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AP diverting Godavari river water, alleges Harish Rao



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Russia hits Ukraine with largest strike, kills 12

Uses 69 missiles of various types, 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones



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T'wood lacks respect for TDP-led NDA govt: Pawan

In a nutshell

Doval for Moscow next week

MOSCOW: India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is expected here early next week to attend a major security meeting organised by Russia's Security Council. He has been invited for the 13th international meeting of high representatives for security issues on May 27-29 under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu. Invitations were sent to more than 150 countries of the Global South and East. PTI

Intense rain batters Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Heavy monsoon rain battered Kerala on Sunday, causing widespread damage as houses were inundated, low-lying areas flooded, and agricultural lands ruined, with trees uprooted across the State, including one that crashed onto a moving train in Thrissur. Officials said a man was killed when an uprooted tree fell on him while he was riding a scooter in Villyappally, Kozhikode. PTI

Three infiltration bids foiled

NEW DELHI: In a series of aggressive ceasefire violations and infiltration attempts, Pakistan made three unsuccessful bids to push terrorists across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir between May 6 to May 10. A senior Army Commander said that each attempt involved groups of three to four infiltrators and was orchestrated under the direct guidance of the Pakistani Army. "All infiltration efforts were successfully foiled by alert Indian troops," he said. IANIS

Israel strikes in Gaza kill 38 people

DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes over the past 24 hours killed at least 38 people in Gaza, including a mother and her two children sheltering in a tent, health officials said on Sunday, with no data available for a second straight day from now-inaccessible hospitals in the north. Gaza's Health Ministry said 3,785 people have been killed in the territory since Israel ended a ceasefire and renewed its offensive in March. WORLD PAGE 9

Funds crunch lands Cong govt in a spot

Instead of coming up with solutions, Ministers shifting the blame by accusing officials of inefficiency

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Despite repeated high-level meetings and promises of a financial turnaround, the Congress government in Telangana appears to be still grappling with a serious resource crunch, struggling to generate additional revenue to keep the administration afloat. Instead of coming up with solutions to address the crisis, the Ministers are now shifting the blame, accusing officials of inefficiency.

Telangana's fiscal woes have deepened in 2024-25, with the State receiving only Rs 1.68 lakh crore against the targeted Rs 2.21 lakh crore. Tax revenue was down to Rs 1.36 lakh crore from the projected Rs 1.64 lakh crore. While the State's net borrowings stood at Rs 48,322 crore, the capital expenditure was around Rs 36,209 crore, which was propped up by debt rather than the State's own revenue resources. Multiple meetings of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on resource mobilisa-

Telangana's fiscal woes have deepened in 2024-25, with the State receiving only Rs 1.68 lakh crore against the targeted Rs 2.21 lakh crore

tion, led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and comprising key Ministers, have yielded little progress. The committee, which includes Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, D Sridhar Babu and Jupally Krishna Rao, has reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over the poor performance of several departments, barring Commercial Taxes, which showed modest growth during the previous fiscal of 2024-25.

Repeated instructions from the Ministers are reportedly falling on deaf ears. In some meetings, officials have been accused of recycling old reports without offering new solutions. The lone bright spot remains the Commercial Taxes Department, which achieved 6 per cent revenue growth in March, though it fell short of

the target. Officials across key revenue-generating departments — Excise, Mining, Revenue, Transport, Stamps and Registration, Commercial Taxes, Revenue and Housing — are under severe pressure from the political leadership to come up with tangible solutions to improve revenue.

However, official sources said they were blamed for the poor revenue with allegations of inefficiency and inaction, despite the political leadership giving no clarity on the priorities and route map. "The political leaders want the officials to perform our best, but also expect us to accommodate all their personal interests and financial requirements. Rather than releasing funds for welfare programmes and improving capital expenditure which could have en-

sured circulation of money in the market, the government is clearing pending bills and advances of certain ruling party leaders, including some Ministers, which is precisely the reason for lack of funds for various schemes," lamented a senior official in the Revenue Department.

While the government recently rolled out an action plan to enhance revenues by identifying costly land parcels, boosting excise income, accelerating construction permits and streamlining sand sales through tribal societies, sources said there has been little progress. Even as apartment sales showed promise, expected gains from open plots and agricultural land remain elusive.

