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Three Army personnel dead in Sikkim landslide



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‘Vladimir Putin preparing for more war’  
US Senators warn about it after talks with Zelenskyy, Macron



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RCB and Kohli's 18-year wait meets Punjab Kings' tenacity

## In a nutshell

### Modi may skip G7 summit in Canada

**NEW DELHI:** For the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the G7 summit to be held in Canada, people familiar with the matter said. Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is expected to deliberate on challenges facing the globe including Russia-Ukraine conflict. Ottawa is yet to send an invitation to Modi, but the PM, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above. PTI

### Gnanasekaran gets lifer in varsity case

**CHENNAI:** A Mahila Court here on Monday awarded life sentence for a minimum period of 30 years without remission to the accused Gnanasekaran, who has been convicted for rape of a girl student on the Anna University campus in December last year. Mahila Court judge M Rajalakshmi, who convicted 37-year-old Gnanasekaran on May 28, awarded life imprisonment for a minimum period of 30 years without remission for the offence of rape, which falls under section 64 (1) of BNS and judge imposed Rs 90,000 fine. NATION PAGE 7

# ‘KCR will return as CM in 3 years’

Electoral setbacks are temporary, but BRS’ commitment to Telangana is unwavering, says KTR



STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday reaffirmed the party's commitment to Telangana's development, regardless of whether it was in power or in the opposition.

He expressed confidence that BRS would return to power within three years, with K Chandrashekhara Rao once again leading the State as Chief Minister.

He was addressing a large gathering of Telugu NRIs from across the US during the BRS silver jubilee and Telangana Formation Day celebrations at Dr Pepper Arena in Frisco on Sunday. The auditorium echoed with chants of 'Jai Telangana'.

Rama Rao said electoral setbacks were temporary, but the party's commitment to Telangana was unwavering. "Just like a child is handed over to others when the mother falls ill, Telangana is in others' hands, but will soon be back in safe hands," he said.

He recalled the 14-year-long struggle for statehood led by Chandrashekhara Rao, who, inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar and Martin Luther King Jr, achieved what once seemed impossible.

Highlighting the transformation over the past decade, he noted that Telangana had evolved from a drought-hit region into one of India's most progressive States. He cited key metrics during BRS' tenure, including a rise in GSDP from Rs 4.5 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 15 lakh crore in 2023, and an increase in per capita income from



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the gathering of Telugu NRIs during the party's silver jubilee and Telangana Formation Day celebrations at Dr Pepper Arena in Frisco, Texas..

Rs 1.12 lakh to Rs 3.56 lakh. Countering allegations over debt during the BRS regime, Rama Rao called them "ignorant lies" and said borrowings were invested productively. "We are ranked 24th in debt among States while being among the top five in growth. We borrowed to invest productively, turn into wealth, and redistribute it among the people," he said.

He credited BRS initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, Mission Bhagiratha and the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project for reversing migration, ending droughts, and restoring hope. "From barren lands to lush fields, from darkness to 24x7 power—this is the K Chandrashekhara Rao model of governance," he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

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## Dallas event a big hit

**HYDERABAD:** In a first-of-its-kind political gathering by an Indian regional party on US soil, the BRS' silver jubilee and Telangana Formation Day celebrations in Dallas drew an unprecedented crowd, marking a significant milestone in the party's global outreach.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao joined the high-voltage event at the 7,000-capacity Dr Pepper Arena, where the turnout exceeded expectations. More than 5,000 NRIs were left outside due to fire safety restrictions, resulting in a packed auditorium and a visible overflow of enthusiastic supporters.

As Rama Rao entered the Comerica Center, the venue reverberated with chants of 'Jai Telangana' and 'Jai KCR'. Despite tight security, NRIs surged forward to greet him. Rama Rao responded with warmth, raising the energy further with his signature call of 'Jai Telangana'.

Rama Rao delivered a compelling account of the statehood movement, praised the contribution of NRIs in the region's progress, and highlighted the BRS government's achievements over the past decade under the leadership of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. (SEE PAGE 2)

## BRS will go solo, win 100 seats in next polls: Harish

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Former Minister and BRS senior leader T Harish Rao rubbished allegations of both Congress and BJP, declaring that his party will neither forge alliances nor seek support from any party in the next elections. He reminded that BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao had already made it clear during the recent public meeting near Warangal.

"We will contest alone and return to power with over 100 seats, with our leader K Chandrashekhara Rao as the Chief Minister," he declared during the State Formation Day celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan on Monday.

In a pointed warning, Harish Rao said the BRS will legally fight against the contentious Banakacharla project by approaching the Supreme Court. He said the Congress government in the State failed to take any steps opposing the project even



BRS senior leader T Harish Rao addressing party leaders during the State Formation Day celebrations at Telangana Bhavan.

though Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is expediting the works, while the BJP which is relying on his support at the Centre too did not protect interests of Telangana which gave eight MPs. "If Congress and BJP MPs have any sincerity, let them stop this project immediately," he demanded, charging the BJP for colluding with Andhra Pradesh at Telangana's expense.

The senior BRS MLA cautioned the police and gov-

ernment officials against harassing BRS activists to please their political bosses. "We are watching. Names will be written in the Red Book. Beware, the government that is coming is ours," he warned.

Referring to alleged corruption, Harish charged the Revanth Reddy government with favouring just four contractors with Rs 12,000 crore in bills, while ignoring pending dues amounting to Rs 1,200 crore to smaller contractors. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Rs 2,000 notes still in circulation, says RBI

MUMBAI

The high-value Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 6,181 crore are still in circulation after two years of the Reserve Bank withdrawing the currency, according to official data released on Monday.

