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Modi asks States to remove policy bottlenecks



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Yunus-led government looks to stem crisis

Advisory Council discusses “elections, reforms, and justice”



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Shubman Gill at helm, India gears up for Tests

### In a nutshell

#### Three-year-old girl raped, murdered

Kambaladinne (AP) A three-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped and murdered here in Kadapa district by a 25-year-old man, said a police official on Saturday. Additional Superintendent of Police Prakash Babu said the girl was allegedly raped and murdered by a person called Rahmatullah of Kambaladinne village in Mylavaram mandal around Friday noon. “He is in our custody,” Babu told PTI. According to police, Rahmatullah came to attend a wedding and allegedly took the girl behind the function hall and raped and smothered her to death. Police booked him under the SC, ST (prevention of atrocities) Act and POCSO Act. PTI

#### Amarnath yatra: Security reviewed

Srinagar: Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir Nalin Prabhat on Saturday reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. Prabhat chaired a meeting with officers from the police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and security and intelligence agencies at the Police Control Room-Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Special DGP Coordination S J M Gillani, ADGP M K Sinha, ADGP-CID Nitish Kumar, IGs of Kashmir and Jammu Zones, and IG, BSF, Kashmir. At the outset, the zonal IGSP briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

#### Two Maoists neutralised

RAIPUR: In a significant operation against Maoist insurgents, security forces neutralised two high-ranking members of the CPI (Maoist) group in Sukma and Bijapur of Chhattisgarh. The encounters, which took place on May 22, saw a fierce exchange of fire. In the first encounter in the forests of Pesalpad, security forces found the body of a male uniformed insurgent, later identified as Area Committee Member Madvi Maada. Meanwhile, a second encounter took place in the Tumrel area of Bijapur, where another hardcore Maoist Sandesh alias Sannu, Area Committee Member of the South Bastar Division Committee, was eliminated. IANS

# Revanth must step down or be sacked by Congress: BRS

**Demands action against the CM for alleged involvement in multiple scandals**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Launching a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy accusing him of orchestrating large-scale corruption and turning Telangana into an “ATM for the Congress party”, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday called for Reddy’s immediate resignation.

Addressing a news conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said “The ED’s findings confirm what BRS has been saying for years - Revanth Reddy has been collecting massive donations for Congress in return for posts and favours.”

Referring to the ED chargesheet in the National Herald case which had named Reddy for soliciting funds, he alleged that Revanth Reddy facilitated monetary transactions into the National Herald and Young India accounts.

He drew parallels with former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, who stepped down amid corruption allegations, and



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing a news conference at Telangana Bhavan.

demanding that Reddy follow suit or be ousted by the Congress high command. “Corruption is in the DNA of Congress. If Yediyurappa could resign, why is Revanth Reddy still clinging to power?” he questioned.

He demanded that the Congress leadership take immediate action against him for alleged involvement in multiple corruption scandals, including the National Herald case. Rama Rao accused Reddy of maintaining a conspicuous silence when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) named Con-

gress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, suggesting that Reddy’s silence owed to his complicity in the financial irregularities.

“Almost every Congress leader responded when Sonia Gandhi and Rahul were named in the National Herald case, but Revanth Reddy chose to stay silent. He knows he was a party to it,” Rama Rao alleged. He said the CM had been to Delhi as many as 44 times under various pretexts to “please his bosses- official and unofficial”. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Monsoon hits Kerala, earliest onset in 16 years

NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon hit Kerala on Saturday, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it reached the southern State on May 23, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Normally, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern State on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018, IMD data showed.

Data available since 1975 showed that the monsoon reached Kerala the earliest in 1990 (on May 19), 13 days before the usual date.

According to meteorologists, there is no direct rela-



Fishermen look for a catch in the Arabian Sea amid rain, at Vizhinjam harbour in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

tionship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season.

The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features, an IMD official said.

The IMD in April forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent.

According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered ‘normal’.

Rainfall less than 90 per cent of the long-period average is considered ‘deficient’; between 90 per cent and 95 per cent is ‘below normal’; between 105 per cent and 110 per cent is ‘above normal’; and more than 110 per cent is considered ‘excess’ precipitation. India saw 934.8 mm of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average and the highest since 2020. PTI

## ACB nabs SI for graft

CITY BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

A sub-inspector of Jagadgirigutta police station, K Shankar, was caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on charges of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 through a private person in the police station here on Saturday.

According to ACB officials, the police officer demanded the bribe from the complainant for allegedly releasing the latter’s vehicle and DJ system which were recently seized in connection with a case.

Shankar was caught when he was accepting the bribe amount through an associate, identified as Nagender, a resident of Jagadgirigutta. The tainted bribe amount was recovered from Nagender.

The tainted officer and his associate were produced before the special court for ACB cases. The ACB requested citizens to contact their toll free number 1064 or WhatsApp on 9440446106 in case of a demand of bribe by any public servant.

# Miss World contest runs into controversy

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

One controversy after another continues to mar the Miss World 2025 beauty pageant, currently being held in Hyderabad.

