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Fervour marks Rama Navami celebrations across State



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Hands off protests against Trump sweep across US

Thousands take out rallies opposing the way Trump is running the country



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Sunrisers succumb to their fourth IPL loss

## In a nutshell

### Waqf Act: Fresh plea in apex court

**New Delhi:** A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, claiming it was a "blatant intrusion" into the rights of a religious denomination to manage its own affairs in the matter of religion. President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was earlier passed by Parliament after heated debates in both Houses.

### Israeli strikes kill 15 in Gaza

**Gaza Strip:** Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed at least 15 people, including 10 women and children, overnight and into Sunday, according to local health officials. Israel ended its ceasefire with Hamas and renewed its air and ground war last month. It has carried out under waves of strikes and seized territory in order to pressure the militants to accept a new deal for a truce and hostage release. It has also blocked the import of food, fuel and humanitarian aid.

### Measles outbreak in US

**Washington:** A second school-aged child in West Texas has died from a measles-related illness, a hospital spokesman confirmed Sunday, as the outbreak continues to swell. Aaron Davis, a spokesperson for UMC Health System in Lubbock, Texas, said that the child was "receiving treatment for complications of measles while hospitalised" and was not vaccinated. A unvaccinated school-age child died of measles in February in Lubbock.

### Baby new CPI (M) general secretary

**Madurai:** Former Kerala minister M A Baby was elected as the CPI(M) general secretary at the 24th party congress here on Sunday, sources said. A section of the party leaders had backed All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) president Ashok Dhawale for the post. Born to P M Alexander and Lilly Alexander in Kerala's Prakkulam in 1954, Baby's first exposure to politics came when he joined Kerala Students Federation, the predecessor of the SFI, during his school days.



Deepika, Ranveer in action

B'wood's most adored couple appear together in a commercial

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# Loan burden: Govt on sticky wicket

Kancha Gachibowli land mortgaged to raise Rs 10,000 cr, if SC declares it forest land, loan has to be cleared

PS DILEEP  
HYDERABAD

The Revanth Reddy government finds itself caught in a Catch 22 situation, following the Supreme Court's intervention in the contentious Kancha Gachibowli land issue. The entire episode has now snowballed into a complex financial issue, requiring the State government to clear a massive loan of Rs.10,000 crore from its treasury on a priority basis.

At the heart of the issue lies the massive 400-acre land parcel, valued at over Rs 30,000 crore, that was transferred to the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) in June last year at Rs 75 crore per acre. Soon after gaining a favourable verdict in the IMG Bharatha case in May 2024, the State government moved swiftly to mortgage the lands through ICICI Bank, and raised Rs.10,000 crore through TGIIC with a government guarantee.

Thus, the Congress government availed off-budget loan, while maintaining its borrowings records intact. Though the government maintained that the amount was meant to disburse Rythu Bharosa investment

According to a RTI reply by Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, the corporation did not inform the RBI about the loan, raising more doubts

aid to farmers, it is unclear for what purposes the funds were utilised.

According to a RTI reply by TGIIC, the corporation did not inform the RBI about the loan, raising more doubts.

When asked in the same RTI application how the TGIIC plans to repay the loan, the officials informed that the State government had to repay in this regard. The officials failed to explain how the loans obtained by TGIIC for industrial infrastructure development were diverted for other purposes by the government.

Under these circumstances, the Revanth Reddy government proposed to auction the lands meant for industrial purpose and clear the loan. However, plans to auction the land to repay the borrowings hit a legal and public roadblock after widespread student protests, environmental concerns and the Supreme Court's intervention, effectively putting the brakes on land clearance and auction. The govern-

ment also indirectly threatened through selective media leaks to relocate the University of Hyderabad (UoH) and converting the land into a 2,000-acre eco park, if they cannot find a "mid-way."

Experts warn that the situation could trigger a fiscal crisis. "If the Supreme Court declares the land as forest, the government must repay Rs 10,000 crore immediately from its treasury, as it had guaranteed for the loans," a senior economist said, pointing out that forest land cannot be mortgaged. He dismissed the plans to turn entire UoH area into an eco park, terming it as a diversionary tactic.

The Congress government's only fallback, experts note, is to adjust the off-budget loan under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, but this would shrink Telangana's borrowing limit by Rs 10,000 crore from the sanctioned Rs 69,639 crore for the current fiscal, further constraining its borrowing ability.

KTR urges citizens to unite, defend UoH green cover

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called for a united, peaceful and powerful resistance against the Telangana government's proposed development plan over 400 acres of forest land in Kancha Gachibowli.

He urged students, environmentalists and people of Telangana to come together for a joint movement to protect not just these 400 acres, but the University of Hyderabad (UoH) which the Congress government indirectly threatening to shift to the proposed Fourth City.

In an open letter to citizens of the State on Sunday, Rama Rao reiterated that the BRS remains fully committed to protect the forest in Kancha Gachibowli without causing any harm to the university. "We will ensure that no development project comes at the cost of our environment," he asserted.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Land row: Congress government blames it on AI

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Even after a report from the Telangana High Court Registrar to the Supreme Court confirmed an alarming picture of deforestation in Kancha Gachibowli, apart from stating that a number of peacock, deer and birds were seen in the area, where 'there existed a forest inhabited by wild animals', the Congress government is now spinning a new narrative, dragging in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blaming AI generated photographs and videos for triggering the entire controversy.

Sample this: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's review meeting on Saturday discussed 'reasons behind the controversy', with a statement from the CMO quoting officials that the controversy had led to a national debate as "some people created fake videos and photos using Artificial Intelligence and circulated them widely on social media".

