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Bullets will be met with cannon balls: PM warns Pak



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China threat in Indo-Pacific real, says US Defence Secy

Pete Hegseth says Beijing's army "rehearsing for the real deal"



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Sinner rules, storms into fourth round at French Open

In a nutshell

NIA raids 15 places to probe spy ring

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted a massive search operation at 15 locations in eight states across the country in a Pakistan-linked espionage case. The searches were conducted at the premises of suspects linked with Pakistan Intelligence Operatives in Delhi, Maharashtra (Mumbai), Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam and West Bengal, officials said. PTI

1,500 tourists stranded in Sikkim

GANGTOK: Nearly 1,500 tourists were stranded in various parts of north Sikkim on Saturday as the main road was blocked due to landslides triggered by incessant rains, officials said. On the other side, the search for the missing eight tourists was disrupted by heavy rain, and it was finally suspended after the water level in the Teesta river increased, they said. One was killed, two injured and eight went missing. NATION PAGE 7

7 NCP MLAs join NDPP in Nagaland

KOHIMA: All seven NCP MLAs in Nagaland joined the ruling NDPP on Saturday, giving the CM Neiphiu Rio-led party an absolute majority in the 60-member Assembly. With this merger, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party's (NDPP) tally increased from 25 to 32. The NCP's Nagaland unit had sided with the Ajit Pawar-led faction after the party split. NCP emerged as third-largest party in the State in 2023 polls. PTI



Sam shares her life lessons

Says discomfort shows you how much you are capable of

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India lost aircraft but hit Pak deep: CDS

Dismisses Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian jets

PTI

SINGAPORE/NEW DELHI

India rectified tactics and hit deep inside Pakistani territory after suffering losses of aircraft in the recent military clashes with Pakistan, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Saturday while dismissing as "absolutely incorrect" Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian jets.

Gen Chauhan, in an interview to Bloomberg TV, said India flew all its jets and carried out high-precision strikes to hit back at Pakistan after ascertaining the reasons for the initial losses. The Chief of Defence Staff declined to specify the losses in terms of numbers, but clearly pointed out the fact that the Indian military struck deep inside Pakistani territory that, New Delhi said, forced Islamabad to plead to stop the hostilities.

The comments by the top military officer are the Indian military's first clear acknowledgement of losses in the four-day military clashes with the neighbouring country. "I think what is important is not the jet being



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— GEN ANIL CHAUHAN, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

downed, but why they were being downed," Gen Chauhan, currently on a visit to Singapore, said.

Gen Chauhan was asked whether India lost combat jets during the four-day military clashes with Pakistan earlier this month. "So, the good part is that we were able to understand the tactical mistakes which we made, remedy it, rectify it and then implement it again after two days and flew all our jets again targeting at long range," he said.

"Absolutely incorrect," he said when asked about Pak-

istan's claim of shooting down six Indian jets during Operation Sindoor. "I think what is important is not the jets being downed but why they were being downed," added Gen Chauhan, who played a key role in mounting India's massive offensive against Pakistan.

Indian Air Force's Director General of Air Operations, Air Marshal AK Bharti, had acknowledged that "losses are a part of combat" and said all IAF pilots returned "home safely". He made the remarks at a media briefing on May 11 in re-

sponding to a question on Pakistan's claim of downing Indian jets.

Hours after Gen Chauhan's comments, Congress asked the government in New Delhi to truthfully tell the country what losses were suffered during the four-day conflict with Pakistan. The country wanted to know whether any aircraft were downed during the conflict, especially in the wake of the CDS' "admission", Congress leader Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Demanding clarity from the government, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh recalled that the Vajpayee government in July 1999 set up the Kargil Review Committee under the chairmanship of "India's strategic affairs guru K Subrahmanyam, whose son is now our External Affairs Minister". This was just three days after the Kargil war ended, he said. "The committee submitted its detailed report five months later... Will Modi government take a similar step in light of what CDS has just revealed in Singapore?" he said on X. (SEE PAGE 2)

Trump to double steel tariffs to 50%

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he planned to double tariffs on foreign imports of steel to 50 percent starting next week, further casting a cloud on steelmakers around the globe.

