

## BRS MLA Nanditha dies in car crash

**SUV reportedly rams truck on ORR, crashes into roadside barrier**

STATE BUREAU  
 SANGAREDDY

An early morning road accident, possibly due to speeding and negligent driving, on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) on Hyderabad's outskirts claimed the life of legislator Lasya Nanditha on Friday.

The 37-year-old died while being shifted to hospital by police and her personal assistant Akash, who was driving the car, sustained fractures on both legs and is recuperating in a hospital in Hyderabad. His condition is said to be stable. Investigators surmise that the legislator's new vehicle, a Maruti Suzuki XL6, rammied a heavy truck carrying ready mix concrete from behind and swerved off the road to crash into the roadside barrier. The impact was such that the front of the SUV was completely mangled.

Nanditha, who was in the front passenger seat, and Akash had their seat belts on, but the impact of the collision was such that the legislator sustained multiple fractures and a head injury. Both air balloons opened but were of no use due to the high impact of the crash.

The sudden death of Nanditha, who was elected from the Secunderabad Cantonment constituency, took everyone by surprise and



Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and other senior BRS leaders pay their last respects to MLA Lasya Nanditha at her residence in Hyderabad on Thursday. — Photo: Anand Dhamana

### Case filed against Akash



Lasya Nanditha

**SANGAREDDY:** The Patancheru police have registered a case against Akash, the PA of Lasya Nanditha, under IPC Section 304 A following a complaint filed by the MLA's sister Niveditha on Friday. Niveditha held Akash responsible for the road mishap caused by rash and negligent driving.

condolences poured in throughout the day. The State government had ordered a funeral with police honours, which was conducted on Friday evening. BRS supremo K Chandrashekhara Rao rushed to Nanditha's house and paid

floral tributes, while Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed his profound shock over her death. Death was literally calling Nanditha. She, along with her relatives, had gone to Miskin Baba Dargah near Konapur village of Sadasivpet mandal

on Thursday night and offered prayers.

While her relatives reached the dargah around 11.30 pm, she came an hour later, around 12.30 am. The family spent around three hours at the dargah and left around 3 am.

While Nanditha's car was being driven by Akash, who doubled up as her personal assistant, police said she decided to eat something and return to Sadasivpet to have some food at a roadside hotel.

In that process, her vehicle hit a concrete-laden truck from behind, swerved and rammied the roadside barriers. (SEE PAGE 2)

## @Paytm UPI users may be migrated to other banks

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has asked the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to examine the possibility of migrating Paytm Payments Bank customers using the UPI handle '@paytm' to four-five other banks, in a bid to prevent any disruptions in the payment ecosystem.

On Friday, the central bank came out with additional steps for the benefit of customers, wallet holders and merchants who are availing banking services from Paytm Payments Bank, which has been barred from accepting deposits and credits after March 15. As per the website of Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL), it has 30 crore wallets and three crore bank customers. PTI

## TS youth forced to fight for Russia

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
 Narayanpet

In a small house at Hafizkhanpet beside Maheswari theatre, the family of 23-year-old Syed Sufiyan is worried and keeps praying to the almighty for his well-being. It has been over 20 days since Sufiyan communicated with them from Russia.

Sufiyan is among a few Indian youths who are in the Russia-Ukraine war zone after being duped by agents in the guise of providing security guard jobs. "In his last SMS, he extended his wishes and since then there has been no text or call from him. We are all tense," says Mohd Salman, Sufiyan's younger brother. Salman earns a living by driving an auto-rickshaw in Pune. Sufiyan was working as a helper in the packing

### MEA in touch with Moscow

**NEW DELHI:** India on Friday said it was in touch with Moscow for early "discharge" of Indians working as support staff to the Russian Army and urged its nationals to stay away from the conflict zone in Ukraine. The comments by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came following a report that some Indians are working as support staff to Russian army. (SEE PAGE 2)

section at the Dubai airport when he reportedly came into online contact with Faizal Khan, an agent there. (SEE PAGE 2)

### IN BRIEF

#### LS poll schedule likely on March 13-14

**NEW DELHI:** In all likelihood, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to announce the schedule for the upcoming parliamentary elections on March 13-14. The Model Code of Conduct will come into effect after the ECI makes the announcement. ECI teams have so far visited several States and held meetings with the Chief Electoral Officers to take stock of the poll preparedness there. They are reviewing poll preparations. IANS

#### Musk's XMail coming soon

**NEW DELHI:** Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Friday threatened Sundar Pichai-run Google, saying his X platform will soon have an alternative to Gmail. When asked on X if he plans an email service, the billionaire said the service is coming soon. Nate McGrady, a member of X's Engineering and Security team, had asked when XMail would be launched. "Coming," replied Musk, setting the tech industry on fire as Google faced rumoured plans to sunset Gmail. IANS

#### US back on Moon after 50 years

**WASHINGTON:** A private American company has scripted history by landing the first commercial spacecraft on the Moon as well as the first US vehicle on the Earth's only natural satellite in more than 50 years, joining earlier feats by India, Russia, the US and China. Built by Intuitive Machines, the lander — Odysseus — touched down on the Moon at around 6.23 pm ET on Thursday, making it the first American spacecraft on the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. PTI

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HYDERABAD | PAGE 04

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