It did not however dis-

Spinning a new narrative, it says AI-generated photographs and videos triggered the entire controversy

cuss how such "fake pictures and videos" could have been avoided to a major extent if the government had not prevented access to the area for the media.

If the media was allowed to shoot videos and pictures from the site, and if the government's version was indeed factual, that itself would have tackled the so-called AI generated content.

On the other hand, netizens point out that the High Court Registrar's report had confirmed the deforestation angle and the presence of peacock and deer, and therefore, the controversy could not be attributed entirely to AI-generated content. Why the government is trying to unnecessarily spin

the narrative that AI-generated content triggered the controversy remains the big question.

The CMO statement also said that top police officials told the Chief Minister that "some vested interests made fake videos and AI photos of crying peacocks and injured deer running away after they were being hit by bulldozers".

"Even some famous persons in various fields presumed the fake videos and photos circulating on the social media are true and it added fuel to the lies," the statement said, also blaming Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, former Minister G Jagadish Reddy, social media influencer Dhruv Rathee, film celebrities John Abraham, Dia Mirza and Raveena Tandon, saying that "they sent a wrong message to the society after they uploaded the fake posts on social media believing them are true".

From these, John Abraham's post had no image. Just a statement:

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Modi takes jibe at Stalin over usage of Tamil



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Ramanathaswamy Temple, in Rameswaram. — Photo: PTI

CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a pointed dig at Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday amid the ongoing debate over the three-language policy.

Addressing a public gathering in Rameswaram after inaugurating the New Pambar Railway Bridge, the Prime Minister remarked that although he regularly receives letters from Tamil Nadu leaders but none of them are signed in Tamil.

"Sometimes, I am surprised when I receive letters from some leaders of Tamil Nadu; none of them are signed in Tamil. If we are truly proud of Tamil, then I would request every-

one to at least sign their names in Tamil," PM Modi said, emphasising the importance of embracing and promoting one's native language.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the efforts of the Central government in promoting the Tamil language and culture globally. "We are working continuously to ensure that Tamil language and Tamil heritage reach every corner of the world," he added.

The remarks come amid a prolonged war of words between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre, with the State accusing the BJP government of attempting to impose Hindi. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Seven die after treatment by 'fake' cardiologist

DAMOH (MP)

Seven persons died allegedly after being treated by a fake cardiologist at a missionary hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, prompting the NHRC to launch a probe into the matter, officials said on Sunday.

A team of the National Human Rights Commission will camp in Damoh to conduct an investigation into the matter, NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo said. As per a complaint lodged by a local resident with the NHRC, a person using the name 'Dr N John Camm', who was said to be working at the hospital, had shown himself to be trained from abroad. The complainant claimed the real name of the person is Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav.

## Farmer leader Dallewal ends fast

CHANDIGARH

Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Sunday ended his hunger strike which he had started on November 26 last year to press for various demands of agitating farmers including a legal guarantee on the minimum support price for crops.

The announcement came a day after Union Agriculture Minister Shriraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu appealed to him to end his fast-unto-death. Union Minister Bittu and Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema welcomed Dallewal's decision. At a 'Kisan

Mahapanchayat' organised at the grain market in Sirhind in Fatehgarh Sahib district of Punjab, Dallewal said he had acceded to the request of the 'sangat' and asserted that their fight for the legal guarantee on MSP for crops and other demands continues. "For me 'sangat' (people) is 'rabb da roop' (a form of God)." PTI

## Two youths feared drowned

STATE BUREAU  
Medak

Two youths were feared drowned in a check dam at Balanagar in Medak mandal on Saturday evening. The two youths Tudum Naveen (21) and Tudum Anil (22), residents of

Medak town, went missing on Saturday. The family members launched a search for them. They found their footwear and clothes on the edge of the check dam at Balanagar. Police and family members launched a search for them in the water body. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 5)

## Man drowns along with pet dog in Lower Manair Dam

STATE BUREAU  
KARIMNAGAR

A 21 year-old person, Sai Trilochan Rao, drowned along with his pet dog in the Lower Manair Dam.

A resident of Padmanagar, Trilochan Rao along with his pet dog had gone to LMD on Saturday evening. He had

wrapped the dog's leash on his hand. When the dog got down into the water, he also slipped and fell into the water.

Though local people, who saw him falling into the water, tried to rescue him, both the dog and the youngster drowned. Police have registered a case.

mal, Nizamabad and Peddapalli districts.

"Dry weather is likely to prevail over Telangana State. The maximum temperatures are likely to gradually rise by 2 degree Celsius and 3 degree Celsius during the next three days," the IMD-Hyderabad in its Sunday evening forecast said.

For Hyderabad and its neighboring districts including Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy and Medak, the

maximum temperatures will hover between 36 degree Celsius and 40 degree Celsius, the IMD-Hyderabad forecast said.

Weather forecaster on X T Balaji, in his daily forecast said that intense heat will cause isolated showers in South and Eastern parts of Telangana State. "While Hyderabad will remain dry, due to intense heat, isolated storms ahead in Mahabubnagar, Vikarabad, Nagarkurnool and elsewhere.

Temperatures will hover between 41 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius in several districts, IMD-Hyderabad said

Bhadradi Kothagudem, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Mulugu, Nir-

ditions throughout Telangana.

While weather conditions will largely remain dry and temperatures (in general) will start rising, from Tuesday onwards, temperatures will hover between 41 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius in several districts of Telangana State, IMD-Hyderabad forecast said.

To this effect, an orange alert for intense heat has been issued by IMD-Hyderabad for Adilabad,