

STUDENTS' UNION 2024-25

University of Hyderabad

Gachibowli, Telangana

02 April 2025,

Delhi.

Respected Sir,

We, the elected representatives of the Students' Union of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), come to you not just as stakeholders of this esteemed institution but as heartbroken witnesses to an unfolding tragedy—a merciless massacre of life, beauty, and hope. The Telangana State government has unleashed hundreds of JCBs to tear through 400 acres of ecologically irreplaceable land within our university, flattening ancient trees, crushing fragile ecosystems, and bulldozing the very soul of this academic sanctuary.

We implore you, with folded hands and tear-stained voices, to intervene immediately and halt this violent clearing, which is nothing short of a green hunt, ecological genocide and a betrayal of public education.

This land—once a thriving tapestry of **734 species of flowering plants, medicinal plants 237 bird species, 15 varieties of reptiles, and rare creatures like the Indian Star Tortoise**—is now a battlefield. The haunting cries of our **national bird, the peacock**, pierce the air as their iridescent feathers are buried under rubble. **Spotted deer**, their gentle eyes wide with terror, are chased from their homes only to be crushed beneath the steel tracks of bulldozers. **These are not mere statistics—they are innocent lives, snuffed out in cold blood for the greed of private corporations.** The **Mushroom Rocks**, ancient sentinels of time, stand on the brink of obliteration, their silent screams drowned by the roar of machinery.

This is murder—murder of the rarest species, murder of a carbon sink that Hyderabad’s suffocating lungs desperately need, murder of the marshlands and wetland ecosystems that cradle the Peacock Lake and Buffalo Lake. These water bodies, lifelines for a city gasping for groundwater, are choking under the debris of this reckless destruction. The destruction of this green space which is vital for the ecological balance of the region shall exacerbate the Urban Heat Island effect and increase the vulnerability of the region to flash urban flooding.

When UoH was founded in 1974 under Article 371(d)(e), it was entrusted with 2,300 acres to nurture knowledge and discovery—not to be carved up and sold like a butcher’s slab. Yet, successive state governments during erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, this latest assault threatens to erase our future entirely. The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) plans to auction this bleeding wound of land to faceless profiteers, turning a university’s sacred promise into a graveyard of concrete. The violent clashes with police, the arrests of protesting students, and the relentless advance of JCBs despite our pleas expose a chilling truth: this is not just an attack on nature but an assault on the autonomy of a Central University, an Institution of Eminence under your Ministry.

Given the urgency of the situation and the imminent, irreversible damage, we urge you to take immediate notice of the following.

1. A Holocaust of Biodiversity & Nature

This urban forest—one of Hyderabad’s last green refuges—shelters endangered species protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. **There is documented evidence and frequent citing of species like the Pea Fowl, Bengal Monitor Lizard, Indian Rock Python and Four Horned Antelope in this area, which are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life Protection Act.** The Indian **Star Tortoise**, a Schedule IV treasure and listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List, is being buried alive. Migratory birds, once a symphony of wings across our skies, now fall silent as their nests are razed. The uprooting of 734 plant species—some found nowhere else—rips apart the roots of life itself, violating the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Where is the Environmental Impact Assessment? Where is the justice for these voiceless victims? ***(Refer Annex-1 for photographs of protected species on university campus)***

A peacock, our national bird and pride, its tail feathers splayed in a final dance of despair, crushed under a bulldozer's weight. A deer, its fragile legs broken, staggers into the chaos only to collapse in a pool of its own blood. These are not exaggerations—they are the brutal reality unfolding before our eyes. This land, a sanctuary for peacocks, deer, and countless others, is being transformed into their execution ground. To auction it off is to sign their death warrants.

In **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India (1996)** judgement the Supreme Court expanded the definition of “Forest” under the Forest Conservation Act. In this case the Supreme Court ruled that conservation law applies to not just forests which are officially notified and that the protections under the act apply to any area which corresponds to the dictionary meaning of forest. In February, 2024 Supreme Court reiterated that the expansive definition of forest as laid down in Godavarman Case shall be followed. **There could be no better case than the proposed 400 Acre auction site to be conserved under this expansive definition of forest.** This makes the proposed auction illegal and unconstitutional. *(Refer Annex-2 for photographs showing the forested area)*

2. A Betrayal of Education and Constitution

This land was gifted to University of Hyderabad for learning, not looting. Auctioning it defies Article 371(d)(e) and mocks the promise of public education. How can we expand our classrooms, labs, and dreams when our campus is being dismembered? This is a dagger in the heart of an Institution of Eminence, stabbed by the very government that claims to champion progress.

