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One in five super rich wants to leave India: Survey



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China capable of threatening US interests: Intel report

Says Beijing poses cyber threat to US govt, private sector, infra network, military forces



SPORT | PAGE 10

De Kock's 97 guides KKR to dominant win over RR

In a nutshell

UPI outage across country

NEW DELHI: Digital transactions were impacted on Wednesday due to a widespread UPI outage with a large number of users reporting problems in the instant payment interface. The outage triggered a surge in complaints on Downdetector, a platform that monitors service disruptions based on user reports. The system faced temporary issue for about an hour or so. PTI

Surface-to-air missile test fired

BALASORE: India on Wednesday successfully flight-tested an indigenously-developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of the Odisha, defence sources said. DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted test launching of the VLSRSAM. The flight-test was carried out from a land-based vertical launcher. PTI

J&K Police bust terrorist hideout

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday busted a terrorist hideout in forest area of Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. "Security forces uncovered a militant hideout in the Namblan forest area of Baramulla and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition," the officials said. They said during the search, security forces recovered a cache of arms and explosives, including an IED. PTI

UP juice seller gets Rs 7.7 cr I-T notice

ALIGARH: A middle-aged juice seller, who runs a small kiosk at the district court compound here, was left in shock after allegedly receiving an income tax notice seeking an outstanding payment of Rs 7.79 crore. Mohammed Rahees, a resident of working-class locality Sarai Rehman, was dumbfounded when he received the notice on March 18. Unsure of how to respond, he sought help from friends. PTI

Ramzan Timings

Iftar Thursday 6:35 PM
Saher Friday 4:51 AM

2 feared trapped as building caves in at Bhadrachalam

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

An under-construction ground plus five-storey structure caved in and two persons were feared trapped in the debris in Bhadrachalam town here on Wednesday.

It is said that six people were engaged in the work in the day and four of them went out for lunch when the incident took place in the afternoon.

The owner of the structure, Shaik Moulana alias Sripathi, and his family, who reside on the ground floor, also went out for lunch at the time of the incident.

District Collector Jitesh V Patil, Superintendent of Po-



Rescue operations under way at the collapsed building site in Bhadrachalam town on Wednesday.

lice B Rohith Raju, Bhadrachalam Additional SP Vikrant Singh Kumar and the local station fire officer Srinivas Rao were monitoring the rescue operations. A couple of earthmovers and five cranes

have been engaged in the rescue operations. It is said that Moulana alias Sripathi of Bhadrachalam has been constructing five floors on the foundation of an old building for the last two years. (SEE PAGE 2)

Revanth's no bypoll remark triggers row

Harish questions legality of discussing case that's pending in Supreme Court

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks in the Telangana Assembly on Wednesday, dismissing the possibility of by-elections for the constituencies represented by 10 turncoat MLAs, triggered a fresh political debate.

His claim that bypolls never took place under previous governments because of defections and would not happen now was met with strong objection from senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao, who charged him with disregarding constitutional provisions and judicial authority.

In an attempt to dismiss the possibility of bypolls during the reply in the Assembly on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy said the past precedents suggested that bypolls would not be necessary. He pointed out that the past governments inducted defected MLAs into the Cabinet without facing by-elections and that his government was follow-

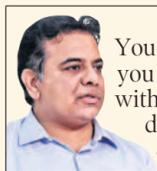
KTR takes dig at CM for 'playing role of Supreme Court'

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao took a swipe at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for "playing the Supreme Court's role" in the Legislative Assembly and making remarks on the ongoing case regarding the disqualification of turncoat MLAs.

He slammed Revanth Reddy for undermining judicial authority and violating parliamentary norms.

During the Budget discussion in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister had claimed that the defected MLAs would not

ing the same tradition. When Harish pointed out that the matter, of disqualifying turncoat MLAs, was pending in the Supreme Court, Revanth Reddy claimed that Assembly immunity allowed him to



You were elected to serve, but you are trying to pass the time with extravagance, daytime disguises and empty words

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

be disqualified and there was no question of byelections due to the same in the State as was being stated by the BRS. "Our Chief Minister often forgets his position. He likes to role play. Today, he decided he is the Supreme

Court, passing judgments on an ongoing case of MLA defections on the Assembly floor," he said, stating that parliamentary conventions and the House rules prohibit commentary on ongoing judicial matters. (SEE PAGE 2)

cited legislative rules and Article 121 of the Constitution, which bar discussions on pending judicial matters in the legislature unless it pertains to a judge's removal. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

Downplays MMTS rape attempt, plays blame game

HYDERABAD: Refuting allegations of a deteriorating law and order situation in the State, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy chose to deflect blame onto the previous BRS government while responding to the recent rape attempt on an MMTS train.

