



STATE | PAGE 05

Police stations are now centres for settlements, alleges KTR



BUSINESS | PAGE 08

**Rs 3,000 FASTag annual pass for private cars from Aug 15**

It would allow up to 200 trips on the highways in one year on a single charge



SPORT | PAGE 10

Gill to bat at number 4 while Pant will take No. 5 spot

## In a nutshell

### Air India cancels three flights

**MUMBAI:** Air India has cancelled three of its international flights on Wednesday owing to various reasons, including maintenance and technical issues. Two of these flights were cancelled after the passengers had already boarded the aircraft. The airline said it had to cancel its Toronto-Delhi flight AI188 of June 18 due to extended maintenance. Also, flight AI996 from Dubai to Delhi was cancelled due to technical reasons. Another flight, from Delhi to Bali had to return due to volcano near Bali. [PTI](#)

### Now voter card in 15 days

**NEW DELHI:** The Election Commission on Wednesday said voter identity cards will now be delivered to electors within 15 days, virtually halving the time taken. Till now, it took a little over a month for the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to be delivered to the voters, officials pointed out. The EC said a new standard operating procedure (SOP) has been introduced to ensure that voter cards are delivered within 15 days of new enrolment of an elector or change in particulars. [PTI](#)

### Passengers stuck in flight

**RAIPUR:** Passengers of Delhi-Raipur IndiGo flight on Wednesday found themselves stuck inside the aircraft for nearly 40 minutes after landing as a technical snag prevented the door from opening. The incident stirred unease among the passengers, particularly in the wake of recent aviation incidents which included the crash of an Air India plane in Ahmedabad last Thursday killing 270 people. Among the passengers on flight GE-6313 were former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. [PTI](#)

### Fraudsters cheat woman

**MUMBAI:** Cyber fraudsters posing as Delhi ATS and Jammu & Kashmir police personnel cheated an elderly woman from Mumbai of Rs 22 lakh after accusing her of spying for Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday. This is the first case in the city of a cyber fraud using espionage as a guise to cheat people, an official claimed. The 64-year-old woman, who lives at Girgaon in south Mumbai, approached the police saying she received three calls this month from the fraudsters. [PTI](#)

## Google opens Asia-Pacific's first cybersecurity hub in Hyd

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Google's first-ever Safety Engineering Centre in the Asia-Pacific region, GSEC India, was inaugurated in Hyderabad on Wednesday. This is only the fifth such facility in the world, aimed to drive Google's global Safety Charter across the region, making Hyderabad a nerve centre for secure digital innovation in APAC.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy along with IT Minis-

ter D Sridhar Babu jointly inaugurated the state-of-the-art centre, calling it a strategic leap for India's digital safety and Telangana's tech-driven future.

GSEC India will serve as a cybersecurity and AI research hub, focusing on safeguarding users from on-line fraud, protecting infrastructure, and advancing responsible AI development tailored to India's digital landscape.

"This is more than just an inauguration, it is a declara-

tion that Telangana is leading the digital era," said Revanth Reddy, pitching Telangana as a \$1 trillion economy in the making.

IT Minister Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad was fast emerging as the tech capital of India.

He pointed out that seven of the world's top ten tech giants have their footprint in the city. He stated that Telangana recorded Rs 2.68 lakh crore in IT/ITeS exports and 40,000 new jobs created in just one year.

**The agitation would focus on the alleged abandonment of key irrigation projects which are in the final stages of completion**

these lifeline projects has drawn sharp flak from the main opposition, which sees this as part of a politically motivated strategy to stall BRS-era initiatives.

The meeting is expected to chalk out protest plans, with the BRS preparing for an aggressive campaign exposing anti-farmer conspiracies of the Congress. Chandrashekhar Rao is likely to speak about the deliberate neglect in taking up repairs at Medigadda barrage.

The BRS has been blaming the Congress government for hiding behind technical excuses.

## BRS plans stir on neglect of projects

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a significant move, the BRS is gearing up to launch a statewide agitation against deliberate and criminal negligence by Congress government towards Telangana's irrigation projects. A high-level strategy meeting with top BRS functionaries, chaired by party president K Chandrashekhar Rao, will finalise the action plan.

The BRS would launch the agitation with a focus on the alleged abandonment of key irrigation projects which are in the final stages of completion. The Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, reportedly 90 per cent finished, and the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, crippled under the pretext of structural issues, are expected to be deliberated during the discussion.

The silence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on



A video grab of farmers protesting against the plant in Pedda Dhanwada being brought to the Alampur court.

## BRS condemns 'heinous' move; demands CM's apology

**HYDERABAD:** The BRS has condemned the handcuffing of farmers protesting against an ethanol factory in Pedda Dhanwada, Jogulamba Gadwal district and blamed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his political witch-hunting.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called the move heinous and unforgivable, criticising the Congress government for unleashing tyranny on innocent villagers. He demanded an immediate apology from the Chief Minister.

In a statement, Rama Rao slammed the police for treating protesting farmers and even food vendors like criminals by handcuffing them at the Alampur court. "This is not law enforcement, but state-sponsored humiliation of those raising their voices," he said, calling the

action a reflection of the Chief Minister's demonic mentality. Drawing parallels with an earlier incident involving a farmer from Lagacherla who was handcuffed after a heart attack during a protest linked to a pharma firm, he stated that Revanth Reddy's administration reeked of arrogance and vendetta.

