Rs 25 crore. Other importers and users are under DRI's scanner.

'Cong running 30% commission sarkaar'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao took a sharp jab at Minister Konda Surekha and the Congress government on Friday, charging it with operating a "30 per cent commission sarkaar". He demanded a probe into corruption allegations by Surekha within the Cabinet.

Reacting to Konda Surekha's recent remarks, Rama Rao congratulated her for speaking truths. He cited Surekha's claims that the Ministers in the Revanth Reddy government do not sign files without demanding commissions, calling an 'open secret' in Telangana today.

He also reminded about the contractors staging a protest inside the State Secretariat recently, exposing the government's commission business demanding

I dare Revanth Reddy or Rahul Gandhi to launch an inquiry into the serious charges made by one of their Ministers

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS

hefty cuts in the release of bills and tenders.

The BRS working president challenged the Congress leadership, asking whether Chief Minister Revanth Reddy or party leader Rahul Gandhi would dare to launch an inquiry into the serious charges made by one of their own Cabinet Ministers. "I request Konda Surekha to name and shame all the Congress Ministers involved," he urged.

Hyd top cop bags international award

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand, representing the H-NEW (Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing), was awarded the 'Excellence in Anti-Narcotics Award' at the World Police Summit (WPS) 2025, organised by the Dubai Police between May 13 and 16.

At the awards ceremony held on Friday at the Dubai Police Officers Club in Dubai, UAE, Anand received the award from the World Police Summit Committee. This international



Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand receiving the 'Excellence in Anti-Narcotics Award' in Dubai.

recognition was bestowed upon him due to the proactive measures undertaken to curb drug trafficking and

consumption in Hyderabad, awareness programs conducted for drug control within the students and gen-

eral community in the Hyderabad Commissionerate limits and the achievements made in this regard in the past three years.

The Commissioner stated that prominent police officers from 138 countries participated in the International Police Summit-2025.

He expressed his immense happiness that the Hyderabad City Police's H-NEW (Narcotics Enforcement Wing) had won the 'Excellence in Anti-Narcotics Award' after competing with highly efficient police forces from various continents across the globe. (SEE PAGE 2)

Man lets loose dog on credit card agent

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A credit card collection agent lodged a complaint with the Madhura Nagar police alleging that a customer had allegedly ordered his pet dog to bite him when he visited his home to collect overdue payments.

As per available information, the suspect identified as Nandivardhan, a private employee from Jawaharnagar, had to pay a credit card bill of nearly Rs 2 lakh. There was no response

from him even after repeated reminders from the finance company.

Satyanarayana, a collection agent, was assigned the task to collect the credit card bills pending for several months. Recently, he went to Nandivardhan's residence with the intention of collecting the payments. When he asked the customer to settle the dues, the latter did not respond. Further, Nandivardhan allegedly commanded his pet to chase Satyanarayana and attack him. (SEE PAGE 2)

UN cuts India's growth forecast

UNITED NATIONS

India's economic growth forecast for 2025 has been revised downward to 6.3 per cent, and despite a projected moderation, the country remains one of the fastest-growing large economies, supported by resilient consumption and government spending, the United Nations has said.

It said the global economy is at a precarious juncture, marked by heightened trade tensions and elevated policy uncertainty. The surge in tariffs threatens to raise production costs. PTI (REPORT PAGE 8)