In a context where a web of lies, deceit and misinformation are being spread by the Govt. of Telangana and its officers we would like to set the record straight:

a) **ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT:** University of Hyderabad was established as per the provisions of Article 371E of the Constitution of India, by an Act of Parliament in the year 1974, and a total of 2,300 Acres of land was allotted to it through a Government Letter Dt. 21.02.1975 (Letter No: 3624/C1/74-11) in Sy No.25, Kancha Gachibowli Village, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana *(Refer Annex-3 for copy of original allotment letter)*. However, the same land had never been notified and transferred officially to the University and it

continues to be classified as “Government Land” in the state revenue records. Despite this, the University has constructed a compound wall covering 95% of the area allocated to it and has been in uninterrupted possession of the same.

- b) **LAND DE FACTO UNIVERSITY PROPERTY:** The University was established by an Act of Parliament and a Constitutional Amendment. The State Government officially assigned the land under its seal and stamp. Regardless of the lack of mutation in revenue records, the land rightfully belongs to the University, and the State Government cannot claim continued ownership. **In a number of landmark judgements The Supreme Court of India has consistently held that entries in revenue records, such as mutations, do not confer or extinguish ownership rights over property.**
- c) **ATTEMPTS TO GRAB LAND:** Taking advantage of a mere technicality that the land was not mutated in the name of University in revenue records, a number of attempts have been made in the past to alienate University land for extraneous purposes. One such attempt was the alienation of 400 Acres of land by the then Government of Andhra Pradesh under the pretext of developing a “Sports University”. The said 400 Acres land was then transferred to a private organisation by name M/S IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd. During the course of these happenings a proposal was made to the University that in lieu of the said 400 Acres, the government shall provide the University with 530 Acres of contiguous government land in Sy.Nos 36 &37. **It is pertinent to note that the aforementioned 530 Acres land was never handed over to the University of Hyderabad.**
- d) **NO COURT RULING ON LAND TITLE:** Subsequently, in the year 2006 the then Government of Andhra Pradesh cancelled the allocation made to M/S IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd through G.O. No. 111080/S1/2003 dated 21.11.2006 and A.P. Government Property Preservation, Protection and Resumption Ordinance, 2006. Aggrieved by the said ordinance a Writ Petition was filed by M/S IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd in the year 2006 (W.P. No. 24781 of 2006) before the Hon'ble High Court challenging the Constitutional validity of the aforementioned Orders and Ordinance. In its judgement Dt. 07.03.2024 the the Hon'ble High Court has dismissed

the Writ Petition for failing to exhibit that the said Orders and Act were foul of Article 14 and Article 298 of the Constitution as argued by the petitioner. **It is of paramount importance to highlight that the High Court has not dealt with any aspect related to vesting of the land in Government of Telangana, its future uses, or the rights of University of Hyderabad over this land in the said Writ Petition.**

- e) **LAND UNDER UNIVERSITY POSSESSION:** University of Hyderabad has remained in peaceful physical possession of this land through the course of last two decades until recently when the Government of Telangana has sought to transfer land to an extent of 400 Acres to TGIIC to be auctioned and sold in the open market to private business interests. **As is clear now, there was never any attempt by the government to either survey this land and demarcate it or was it ever in physical possession of the same. (Refer Annex-4 for copy of press note released by University of Hyderabad)**
- f) **NEED TO VEST THE LAND IN UNIVERSITY:** Considering the above course of events, the Government of Telangana should have vested the 400 acres of land, originally alienated from the University, back to it, as neither was any land compensated in lieu of the allotment to M/S IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd, nor did the original purpose of establishing a Sports University materialise. Rather than safeguarding the interests of a public institution, Government of Telangana has unfortunately sought to indulge in profiteering from this land. **This is nothing but a brazen betrayal of the Public Trust Doctrine which forms the cornerstone of Modern Democratic Constitutional Government.**

4. Hypocrisy Laid Bare

The Telangana INC government, part of the INDI alliance, preaches against privatization and environmental ruin—yet here it stands, wielding the axe against its own ideals. How can it claim to protect biodiversity while butchering a living forest? How can it speak of education while selling our future to the highest bidder?

