



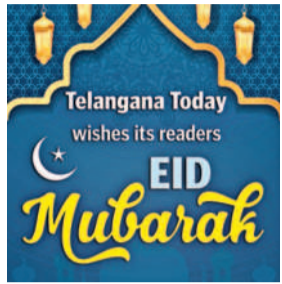
HYDERABAD | PAGE 03
 Temperatures to peak in coming days in Hyderabad



WORLD | PAGE 09
Iran rejects direct talks with US after Trump's letter
 Trump says if Tehran does not make a deal, there will be bombing



SPORT | PAGE 10
Starc Reality: Sunrisers Hyderabad top guns fail to fire



UoH on the boil, students detained

Cops drag them by hair and feet, release them late at night



Students protest against clearing forest land at the UoH east campus, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

CITY BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

As excavators rolled in to slice off a green corner of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) at Gachibowli and prepare 400 acres for the State government's intended auction, tension peaked on the campus with students trooping in large numbers to protest.

As eight of the excavators were moved to the university east campus accompanied by heavy police contin-

gent, the students marched in to the site and made efforts to stall the exercise.

For the past few weeks, university students, teaching and non-teaching communities are up in arms against the government's decision to auction the forest land at Kancha Gachibowli. The protesters have been arguing that any development activity would spell doom for the flora and fauna, creating ecological imbalance besides destroying lung space for the city.

As the excavators started clearing the shrubs and levelling the land, the protesters, who included a large contingent of women students, intervened and raised slogans against the police personnel who barricaded the entire east campus.

In a bid to stop the work, some students climbed onto the excavators and some tried to lie down in front of the heavy machinery. However, police personnel dragged the students. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Respond on suppression of dissent'

HYDERABAD: Voicing concern over the freedom of press and expression coming under sustained political attack in Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday strongly denounced the rise in police excesses and suppression of dissent under the Congress rule.

He accused the authorities of arresting journalists and silencing voices that oppose government policies. He also condemned the detention of students and journalists protesting against the government moves for auctioning hundreds of acres of green land belonging to the Hyderabad Central University on Sunday.

Highlighting the erosion of press freedom and the right to expression, he stated that such actions were unacceptable in a democratic society. Calling on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to address the issue, he questioned his silence on the atrocities being perpetrated under his party's rule in Telangana. (SEE PAGE 2)

AFSPA extended in Manipur, Nagaland

Further extension of law for six months will be effective from April 1, says Home Ministry

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for another six months in certain parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, officials said, adding that further extension of the law would be effective from April 1.

The AFSPA, which gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order", was on Sunday extended for six more months in the entire state of Manipur, excluding the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the 13 police stations of five districts — Imphal West, Imphal East,

Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching. There are 16 districts in Manipur, which have been devastated by the ethnic violence between the majority Meitei and the minority Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribals since May 3, 2023.

The MHA notification said that the Central government, after review of the law and order situation in the state of Manipur, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the AFSPA, 1958, extended the law for another six months with effect from April 1.

A separate notification of the MHA said that the AFSPA has been extended in eight districts of Nagaland — Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek and Peren — and 21 police stations in five other districts

— Kohima, Mokokchung, Longleng, Wokha and Zunheboto — and these areas declared "disturbed area" for a period of six months with effect from April 1.

Another MHA notification said that the AFSPA has also been extended in Tirap, Changlang and Longleng districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai, Mahadevpur and Chowkham police stations in Namsai district of the State, bordering the State of Assam, and these areas declared as "disturbed areas" for a period of six months with effect from April 1.

