



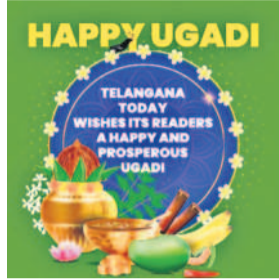
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On a relentless journey to revive, restore temple dance



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IPL 2025: SRH to take on Delhi Capitals in Vizag today
 Pressure on skipper Pat Cummins to inspire a turnaround after losing to LSG



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Bhumi gets candid on her acting journey so far



Myanmar quake toll at 1,644, rescuers pull out more bodies

Number of injured increases to 3,408, while missing figure rises to 139

AP
 BANGKOK



Locals gather near a collapsed building in the aftermath of the earthquake, at Mandalay in Myanmar on Saturday. — Photo: AP

Myanmar's ruling military said on Saturday on state television that the confirmed death toll from a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake rose to 1,644, as more bodies were pulled from the rubble of the scores of buildings that collapsed when it struck near the country's second-largest city.

The new total is a sharp rise compared to the 1,002 total announced just hours earlier, underlining the difficulty of confirming casualties over a widespread region and the likelihood that the numbers will continue to grow from Friday's quake. The number of injured increased to 3,408, while the missing figure rose to 139. Rescue efforts are underway especially in the major stricken cities of Mandalay, the country's No. 2 city, and Naypyitaw, the capital. But even though teams and equipment have been flown in from other nations, they are hindered by the airports in those cities being damaged and apparently unfit to land planes.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is in the throes of a prolonged civil war, which is already responsible for a humanitarian crisis. It makes movement around the country both difficult and dangerous, complicating relief efforts and raising fears that the death toll

could still rise precipitously. The earthquake struck midday Friday with an epicentre not far from Mandalay, followed by several aftershocks, including one measuring 6.4. It sent buildings in many areas toppling to the ground, buckled roads, caused bridges to collapse and burst a dam.

In Naypyidaw, crews worked to repair damaged roads, while electricity, phone and internet services remained down. The earthquake brought down many buildings, including government buildings.

India to airlift field hospital

NEW DELHI

As Myanmar reels from death and destruction caused by a massive earthquake, India on Saturday delivered 15 tonnes of relief material and dispatched more supplies by air and sea along with rescue teams under the emergency mission 'Operation Brahma'.

It has also dispatched two naval ships to the neighbouring country while a

field hospital is slated to be airlifted. In a reflection of New Delhi's strong resolve to help the neighbouring country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and said India stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar in this difficult hour," Modi said on X. "Disaster relief material, humanitarian assistance, search & rescue teams are being expeditiously dispatched as part of #OperationBrahma," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Indian naval ships INS Satpura and INS Savitri are carrying 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

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18 naxals killed in C'garh twin encounters

SUKMA/BIJAPUR

Security forces gunned down 18 Naxals, including 11 women, in twin encounters in Chhattisgarh's Sukma and Bijapur districts in the Bastar region on Saturday, recording a major success in the mission to eradicate Naxalism before March 31 next year.

The encounters occurred on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Chhattisgarh. Four jawans were injured as security teams inflicted major damage on Naxals, killing 17 cadres, including a high-ranking Maoist, identified as Kuldami Jagdish, carrying a reward of Rs 25 lakh on his head, in Sukma, police said.

He was wanted in more than a dozen deadly Naxal incidents, including the 2013 Jhiram Valley attack that left several Congress leaders dead.

Another encounter was

reported from the neighbouring Bijapur district where one Naxal was killed, a police officer said. Among the four injured security personnel, three belong to the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a unit of the state police, while the fourth is from the Central Reserve Police Force, they said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the Sukma encounter, saying those carrying weapons and resorting to violence cannot bring change but peace and development can. "Another strike on Naxalism! Our security agencies have neutralised 16 Naxalites and recovered a massive cache of automatic weapons in an operation in Sukma," he wrote on X. The Home Minister said under the leadership of Prime Minister, the government is resolved to eradicate Naxalism before March 31, 2026. PTI

In a nutshell

Collision averted at DC airport

WASHINGTON: A United States passenger flight preparing to leave the nation's capital and an incoming military jet received instructions to divert and prevent a possible collision, officials said. The Delta Air Lines Flight 2983 was cleared for takeoff at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, the same time when four US Air Force T-38 Talon aircraft were inbound. AP

Air Force engineer shot dead in UP

PRAYAGRAJ: An Indian Air Force civil engineer was shot dead on Saturday morning by an unidentified assailant while he was sleeping at his official residence in the high-security cantonment area in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, police said. The attacker fired at the engineer from the window of his room, police said. His family members were in other rooms when the incident occurred. PTI

Ramzan Timings

Iftar	Sunday	6:35 PM
	Monday	Eid

Maha IPS officer dies in accident



The mangled remains of the car in which IPS officer Sudhakar Pathare was travelling in, in Nagarkurnool district.

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

An IPS officer of Maharashtra cadre and another person died in a road accident near Domalapenta of Nagarkurnool district here on Saturday.

Native of Ahmednagar, the IPS officer Sudhakar Pathare, who currently holds a Sr. SP rank, posted as a DSP in Mumbai, was

travelling to Srisailem for darshan along with his cousin Bhagawat Khodake in a private Innova car when the accident occurred. He was likely to be promoted as a DIG shortly.

An RTC bus rammed into the car in the ghat section, leading to the instant death of the two persons. Recruited as Dy SP, the officer was conferred IPS in 2011. Investigation is on.