While preaching high ideals of democracy and constitutionalism to the gallery, the Telangana INC government has resorted to violence and inhumanly butchering the biodiversity when the courts are on a

holiday. **They have turned the university campus into a war zone and have jailed students under non-bailable sections.** These actions not only demonstrate a blatant disregard for the judicial process and the Constitution but also reveal an inherent cowardice born of the awareness that something immoral is being done. ***(Refer Annex-5 for photographs of police atrocities on University campus)***

We earnestly appeal to you to kindly:

- **Stop the Mad Destruction Now:** Order an immediate cessation of this insane clearing—silence the JCBs that are tearing our land and its creatures apart.
- **Cancel the Auction:** Prevent this blood-soaked land from being handed to corporate vultures.
- **Declare It a National Park and Green Zone:** Transform these 400 acres into a legally protected National Park and Green Zone, ensuring its biodiversity and carbon-sequestering power are preserved for generations, not plundered for profit.
- **Secure University of Hyderabad's Birthright:** Register all 2,300 acres in UoH's name to shield it from future encroachment and destruction.
- **Demand Accountability:** Mandate a transparent Environmental Impact Assessment and public consultation with students, faculty, and experts before another leaf falls.
- **Protect What Remains:** Form a Campus Biodiversity Monitoring Committee to stand guard over this fragile Eden.

Every hour you delay, another tree crashes to the ground, another bird's song is silenced, another deer's life is snuffed out. The University of Hyderabad is bleeding—its flora, fauna, and future haemorrhaging before our eyes. We urge you, as stewards of education and guardians of justice, to act before this irreversible loss scars Hyderabad and India forever. Declare this land a National Park—a beacon of hope, not a tombstone of greed.

Thanking you,

Umesh Ambedkar (President, UOHSU 2024-25)

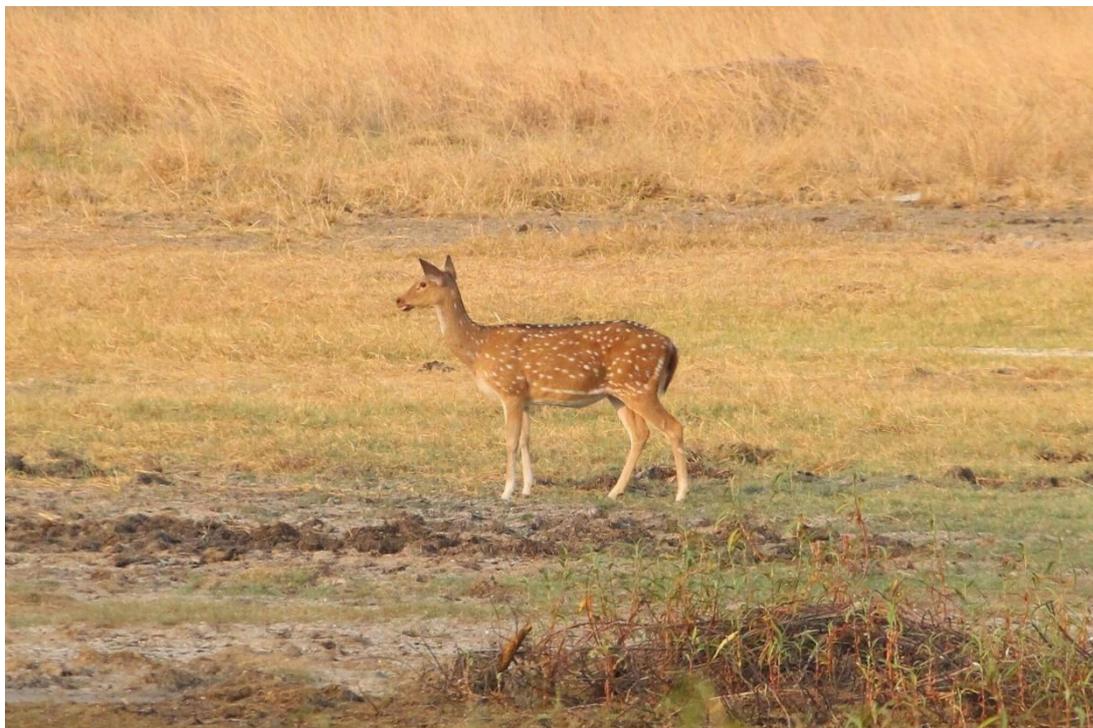
Akash Kumar (Vice President, UOHSU 2024-25)

