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Roads are for traffic, not namaz, says Yogi



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Chinese military starts drills around Taiwan

The PLA says large-scale exercises are 'severe warning' to Taiwan



SPORT | PAGE 10

Punjab Kings outclass Lucknow Super Giants

In a nutshell

India, Chile hold trade talks

New Delhi: India and Chile on Tuesday announced starting negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font held wide-ranging talks focusing on boosting the ties in areas of trade, defence, critical minerals and health. Describing Chile as an important "friend and partner" for India in Latin America, Modi said several new initiatives were identified to enhance overall cooperation.

Businessman duped of Rs 1 crore

Hyderabad: A city-based businessman was cheated by cyber fraudsters to the tune of Rs 1.28 crore who allegedly promised automobile dealership of a leading car manufacturer, using a fake website. The fraudsters made the victim transfer the money within ten days under the pretext of registration, security deposit, no-objection certificate, etc., promising to provide a Kia Motors dealership. (REPORT PAGES)

India sends relief to Myanmar

New Delhi: Bolstering India's efforts to provide succour to quake-hit Myanmar, INS Gharial loaded with relief material weighing nearly 440 tonne, on Tuesday sailed out of Visakhapatnam harbour while a field hospital set up by the Indian Army in Mandalay has been operationalised, offering medical care to the injured. Indian Naval ships -- INS Satpura and INS Savitri -- which had left for the neighbouring country on Saturday, carrying 40 tonne material.

J-K DGP reviews situation

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti on Tuesday visited Kathua district and reviewed the ongoing combing operation to track down three terrorists who escaped after a brief encounter with security forces last night, officials said. DGP Prabhat, along with IGP Tuti and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma, arrived at the Panjirthi site in Kathua where the operation is underway, they said.

Kanche land: Cong in a spot

Govt on backfoot as support pours in from across nation for UoH protest



Students staging protest at the University of Hyderabad campus opposing the auction of 400 acres in Kanche Gachibowli, on Tuesday. — Photo: Anand Dharama

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Even as support from the student community across the nation poured in for the University of Hyderabad (UoH) students' protest against the Congress government's move to auction 400 acres of forested land in Kanche Gachibowli, apart from celebrities also extending solidarity, the Congress government tried to wriggle out of the major embarrassment it had landed itself in by slinging mud in all directions.

That the State government was finding itself on the backfoot was evident from the hurried meeting that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy called for at the Police Command Control Centre here with a few Cabinet ministers including Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

Absence of forests will see rise in temperature: Report

HYDERABAD: Clearing the Kanche Gachibowli Forest will be a jolt to Gachibowli and surroundings, which are struggling to breathe, as absence of the forest will increase the temperature from 1 to 4 degrees C throughout the area, highlighted a report on KGF. As per an Ecological Heritage report KGF prepared by a researcher Arun Vasireddy, the KGF is home to 233 bird species, while KBR National Park's diversity has 150, and much lesser for Mrugavani National Park and others around city. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Writ plea against auction: High Court posts case for hearing

HYDERABAD: The PIL Bench of the Telangana High Court comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara posted for hearing the case pertaining to the proposed act of the State government in putting up 400 acres of land at Kanche Gachibowli in Serilingampally mandal for auction through the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC). Kalapala Babu Rao, a retired scientist from the twin cities filed the writ plea seeking a court direction to declare the State's action in razing 400 acres of forest land as unlawful.

and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. He was also slated to fly to New Delhi later in the day, reportedly to appraise the party high command on what was happening here.

The Congress strategy became clear a little later as the Ministers addressed a press

conference, with Ponguleti going to the extent of alleging that the entire protest was being masterminded by certain political party workers, whom he called "paid batches", who were even attacking police officers.

The Congress also resorted to mudslinging in

multiple ways the same day, flinging allegations on the ownership of the land, on the transaction history of the land with TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and others coming out with versions of their own.

On the other hand, the campus remained on the

boil, with UoH boycotting classes and taking out a massive rally from various hostels to the varsity administration building.

In a hard-hitting response to Revanth Reddy's recent remarks that there were no tigers or deer in the area, but some "cunning foxes" trying to obstruct development, students carried posters with caricatures of a fox that read: "We are the Foxes, Our Den, Our Land, Our Rights".

On the other hand, the Students Union, along with several other students' organisations, called for an indefinite protest, commencing Tuesday. The ABVP UoH unit called for a maha dharna at the university main gate even as a large number of police stood put at the university east campus and main gates. Students from various universities also backed the UoH students. (SEE PAGE 2)

Revanth holds meet on land issue

Slated to fly to New Delhi to brief AICC leadership

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

With the University of Hyderabad land issue snowballing into a major controversy, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy held an emergency meeting with a few cabinet Ministers at the Command Control Centre here on Tuesday.

The Ministers were informed about the meeting at short notice. Initially, many thought the meeting would be about cabinet expansion but the discussion was mostly about the University of Hyderabad land issue. Cutting across party lines, political parties are raising objections over the proposed auction of university lands at Kanche Gachibowli. Accordingly, affiliated organizations of a couple of parties organized different programmes in protest against the government's plans.

In this context, the Chief Minister is learnt to have discussed a few aspects with his cabinet colleagues. The focus was on how to counter the opposition parties' narrative and win people's confidence over the issue, sources said. The Chief Minister is also learnt to have issued a few specific instructions to a couple of his cabinet colleagues. Already, the Chief Minister's Office has issued a detailed statement on the university land issue on Monday.

