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Major bureaucratic reshuffle in Karnataka



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Four killed in Kyiv after Russian missile, drone attack

Search and rescue operations are underway at several locations, says city mayor



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Spain's Carlos Alcaraz reaches final in French Open

In a nutshell

NEET-PG: SC okays August 3 exam date

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court allowed an application filed by the National Board of Examinations seeking permission to schedule the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-PG 2025 on August 3. A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Augustine George Masih took note of the submission that August 3 was the earliest possible available date given by its technology partner for conducting the NEET-PG 2025 examination in terms of the recent apex court order. PTI

Covid cases cross 5,000-mark

NEW DELHI: India's active Covid case tally crossed the 5,000 mark with Kerala remaining the most affected State followed by Gujarat, West Bengal and Delhi, according to the union Health Ministry data released on Friday. In view of the increase in cases, the Centre is conducting mock drills to check facility-level preparedness for COVID-19. All States have been instructed to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential medicines in view of rising cases of Covid. PTI

Tahawwur Rana's custody extended

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court extended the judicial custody of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana till July 9. Special Judge Chanderjit Singh passed the order after Rana was produced before it through video conference after expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier. The judge, meanwhile, sought a status report from Tihar by June 9 on the health condition of Rana, after his lawyer raised concerns about his wellbeing. The court sent him to judicial custody last month. PTI

Navy set to induct warship 'Arnala'

NEW DELHI: The first warship in the anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft series, equipped to conduct subsurface surveillance, search and rescue missions, and low-intensity maritime operations, is set to be inducted into the Indian Navy on June 18, officials said on Friday. The commissioning ceremony of 'Arnala' at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam will be presided over by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan. The warship incorporates 80% indigenous content. PTI

Big relief for borrowers as RBI cuts repo rate by 50 bps

Steepest rate cut in 5 years; also reduces CRR by 100 basis points

PTI
MUMBAI

Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points on Friday, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

The RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee, headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra and consisting of three external members, voted five to one to lower the benchmark repurchase or repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent. It also cut the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent, adding Rs 2.5 lakh crore to already surplus liquidity in the banking system.

With the latest reduction, the RBI has now cut interest rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with

Key monetary policy actions

Benchmark lending rate reduced to 5.5%

- Cash Reserve Ratio cut by **100 bps (1 per cent)** to infuse **Rs 2.5 lakh cr** liquidity in banking system by **December 2025**
- CRR cut to reduce funding costs
- Lowers retail inflation projection by **30 bps to 3.7% for FY26**
- Retains GDP projection for **FY26 at 6.5%**
- CAD for **FY26** expected to remain well within sustainable level
- Foreign exchange reserves dip to **\$691.5 bn**
- With the latest move, RBI has cut interest rates by a total of **100 bps in 2025**
- Next MPC meeting rescheduled from **Aug 4 to 6**

WHAT IT MEANS FOR COMMON MAN

- Personal, home and business loans to get cheaper
- To enhance home loan affordability in mid-income and affordable housing categories
- EMIs, tenure set to come down for home loan borrowers
- Existing borrowers to get entire benefit of 50-bps repo rate cut
- To revive mid and premium housing segments
- To encourage first-time homebuyers to enter the market



a quarter-point reduction in February - the first cut since May 2020 - and another similar-sized cut in April.

The central bank, at the same time, changed its monetary policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' which means rates could increase or decrease in future depending on incoming

data, with Malhotra stating that it may have limited space for further easing.

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their short-term funding needs. With the latest cut in the repo rate, all External Benchmark Lending Rates (EBLR) linked to it will come down.

And if the banks fully pass on this to the borrowers, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, auto and personal loans will decline by 50 bps.

RBI, Malhotra said, expects lenders to pass on lower borrowing costs to consumers and boost credit growth with the additional

cash they would have following the cut in cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent. The cut in CRR will take effect in four stages between September and December.

"Today's monetary policy actions should be seen as a step towards propelling growth to a higher aspirational trajectory," he said, adding the aspiration is for growth of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent.