Nihad Sulaiman (General Secretary, UOHSU 2024-25)

Triveni (Joint Secretary, UOHSU 2024-25)

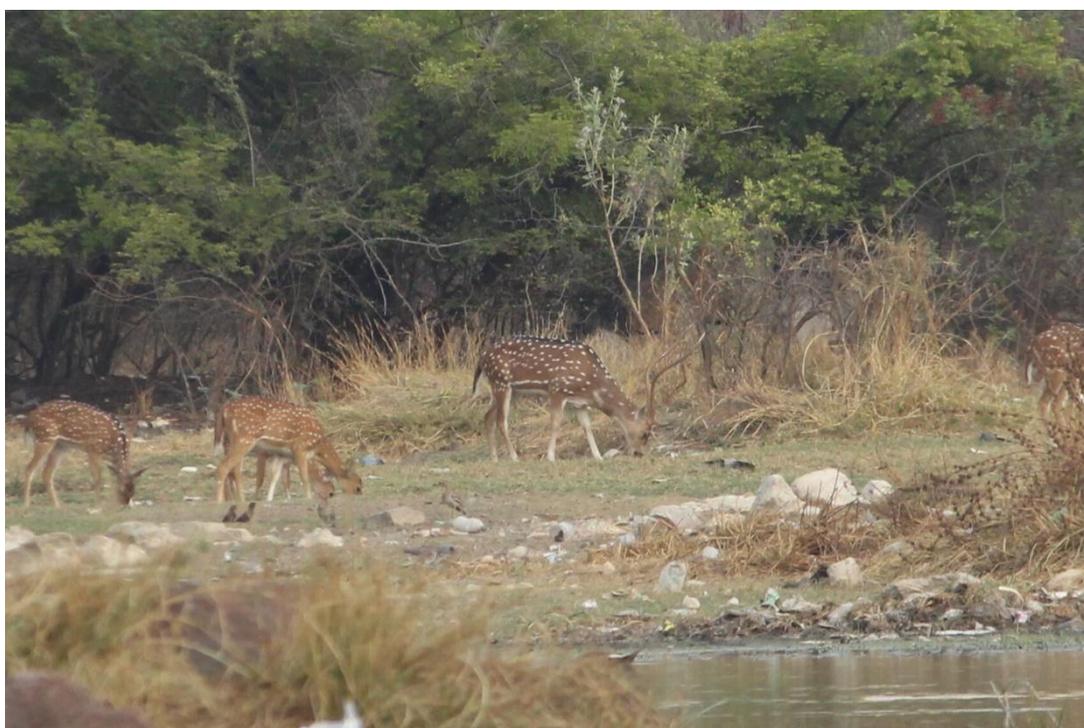
Annexure -1

(Photographic Evidence of Bio-Diversity and Protected Species)



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CHITAL-SPOTTED AT UNIVERSITY



