



NATION | PAGE 07

Amit Shah rules out talks with Naxals, warns of no respite



BUSINESS | PAGE 08

India ramps up oil imports from Russia, US in June

Likely to import 2-2.2 mn barrels per day of Russian crude oil - highest in the last two years



SPORT | PAGE 10

India lead by 96 runs at stumps on day three of Leeds Test

In a nutshell

Inter student drowns in pond

HYDERABAD: An Intermediate student drowned in a pond at Manasa Hills, Rajendranagar on Sunday. Mohd Imran (19), a resident of Jubilee Hills and pursuing Intermediate from a private college in the city, went to Manasa Hills for a picnic with some friends. After reaching the spot, Imran entered into the water for a swim and drowned, said the police. On information, the police reached the spot and, with the help of expert swimmers, retrieved the body from the pond. A case has been registered.

NSA Doval, CDS visit Tirumala

TIRUPATI: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara Swamy at the Tirumala temple on Sunday, according to TTD sources. The dignitaries were welcomed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary with traditional honours and Vedic chants. "TTD officials extended a spiritual welcome to the NSA and CDS in accordance with the temple traditions," said a TTD official. ^{PTI}

INS Tamal to be commissioned

NEW DELHI: Indian Navy's Russian-manufactured guided missile frigate INS Tamal that carries an array of missiles and surveillance systems will be commissioned into the force at Russia's coastal city of Kaliningrad on July 1. The ship has 26 per cent indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land, officials said. The 125 m long, 3900-tonne warship, packs a lethal punch as it features an impressive blend of Indian and Russian cutting-edge technologies. ^{PTI}

AP
DUBAI

The United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran by dropping 30,000-pound bombs on a uranium enrichment site early Sunday, raising urgent questions about what remains of Tehran's nuclear programme and how its weakened military might respond.

Iran lashed out at the US for crossing "a very big red line" with its risky gambit to launch strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites with missiles and the bunker-buster bombs. "The warmongering and lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far-reaching implications of its act of aggression," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, adding that he would immediately fly to Moscow to coordinate positions with close ally Russia.

Amid fears of a wider regional conflict, the Trump administration sent a clear message that it wanted to restart diplomatic talks with Iran. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters that the US "does not seek war" with Iran. But Tehran said the time for diplomacy had passed and that it had the right to defend itself.

President Donald Trump earlier warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against US forces. "There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," said Trump, who acted without congressional authorisation. The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on the Fordo and Natanz enrichment facilities as well as the Isfahan nuclear site.

Both Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the sites. Trump claimed the US "completely and fully obliterated" the sites, but the Pentagon reported "sustained, extremely severe damage and destruction."

US defence officials said an assessment was ongoing. With the attack, the United States has inserted itself into a war it spent decades trying to avoid. Success could mean ending Iran's nuclear ambitions and eliminating the last significant state threat to the security of Israel, its close ally. Failure — or overreach — could plunge the US into another long and unpredictable conflict in the Middle East. ^(SEE PAGES 2, 9)



A satellite image shows Iran's underground nuclear enrichment site at Fordo following U.S. airstrikes targeting the facility, on Sunday. — Photo: AP

INDIA ON SIDE OF PEACE AND HUMANITY: MODI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy". The phone conversation initiated by Pezeshkian came hours after the US bombed three major nuclear sites in Iran. In a social media post, Modi said he expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward for the early restoration of regional peace. "Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said. ^{PTI}



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THE WARMONGERING, A LAWLESS ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON IS SOLELY AND FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES AND FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS OF ITS ACT OF AGGRESSION
— **ABBAS ARAGHCHI**, IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

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YOUR (US') BOLD DECISION TO TARGET IRAN'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES, WITH THE AWESOME AND RIGHTEOUS MIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES, WILL CHANGE HISTORY. THE US HAS DONE WHAT NO OTHER COUNTRY ON EARTH COULD DO
— **BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

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THERE WILL EITHER BE PEACE OR THERE WILL BE TRAGEDY FOR IRAN. WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR VERY SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON THE THREE NUCLEAR SITES IN IRAN -- FORDOW, NATANZ, AND ESFAHAN. A FULL PAYLOAD OF BOMBS WAS DROPPED ON THE PRIMARY SITE, FORDOW. THIS IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE USA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR
— **DONALD TRUMP**, US PRESIDENT

KREMLIN RULES OUT PUTIN-TRUMP TALKS

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has no immediate plans to dial his US counterpart Donald Trump after the US bombardment of Iranian nuclear facilities, the Kremlin said on Sunday. "There are no such plans," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. However, he added that a call can be quickly arranged in case of need. His remarks came when asked about the possibility of a phone call between Trump and Putin after US strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities on Sunday. Chair of Duma, Committee of Foreign Affairs, lawmaker Leonid Slutsky believes that from a military point, Trump's strike on Iran had no ground or justification. Trump has been dragged into the regime change scenario in Tehran just like in Iraq, Slutsky told reporters. ^{PTI}



President Donald Trump walks on the South Lawn upon arriving at the White House, on Saturday, in Washington. — Photo: AP

