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Trump gives green signal for Nippon Steel investment



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S Africa break jinx, win first major cricket trophy in 27 yrs
Last 69 runs required on day four of WTC confidently knocked off in just over two hours



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Modern connections lack depth, says Aditya

In a nutshell

Axiom-4 eyes June 19 lift-off

NEW DELHI: The much-delayed Axiom-4 commercial mission to the International Space Station, carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, is now targeting a launch on June 19, ISRO announced on Saturday. The Axiom Space mission was to blast-off from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 11, but had to be delayed first due to a fuel leak in SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and then due to a leak in the Russian section of the ISS. The astronauts were originally scheduled for lift-off on May 29. [PTI](#)

PM to go on 3-nation tour

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-nation tour starting Sunday, during which he will take part in the G7 Summit in Canada, and visit Cyprus and Croatia to shore up India's bilateral cooperation with these two countries. "This will be the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia, marking an important milestone in the bilateral relationship," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday. Modi will first visit Cyprus on June 15-16 at the invitation of the country's President. [PTI](#)

4 naxals killed in encounter

BALAGHAT: Four naxalites, including three women, were killed in an encounter with security forces in a forest area of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said. Balaghat is a Maoist-affected district that shares borders with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. A grenade launcher, a self-loading rifle, two .315 bore rifles, other weapons and material were recovered from the site. [PTI](#)

Banakacherla will spell doom for Telangana: Harish

SAYS BRS WILL LAUNCH PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, LEGAL BATTLE; SLAMS CENTRE, STATE

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Accusing the Congress government in Telangana and BJP leaders from the State of compromising Telangana's interests by maintaining a "stoic silence" on Andhra Pradesh's Rs 80,000-crore Godavari-Banakacherla link project, BRS leader and former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao on Saturday warned that the project could result in large-scale water diversion — similar to what occurred via the Pothireddypadu head regulator in the Krishna basin — posing serious risks to Telangana's irrigation and water security.

Addressing a press conference with a detailed PowerPoint presentation, Rao said the project lacks statutory approvals from the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), the Central Water Commission (CWC), and the Apex Council. He claimed that Andhra Pradesh's plan involves diverting 200 TMC of Godavari water in the first phase, with a proposed expansion to 400 TMC. The project includes a massive offline reservoir at Bollapalli with a gross storage capacity of 150 TMC — three times the size of Telangana's Mallanna Sagar, the largest reservoir under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).

"Andhra Pradesh claims it will only use surplus flood flows, but this is a pretext," Rao alleged, accusing AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of expediting the project to establish water usage claims before the proposed Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal



BRS MLA T Harish Rao addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Saturday.

CAUTION CALL

AP's **RS 80,000-CR** PROJECT LACKS MANDATORY APPROVALS FROM GRMB, CWC, APEX COUNCIL

- AP plans to divert water via tunnels, canals to Rayalaseema and South Coastal Andhra
- Harish says Congress, BJP leaders in Telangana are silent, compromising State's water rights
- Accuses Revanth Reddy of offering "guru dakhina" to Naidu by not opposing the project
- Demands a special Assembly session, legal action, all-party delegation to Delhi

150 TMC
Bollapalli reservoir planned, three times the size of Telangana's Mallanna Sagar

becomes operational. He added that AP's feasibility report includes infrastructure such as tunnels and canals designed to handle 400 TMC, aimed at diverting water to the Krishna basin command areas in Rayalaseema and South Coastal Andhra.

Rao criticised the Telangana Congress government, particularly Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister N Uttam

Kumar Reddy, for their inaction. "While Krishna waters were plundered, now Godavari waters are being looted through Banakacherla. Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy are silent, busy filing false cases against BRS leaders like KT Rama Rao instead of focusing on irrigation," he alleged. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

(HARISH SLAMS CENTRE FOR BACKING ANDHRA PRADESH'S PROJECT PAGE 5)

Ahmedabad crash toll 270, high-level probe panel set up

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

The Centre on Saturday set up a high-level multi-disciplinary panel to ascertain the "root cause" of the crash of the London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad and assess any contributing factors including mechanical failure, human error and regulatory compliances even as the death toll in the disaster rose to 270.

As the panel headed by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was mandated to give its report in three months, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said aviation regulator DGCA has ordered "extended surveillance" for the Tata-owned airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner series planes. The Civil Aviation Ministry said the committee will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations.