With the Chief Minister slated to fly to New Delhi later this evening, he is expected to brief the AICC

Are you govt or bulldozer company: KTR

HYDERABAD: Coming down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the government over its continuous demolition drives, destroying homes of people and animals in the name of environmental protection and development. He questioned whether Revanth Reddy was running a government or a bulldozer company.

In a post on X, Rama Rao said the Revanth Reddy government had first bulldozed the homes of many poor people in the name of environmental protection for the Musi Riverfront Development Project. Later, he said the government went after the tribal hamlets in Lagacherla and surrounding areas under the pretext of development, calling them barren lands which were good for nothing.

leadership as well over the issue. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and others attended the meeting.

18 killed in blast at cracker warehouse in Gujarat

PALANPUR (GUJARAT)

Eighteen persons were killed and five others injured after a blast at a firecracker warehouse led to a blaze and collapse of the building in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident took place in an industrial area near Deesa town at around 9.45 am.

"As many as 18 persons died in the incident, and five others are injured after the slab of the building collapsed following a massive blast," Superintendent of

Police Akshayraj Makwana said.

He said the victims were workers from Madhya Pradesh and their family members, and most of them died after the slab collapsed on them.

The unit was meant to store firecrackers, and so far no clue has been found that firecrackers were being manufactured, Makwana said. Earlier, officials had said it was a factory.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the incident and announced a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the fam-

ilies of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured persons.

"The incident of the death of workers due to fire and slab collapse in a firecracker godown in Deesa is heart-breaking. My heartfelt condolences are with the relatives of the deceased in this hour of grief," Patel said in a post on X. "I am in constant touch with the administration regarding the relief, rescue and treatment work in this accident. I have instructed the administration to ensure that the injured get proper treatment at the earliest." PTI

Drunk driver hits woman SI in bid to escape

STATE BUREAU
 Sangareddy

A drunk man, who attempted to escape the police during a vehicle check, hit a woman SI, Nagalakshmi, injuring her on the Mangampet-Jinnaram road on Monday evening. He went on to hit another car, which was also stopped as part of a drunk driving checking, injuring a man sitting in that car as well.

The accused, along with a co-passenger, tried to escape abandoning the Audi car, following which the locals chased him down and caught him. (SEE PAGE 2)

German woman raped in Hyd, car driver detained

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A 22-year-old German woman was allegedly sexually assaulted by a car driver who had offered her a lift at Pahadishareef on the city suburbs on Monday. The Pahadishareef police arrested Mohd Abdul Aslam (25), a resident of SRT Colony in Yakutpura, on charges of raping the woman.

As per available information, the German woman along with another fellow country man arrived in Hyderabad on March 4 to at-

The woman had reportedly come to the city for a wedding and had gone to Mamidipally to click some pictures

tend a wedding and also meet a friend.

On Monday, she and her German friend were touring the city, when a car driver offered them a lift near Manda Mallamma Garden in Champapet of Kanchanbagh around 7 pm. There

were some other passengers in the vehicle, who later got down at their destinations.

Before reaching Mamidipally area on the city outskirts, her German friend too got down and she went in the car to Mamidipally alone along with the driver reportedly to click some pictures of the nature.

On reaching a secluded road near Pahadishareef, the suspect misbehaved and raped her in the rear seat of the car.

The woman, however, escaped and informed her German friend. (SEE PAGE 2)

Waqf Bill in Lok Sabha today Most inhuman, SC raps UP on demolitions

New Delhi

The Lok Sabha will take up the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill for discussion and passage on Wednesday, setting the stage for a showdown between a government determined to push it through and an opposition united in condemning the proposed law as unconstitutional.

Rajya Sabha is expected to take it up on Thursday, with the two Houses allocated eight hours each for debating the proposed law.

Some BJP allies, sources said, continue to push for more changes in the Bill. A senior member of a BJP ally expressed hope that the saf-



ron party will accommodate their views, stressing that some of their concerns were addressed by the Joint Committee of Parliament which scrutinised the Bill.

TDP and JD(U), the two biggest constituents of the NDA after the BJP, issued whips to their MPs asking them to support the government stand. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

NEW DELHI

Calling the demolition of houses in Prayagraj "inhuman and illegal", the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the city development authority to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation to each aggrieved house owner within six weeks.

"The manner in which the demolition has taken place shocks our conscience. Residences of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished. There is something called right to shelter, due process of law," said a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan.

The bench said the "high handed" manner of the dem-



olitions showed insensitivity on the part of authority while underlining the "rule of the law in the country".

Residential structures of citizens cannot be demolished in such fashion, it added. The apex court said the

Prayagraj Development Authority must remember right to shelter is an integral part of Article 21 and there is a rule of law which is basic part of the Constitution.

The top court said the demolition was carried out by the authority under Section 27 of the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973.

The bench observed a show cause notice was issued on December 18, 2020, and pasted on the houses the same day, with the remark that on two occasions attempts had been made to serve it in person.

The court said a subsequent order of demolition was also affixed on January

8, 2021, but not sent by the registered post.

"The first registered post communication was sent on March 1, 2021, received on March 6, 2021, and the demolition was carried out the next day, leaving the appellants with no opportunity to appeal under Section 27(2) of the Act," the bench said.

The top court went on, "The object of the proviso to Section 27(1) is to provide a reasonable opportunity to showcase before demolition. This is no way of granting a reasonable opportunity." As per provisions, the bench said, genuine efforts should be made to serve notice in person before resorting to affixure. (SEE PAGE 2)