Giving rationale for the decision, the RBI Governor said inflation or price rise has softened significantly over the last six months from above the tolerance band in October 2024 to well below the target, with signs of a broad-based moderation.

"Thus, it is imperative to continue to stimulate domestic private consumption and investment through policy levers to step up the growth momentum," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

MLA Maganti Gopinath remains critical

Responding to treatment, continues to be on ventilator

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The health condition of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath remains critical as on Friday morning, with signs of improvement over the previous day. He was rushed to the hospital after suffering massive heart stroke on Thursday and is kept on ventilator support in the ICU of AIG Hospitals in Gachibowli.

Doctors have stated that his condition remains highly critical and was under observation since Thursday evening. The next 24 hours will be crucial in determining his recovery. Gopinath had been earlier treated at the same hospital for kidney-related complications.

As news of the health emergency broke, senior BRS leaders including T Harish Rao, Nama Nageshwar Rao, KP Vivekananda, Madhavaram Krishna Rao and Dasoju Sravan rushed to AIG Hospital to meet his family and monitor the situation.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who is currently on a tour in the United States, personally reached out to Gopinath's family over the phone to express solidarity and assure them of full support. He had cut short his tour and is expected to arrive in Hyderabad on Friday.

Meanwhile, Rama Rao's wife Shailima who reached the hospital on Thursday night, has remained stationed at the hospital as a



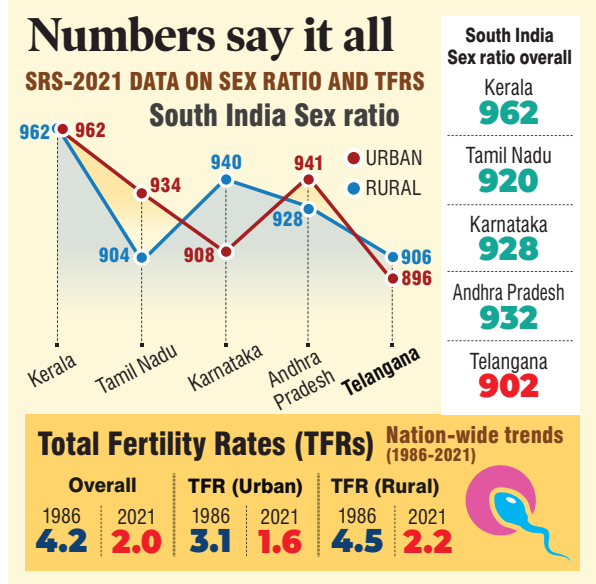
Senior BRS leaders including Harish Rao, Nama Nageshwar Rao rush to AIG Hospital to meet his family and monitor the situation

pillar of support to the MLA's family. She is learnt to be giving constant updates to the BRS working president about Gopinath's health and also coordinating with the hospital authorities.

IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu who visited AIG Hospital on Friday said the health condition of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath is improving compared to previous day. The doctors have informed that the MLA was responding to treatment, but continues to be on ventilator in the ICU.

"Doctors informed me that his condition is now better than yesterday (Thursday). I also spoke with his family. The government will extend all necessary support for his treatment," he said. Calling Gopinath a close family friend, the Minister prayed for his speedy recovery.

Sex ratio, fertility rate in Telangana hit historic lows



M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

Sex ratio and total fertility rates, critical demographic indicators that provide insights into health, well-being and future trajectory of a population, are not in a healthy state in Telangana.

The sex ratio, which is the number of females for 1,000 males, and Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which indicates average number of children expected to be born per woman during her

span of reproductive period, in Telangana, have declined since 1986, based on the latest Sample Registration System 2021, released by the Centre last month. Sex ratio, including urban and rural regions of Telangana is 902, meaning 902 females for 1,000 males. This is the lowest among southern States. Kerala has the best overall sex ratio in the country at 962, Karnataka has a sex ratio of 928, TN has 920 and AP has sex ratio of 932. (SEE PAGE 2)

Trump-Musk ties flame out

WASHINGTON

After long months when Trump and Musk appeared united in their chaotic mission to remake Washington, their relationship imploded this week.