In a post on X, Air India said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The carrier now has 26 Boeing



A relative of a victim of the Air India plane crash speaks with the media at a hospital in Ahmedabad on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet. All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8(AI71) and another 29 persons, including five MBBS students on the ground, were killed when the aircraft came down on Thursday moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport before falling inside the nearby campus of the state-run BJ Medical College in Meghanagar area and going up in flames.

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues

after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was done as per the engine manufacturer's protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GENx engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace. [PTI](#)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 6,7)

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Air Chief Marshal and Chief of Air Staff AP Singh on Saturday said 'Operation Sindoor', launched after the terror attack in Pahalgam, showcased exceptional coordination, synergy, and integration within the armed forces.

"Operation Sindoor stands as a shining testament to the unparalleled prowess of the IAF, where we demonstrated our capability to deliver swift, precise, and decisive blows to the enemy," he said. The IAF Chief, who was the Re-

Lorry driver burnt alive in mishap

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

A lorry driver was burnt alive when the vehicle came into contact with overhead power lines while unloading gravel using its hydraulic system at Kazipally in IDA Bollaram police station limits on Saturday.

The contact with live wires triggered a fire. The fire engulfed the lorry within moments, leaving the driver no chance to escape. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

‘Op Sindoor showed IAF prowess’



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh reviews the Combined Graduation Parade of the IAF. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

viewing Officer at the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 215th course at the Air Force Academy here, said the IAF has been,

and will always remain, the first responder. Stating that the battlefield is going to become more complex, he said young officers must contin-

across the Persian Gulf, with Qatar. Meanwhile, footage shared by an affiliate of Iran's state TV showed a fire after an Israeli strike at Zagros Khodro, a former car manufacturing plant in Borujerd. The state-run IRNA news agency also reported an Israeli strike on Saturday around Abadan in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province. Other strikes appeared to be happening in Kermanshah near a military barracks.

The Israeli military said seven soldiers were lightly wounded on Friday night in an Iranian missile strike in central Israel. It said they were briefly hospitalised and sent home. This is the first report of military casualties in the operation. It gave no further details on where the soldiers were located. In another development, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has appointed General Majid Mousavi, to replace Gen eral Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who

was killed in the Israeli airstrike on Friday. The Guard's aerospace division oversees Iran's arsenal of ballistic missiles.

Macron dials Pezeshkian Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron spoke by phone with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday, Macron's office said. Macron called "for the utmost restraint to avoid escalation," the statement said. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

Minnesota lawmaker, husband shot dead at home

BLAINE

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said former State House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband were shot and killed in a politically motivated assassination, and a second lawmaker and his wife were shot and wounded. Authorities were actively searching for a suspect hours after the targeted killings.

"We must all, in Minnesota and across the country, stand against all forms of political violence," Walz said at a press conference on Saturday. "Those responsible for this will be held accountable."

The wounded lawmaker was identified as State Senator John Hoffman, a Democrat first elected in 2012. He previously served as vice chair of the Anoka Hennepin School Board, which manages the largest school district in Minnesota. Hoffman is married and has one daughter and represents a district north of Minneapolis.

Hortman was the top House Democratic leader in the state Legislature and a former House speaker. She was first elected in 2004. [AP](#)

AI phone facility for students

RAGHU PAITHARI
Karimnagar

In a significant move to help residential school students manage stress and maintain family connections, the Telangana government has launched 'Project Mitra', an AI-enabled communication initiative in Social Welfare Residential Schools across the State.

Under the initiative, AI-supported telephone booths are being installed in each school, with seven to 10 booths allocated based on

student strength. Each group of four students will receive a smart card, linked to a single phone number — typically a parent's number — allowing students to call only that number. Each student will be allowed up to 25 minutes of talk time per day.

In addition to speaking with their parents, students can use the booths to report any issues within their schools by dialling a toll-free number that connects them directly with senior officials from the Gurukul Society.

Currently, students are allowed to speak with their families only once every two weeks or once a month, depending on the school. In many cases, class teachers have been using their personal mobile phones to help students communicate with their families, though time has been limited.

Once Project Mitra is fully implemented, students will be able to speak with their parents daily, a step educationists believe is crucial for students' emotional well-being. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)