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Trump plans 25% tariffs on aluminium, steel imports



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Williamson's ton powers New Zealand to final
 Trumps South African opener Breetzke's record-breaking debut ODI hundred



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Podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia apologises

In a nutshell

Aero India begins in Bengaluru
BENGALURU: The 15th edition of Aero India, considered to be Asia's biggest aerospace and defence exhibition, was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Yelahanka Air Force Station on Monday. With the broad theme of 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', the five-day extravaganza will showcase India's aerial prowess and indigenous cutting-edge innovations alongside state-of-the-art products. **(NATION PAGE 8)**

Omar, Shah discuss statehood
NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed with him various issues, including restoration of statehood and law and order situation in the UT. During the meeting, officials said the Chief Minister raised with Shah the issue of restoration of statehood to J&K. On August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 which granted special status to J&K. **(PTI)**

40 dead as bus plunges off bridge
GUATEMALA CITY: At least 40 people died after their bus plunged off a bridge Monday on the outskirts of Guatemala's capital. Firefighting spokesman Edwin Villagran said a multi-vehicle crash sent the bus off the bridge before dawn. Another 15 people were injured. The bus had come from Progreso, northeast of the capital. Volunteer firefighting spokesman Oscar Sánchez said children were among the victims. **(AP)**

Pune driver dies of GBS; toll rises to 7
PUNE: A 37-year-old driver from Pune, diagnosed with rare nerve disorder Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), has died in a city hospital during treatment, health officials said on Monday. The latest fatality took the toll of suspected and confirmed deaths linked to GBS in Pune to seven. The number of suspected cases rose to 192 after eight more infections were recorded. The tally of confirmed cases is 167, while 21 patients are on ventilator. **(PTI)**

5 held for attacking Chilkur Balaji priest

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Moinabad police arrested five more persons, including two women, in connection with the alleged attack on CS Rangarajan, the head priest of Chilkur Balaji temple.

Kovvuri Veer Raghava Reddy, (45), founder of Rama Rajyam organisation, was already arrested and remanded in the case. According to the police, Reddy demanded that Rangarajan support financially and also recruit people in 'Rama Rajyam Army'.

Ch Srinivas, DCP (Rajendranagar) said Reddy floated 'Rama Rajyam' in 2022 on social media platforms, including Facebook, and also operates a Youtube channel. "He posted a few

Bhagavat Gita shlokas and motivated viewers to join the army to protect Hindu Dharma. He also posted in the same channel that people who register themselves will be recruited in 'Rama Rajyam Army' with a salary of Rs 20,000 a month," he said.

In response to the post, 25 members met Reddy on January 24 at Tanuku. After four days of stay, they went to Kotappakonda where a contribution of Rs 2,000 was collected from each of them and got the uniforms stitched by a tailor. "After getting the uniforms, they met in an independent house in Yapral and took photos and videos in the uniform. The next day, they went to Chilkur," said the DCP. The five persons were remanded. **(REPORT PAGE 3)**

KTR dares Revanth for bypoll

Likens situation in Kodangal to Kurukshetra war; accuses CM of misusing power

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who on Monday lashed out at A Revanth Reddy for forcibly taking away farm land in Kodangal constituency to benefit his family and close associates, dared the Chief Minister to resign and contest the bypoll, offering to take political sanyas if the BRS failed to win.

Participating in the Rythu Maha Dharna at Kosgi in Narayanpet district as part of a series of farmers protests across the State on Monday, Rama Rao likened the situation in Kodangal to the Kurukshetra war, stating that Revanth Reddy was waging a year-long campaign of anarchy for his brothers, his son-in-law and businessman Gautam Adani. Revanth Reddy had framed false cases against Lagacherla farmers who refused to give their land to facilitate the illegal transfer of land worth thousands of crores.

He said the Chief Minister was misusing power to hand over these prime lands as "dowry" to his son-in-law at cheaper price, accusing him of treating public resources as personal property. "Kodangal women and children are resisting Revanth Reddy, who is behaving like Duryodhana. He has done nothing for farmers, women, or youth in the last 14 months, but has worked tirelessly to loot Kodangal lands for his family," he said.