"We are going to be imposing a 25 per cent increase. We're going to bring it from 25 per cent to 50 per cent — the tariffs on steel

into the United States of America — which will even further secure the steel industry in the US," Trump said on X. He later posted that the higher tariff rate would take effect on June 4. "It is my great honour to raise the Tariffs on steel and aluminum from 25% to 50%, effective June 4. Our steel and aluminum industries are coming back like never before," he wrote on Truth Social. IANS (REPORT PAGE 8)

Hamas responds to truce proposal

TEL AVIV

Hamas has responded to the latest US ceasefire proposal for Gaza, and a senior official with the group has said they are seeking amendments to it.

"There some notes and amendments to some points, especially on the US guarantees, the timing of hostage release, the delivery of aid and the withdrawal of Israeli forces," the

official said. A separate Hamas statement said the proposal aims for a permanent ceasefire, a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an ensured flow of aid. It said 10 living hostages and the bodies of 18 others would be released in exchange for an agreed-upon number of Palestinian prisoners. Israel has approved the US proposal for a temporary ceasefire in the nearly 20-month war. AP

Covid cases rise to 3,395, four deaths reported

NEW DELHI

The number of active Covid-19 cases in India has crossed 3,000, with Kerala accounting for the highest at 1,336, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi, Union Health Ministry data released on Saturday showed.

According to the data, four deaths — one each in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours.

Official sources said the Covid-19 situation in India is being closely monitored. The severity of infections is low, with most of the patients under home care. There is no reason to worry, the sources said.

There were 257 active cases in the country on May 22. The figure rose to 1,010 by May 26 and reached 3,395 on Saturday. In the last 24 hours, 685 new cases have been reported and four people have died, according to the data. Kerala has 1,336 active cases, Maharashtra 467, Delhi 375, Gujarat 265, Karnataka 234, West Bengal 205, Tamil Nadu 185 and Uttar Pradesh 117. PTI



Krystyna Pyszkova of Czech Republic crowns her successor Opal Suchata of Thailand after the latter who won the 72nd Miss World pageant in Hyderabad on Saturday. — Photo: AP

Eight Maoists surrender in Mulugu

HYDERABAD

Eight members of the outlawed CPI (Maoists) surrendered before police in Mulugu district on Saturday, police said.

The eight Maoists, including one divisional committee member (DVCM), and two area committee members (ACM) from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, gave up arms and surrendered before Mulugu District Superintendent of Police Shabarish P, an official release said.

As many as 355 Maoists have surrendered before the Telangana Police, including 68 before the Mulugu District Police, from January. After knowing about the welfare measures, they decided to leave the path of Naxalism, the release added. PTI

'Committed to India first, TG first'

State global hub for innovation, says KTR

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

BRS working president and former minister KT Rama Rao has reiterated his commitment to Telangana's development, emphasising an 'India First, Telangana First' policy.

Inaugurating the Pragmatic Design Solutions Limited Knowledge Centre at Warwick University in England on Saturday, he expressed pride in Telangana's achievements and stressed the State's emergence as a global hub for innovation and industry.

He said whether in power or not, his primary goal remains the progress of Telangana. He emphasised the importance of attracting investments to create large-scale employment opportunities for the State's youth. He lauded PDSL for providing research and development (R&D) services to global automotive giants such as McLaren, Aston Martin, Jaguar and Land Rover. He noted that their decision to establish a Knowledge Centre at Warwick University was a testament to Telangana's talent pool.



BRS working president KT Rama Rao inaugurating the PDSL Knowledge Centre at Warwick University on Saturday.