The law and order situations of the areas of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh where AFSPA has been extended were also reviewed by the Centre. (IANS)

In a nutshell

B'luru-Kamakhyia train derailed, 1 dead

CUTTACK: One person was killed and three others injured as an express train derailed in Odisha's Cuttack district on Sunday, officials said. Eleven coaches of the SMVT Bengaluru-Kamakhyia AC Express derailed at Nirgundi near Manguli at 11.54 am, Chief Public Relations Officer of the East Coast Railway Ashok Kumar Mishra said. The deceased was identified as 22-year-old Suvankar Roy of Alipurwar in West Bengal, Railways said, adding that the youth jumped from the train after derailment and died. (NATION PAGE 7)

ChatGPT down amid Ghibli frenzy

NEW DELHI: AI chatbot ChatGPT was down for several users on Sunday with its servers overwhelmed by a surge in demand for its new Studio Ghibli-style image generation feature. However, the developer soon updated saying all impacted services have been "fully recovered". Reports of the outage began surfacing Saturday evening, leaving several users unable to access the service for a considerable period, but escalated on Sunday around 4 pm, with users flocking to social media to express frustration. (BUSINESS PAGE 8)

50 naxals surrender

BIJAPUR: Fifty Naxalites, including 14 with a cumulative reward of Rs 68 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday, a police official said. The Naxalites, 10 of whom are women, turned themselves in before senior officials of the state police and the Central Reserve Police Force, he added. The cadres surrendered citing the hollow and inhuman Maoist ideology, exploitation of tribals by senior cadres of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) and differences brewing within the movement. (NATION PAGE 8)

Paddy farmers across Telangana face tough time

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
 Hyderabad

Paddy farmers in Telangana are facing uncertainties during the ongoing Rabi season, with market prices and climatic conditions adding to their woes.

The Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) has projected that Paddy Grade-A and Paddy-Common could trade in the price ranges of Rs 2,630-Rs 2,970 and Rs 2,320-Rs 2,520 per quintal, respectively, in the initial weeks of the harvest season.

These prices fall short of farmers' expectations, espe-

RYOT ENDS LIFE OVER CROP FAILURE

NAGARKURNOOL: Faced with poor yield and mounting frustration, Konamani Srinivasulu, a farmer died, reportedly by suicide at Devul Thirumalapur village in Pedda Kothapally Mandal of Nagarkurnool district on Sunday. Srinivasulu, a tenant farmer, had taken a mango garden on lease in Veppur village of Kalwakurthy mandal this year. He paid the rent amount well in advance as was the practice in the area. But the mango yield was severely affected due to pests while gale caused significant damage in the fruiting stage. Upset by the crop loss, he hanged himself to death.

cially after heavy investments to save their crops from water scarcity.

The minimum support price for A-grade paddy is set at Rs 2,320 per quintal, with an additional Rs 500 for fine varieties. However,

this MSP is not seen as encouraging, given the higher input costs for Rabi crops compared to Vanakalam crops. Adding to the challenges, water scarcity has put paddy crops in over 8 lakh acres at risk. (SEE PAGE 2)

Moon sighted, Eid today

HYDERABAD: Eid ul Fitr will be celebrated in the State on Monday. The festival is celebrated on the first of the Hijri calendar month of Shawwal and marks the completion of Ramzan, the month of fasting. The Markazi Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee, Hyderabad, which met on Sunday evening, said it has received reports of sightings of new moon from different districts of Telangana and other States. The following are the timings of the Eid ul Fitr prayers at important places in the city — Eidgah Mir Alam (10 am), Eidgah Qutub Shahi (9.15 am) and Eidgah First Lancer (9 am), Eidgah Madannapet (10 am), Mecca Masjid (10 am), Shahi Masjid Bagh-e-Aam (9.30 am), Jamia Masjid Osmania, Malakpet (9 am) and Masjid-e-Azizia, Mehdiapatnam (6.45 am).

