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ED challenges Lok Ayukta closure report in MUDA case



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Israel seizing 'large areas' in Gaza Strip

Military operations overnight kill 30 people, including dozens of children



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

Top Gun, Batman actor Val Kilmer passes away

In a nutshell

LRS extended to April 30

With poor response from the public to its Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS), the State government has decided to extend the date for payment of the LRS fee and charges with a rebate of 25 per cent up to April 30. Orders to this effect were issued on Wednesday. In February this year, the Congress government had announced regularisation of plots in unapproved and illegal layouts across the State. Orders were issued to clear 16 lakh applications under LRS 2020.

(REPORT PAGE 5)

Parliament passes Immigration Bill

New Delhi: Parliament approved a bill to regulate immigration, entry and stay of foreigners in India, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod on Wednesday. The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 was passed in Lok Sabha on March 27, 2025. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill by voice vote on Wednesday after various amendments moved by Opposition members were negated. Replying to the discussion on the Bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai attacked the previous Congress government and the TMC.

Tesla sales tumble 13%

New York: Tesla sales fell 13 per cent in the first three months of the year, another sign that Elon Musk's once high-flying electric car company is struggling to attract buyers. The double-digit drop is likely due to a combination of factors, including its aging lineup, competition from rivals and a backlash from Musk's embrace of right wing politics. It also is a warning that the company's first-quarter earnings report could disappoint investors. Tesla reported deliveries of 336,681 globally.

Infant succumbs to bird flu in AP

NARASARAOPETA (AP): A two-year-old girl from Andhra Pradesh succumbed to bird flu more than a fortnight ago, an official said on Wednesday. The infant died on March 15, and the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) later confirmed that she had contracted bird flu after testing her sample. "The girl died of bird flu while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Mangalagiri," the official said. However, he said only the infant contracted bird flu in her family.

(REPORT PAGE 8)

SC fumes at Revanth's no bypolls remarks in Assembly

CM ruled out bypolls even if BRS MLAs defected to Congress, drawing SC's ire

PTI
NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's purportedly saying in the Assembly there would be no bye-elections even if BRS MLAs switched sides attracted Supreme Court's ire on Wednesday.

"If this is said on the floor of the house, your Chief Minister is making a mockery of the Tenth Schedule," a Bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih remarked.

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution deals with provisions on disqualification on the ground of defection.

Reddy allegedly stating in the Assembly on March 26 that there would be no bye-elections even if BRS members switched sides prompted Justice Gavai's strong comments.

The issue cropped up when the Bench was hearing arguments on the pleas raising the issue of alleged delay by the Telangana Assembly Speaker in deciding on the petitions seeking disqualification of some BRS MLAs

WHAT THE APEX COURT BENCH SAID

- If this is (no bypolls) said on the floor of the house, your Chief Minister is making a mockery of the Tenth Schedule
- "Something being said at Ramlila Maidan is different than what is being said on the floor of the house. When a politician says something in the Assembly, it has some sanctity
- If the Speaker does not at all act, then the courts in this country, which not only have a power but also a duty as a guardians of the Constitution, would be powerless
- We have all the respect for the separation of powers doctrine. No difficulty about that. But when a particular constitutional provision has been made with a particular aim and objective, should the courts permit that to be frustrated?

who had defected to the Congress. Senior advocate C A Sundaram, appearing for BRS leader Padi Kaushik Reddy, referred to Reddy's purported statement.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Speaker, said the Assembly proceedings were not in question in the matter pending

before the apex court. "Something being said at Ramlila Maidan is different than what is being said on the floor of the house," Justice Gavai said.

Justice Gavai noted when a politician says something in the Assembly, it has some sanctity. There were judgements which state that a Minister's

CM has scant respect for legislature, judiciary: Harish

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In the wake of the Supreme Court taking strong exception to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks on MLAs' disqualification, former Minister and senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao criticised him for dishonouring the two pillars of democracy - the judiciary and the legislature.

He said despite being the head of the executive, Revanth Reddy had made it a habit to dishonour them. He questioned Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi's silence on the issue, urging him to ensure his party-led government upholds democratic principles. "Will Rahul Gandhi, who always proclaims himself as the champion of democracy, instruct his party's Chief Minister to practise the separation of powers?" Harish Rao asked.

Harish Rao also welcomed the Telangana High Court's interim orders to halt the felling of trees at Survey No. 25 in Kancha Gachibowli village till Thursday.

statement on the floor of the house can be used for interpreting that statute, he added.

Sundaram quoted Reddy as saying, "Speaker sir, through you, I want to assure the members that they need not worry about bye-elections. No bye-elections will happen. Even if BRS de-

sires to have one for their seats, there will be none. Even if their members switch sides, there will not be a bye-election".

Rohatgi said he was not appearing for the Chief Minister. "Mr Rohatgi, you had appeared for the Chief Minister once in that case."

(SEE PAGE 2)

'Waqf Bill has nothing to do with religion'



MPs during a debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

NEW DELHI

The ruling NDA on Wednesday launched a feisty defence of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha amid the opposition's charge that it was unconstitutional and targeted Muslims, as Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that the government had no intention of interfering in their religious matters and was solely driven by the aim of transparent administration of Waqf properties.