It began with Musk complaining about the centerpiece of Trump's legislative agenda, which the President at first took in stride. Eventually, Trump let slip that he was disappointed in his former adviser, prompting

Musk to unleash a flood of insults and taunts. Trump could hold back no longer. He posted that Musk had been "wearing thin," that he had "asked him to leave" his administration, that the tech titan had "gone CRAZY."

After Thursday's spectacular blow-up between President Donald Trump and Elon Musk — which unfolded in real time — the big question is: What next?

In a call with ABC News on Friday, Trump called

Musk a "man who has lost his mind." According to the network's correspondent, Jon Karl, the President said he is "not particularly" interested in speaking with Musk directly. Still, Trump said Musk wants to talk to him, Karl reported.

Shares of Musk's EV maker plunged more than 14% as investors dumped holdings, as they fear his dispute with President Donald Trump could end up hurting the company. AP

Elderly couple found murdered in apartment

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An elderly couple was found murdered in their apartment in Jana Chaitanya Phase-2 in Rajendranagar in the suburb on Friday. The couple, identified as Sheikh Abdullah (70) and Rizwana Begum (65), both retired employees, were staying on the fifth floor of the apartment complex. Unidentified persons brutally attacked the couple with blunt and sharp objects causing grievous injuries and killing them in their bedroom. The victims were found dead with multiple injuries. (SEE PAGE 2)

Pak aims to rob our rozi-roti: PM



The Vande Bharat train, flagged off by PM Narendra Modi, crosses the Chenab rail bridge in Reasi district of J&K on Friday. — Photo: PTI

KATRA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused Pakistan of targeting "insaniyat and Kashmiriyat" through the terror attack in Pahalgam, saying the assault was "orchestrated with the sinister intent of inciting communal riots in India and robbing the impoverished, tourism-dependent Kashmiris of their livelihood."

Addressing a huge rally here after inaugurating the first direct train service to the Kashmir Valley, a project featuring the world's highest arched railway bridge over the Chenab River and India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge, the PM

MODI TO ATTEND G7 SUMMIT IN CANADA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he will be attending the G7 Summit later this month in Canada and that he looked forward to meeting his newly elected Canadian counterpart Mark Carney. Carney called up Modi as the Indian prime minister thanked him for the invite to the Summit in Kananaskis. Modi said on X, "As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit." He also congratulated Carney on his recent election win. PTI

said, "Our neighbouring country stands against humanity, social harmony, and economic prosperity."

"Not only that, it is also the enemy of poor people's

'rozi-roti' (bread and butter)," Modi said, as he reiterated that the April 22 Pahalgam attack was a stark example through which Pakistan "intended to incite

communal violence in India and cripple the earnings of hardworking Kashmiris".

Tourism not only generates jobs, but also fosters unity among people, Modi said. This was the prime minister's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

After inaugurating the Chenab bridge, the prime minister walked on it holding the Tricolour high. He travelled in a rail engine coach to reach the spot.

Modi said Rs 46,000 crore worth of projects, which he launched, will accelerate development in Jammu and Kashmir, driving progress and prosperity. PTI

Starlink gets nod to start India ops

NEW DELHI

Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence from the Telecom Department for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country. Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications to provide satellite internet services in the country.

Trial spectrum

A fourth applicant, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting



for approvals. DoT sources confirmed on Friday that Starlink has indeed received the licence, and said the company will be granted trial spectrum in 15-20 days of applying for it. Starlink will now have to comply

with the security norms such as providing access for lawful interception, before starting services. The licence came hours after a huge public spat between Musk and US President Donald Trump. The falling-

out between the world's richest man and the world's most powerful person began when Musk, who left his role as head of the Department of Government Efficiency a week ago, denounced Trump's sweeping tax-cut and spending bill.

On Thursday, it erupted in the verbal duel after Trump criticised Musk in the Oval Office. Musk responded saying "Trump would have lost" without his help, prompting the US President to end US contracts. The licence from DoT came nearly a month after the Starlink was issued a letter of intent (LoI) by the telecom department. PTI