What the Congress government touted as a prestigious jewel in Hyderabad’s vibrant crown has now turned into a major embarrassment for Telangana and the country. Following the uproar over local women being made to wash the feet of beauty pageant contestants during their visit to the iconic Ramappa Temple, a more serious controversy is brewing.

Miss England, Milla Magee, has reportedly fled the competition, citing “superficial treatment and lack of respect toward contestants.” In an interview with The Sun, reigning Miss England Milla Magee levelled serious allegations against the pageant organisers, stating that she “felt like a prostitute” and was “farmed out for entertainment.”

Branding the contest “outdated,” she added that some of the 109 finalists were given a dressing down by a female official for being “boring” after an event “The point was to do good, promote change, and make a difference. But it became obvious that just wasn’t going to happen,” Milla told The Sun. Revealing disturbing details, Milla said she realised she was only there to be ogled. She claimed contestants were instructed to “entertain middle-aged men as a thank you for the money they put into the show.”

“There were two girls at each table of six guests. We were expected to sit with them for the whole evening and entertain them,” she said. “At one point I tried to talk about the causes I was supporting but it was obvious the men at the table were not interested. Instead there was weird small-talk that left me feeling uncomfortable. “I went out to make a difference, to help create a different future, perhaps inspire young people. Never in a million years did I expect to find myself in that situation. We were there to please these people and sit like performing monkeys. I couldn’t stand it.” Milla added: “She clapped her hands right in my face to get my attention and as a signal for people to listen to her. “It was so disrespectful, like she was addressing children rather than a coach full of adult women. It showed how little respect we were being treated with,” Milla said in her interview with The Sun. (SEE PAGE 2)



#### MILLA LEFT MIDWAY DUE TO “FAMILY ISSUE”, SAY ORGANISERS

Claiming that Milla Magee’s statements were “false and defamatory,” Julia Morley CBE, Chairwoman of Miss World, said the reigning Miss England has withdrawn midway due to a “reported” family emergency involving her mother’s health. “These claims are completely unfounded and inconsistent with the reality of her time with us,” Morley said. Following her departure, Charlotte Grant, the first runner-up of Miss England, stepped in to represent her country. She arrived in India on Wednesday and has since been warmly welcomed into the Miss World sisterhood. Earlier this month, Milla Magee requested to leave the competition due to a reported family emergency involving her mother’s health, Julia Morley said.



# LRS portal glitches leave many applicants in a bind

CITY BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

With six days remaining until the deadline, to avail the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS), anxious applicants in Serilingampally are being made to run from pillar to post due to technical problems in the Centre for Good Governance-developed portal.

The deadline was recently extended by the State government till May 31 but technical glitches have come as a major hurdle leaving applicants worried about submitting the documents and completing the process within a time-

**The deadline was extended by the State government till May 31 but technical glitches have come as a major hurdle**

bound schedule.

Kavi Raj, a property owner in Serilingampally, has been doing the rounds at the GHMC Zonal Office in Serilingampally for the past four days. “I can’t upload the original documents under the LRS scheme. The officials said they can’t take the documents manually,” he

told ‘Telangana Today’.

Kavi Raj said like him, many applicants were visiting the office and waiting for hours to complete the process.

The GHMC announced that applicants who pay regularisation and pro-rata open space charges by March 31 will receive a 25 per cent discount on these charges. However, due technical glitches, in some areas, the applicants are facing hardships due to non-functioning of the official portal.

Efforts to reach the Serilingampally town planning officials to clarify the technical problems being faced didn’t yield any response.

NEW DELHI

Amid reports of increasing cases of SARS-CoV-2 virus in India, data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), set up under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, showed the presence of NB.1.8.1, LF.7 — descendants of JN.1 Covid variant in the country.

Data from the INSACOG showed one case of NB.1.8.1 and four instances of the LF.7 type. While NB.1.8.1 was identified in April in Tamil Nadu, four cases of LF.7 were detected in Gujarat in May.

(SEE PAGE 2)

# ‘2 Covid variants active in India’

#### 84-year-old dies, tests Covid +ve

BENGALURU: An 84-year-old man with severe comorbidities has died in Bengaluru and his Covid-19 test results came positive on Saturday, said health officials. The man with severe comorbidities got admitted to a private hospital in Whitefield, Bengaluru, on May 13 and died on May 17. Results of Covid-19 test taken on him when he was alive came on Saturday. PTI

# Pak in violation of IWT: India slams ‘disinformation’

UNITED NATIONS

India ripped through Pakistan’s “disinformation” at the UN on the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that Islamabad violated its spirit by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

“We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Waters Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian

state,” India’s Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said on Friday.

Harish was addressing the UN Security Council Arria Formula meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia on ‘Protecting Water in Armed Conflict - Protecting Civilian Lives.’ Harish highlighted four aspects to expose the “disinformation” by Pakistan, which spoke about India’s decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty.

In the wake of the horrific April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir in

which 26 civilians were killed, India had decided that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 would be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

Harish told the UN meeting that India had entered into the Indus Waters Treaty 65 years ago in good faith.

Harish said throughout these six and a half decades, “Pakistan has violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India.” PTI