Unless it plugs revenue leakages and takes concrete steps to stabilise the State's finances, the Congress government's credibility will take a further beating and the government might have to think twice even for routine expenses.

India fourth largest economy, pips Japan

Overall geopolitical, economic environment favourable to India, says NITI Aayog CEO

NEW DELHI

India has become the fourth largest economy in the world, overtaking Japan, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said. Subrahmanyam said the overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. "We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a \$4 trillion economy as I speak," he said.

Citing IMF data, Subrahmanyam said India today is larger than Japan. Till 2024, India was the fifth-largest economy in the world. "It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April, had said India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion in 2025, ahead of Japan. India's nominal GDP for 2025 (FY26) is expected

Path to progress

IMF, IN ITS WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT RELEASED IN APRIL, HAD SAID INDIA IS EXPECTED TO BE THE FOURTH LARGEST ECONOMY WITH A GDP OF \$4.19 TRILLION IN 2025, AHEAD OF JAPAN

- o **\$4.187 bn:** India's expected nominal GDP for FY26
- o Per capita income has doubled from **\$1,438** in 2013-14 to **\$2,880** in 2025
- o Economy projected to grow at **6.2%** in 2025-26, slower than earlier estimated rate of **6.5%** due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty
- o Global economy estimated to grow at **3%** in 2026

“It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy

— BVR SUBRAHMANYAM
NITI Aayog CEO

to be \$4.187 billion, marginally more than the likely GDP of Japan which is estimated at \$4.187 billion, the IMF had said.

According to IMF data, India's per capita income has doubled from \$1,438 in 2013-14 to \$2,880 in 2025. The IMF, in its WEO report, also said the Indian economy is projected to grow at

6.2 per cent in 2025-26, slower than earlier estimated rate of 6.5 per cent, due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty. "For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 per cent in 2025, supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the IMF had said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Miss World row snowballs

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Congress government, stung by the negative publicity it got on the international stage after the Miss World competition hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, on Sunday began targeting Miss England Milla Magee, accusing her of making baseless allegations and going to the extent of suggesting that some statements could have been made on offer of money.

Milla Magee, who exited from the competition on May 16, in an interview with British tabloid 'The Sun', had alleged that she was asked to socialise with a few men as a sign of gratitude for their financial sponsorship of the event being organised by the State government. She had gone to the extent of saying that she was made to "feel like a prostitute".

With the episode turning out to be a major embarrassment for Telangana on the global stage, the State government, which is yet to constitute any probe com-

PROBE MISS WORLD FIASCO, DEMANDS BRS

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday condemned the alleged harassment faced by Miss England Milla Magee during her visit to Telangana, terming the incident against the State's cultural ethos. He extended his solidarity with the Miss World contestant and demanded a thorough investigation into the allegations. "It takes a lot of courage to stand up and call out misogynistic behaviour, especially on an international platform like Miss World," he stated, in response to Milla Magee's public disclosure of her unpleasant experience during the global beauty event held in Hyderabad. (REPORT PAGE 5)

mittee despite serious allegations, got Special Chief Secretary (Tourism) Jayesh Ranjan to do damage control. Ranjan, who condemned Magee's allegations calling them baseless, claimed that he had done a "personal enquiry" and "found no basis in her allegations".

Speaking to 'Telangana Today' too, Ranjan said the same, that he had "personally conducted a detailed enquiry and found no basis in her allegations."



The government also released a video of a dinner, stating that it was the only dinner that Magee attended, and that the visuals had no confirmation of her allegations, with Magee seen with a senior IAS official and his family.

Speaking to a vernacular news channel, Ranjan said Magee had participated in only one dinner programme at Chowmohalla Palace and left for England citing "personal reasons". (SEE PAGE 2)
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

Liberian ship with hazardous cargo sinks off Kerala coast; State on alert



The Liberian container vessel, carrying marine fuel, nearly 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi. — Photo: PTI

KOCHI

A Liberian cargo ship, carrying 640 containers including 13 with hazardous cargo, capsized and sank in the sea off the State's coast in the early hours of Sunday, leading to a major oil leak, a top official said.

The Kerala government has sounded a statewide alert and fishermen have

been advised not to venture into the sea, as the Coast Guard works to contain the spill. With the rescue of three more crew members by a Navy ship, the 24-member crew has been rescued.