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao also condemned the incident, warning that Telangana was slipping into authoritarianism. "From Lagacherla to Rajoli, farmers are in chains and civil rights activists are being detained. This is the Congress' version of democracy, choking dissent and crushing voices," he said.

Former Minister S Niranjana Reddy condemned the handcuffing of paddy producers and blamed the Congress government for the same.

## Three top Maoists gunned down in AP encounter

VISAKHAPATNAM

Three top leaders of CPI (Maoist) were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitarama Raju district on Wednesday.

The exchange of fire between the elite Greyhounds and Maoists occurred in the Devipatnam forest area on the Andhra-Odisha border. The Greyhounds personnel, engaged in a combing operation in the forests, spotted the Maoists and asked them to surrender. When the Maoists opened fire, the security personnel retaliated, killing the three. The encounter occurred near Kondamodalu forests between Rampachodavaram and Maredu-milli mandals. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

## Retd government employee duped of Rs 38.73 lakh

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

A retired government employee lost Rs. 38.73 lakh to the cyber fraudsters who conned him into paying money on pretext of medical treatment and then after threatening with a POCSCO case.

According to the police, the man, aged 70 years, received a friend request on Facebook from a person claiming to be a woman and he accepted it. The person then told the man that they hail from a poor family and asked him to pay Rs 10,000 for wifi connection for continuing the conversations. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

## No US mediation in India-Pak truce: PM

**Makes it clear to Trump that ceasefire talks were initiated at Islamabad's request**

KANANASKIS (CANADA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told President Donald Trump that India and Pakistan halted their military actions last month following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the US, calling out the American leader's narrative that he brokered the ceasefire.

In a nearly 35-minute phone call with Trump on Tuesday, Modi firmly stated that India does not and will "never accept" mediation and that the discussions between Indian and Pakistani militaries on cessation of military actions were initiated at Islamabad's request, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said.

Modi also said that India no longer views "terrorism as a proxy war, but as a war itself", and that India's Operation Sindoor is still ongoing, the foreign secretary said.

### Trump repeats claim

Hours after the phone conversation with Modi, Trump on Wednesday repeated his persistent claim that he stopped a war between India and Pakistan. "Well, I stopped the war. I love Pakistan. I think Modi is a fantastic man. I spoke to him last night. We're going to make a trade deal with Modi of India. But I stopped the war between Pakistan and India," Trump said.

### India, Canada agree to restore envoys

**NEW DELHI/KANANASKIS (CANADA):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney have agreed to pursue "constructive" steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals, signalling their intent to repair the strained relations. Modi and Carney held bilateral talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Kananaskis focusing on resetting the bilateral ties that plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of a Khalistani separatist. The two Prime Ministers also underscored the importance of restarting senior ministerial as well as working-level engagements across various domains to "rebuild trust" and "bring momentum" to the relationship, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. [PTI](#)

### Trump to lunch with Munir

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump will host Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir for lunch at the White House on Wednesday, weeks after India and Pakistan were locked in a four-day military conflict. Trump would be hosting the Pakistan Army Chief for lunch in the White House at 1 pm. The US president had cut short his trip to Canada's Kananaskis and returned to Washington Tuesday morning. Interestingly, Trump, during a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asked him if he could stop in the US on his way back from Canada. But, the prime minister expressed his inability to do so "due to pre-scheduled engagements," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. [PTI](#)

The cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan was first announced by President Trump on May 10. Since then, the US President has been claiming that he brokered the ceasefire deal by threatening to stop trade with both countries if they do not agree to stop the conflict. The Prime Minister de-

clined a request by the US President to stop over in the US on his way back from Canada, citing "prior commitments". The May 7-10 military clashes between India and Pakistan figured prominently during the phone conversation. Trump's early departure from G7 meet. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)

## No surrender, vows Khamenei



Israeli air defence system fires to intercept missiles during an Iranian attack over Tel Aviv on Wednesday. — Photo: AP

DUBAI

### INDIA LAUNCHES OPERATION SINDHU

**New Delhi:** India on Wednesday announced launching 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran as the Persian Gulf nation's conflict with Israel showed no sign of letting up. Even as India kicked off the evacuation mission, there were reports of some Indian students sustaining injuries in a strike on a medical students' dormitory in Keshavarz street area in Tehran. Iranian embassy officials in Delhi said the Iranian foreign Ministry was in close touch with the Indian mission in Tehran after some students were injured. There was no immediate comment on the reported incident. [PTI](#)

him, "at least not for now." Trump initially distanced himself from Israel's surprise attack on Friday that triggered the conflict, but in recent days has hinted at greater American involvement, saying he wants something "much bigger" than a ceasefire.

The US has also sent more military aircraft and warships to the region. The Iranian nation is 'not one to surrender' Khamenei dismissed the "threatening and absurd statements" by Trump. "Wise individuals who know Iran, its people, and its

history never speak to this nation with the language of threats, because the Iranian nation is not one to surrender," he said in the low-resolution video, his voice echoing.

"Americans should know that any military involvement by the US will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage to them." Iran followed a similar sequence in releasing Khamenei's statement before the video was aired, perhaps as a security measure.

His location is not known and was impossible to discern from the tight shot that showed only beige curtains, an Iranian flag and a portrait of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Khamenei's immediate predecessor who died in 1989. [\(SEE PAGE 2\)](#)