Lambadi women were forced to travel to Delhi to seek justice, the BRS working president added, condemning the government's midnight police raids on vil-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao participating in the Rythu Maha Dharna at Kosgi, Narayanpet district, on Monday.

lages. He said the Congress government was colluding with the Adani Group and pharma companies, pressuring farmers to accept meagre compensation of Rs 10-20 lakh per acre for land worth Rs 60-70 lakh. "Cases have been filed selectively against BRS leaders, while Congress and BJP leaders remain untouched," he charged.

In a direct challenge to Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao

dared him to resign as Kodangal MLA and contest against BRS leader Patnam Narender Reddy. "Let the people of Kodangal decide. If Narender Reddy fails to win by a 50,000-vote majority, I will take political sanyas," he declared.

The former Minister blamed the Congress government for not delivering electoral promises, calling Revanth Reddy's leadership a blind stroke of luck. He

said the government had grossly under-funded the farmer loan waiver scheme, allocating only Rs 11,000 crore against the required Rs 49,500 crore. "Not a single loan has been fully waived, no one tola gold has been given, no scooters, no Rythu Bharosa," he criticised, referring to other promises of the Congress.

Reminding about former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's initiatives, Rama Rao noted that Rs 73,000 crore had been deposited in farmers' accounts under Rythu Bandhu for 11 consecutive seasons. The Congress was obstructing these benefits, stating that even before the last Assembly elections, the Rythu Bandhu amount of Rs.7,600 crore was stopped due to the Congress's complaints to the Election Commission of India. He pointed out that after coming to power, the Congress failed to enhance Rythu Bandhu amount and even when it did recently, it was only partially upto Rs 12,000 per acre per annum. "Revanth Reddy owes Telangana farmers Rs.17,500 per acre. After the local body elections, he will completely abandon Rythu Bandhu," he added. **(SEE PAGE 2)**
(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

PROTEST AT WANAPARTHY

WANAPARTHY: Demanding that the Congress government extend Rythu Bharosa, crop loan waiver and bonus, farmers staged protest on the road at Gopalpet on Monday. The farmers assembled in large numbers on the road heading towards Nagarkurnool and raised slogans against the State government. They charged that they were not getting Rythu Bharosa and their crop loans were also not waived. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

SURYAPET RYOTS DEMAND WATER

NALGONDA: Demanding irrigation water from the Sri Rama Sagar Project canals, farmers staged a protest at Suryapet on Monday. Farmers from Chivemla, Mothe, Nadigudem, and other mandals laid a siege to the Irrigation Department Chief Engineer's Office, in Suryapet. They raised slogans against the government and said they were facing severe hardships to cultivate crops in the current Yasang season. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

RYOTS' POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

SANGAREDDY: Farmers took up a massive rally in Gummadiala mandal headquarters on Monday opposing the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) move to open a dump yard on 152 acres at Pyranagar village in the mandal. The farmers of the mandal have come together as the Rythu Ilya Karyacharana Samithi to fight against the dumpyard. Women from across the mandal also joined the rally. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

Looking forward to meeting friend Trump: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that his visit to the US will be an opportunity to build upon the successes achieved during President Donald Trump's first term in the collaboration between the two countries.

In his departure statement ahead of his visit to France and the US, Modi said his trip will also help develop an agenda to further elevate and deepen India's partnership with the US, including in the areas of technology, trade, defence, energy and supply chain resilience.

He later said on X, "This visit will further cement India-US friendship and boost ties in diverse sectors. I warmly recall working with President Trump during his first term and I am sure our talks will build on the ground covered then."

Noting that it will be their first meeting since Trump's inauguration as the US President for a second term, Modi said in the departure statement that the two leaders will work together for the mutual benefit of the people of their countries and shape a better future for the world.

Prime Minister Modi said he looks forward to meeting "my friend, President Trump". **(PTI)**

Defections: SC poser on 'reasonable time'

NEW DELHI

In a democracy, rights of a party couldn't be permitted to be frustrated, the Supreme Court on Monday said while asking "reasonable time" for Telangana Assembly Speaker to decide pleas for disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and K Vinod Chandran was hearing two separate petitions, including the one filed by the BRS and others over the delay in deciding the disqualification petitions. "In a democracy, the rights of the parties cannot be permitted to be frustrated. We have all the respect for the other two wings, but that does not mean that Act of Parliament should itself be permitted to be frustrated," it said.

A High Court division Bench had said the State



Legislative Assembly Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions against the three MLAs within a "reasonable time". One of the pleas challenged the November 2024 order of the Telangana High Court over the disqualification of three BRS MLAs, who joined the ruling Congress in the State whereas another petition related to the remaining seven legislators who defected.

