



HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

100-kg pearls for *muthyala talambralu* at Bhadradri



NATION | PAGE 07

Lay down arms, Amit Shah tells Maoists

Says those who surrender will become part of the mainstream



SPORT | PAGE 10

Rahul shines as unstoppable Delhi break Chepauk jinx

In a nutshell

Rajnath flags off Indian Ocean Ship

Karwar: Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR that set sail from the shores of the key Naval base in Karnataka's Karwar on Saturday carrying crew members from India and nine other countries will be on a nearly month-long deployment in the south-west Indian Ocean Region. The ship was flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in presence of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and a large number of naval officers. **PTI**

Actor Prithviraj gets I-T notice

Thiruvananthapuram: With the film Empuraan under scrutiny and facing criticism from the RSS mouthpiece, the film's director and lead actor, Prithviraj Sukumaran, has received a notice from the Income Tax Department. The notice seeks clarification regarding his remuneration and financial dealings related to films released in 2022. Empuraan hit theatres on March 27, and notice was issued on March 29. Prithviraj has been asked to respond by April 29.

Justice Varma administered oath

Prayagraj: Justice Yashwant Varma, who was transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court amid cash-at-home allegations, was administered the oath by the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Arun Bhansali in his chamber. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

Ukraine death toll reaches 18

Kyiv: The death toll from a Russian missile strike in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih has risen to 18, including nine children, regional Governor Serhii Lysak said Saturday. A further 72 people were injured in Friday's attack, the youngest a 3-month-old. About half of them remained in the hospital, with 17 in serious condition. "There can never be forgiveness for this," said Oleksandr Vilkul, head of the city's defense council condemning the strikes.



Manoj Kumar laid to rest

He was cremated with full state honours and a gun salute in Mumbai

12

UoH "relocation move" stirs a hornet's nest

University already an eco-park, say students

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The reported proposal of state government to relocate the University of Hyderabad (UoH) campus, which over the past half-century has painstakingly built itself as an Institute of Eminence, is met with staunch opposition from various quarters.

As per reports in a section of media, the state government is reported to be toying with the idea of shifting the UoH to the proposed Future City and develop the present campus, where angry protests has disrupted the government plan to auction 400 acres of adjoining Kancha Gachibowli land for commercial exploitation, as an eco-park.

This purported move has drawn wide spread condemnation with the university community stating that if that happened, they would be gearing up for another round of protest that would be much more stronger than last week's agitation that halted the deforestation of Kancha Gachibowli land.

Present and former students of the university condemned the plan, stating that it was vengeance against students' recent vehement protest against land auction in Kancha Gachibowli.

KCR LAUDS 'PEACEFUL BATTLE' BY UOH STUDENTS

HYDERABAD: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, who sharply criticised the Congress government for its failure on multiple fronts, had words of appreciation for the students of the University of Hyderabad for the peaceful battle they were waging to save the Kancha Gachibowli forest land. Acknowledging the university's reputation as a centre of excellence, attracting students from across the country, Chandrashekhara Rao slammed the State government's approach to UoH-related issues and commended the party members who supported the students. He pointed out that anti-Telangana forces had previously attempted to portray the formation of Telangana as a failed experiment by undermining the BRS government's efforts. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

AICC BEGINS DAMAGE CONTROL EXERCISE

HYDERABAD: With the Congress government facing severe criticism from all quarters over the Kancha Gachibowli land issue, AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan on Saturday said the version of all stakeholders would be sought and that an amicable solution would be worked out. She arrived in the city for a damage control exercise after the Supreme Court orders to the Congress government here to stop all activities in the contentious lands spread over 400 acres. Speaking to the media after a meeting with the three-Minister committee comprising Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Natarajan said she would meet students, civil society groups and work out a "middle way". **(SEE PAGE 2)**

he ment protest against land auction in Kancha Gachibowli.

As per the plans cited by a section of media, the Kancha Gachibowli and the UoH campus covering 2,000 acres is to be turned into the one's largest eco-parks. This requires the shifting of the UoH campus, for which the government proposed to allocate a mere 100 acre.

Speaking to 'Telangana Today', UoH Students union president Umesh Ambedkar accused the government of diverting attention from the main issue.

"When students are fighting over the university's original land of 2,300 acres, how

can the government come up with a proposal to shift the campus itself? For the last 50 years, several crore rupees were spent on building the university. Any move to shift the campus will meet with much stronger protest from the university community," he said. UoH Students union general secretary Nihad Sulaiman found the government's plan to be absurd. "The university is already an eco-park. We will staunchly oppose any move to shift the campus," he said.

For the last several weeks, the university community has been up in arms against the State government's

move to deforest and auction 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli, abutting the UoH campus.

After a rap from the Supreme Court, which stopped all works in the land, the government is said to be considering a proposal to shift the entire UoH campus to a new 100 acres site in the proposed Future City in the city outskirts.