In his statement in the Assembly on Wednesday, he downplayed the Opposition's concerns and accused them of "spreading misinformation" to scare investors coming to Telangana. Stating that crimes could not be predicted, he claimed that the State government had responded swiftly and directed police to take preventive measures. While he said his government acted swiftly despite the case being under the Railway Police's jurisdiction, he failed to outline any concrete measures taken to prevent such crimes. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC raps Allahabad HC

Stays controversial remarks on rape charges

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Allahabad High Court's recent observations on grabbing of a woman's breasts and pulling the drawstrings of her "pyjama" not amounting to an attempt to rape and said it reflected total "insensitivity" and "inhuman approach".

Taking a strong exception to the High Court's observations made in its March 17 verdict, the apex court termed it a "very serious matter".

"In normal circumstances, we are slow in granting stay at this stage. But since the observations appearing in paragraphs 21, 24 and 26 are totally unknown to the cannons of law and depict total insensitive and inhuman approach, we are inclined to stay the said observations," a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih said. The top court took suo

motu cognisance of the matter after 'We the Women of India' collective wrote to Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

"Until further orders, there shall be stay to the observations made by the judge in paragraphs 21, 24 and 26 of the order dated March 17, 2025," the Bench held.

The staying of the High Court's observations would mean the same cannot be used in any judicial proceeding to seek relief by the present set of accused or others. The HC's verdict held that the attempt to rape of offence was not made out against the accused and they were liable to be summoned for the lesser offence of assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe her. "There is no allegation that the accused tried to commit penetrative sexual assault against the victim," the High Court further said. (SEE PAGE 2)

HC HAD SAID GRABBING OF WOMAN'S BREASTS, PULLING HER PYJAMA DRAWSTRINGS IS NOT RAPE ATTEMPT

Chaos in House; war of words between BRS, Cong

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Assembly witnessed chaos on Wednesday as BRS working president KT Rama Rao and ruling Congress members clashed over corruption allegations, leading to disruption in the House.

During the discussion on the budget demands, Government Whip Adi Srinivas alleged that BRS MLAs were enacting a drama and violating Assembly rules by staging protests in the lobbies and also at the Assembly entrance. Demanding action against the opposition MLAs, he alleged that they ended up in the opposition during their corruption and irregularities.

Strongly objecting to Srinivas' remarks, BRS working president and senior MLA KT Rama Rao stated that Adi Srinivas was bringing up unnecessary issues. He recalled his association with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikra-

BRS STAGES WALKOUT TWICE

HYDERABAD: The BRS staged a walkout from the Assembly twice on Wednesday, first alleging unparliamentary language by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and later protesting against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims on the MLAs' disqualification case, the hearing of which is still going on in the Supreme Court. (REPORT PAGE 5)

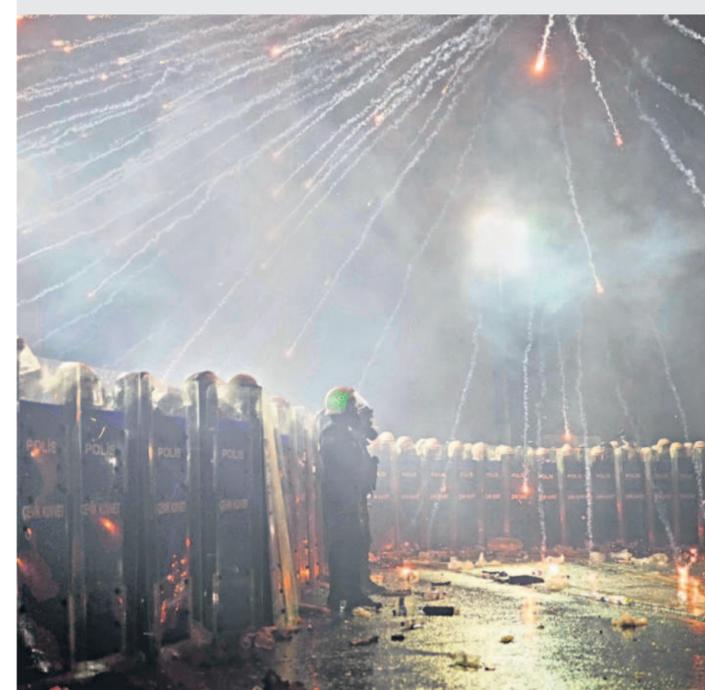
marka in the House for last 16 years since when he was a new MLA and Bhatti Vikramarka was Deputy Speaker of the House.