Rama Rao credited the BRS government's innovative policies for positioning Hyderabad as a leading automotive hub alongside Pune and Chennai. During its tenure, the BRS government not only advanced Telangana's IT and life sciences sectors but also made significant strides in the automotive industry.

He recalled that Telangana became the first Indian state to host the Formula E Racing Championship, a milestone in establishing the State as a centre for mobility innovation. The former Minister urged PDSL to expand its operations in

Telangana and emphasised the State's conducive environment for industry growth.

He expressed admiration for the collaboration between universities and industries in the UK, which he believes served as a model for fostering innovation. He also highlighted Telangana's success in attracting global corporate giants like Google, Amazon and Meta. They have set up major offices in Hyderabad, contributing to the State's remarkable progress in IT exports and job creation over the past nine years. (SEE PAGE 2)

Teacher allocations run into rough weather

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

Even before full-fledged admissions for the 2025-26 academic year commenced, the School Education Department issued an order for adjusting surplus teachers based on the previous academic year's enrolment, triggering a widespread dissent among teachers.

Several teacher unions called the move an 'unscientific' and 'hasty decision' that could disrupt the functioning of primary schools.

While Badi Bata (admission drive) is scheduled from June 6-19 with schools reopening on June 12, the department has asked officers concerned to complete the surplus teachers adjustment exercise by June 13. Several teachers argue that

this adjustment of surplus teachers even before students' enrolment will destabilise schools besides demoralising them.

The district-level committee has been tasked to adjust excess teachers to needy schools by analysing school-wise and subject requirements based on the student enrolment during the 2024-25 academic year. Teachers contend that if new admissions for the 2025-26 academic year are not considered in the adjustment of the surplus teacher process, schools may lose teaching staff, leaving students untended.

Telangana United Teachers Federation president Chava Ravi termed the department's decision as 'unscientific'. "Generally, the

surplus teachers are adjusted in July or August, based on the enrollment in schools for that academic year. We want the State government to immediately halt the process and take it up after the admission process concludes," he said.

Questioning the rationale behind issuing the order before the schools reopened, Secondary Grade Teachers union president K Mahipal Reddy asked how can the department allocate surplus teachers to other schools when the admissions were still under way. "Several parents are enrolling their children now. We strongly oppose this decision of the department and demand that the adjustment exercise be taken up in August or September after the admission process ends," he said.

Patrol vehicles running out of fuel, literally!

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The dependence of police patrol vehicles on private resources other than the department's fuel outlets to fill the fuel tanks of vehicles is denting the image of the city police.

In several police stations in the city, the drivers with recommendations of the Sub-Inspectors and even Station House Officers (SHOs) are reportedly approaching private persons to fund the fuel for patrol vehicles.

While the higher ups in the department maintain that sufficient fuel is allo-

cated to the police patrol vehicles depending upon the distance covered during patrolling, the drivers complain that the fuel allocated is not sufficient, forcing them to search for alternative resources.

Earlier, the police drivers say they were allocated 200-220 litres of fuel a month. Now, this has been reduced to 160-180 litres a month. "The fuel quota exhausts by the 20th of any month. In the

last 10 days of the month we have to depend on alternative resources to fill the tanks. Sometimes, we are forced to ask the petitioners or families of suspects to foot the fuel bill," said a driver of a patrol car on condition of anonymity, adding that constables chip in to convince people to help us.

Another driver working in the southeast zone said they are directed to keep patrolling the area during

small disturbances in the localities.

"Only during big bandobast we are allocated additional fuel. For small disturbances, when intensified patrolling is done, there is no additional allocation. Our alternative, the fuel given as 'goodwill' by fuel stations, is pocketed away by Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors for personal use," said another policeman, who did not want to be named.

According to reliable sources, some business establishments are directly paying fuel stations and asking them to dispense fuel to police vehicles.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Drivers with recommendations of Sub-Inspectors and Station House Officers approach private persons to fund the fuel for patrol vehicles