A GROUP OF INDIAN SPOTTED DEAR AT PEACOCK LAKE



INDIAN FLYING FOX



SPOTTED OWLET



Four Horned Antelope – Schedule One Protected Mammal Spotted at East Campus



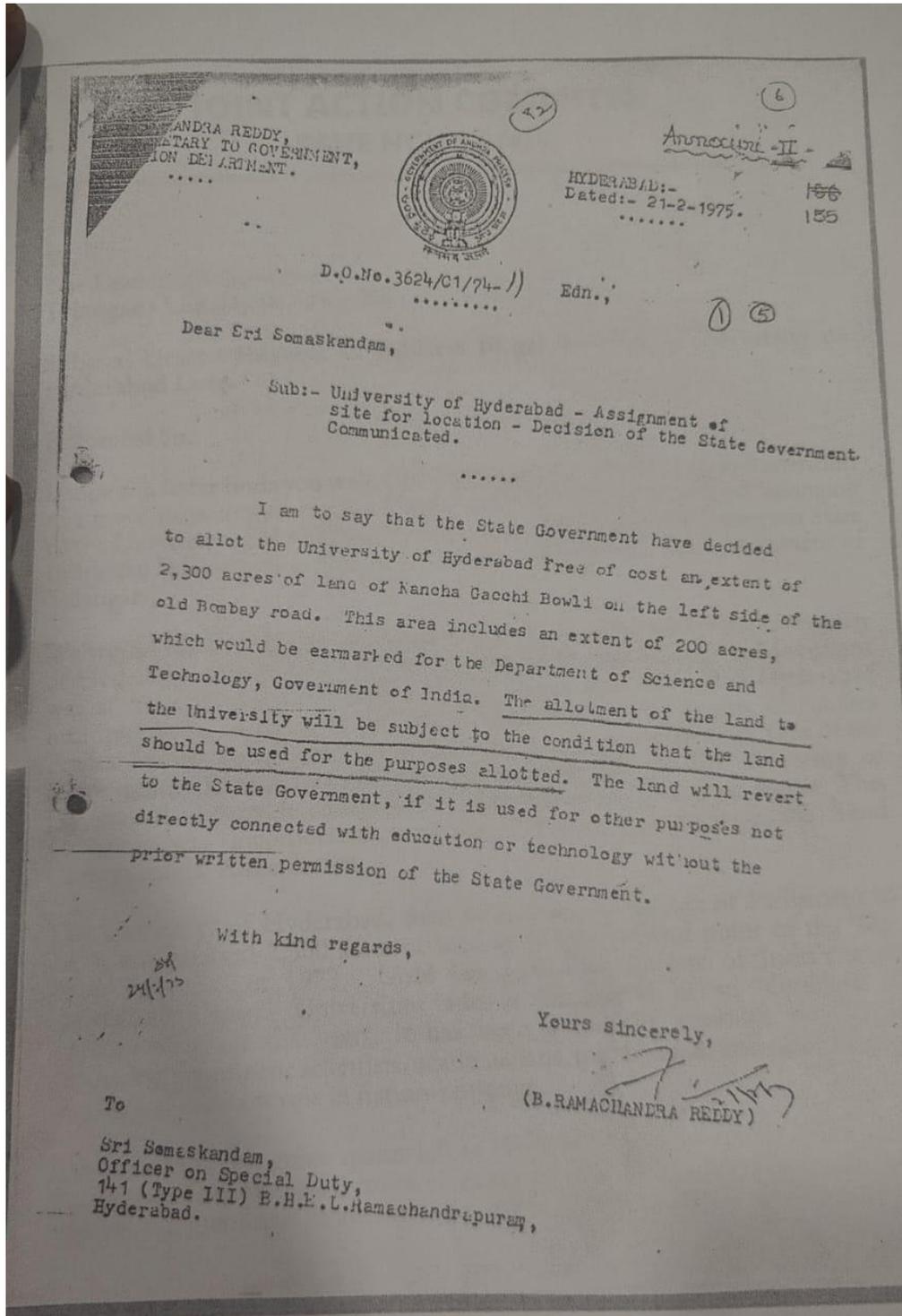
Indian Star Tortoise – IUCN Red List Species, Vulnerable to Extinction
Annexure-2

(Photographic Evidence of Existence of Deemed Forest)



Annexure-3

(Copy of Original Allotment Letter Transferring Land to University)



Annexure-4

(University of Hyderabad Press Release)



हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय
UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

PRESS NOTE

In response to the recent spread of misinformation in the media and other persons, the University of Hyderabad wishes to clarify that no survey was conducted in July 2024 by the revenue authorities in the University campus to demarcate the 400 acres of land resumed by the State Government in 2006 from Ms IMG Academies Bharata Pvt. Ltd. The only action taken thus far has been a preliminary inspection of the land's topography. The University also denies the statement of the TGIIC in the press recently that it has agreed for such demarcation of the land. In fact, no demarcation of land has been done nor the University have been informed. The University of Hyderabad, an Institution of Eminence in its Golden Jubilee year has been requesting the State Government for alienation of its land. The University will forward the representations of the stakeholders to the State Government to reconsider the points raised and request the State Government to conserve the environment and biodiversity in the area.

In this context, it is important to note that any transfer of land allocated to the University can occur with the formal concurrence of the University's Executive Council as per Clause (ix) of Statute 13, which comprises six nominees appointed by the President of India, in the capacity of Visitor of the University.

The University administration strongly urges all stakeholders and members of the media to exercise caution and refrain from disseminating or endorsing unverified information. The unchecked spread of such misinformation, without proper consultation with University authorities, has unfortunately become a recurring issue, as highlighted by several recent media reports.

Date: March 31, 2025

D. Nigam
31-3-25
REGISTRAR



Google Maps Image Showing Disputed Land

Annex-5
Photographs of Police Atrocities on University campus









(Photographic Evidence of Illegal Clearing of Forest)

