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Aero India ends on a breathtaking note



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Stem illegal migration, Vance to European officials

Says the electorate didn't vote to open 'floodgates to millions of unvetted immigrants'



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CT: Teams announce 15-member squads

In a nutshell

Man stabs, throws acid on woman

PERAMPALLI: A spurned lover stabbed a 22-year-old woman, who got engaged to another person recently, multiple times here in Annamayya district and poured bathroom cleaning acid on her, police said on Friday. Annamayya district superintendent of police B Krishna Rao said that Ganesh (24) from Madanapalle attacked the woman around 7 am today at Perampalli village of Gurrankonda mandal when her parents were away tending to cattle.

NATION PAGE 7

Gold prices hit record Rs 89k-mark

NEW DELHI: Gold prices soared by Rs 1,300 to hit an all-time high of Rs 89,400 per 10 grams amid heavy buying from jewellers and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 88,100 per 10 grams on Thursday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed by Rs 1,300 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 89,000 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 87,700 per 10 grams. Silver also rallied by Rs 2,000 to hit a four-month high of Rs 1 lakh per kg on Friday. PTI

BSNL reports Rs 262 cr profit

NEW DELHI: State-owned telecom major Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on Friday reported a profit of Rs 262 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year, marking its first return to profitability since 2007. This milestone reflects the company's focus on innovation, aggressive network expansion, cost optimisation, and customer-centric service improvements, the BSNL said in a statement. IANS

K'taka govt to shut 9 new universities

BENGALURU: The Karnataka government will bring the shutters down on nine of the 10 new universities that were established during the tenure of the BJP government after it was found that only one of them was fully-functional, sources confirmed on Friday. The decision in this regard was taken in the Cabinet sub-committee meeting headed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday and the subject was discussed in detail. IANS



This is Richa's gift for V-Day

The actor is all set to captivate the viewers with 'Akshri Somvaar'

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India-US ties take new flight, IAF to get F-35 jets

US approves extradition of 26/11 terror accused Tahawwur Rana to India

PTI WASHINGTON

India and the United States rekindled their relationship on a high note with a summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump yielding a range of benefits including the US sale of oil, gas and F-35 fighter aircraft to India, a possible mega trade deal and the immediate extradition of Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Rana.

Trump said after talks with Modi that India will buy more oil, gas and military hardware from America to bring down the trade deficit while asserting that Washington will not spare New Delhi from reciprocal tariffs. At his Oval Office in the White House on Thursday (Friday India time), Trump warmly welcomed Modi with a long handshake and a bear hug and described the Prime Minister as a "great friend" for a long time and a "terrific" man.

"We missed you. We missed you a lot," Trump said as he greeted Modi. The elaborate welcome allayed the trepidation and put to rest the uncertainty that had clouded bilateral relationship after Trump took office last month and unleashed a series of executive orders that have up-



US President Donald Trump looks on as Prime Minister Narendra Modi signs the visitor's book at the Oval Office in White House, in Washington DC. — Photo: PTI

ended the global economic and diplomatic order.

Yet, Modi's visit went off without any hiccups and in fact produced rich dividends. The only fly in the ointment was Trump's announcement a day before the summit that he would impose reciprocal tariffs on countries that do the same with American goods. India is among those countries Trump is targeting, and he did not mince his words when talking about reciprocal tariffs against India during a 44-minute joint news conference with Modi.

(SEE PAGES 2, 7, 8)

Terror reference in talks rattles Pakistan

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Rattled by specific reference to Pakistan in the India-US Joint Statement issued following the bilateral meeting held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump in Washington, Islamabad on Friday cited its past counter-terrorism cooperation with the United States to express surprise over the development.

"We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the Indo-US joint statement of Feb 13 as one-sided, misleading and contrary to diplomatic norms. We are surprised the reference has been added to the joint statement notwithstanding Pakistan's counter-terrorism cooperation with the US," said Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan during a weekly media briefing. (SEE PAGE 2)

Key takeaways

MODI, TRUMP DISCUSS EASING TARIFFS, RESOLVING TRADE ISSUES AND SHORING UP DEFENCE TIES

- Concerns over trade and tariffs dominate meeting
- Trump says import levies imposed by India are 'very unfair and strong'
- However, duo agree to work on a deal to resolve trade concerns
- Trump says his administration wants to bring down trade deficit with India by increasing US energy exports
- Modi offers to double bilateral trade with Washington to \$500 bn by 2030
- US to increase military sales to India and eventually provide F-35 stealth fighter jets
- To deepen security cooperation in Indo-Pacific, a thinly veiled reference to competition with growing China in region
- India to take back any of its citizens living illegally in US
- US President calls Indian PM a 'much better negotiator than him'

MODI PLAYS ON TRUMP'S 'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN' CATCHPHRASE, SAYS HE WAS DETERMINED TO 'MAKE INDIA'

All eyes on BJP's next move in crisis-hit Manipur

IMPHAL

All eyes are now on the BJP central leadership over its next step in strife-torn Manipur, a day after President's rule was imposed in the northeastern State and the Assembly put under suspended animation. Security has been beefed up across the State following the Centre's announcement of President's rule, officials said.