UoH former general secretary Suman Damara said the campus was already an eco-park where humans and animals have been co-existing. "I wonder what is the need to deforest 100 acres of land and now come up with an eco-park plan?" **(SEE PAGE 2)**

I-T official jumps to death

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Upset over her ill health, an income tax official died by suicide allegedly by jumping from the Central Government Offices (CGO) Towers in Kavadiguda on Saturday.

Jayalakshmi (52), who was working as the Income Tax Inspector in the I-T Department located in the complex, had come to the office on a closed holiday and ended her life.

As per information, Jayalakshmi, was upset over her ill health for the past some days. Though she was undergoing treatment, there was no improvement in her health. She came to office on closed holiday and jumped from the eighth floor of the building.

Decline in Hyderabad's office space leasing: KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Reacting to the alarming decline in office space absorption in Hyderabad, BRS working president KT Rama Rao has voiced concern and wanted the State government to take immediate corrective measures to address the issue.

Hyderabad witnessed a sharp 41% decline in office space absorption during Q1-2025, as highlighted in a recent Colliers report. In a strongly worded statement, he said: "This isn't a nationwide trend."

Before planning new IT parks, the Telangana Chief Minister must address the decline in office space absorption, he stressed.

He pointed out that cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Pune had all witnessed significant growth in office leasing activity.

"Hyderabad stands out in its downward spiral," he added, lamenting the city's fall from its once-dominant position as a leader in office space absorption.

Rama Rao called for introspection and a reassessment of policies, urging the government to form a dedicated committee and engage with key stakeholders to understand the reasons behind the market's dwindling confidence.

Taking a jab at the current approach, he remarked, "Bulldozers don't bring jobs! Policies do!"

He stressed the importance of strategic planning and sustainable development to restore Hyderabad's position as a preferred destination for corporate investments.

Destruction breeds destruction, act before the damage is irreversible. Bulldozers don't bring jobs!

— K T RAMA RAO
BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

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India, Sri Lanka ink defence pact

COLOMBO

Signalling an upswing in their strategic ties nearly four decades after the IPKF episode, India and Sri Lanka on Saturday inked a defence pact to institutionalise military cooperation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that security of both the nations is interlinked and dependent on each other.

Following talks between PM Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the two sides firmed up a total of seven pacts, including one on developing Trincomalee as an energy hub under a trilateral framework, also involving the United Arab Emirates and another agreement on power grid connectivity.

While Modi reaffirmed that New Delhi will always stand with the people of the island nation, Dissanayake said Sri Lanka will not allow



PM Narendra Modi being conferred with 'Mithra Vibhushana' award by Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

its territory to be used in any manner inimical to security interests of India as well as the region.

In the meeting, the Prime Minister pitched for resolving the vexed fishermen issue between the two countries with a "humane approach" and hoped that Colombo will fulfil the aspi-

rations of the Tamil people and conduct provincial council elections.

In his media statement, Modi said India converted loans worth more than USD 100 million into grants in the last six months alone to help Sri Lanka and announced reducing interest rates for loans given to the island na-

tion. Apart from the seven pacts, India also firmed up a debt restructuring agreement as part of its economic assistance for Colombo with Modi saying it will facilitate immediate assistance and relief to the people of Sri Lanka.

Modi also announced a support package of approximately 2.4 billion Sri Lankan rupees for social and economic development of the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.

In reflection of the importance Colombo has attached to Modi's visit, the PM was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the historic Independence Square and was conferred Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour, the Mithra Vibhushana.

Though the Modi-Dissanayake talks produced over 10 concrete outcomes, the defence cooperation pact emerged as the centerpiece. **PTI**

ALL SET FOR CELESTIAL WEDDING



The Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy temple has been decked up for the celestial wedding to be celebrated at Bhadrachalam on Sunday. **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

Congress misses deadline on key schemes

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Congress government has missed yet another deadline leaving many applicants anxious. On January 26, the government launched four schemes — Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Housing scheme, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa and distribution of new ration cards, with much fanfare, but so far, only one scheme has been implemented, that too partially.

Save for the partial implementation of Rythu Bharosa, the other three schemes, Indiramma Housing, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa and new ration cards are yet to be implemented.

Pet schemes Indiramma Indlu, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa, new ration cards yet to take off full fledged

On January 25, before the formal launch of the schemes, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the schemes would be formally launched in only one village in every mandal for implementation on saturation mode. This was in sharp contrast to its earlier announcement that the schemes — distribution of ration cards, Indiramma Indlu, Rythu Bharosa and

Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa — would be launched State-wide for all beneficiaries on R-Day.

Briefing the media, the Deputy Chief Minister had said all the applications received at gram sabhas would be compiled and scrutinised and eligible persons would be extended benefits under the different schemes. He also said this would be completed by March. Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy too had assured that in the identified village, the exercise for distribution of ration cards, Indiramma Indlu, Rythu Bharosa and Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa would be completed on saturation mode. **(SEE PAGE 2)**



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