BRS flags gross misuse of Cyber Security Bureau

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Condemning the unauthorised use of the Cyber Security Bureau (CSB) in violating citizen rights, former IPS officer and senior BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar demanded that State government withdraw all the fabricated cases booked against social media warriors and BRS activists who exposed the Congress government's failures.

The BRS government had established the CSB with the sole intention of preventing and controlling cybercrimes. It was set up to save the public, public institutions and other entities from cyber threats. However, the CSB was being misused by the Congress to book fabricated and illegal cases against social media warriors, he said.

The CSB is being misused by the Congress to book fabricated and illegal cases against social media warriors

— RS PRAVEEN, BRS

There was a 43 percent increase in cybercrimes in the State. But, in the guise of cyber patrolling, the CSB officials were booking cases on people who even share or repost anything against the Congress government, he charged, citing a case book against the X handle Nalla Balu under section 6 of the IT Act. Interestingly, only BRS social media activists were being targeted

and those affiliated to the Congress and BJP were being spared, the former IPS officer said.

Cyber patrolling should be conducted in the Secretariat to detect corruption and the delay in processing files. In CCLA, where land related issues were kept unaddressed for over a year and in HMDA where realtors were struggling to get their files processed as well, it should be used, he said.

Senior police officers were blindly following the instructions from the Chief Minister's Office and not working as per law and rules. FIRs were being manufactured from Gandhi Bhavan and after instructions from the CMO, cases were being booked, he said.

When a question paper got leaked in Nakrekal, three FIRs were issued. (SEE PAGE 2)

Ryots told to 'vacate' land for helipad

STATE BUREAU
 Suryapet

Officials in Nereducherla mandal of Suryapet district on Saturday gave a rude shock to farmers, who had spread out their fresh harvest of paddy in the open.

The land used for drying paddy was also owned by them and was not a public place.

The officials made a vain attempt to force them to lift the paddy stock and vacate the place immediately to facilitate construction of a helipad for the visit of Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Incident sparks outrage
 Their behaviour sparked outrage and came in for condemnation by the local farmers.

As the farmers questioned the 'on the spot' oral orders, the officials al-

Officials make vain attempt to force them to lift paddy stock and vacate the place for Uttam Kumar Reddy's visit

legedly snubbed the protesting farmers, with one of the officers reportedly threatening them saying: "You must comply with the orders immediately. Filming videos won't change anything."

The farmers, however, stood their ground, questioning why they should disrupt their work for the helipad.

"This is our own land. Why should we remove our paddy for this?" they argued, accusing the officials of deliberately harassing them.

India, US trade pact by fall 2025

NEW DELHI

India and the US have decided to hold sector-specific talks in the coming weeks to finalise the structure of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA), the government said on Saturday.

The engagement between the two countries came in the backdrop of the USA's threat to impose reciprocal tariffs on its key trading partners, including India, on April 2.

The decision to hold discussions in the coming weeks follows four days of talks — between senior officers of India and the US — which concluded here on Saturday. The Commerce Ministry said to realise the shared objective of promoting growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation, both sides aim to finalise its first tranche by fall 2025. PTI (REPORT PAGE 7)

KCR wishes TG people on Ugadi

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Praying for a year filled with plentiful water, thriving crops and happiness and prosperity for all, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday extended heartfelt Ugadi wishes to the people of the State.

Emphasising the significance of the festival as the beginning of a new agricultural year, he expressed hope for abundant water resources to ensure prosperous harvests. (SEE PAGE 2)

Man opens fire during Ramzan expo

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Mild tension prevailed when one of the organisers at the Dawat-e-Ramzan Expo inside King's Palace Function Hall in Gudimalkapur X Roads fired two rounds of gun shots in open air on Saturday.

Nobody was injured in the incident, police said. The incident took place when the organiser, Mir Haseemuddin alias Hyder from AC Guards in Khairatabad, reportedly

tried to intimidate a temporary shop owner, Syed Haroon. As a result of the shooting, panic-stricken crowd, who had visited the expo for Ramzan shopping, ran out of the premises. Onlookers and organisers alerted the police authorities. The senior police officials from South-West Zone immediately reached the spot along with the clues team and started investigating the incident.

Hyder was taken into custody. A case under Indian Arms Act was booked.

Markets bustle with last-minute Eid shoppers

ASIF YAR KHAN
 Hyderabad

With Eid ul Fitr festival just hours away, hectic activity is witnessed across the city with people rushing to the markets to make the last round of purchases.

The markets around Charminar, Abids, Tolichowki, Musheerabad, Ameerpet and Dilukhannagar are brimming with buyers who are shopping for traditional wear, footwear, crockery, bangles and other articles. Eid ul Fitr is likely to be celebrated on Monday. In old city, the rush of shop-



People shop for clothes ahead of Eid ul Fitr, in Old City on Saturday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

pers continues until the wee hours of the night. Lad Bazaar is the most crowded market with women and

girls thronging the shops to buy lac and glass bangles sold at around 100 odd shops in the market. The Pather-

gatti and Moosa Bowli are two important places for men to shop for the traditional kurta pyjama, pathani

suits and sherwani, in addition to skull caps, attar and surma. "Shops are now conducting business 24x7 without a break. People from all over South India are visiting the market to purchase the clothes and other accessories," said Abid Mohiuddin, a member of the local trade association.

Malls are bustling with shoppers. At Abids, one of the oldest destinations for Eid shopping, people are shopping for modern wear and footwear. There are several big malls here offering the merchandise at a discounted price. (SEE PAGE 2)