President's rule was imposed in Manipur and the Assembly put under suspended animation on Thursday evening, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led to political uncertainty in the State. The decision came as the BJP failed to build a consensus on a Chief Ministerial candidate, despite having several rounds of discussions between its northeast in-charge Sambit Patra and legislators.

Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as Chief Minister after nearly 21

Security forces on high alert in State capital Imphal, particularly around the Raj Bhavan and the CM secretariat

months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far. The Manipur Assembly has a tenure till 2027. Officials said on Friday that security forces were on high alert in State capital Imphal, particularly around the Raj Bhavan and the CM secretariat.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of several Imphal-based civil society organisations, on Friday termed the imposition of the President's rule in the state as 'undemocratic' and 'most unfortunate'. The Meitei body also alleged that the President's rule was "a ploy to push the State into further turmoil". PTI

Drop in groundwater levels raises alarm across Telangana

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Groundwater levels in Telangana witnessed a sharp decline in the past few months, raising alarm across the State. According to the latest report from the Telangana Groundwater Department, groundwater levels have dropped by two meters or more in some of the districts.

During the tenure of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, Telangana experienced the highest groundwater rise in the country, transforming even dry lands into rich groundwater zones. Under the current Congress rule, the situation has taken a different turn, with paddy fields drying up and farmers and the general public facing water shortages.

The situation worsened further by the drying up of a 120-km stretch of the Godavari River, which was once brimming with water due to the construction of three barrages — Medigadda, Annaram, and



Grim Situation

GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN TELANGANA DECLINE SHARPLY, RAISING ALARM ACROSS STATE

- Latest report from Telangana Groundwater Department shows a drop of over 2 metres in some districts
- During BRS rule, Telangana saw rise in groundwater levels, the highest in country, transforming dry lands into fertile zones
- Under Congress rule, water shortages worsening, with paddy fields drying up and public facing severe shortages
- Situation worsens further as 120-km Godavari River stretch dried up
- It was once brimming with water due to construction of three barrages—Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla
- Poor maintenance of water supplies under Mission Bhagiratha forced people to rely on bore wells with high fluoride content, especially in Nalgonda
- Decline in groundwater levels linked to mismanagement of irrigation projects, such as Kaleshwaram and PRLIS
- A 2024 and 2023 comparison shows Telangana has seen steepest decline in net groundwater availability in future
- Groundwater levels drop by 2.88 billion cubic meters

- Failure to supply water for Rabi farming under SPM Stage-II led to widespread use of bore wells
- Telangana's Jan 2025 report shows an annual groundwater level decline across districts
- Yadadri Bhongir records highest drop of 2.71 m, followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri at 1.97 m
- Rangareddy sees 1.47m drop, while in Bhadrachalam, it stands at 0.72 m
- Average groundwater depths vary significantly, with Vikarabad at 12.28m below ground level and Kamareddy at 11.48m

Sundilla. These barrages, intended to boost agriculture and stabilise the groundwater table, have been left non-functional under the pretext of structural issues. Adding to the challenge, the failure

to maintain the Mission Bhagiratha supplies in certain pockets has forced people to rely on bore wells for water extraction, despite the high fluoride content in regions like Nalgonda. The

decline in groundwater levels has been attributed to alleged mismanagement of irrigation projects, particularly the neglect of the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irri-

gation schemes. Pressure is mounting on the government to take immediate action to address the water shortage and protect the State's irrigation progress. (SEE PAGE 2)

600 kg stale, rotten chicken seized in Begumpet



The arrested persons, along with the seized material, were handed over to the Begumpet police for further action.

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

The police raided two chicken shops in Begumpet and seized over 600 kg of stale and rotten chicken waste meant for supply to fast food centres.

During the raids carried out by the Task Force (North) team, along with the Sanitary Officials of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB), two persons

— M Bhaskar, owner of SSS Chicken Shop in Rasoolpura and B Raveender, owner of Ravi Chicken Shop in Balamrai — were caught. The officials seized frozen and stored noxious chicken waste and bones. According to officials, the duo plotted to sell chicken waste and bones, which was stored for several months, to fast food centres and eateries located close to wine shops at lower prices

than the market price. "In such business places, people eat chicken without doubting it. Also, at fast food centres, they mix chicken with artificial colours and ingredients, which makes chicken colourful and enhances its taste," said an official.

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Dead chickens dumped in Akkampally reservoir

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Dead chickens were found dumped in the Akkampally balancing reservoir in Pedda Adisilerapally mandal of Nalgonda district on Friday sparking widespread concern. In the backdrop of outbreak of bird flu, which has taken a toll on the poultry industry in the neigh-

boring districts of Andhra Pradesh, an alert has been sounded in the district. The HMWSSB authorities were also informed about the incident. Meanwhile, the police arrested a poultry farmer, Ramavath Rayamallu, after finding him responsible for dumping the bird flu-infested dead chickens in the reservoir. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)