CHINA CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE

BEIJING: China on Sunday strongly condemned the US air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities saying that it is a serious violation of the UN Charter and heightens tensions in West Asia. Beijing also called on "parties to the conflict, Israel in particular", to reach a ceasefire as soon as possible, ensure the safety of civilians, and start dialogue and negotiation. China strongly condemns the US attacks on Iran and bombing of nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. The actions of the US seriously violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and have exacerbated tensions in West Asia, the spokesperson said. "China calls on the parties to the conflict, Israel in particular, to reach a ceasefire." ^{PTI}

Suicide bomber kills 9 in Syrian church

SYRIA

A suicide bomber in Syria on Sunday detonated himself inside a church filled with people, killing at least nine, Syrian State media reported. The explosion in Dweil'a in the outskirts of Damascus took place as people were praying inside the Mar Elias Church.

SANA, citing the Health Ministry said that at least 15 others were wounded. Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says there

were 30 people wounded and killed, but did not give exact numbers.

Some local media reported that children were among the casualties. The attack was the first of its kind in Syria in years, and comes as Damascus under its de facto Islamist rule is trying to win the support of minorities. As President Ahmad al-Sharaa struggles to exert authority across the country, there have been concerns about the presence of sleeper cells of extremist groups. ^{AP}

Cop dies of cardiac arrest while on duty

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

A policeman died reportedly due to cardiac arrest during a raid at a house in Jeedimetla in the city outskirts on Saturday night.

According to reports, the policeman, Praveen Kumar (38), working with Cyberabad Special Operations Team (Balanagar), went to a house at Jeedimetla along with his colleagues as part of an operation to nab drug peddlers. ^(SEE PAGE 2)

Actor Vijay booked for anti-ST remarks

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

The Raidurgam police registered a case against actor Vijay Devarkonda and others for allegedly hurting the sentiments of tribals.

The case was booked following a complaint made by Nenavath Ashok Kumar Naik, a resident of Saidabad, alleging that the actor, during the pre-release function of the movie 'Retro', made some adverse comments against the tribal community.

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nity. The actor had participated in the event in April where he had allegedly made the comments.

The police registered a case against Devarkonda.

Sports quota fraud in DSC recruitment

YUVRAJ AKULA

Hyderabad

Large-scale irregularities are learnt to have been uncovered in the teachers' recruitment via the District Selection Committee (DSC) 2024 under the sports quota.

The process, which aimed to recruit Secondary Grade Teachers (SGT) vacancies, has been marred by violations and allegations of corruption. According to sources, a few authorities allegedly bypassed deserving candidates and handed over jobs to 25 ineligible candidates.

Introduced for the first time in DSC 2024, a total of 95 vacancies were up for grabs under the sports quota. As many as 8,000 candidates registered under the sports quota and 392 were found to be eligible.

Selection of candidates under the sports quota is done under four categories — international (form I), nationals (form 2), inter-university (form 3) and inter-district (form 4), and vacancies are to be filled in

According to sources, some authorities bypassed deserving candidates, handed over jobs to 25 ineligible candidates

the same order. Candidates claiming participation in these competitions must produce valid and relevant certificates.

Certificate verification

Sources revealed that sports quota certificate verification was conducted in October and November 2024 by the Sports Authority of Telangana, Sports department. While no candidate claimed international category participation, several produced national category certificates.

However, though the notification mandates that only national-level players/athletes were eligible for SGT posts, jobs were awarded to those who played at inter-district level

competitions bypassing national-level players.

A few candidates raised objections over the selections and moved the Telangana High Court and Lokayukta. This prompted officials to again verify certificates by a high-level committee in January this year. It has been learnt that seven out of 32 selected candidates were found eligible and the remaining were deemed ineligible for positions.

A candidate submitted a certificate claiming participation in the junior category (16 years) at the age of 20 years and got the job. In another instance, a candidate ranked 88th was found to be included in the merit list instead of the one who got 51st rank.

According to candidates, several of them submitted national-level competition (form II). However, they elicited remarks that certificates were not submitted and hence ineligible for the job. They alleged a large-scale corruption in sports quota recruitment. ^(SEE PAGE 2)

Air India temporarily reduces flights on 19 routes

NEW DELHI

Air India on Sunday said it will temporarily reduce 118 weekly flights operated with narrow-body planes on 19 routes as well as suspend services on three routes.

The temporary cuts in services account for about 5 per cent of the airline's overall narrow-body operations and the move is aimed at ensuring operational stability amid disruptions in the

wake of the fatal plane crash in Ahmedabad on June 12.

All the 19 routes where reduction in narrow-body services have been done are domestic and of the three routes where flights have been suspended, two are international and one is domestic.

The announcement comes days after the Tata Group-owned carrier said it will cut international flights operated with wide-body



planes by 15 per cent temporarily. In a statement, the airline said: "This voluntary

decision leads to the temporary suspension of Air India's services on 3 routes

and reduction of frequency on 19 routes. The changes are effective until at least 15 July 2025," it said.

Meanwhile, an Air India flight from Birmingham to the national capital was diverted to Riyadh due to a bomb threat and landed safely in the Saudi city. The airline, said alternative arrangements are being made to fly the passengers from Riyadh to their destinations. ^{PTI}