"I have great respect for him. But it is wrong on part of Adi Srinivas to attribute statements which I never uttered against him. If I want, I can also call the Chief Minister a 'Vote-for-Note CM' or say this is a 20 per cent-30 per cent commission government, as alleged by Jeddcharla MLA Anirudh Reddy. I have only cited the protests by contractors and urged the government to resolve the issue," he remarked, referring to allegations of corruption.

The heated exchange intensified when Rama Rao pointed out that even Congress Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had earlier alleged that the Chief Minister secured the post by spending Rs 50 crore. However, his mic was abruptly switched off, sparking outrage among BRS MLAs.

As Congress and BRS members traded barbs, Speaker Gaddam Prasad announced that KT Rama Rao's remarks will be expunged from the records, while BRS legislators loudly protested, demanding that Adi Srinivas's statements be removed from Assembly records as well.

TURKIYE ON THE BOIL



Fireworks thrown by protesters explode over riot police during a protest after Istanbul's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu was arrested and sent to prison, in Istanbul, Turkiye. — Photo: AP

CM defends Gachibowli land auction

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Amid rising criticism, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy attempted to defend the Congress government's decision to auction Kancha Gachibowli lands for industrial development, dismissing protests by opposition parties, students and environmentalists as politically motivated.

He accused critics of misleading the public and insisted that the land had no connection to the University of Hyderabad.

Addressing the Assembly on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy stated that the land was handed over to a private entity 25 years ago and was not under the University ownership. He claimed that his government fought a legal battle in the Supreme Court to reclaim it and had now transferred it to the TGIIC for an open auction to attract multinational companies. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Priest jailed for Saroornagar murder

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A local court sentenced a priest, A Venkat Sai Krishna, to life imprisonment in the brutal murder case of K Apsara (30), reported at Saroornagar in 2023. It also sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for seven years for tampering with ev-

idence. The court imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh, of which Rs 9.7 lakh was to be handed to the victim's family as compensation.

Krishna, a priest at a temple and already married, had promised to marry Apsara, a resident of Saroornagar. He lured her to Shamshabad under pretext of a trip to Coimbatore, then murdered

her by smothering and concealed her body in a manhole near the Bangaru Maisamma temple in Saroornagar in June 2023.

Krishna had planned the deception, even creating fake flight tickets to gain Apsara's confidence. He also told Apsara's mother he was dropping her off at the RGI Airport. (SEE PAGE 2)

Two killed in collision

HYDERABAD: Two youths were killed after a rashly driven car went out of control and ran into their motorcycle near Paradise junction in Secunderabad on Wednesday morning.

The victims were identified as Y Harshith (20) from Babu Jagjeevan Ram Nagar in Bhoiguda and his friend Devi Pranay (18) of Chacha

Nehru Nagar, both working for a pest control firm in Marredpally.

The duo started from their office after the day's work on Harshith's Harley Davidson motorcycle and went to have tea near Paradise Hotel before going to their homes, when the incident occurred in the wee hours. (SEE PAGE 2)

Teen undergoes complex heart transplant at NIMS

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 19-year-old youngster, Anil Kumar, who was suffering from severe heart disease, has received a new lease of life after successfully undergoing a complex heart transplant surgery at

Hyderabad-based Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS).

The heart-lung transplant team of NIMS said a medical team, led by head of cardio thoracic surgery, NIMS, Dr Amaresh Rao, successfully completed the surgery on March 7. Post transplant

surgery, Anil Kumar, who was under observation at NIMS, has recovered and responded very well, surgeons said.

For the past two-three years, there has been a concerted attempt by surgeons from NIMS to ensure complex organ transplants are

taken up regularly for needy patients free of cost through CM Relief Fund and Aarogyasri. As part of these efforts, the heart-lung transplant department had entered into MoU with UT Southwestern Medical Centre, Texas, which has a track record of successfully con-

ducting nearly 500 transplants every year.

The collaboration between NIMS and UT Southwestern Medical Centre ensured sharing of latest developments and techniques needed for successful transplant surgeries. (SEE PAGE 2)