Six dead in HP landslide

SHIMLA: A landslide triggered by a storm in Himachal's Kullu district on Sunday left six people dead and as many injured after a huge tree fell on several vehicles near Gurudwara Manikaran Sahib, officials said. Medical teams, police and revenue officials are present at the spot and coordinating rescue and relief operations, Kullu's Sub Divisional Magistrate Vikas Shukla told reporters at the spot. A tree on a mountain opposite the gurudwara got uprooted following a storm and landslide. It fell on some vehicles and some *rehri* (wooden carts) on the road, the officials said. Among those killed were Manikaran resident Reena, Varsini from Bengaluru and Sameer, a native of Nepal. (PTI)

Trump warns Greenland

NUUK (GREENLAND)

The Danish Foreign Minister on Saturday scolded the Trump administration for its "tone" in criticising Denmark and Greenland, saying his country is already investing more into Arctic security and remains open to more cooperation with the United States.

Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen made the remarks in a video posted to social media after US Vice President JD Vance's visit to the strategic island.

Later on Saturday, though, US President Donald Trump maintained an aggressive tone, telling NBC News, "I never take military force off the table" in re-

gards to acquiring Greenland. "Many accusations and many allegations have been made. And of course we are open to criticism," Rasmussen said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators in Denmark's capital Copenhagen and Aarhus voiced opposition to the remarks and actions by the US. (AGENCIES)

TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION



A Buddhist monk walks past a collapsed pagoda after the earthquake, in Mandalay, central Myanmar, on Sunday. — Photo: AP/PTI

New I-T rules for salaried employees from tomorrow

AS THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR BEGINS ON APRIL 1, SEVERAL CHANGES IN INCOME TAX RULES WILL COME INTO EFFECT. FROM HIGHER TAX-FREE INCOME LIMIT TO CHANGES IN TDS RULES, THESE REVISIONS WILL IMPACT EVERY TAXPAYER IN INDIA

- Increase in tax-free income limit under new tax regime one of the biggest reliefs
- Individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will not have to pay any income tax
- Salaried employees will benefit from Rs 75,000 standard deduction
- This makes income up to Rs 12.75 lakh tax-free
- Revised tax slabs under new tax regime, old tax regime remains unchanged
- Income up to Rs 4 lakh will be tax-free
- Earnings between Rs 4 lakh and Rs 8 lakh will be taxed at 5%
- Tax rates gradually increase with higher income, reaching 30% for those earning above Rs 24 lakh
- Rebate limit under Section 87A raised from Rs 25,000 to Rs 60,000
- Old tax regime remains unaffected
- Threshold for TDS on bank deposit interest increased from Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000
- Interest earnings up to Rs 50,000 not subject to TDS deductions
- Benefits, allowances given by employers will no longer be classified as taxable perquisites
- Taxpayers will have 4 years, instead of 2, to file updated I-T Returns (SOURCE: IANS)

'Empuraan' row: Mohanlal sorry after BJP, RSS voice ire

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Veteran Malayalam actor Mohanlal has posted an apologetic statement on social media after a few right leaning sections voiced their opposition to some political and social themes in his latest movie, *Empuraan*.

The actor said in a Facebook post that he had come to know that certain aspects of the film had caused distress to some of his fans and assured that the team had decided to remove such references. "As an artiste, it is my duty to ensure that



none of my films promote hatred toward any political movement, ideology, or religious community. With that in mind, both I and the *Empuraan* team sincerely regret any distress this may

have caused my well-wishers," he said. "I have come to know that certain political and social themes portrayed in *Empuraan*, second part of the *Lucifer* franchise, have caused deep distress to many who love me. We also acknowledge that the responsibility for this rests with all of us who worked behind the film. We have collectively decided to remove such elements from the movie," he added. The controversy erupted over the alleged depiction of the 2002 Gujarat riots, leading to backlash from BJP-RSS leaders. (SEE PAGE 2)

Woman, three children drown in pond

STATE BUREAU
 Kamareddy

A woman and her three children drowned in a pond at Venkatapur village in Yellareddy mandal on Sunday morning.

The victims are Mounika (27), Maithili (10), Akshara (8) and Vinay (5). According to reports, Mounika was washing clothes near the pond while her children entered the water to bathe. As they walked into the deeper stretch of the pond, she saw them drown. In an attempt to save them, she too entered the water, but drowned.