In the hearing, the top court sought to know the

"reasonable time" for the speaker to decide on the disqualification petition. The Bench asked the counsel appearing for the Legislative Assembly whether the "reasonable time" could also mean the end of the term of Assembly.

"In your perception what is the reasonable time," asked the Bench, "reasonable has to be as per the dictionary meaning." The counsel appearing for the assembly urged the court to keep the hearing after a week. The Bench posted the matter on February 18.

"If you don't give us a reasonable time, we are reasonable men," said Justice Chandran. The counsel appearing for the petitioners said a three-judge Bench of the apex court had expressly said a "reasonable time" would mean within three months, barring exceptional circumstances. **(PTI)**

HUNGER GAMES



White-tailed eagles fight while hunting at the Bosfor Vostochny channel in Vladivostok, Russia, on Monday. — Photo: AP

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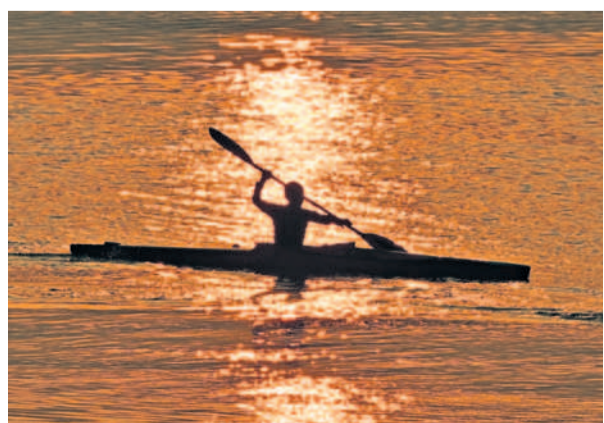
Hyd, districts to get a taste of peak summer this week

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Much before the full onset of summer, Hyderabad and parts of Telangana are set to experience a taste of peak summer for the next three to five days.

Maximum temperatures are expected to rise to 38 degrees C in parts of Hyderabad and potentially to 40 degrees C in other districts, making the coming days quite challenging due to the intense heat.

In its statewide forecast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD-Hyderabad) on Monday said maximum temperatures across Telangana will be more than normal temperatures by 2-4 degrees C. On Monday, the maximum temperatures in



A rower practises in Hussain Sagar on Monday. The IMD has forecasted mercury levels to rise to 38°C in the city and 40°C in the districts this week. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

and around Hyderabad hovered between 34 and 35 degrees C.

Noted weather forecaster from Hyderabad, T Balaji,

on Monday issued a heat alert, saying that heat is all set to increase in its power, as temperatures will rise from Tuesday. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Gold hits lifetime high of Rs 88,500

NEW DELHI

Gold prices zoomed by Rs 2,430 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 88,500 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday following firm global trends and a weak rupee, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal breached the record \$2,900 an ounce level in spot markets globally after US President Donald Trump announced imposition of fresh 25 per cent tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to the US.

Heavy buying by jewellers and retailers also boosted the prices. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity settled at Rs 86,070 per 10 grams last week. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity surged by Rs 2,430 to hit a record high of Rs 88,100. **(PTI)**

UK launches 'blitz' against illegal migrants

LONDON: Indian restaurants, nail bars, convenience stores, and car washes were among the targets of what the Home Office on Monday described as a "UK-wide blitz" on illegal working in the country. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said her department's Immigration Enforcement teams had a record-breaking January as they descended on 828 premises — a 48 per cent rise compared to the previous January, with arrests surging to 609, and marking a 73 per cent increase from the previous year. The Home Office said its teams respond to illegal working intelligence in all sectors. **(REPORT PAGE 9)**

Kumbh pilgrims stuck in 300-km traffic jam

PRAYAGRAJ: A sea of vehicles stretching up to 300 kilometres turned the roads leading to the Maha Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj into a massive parking lot, leaving lakhs of devotees stranded for hours, unable to reach the world's largest religious gathering. The unprecedented congestion forced many to remain stuck in their vehicles, some even hundreds of kilometres away from the fair site on Sunday and Monday. A day earlier, heavy traffic heading toward Prayagraj had already led to police stopping hundreds of vehicles in different areas of Madhya Pradesh to prevent overcrowding. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**