Rs 2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender. On May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

In a statement, the RBI said the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, declined to Rs 6,181 crore at the close of business on May 31, 2025. "Thus, 98.26 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," the central bank said. PTI

## Covid cases surge across India

Experts call for testing of SARS-CoV-2 variants in Telangana

M SAI GOPAL  
Hyderabad

New Covid-19 positive cases continue to be reported from multiple Indian States, with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on Monday reporting two more infections in Telangana. The overall caseload across the country has now reached 4,000.

Although most current cases are mild, public health experts believe Telangana must initiate efforts to conduct testing and collect samples to identify the SARS-CoV-2 variants currently in circulation.

Such an exercise is vital to determine the prevailing virus strains and to understand their evolution in order to prepare for potential changes in severity and transmissibility. A coordinated effort to offer free



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Covid-19 diagnostic tests and conduct genomic surveillance is yet to begin in Telangana. The major States reporting a significant surge in Covid-19 infections over

the past fortnight include Kerala (1,435), Maharashtra (506), Delhi (483), Gujarat (338), West Bengal (331), Karnataka (253), Tamil Nadu (189), Rajasthan (69),

Uttar Pradesh (157), Puducherry (38), and Andhra Pradesh (30). Four Covid-related deaths have been reported. Since January 1, 2025, the country has recorded a total of 32 Covid-19-related deaths.

The rising number of active infections, along with reported deaths, is a matter of concern. However, the union Health Ministry, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and public health experts from Telangana have stated that most cases remain mild and there is no immediate cause for panic. The current surge is being attributed to the circulation of various Omicron sub-variants, especially JN.1, which accounts for 50% of new infections. Other sub-variants such as NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 are suspected to be contributing to the rise in infections.

## Youth in quandary as Cong delays Rajiv Yuva Vikasam

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
Hyderabad

Nothing much changed with the Congress government. Just like applicants of several other schemes, applicants for the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme too are now a disappointed lot with the government delaying the launch of the scheme.

This is after Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had announced that sanction letters to the beneficiaries would be distributed on Monday across the

**The identified beneficiaries were to get the sanction letters from June 2 to 9 in all Assembly constituencies**

State. The identified beneficiaries were to get the sanction letters from June 2 to 9 in all Assembly constituencies. From June 10 to 15, training programmes were scheduled, followed by a

grounding process (implementation of sanctioned support) from June 15. However, all these plans have been shelved for now though the government has not made any official announcement over the delay in launching the scheme.

Even CM Revanth Reddy did not mention the scheme during his speech at the Formation Day fete. All this was after a few Ministers raised concerns over the effective implementation of the scheme during the meeting with the CM. (SEE PAGE 2)

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

Despite several students from Telangana scoring 100 percentile in the JEE Main 2025, none of them topped the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2025. This stands in sharp contrast to the usual dominance of Telangana students, who regularly secure top ranks in JEE Advanced every year.

Last year, Hyderabad lad Bhogalapalli Sandesh aced the exam, securing the third rank. City students Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy and Polu Lakshmi Sai Lohith Reddy, secured first and second ranks in 2023 and 2022 respectively. However, this time, about 12,946 candidates from the IIT-Hyderabad zone — the highest among all zones — qualified

### IIT-DELHI ZONE'S RAJIT GUPTA TOPS

**HYDERABAD:** Rajit Gupta of IIT-Delhi zone emerged as the topper of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2025. He secured 332/360 marks in the results declared by IIT-Kanpur on Monday. Devdutta Majhi of IIT-Kharagpur zone is the female topper of the examination. She obtained 312 marks with 12th in the common ranking list (CRL). Arnav Singh (CRL 9), Vadlamudi Lokesh (10), Dharmana Gnana Rutvik Sai (18), Vangala Ajay Reddy (19) and Avanaganti Anirudh Reddy (20) figured in the top five rankers in the IIT-Hyderabad zone comprising States - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. Ajay Reddy and Rutvik Sai were adjudged as toppers in Gen-EWS and OBC-NCL quota respectively.

in one of the toughest entrance exams for admission to the IITs.

As per the results declared by IIT-Kanpur, Vangala Ajay Reddy from Hyderabad, with a Common Rank List (CRL) rank of 19,

emerged as the topper in the Gen-EWS category. Similarly, Dharmana Gnana Rutvik Sai from IIT-Hyderabad zone, who secured CRL 20, topped the OBC-NCL category. Arnav Singh (CRL 9), Vadlamudi Lokesh

(10), Dharmana Gnana Rutvik Sai (18), Vangala Ajay Reddy (19), and Avanaganti Anirudh Reddy (20) figured among the top five rankers from the IIT-Hyderabad zone, which includes Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. Korikana Rasagnya of the same zone was the female topper, with a CRL of 78.

Ajay Reddy said he worked day and night with the goal of studying at IIT-Bombay. "I put in 10 hours of hard work each day for the JEE Advanced. Through weekly tests, I identified my mistakes and kept improving. I scored 100 percentile in the JEE Main. I stayed away from social media and only used it during holidays or when I went home," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Russia to deliver remaining S-400 units by 2026

NEW DELHI

Russia is committed to delivering the remaining units of the S-400 air defence system to India by 2025-2026, the country's Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Roman Babushkin, said on Monday, highlighting that the system performed "very efficiently" during the recent India-Pakistan tensions.

Babushkin also hinted at expanding bilateral cooperation with India in air defence and anti-drone systems. "We heard that the S-400 performed very efficiently during the recent clashes between India and Pakistan. We have a long history of collaboration," he said. PTI