In the early hours of Sunday, the ship, 'MSC ELSA 3', listed rapidly, capsized and sank, a Coast Guard statement said. The incident has led to a significant oil spill,

with leaked fuel drifting at around 3 kmph, prompting authorities to brace for potential impact along the Kerala coastline.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), coordinating the pollution response, said the ship had 84.44 metric tonnes of diesel and 367.1 metric tonnes of furnace oil in its tanks, in addition to containers carrying hazardous ma-

terials such as calcium carbide — a chemical that reacts violently with seawater to release highly flammable acetylene gas.

Noting that the Kerala coast is home to vivid biodiversity and is a major tourist attraction, the Coast Guard said it has geared up pollution response preparedness and coordination with the state administration. PTI

Covid-19 is endemic now, just like seasonal diseases, say experts

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

There are clear indications that Covid-19 has become endemic not only in Telangana but across the country. As a result of its endemicity, the virus continues to circulate in different variants and causes infections whenever ideal conditions present themselves. However, its impact has now become generally manageable, similar to seasonal illnesses such as the flu, public health experts here believe.

"Covid-19 has effectively transitioned into an endemic phase, as clearly reflected in the evolving pattern of SARS-CoV-2 variants across different

BENGALURU MAN DIES OF COVID

BENGALURU: Bengaluru has reported its first Covid-19 death, according to an official statement issued by the Karnataka Health Department. Sources in the Health Department said the deceased was an 85-year-old man. The patient died on Saturday, said the department, adding that 108 persons were tested for Covid in the last 24 hours, and five tested positive. One person was discharged from the hospital, and the total number of active cases stood at 38. Among the total 38 active cases, 32 were reported from Bengaluru. IANIS

countries. Up until the emergence of JN.1 variant, there was a relatively uniform global pattern in variant circulation. However, post-JN.1, this trend has shifted, with each country now demonstrating its own distinct evolutionary trajectories," says Dr Kiran Mad-

hala, head of critical care at Gandhi Hospital.

This divergence marks a clear departure from the previously observed global uniformity, indicating that Covid-19 variant evolution has become geographically localised, a hallmark of an endemic infection, Dr Kiran

points out. Endemic diseases are something that consistently surge every year at specific geographical areas, but can be managed. "We must realise that Covid-19 is a seasonal disease now. Unlike previous Covid waves, the new variants cause mild cold-like symptoms that even do not need hospitalisation. Basic precautions such as cough etiquette are enough," advises Dr Ravinder Nayak, Director of Public Health (DPH), Telangana. Since 2022-23, senior scientists, researchers and public health specialists have been noting that Covid-19 is steadily making its transition from a pandemic to an endemic disease. (SEE PAGE 2)

Lalu expels son Tej from RJD over illicit affair

PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad on Sunday expelled his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav from the party, besides declaring "he shall have nothing to do with the family". Yadav on Saturday announced on social media that he was "in a relationship for 12 years" with a woman, despite being married and his divorce petition pending before a family court. He deleted the post, claiming that his FB page was hacked. (REPORT PAGE 7)

Cop dies, two others injured in accident

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A police head constable was killed while two other policemen sustained injuries when a truck rammed them at Shamshabad in the city's suburbs on Saturday night.

The head constable is identified as D Vijay Kumar and the injured are Yadaiah and E Srinivas. According to the police, on Saturday around 9.30 pm Shamshabad police received information about a road accident at Pedda Shahpur. Following the in-

formation, a police team from Shamshabad was sent to the spot to enquire into the incident and regulate the traffic.

The police team reached the spot and was regulating the traffic flow along with the traffic policemen. "Around 10.45 pm, a speeding truck rammed the two police vehicles on the road and hit the policemen, leading to the death of the head constable and injuries to three other policemen," said Shamshabad Inspector K Narender Reddy. (SEE PAGE 2)

City firm develops kamikaze drones

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

A city-based aerospace and defence manufacturing firm, Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools (RVMT), has reportedly announced plans to develop a cutting-edge kamikaze drone.

According to social media posts, including on X, the proposed drone was showcased recently at an industry event and will have RVMT's fully indigenous micro turbojet engine, 'INDRA RV25:240N', as its soul. It is said to have a projected range of 500 km. (SEE PAGE 2)