Shah's intervention came during the day-long debate that witnessed a fierce exchange between the two sides, with Congress

Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi alleging that the Bill was an attempt to attack the basic structure of the Constitution, defame minorities, disenfranchise them and divide the society.

Minorities Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju in his opening remarks rejected the allegation that the proposed law was an interference in the constitutionally guaranteed freedom in religious affairs. The Bill has nothing to do with religion, but deals only with properties, he said tabling the Bill, which was examined and re-drafted by a joint committee of Parliament.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Warangal chilli bags GI tag

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

The famous Warangal Chapata Chilli, also known as "Tomato Chilli", has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the union government. This is the first horticulture product which got the GI tag and 18th GI registered for Telangana.

Spread over 6,700 acres, the Warangal Chapata Chilli is cultivated in Warangal, Hanamkonda, Mulugu and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts. Around 10,951 metric tonnes are produced every year and this tag will benefit 20,574 farmers.

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The GI tag would encourage more horticultural products to be filed for GI registration in the coming days, said Dr D Raji Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University (SKLTHU). The GI registration for Balanagar Custard Apple

and Armur Turmeric was under process from the University, he said.

The GI application for Warangal Chapata Chilli was filed by Thimmampet Chilli Farmer Producer Company Limited, Janna Reddy Venkat Reddy Horticultural Research Station, Mahabubabad district, and SKLTHU in 2022.

Resolute4IP founder and GI practitioner Subhajt Saha helped with the legal and statutory compliances along with scientist Dr Bhaskar, who worked on technical requirements needed for the GI registration.

(SEE PAGE 2)

UoH students caned

Police resort to action after scuffle ensues near east campus



Police resort to lathi-charge to disperse students on UoH campus on Wednesday. (Right) Students holding placards and raising slogans.



CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Police resorted to caning the students of University of Hyderabad (UoH) who intensified their protests against clearing and auctioning of biodiversity rich land in Kancha Gachibowli abutting the university campus, here on Wednesday.

The incident occurred when the University of Hyderabad Teachers Association took out a rally from Ambedkar Auditorium to university east campus in solidarity with the protesting students. Initially, students raising slogans - 'police go back', 'Awaaz Do Hum Ek Hain', 'Ladenge Jee-tange' - tried to enter their east campus. However, the police who reportedly put up a check post thwarted the students plan. Following this on the call of the teachers association, several students returned to the main gate of the university where they continued the protest.

However, a scuffle ensued between some students and police who deployed in large numbers, barricaded the east campus. Later, the

High Court stays destruction, felling of trees at Kancha Gachibowli

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed Advocate General A Sudarshan Reddy to ensure that no further destruction or cutting of trees should take place till Thursday in the matter pertaining to 400 acres of land at Kancha Gachibowli in Serilingampally mandal. The PIL bench comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara inconclusively heard two public interest litigation cases filed by Kalapala Babu Rao, a retired scientist and Vata Foundation, a non-profit organisation.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Centre seeks report on deforestation

HYDERABAD: The union Ministry of Environment and Forest has intervened in the clearing of 400 acres of forest land in Kancha Gachibowli here for auction, demanding a factual report on the matter from the State government. In a letter to Additional Chief Secretary (Forests), Telangana, on Wednesday, Assistant Inspector General of Forests S Sundar said the Ministry had come to know about the "illegal felling and removal of vegetation" in Kancha Gachibowli by TGILC. There were also various news reports in print and social media in this regard, he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

police resorted to lathi-charge on students.

"Resorting to lathi charge on students is highly condemnable. Several students were badly beaten by police," said Ateeq Mohd, a UoH student. "We will be

continuing the protest until the State government roll back its decision to auction the land and registers the land title on the university's name," Akash Kumar, vice president UoH Students Union.

BRS condemns police brutality, questions Cong govt policies

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) condemned the police brutality against students of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), who were protesting against razing of trees in 400 acres inside the university campus for development. They charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with encroaching on green spaces to promote real estate development while ignoring student concerns and environmental damage.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the government's decision to encroach on green spaces when large tracts of land were available elsewhere. "When 14,000 acres of land in 'Future City' are readily available, why target Hyderabad's environment?" he asked.

Thunderstorms to lash parts of State

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

People in Hyderabad and all the districts of Telangana State are set to witness a major change in weather pattern from today, with intense heat replaced by a significant drop in temperatures, cloudy conditions and rains in the form of thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and hailstorms, throughout the rest of week.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hy-

All the districts in Telangana will receive rains. Maximum temperatures are likely to fall by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius in next 4 days

— INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

derabad has said that from today to Sunday, all the districts of Telangana State will receive rains. The day and night time temperatures, which were hovering above normal for a while, are also set to drop. The IMD-Hy-

derabad has issued thunderstorm warnings to all the districts of Telangana State. "Maximum temperatures are likely to fall slightly for today, from tomorrow gradual fall by 2 to 4 degree Celsius during next 4 days," the

IMD-Hyderabad in its latest forecast said.

For Wednesday, the IMD-Hyderabad has issued yellow (moderate) thunderstorm warning with gusty winds of 40 to 50 kmph and 30 to 40 kmph at some places in Telangana State. The districts for which warning has been issued include Adilabad, KumramBheem Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Medak, Kamareddy, Rajanna Sirsilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Mahabubnagar.