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'Indian Army most trusted, safeguards borders'



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Nobel Peace prize for Japan's Nihon Hidankyo

Japanese organisation wins for activism against nuclear weapons



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India target whitewash, B'desh look to salvage pride



TELANGANA TODAY WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY DASARA
As the offices of the news daily are closed on Saturday, there will be no edition on Sunday

In a nutshell

2 Agniveers killed in firing exercise

NASHIK: Two Agniveers were killed during a field firing exercise in Maharashtra, an official said on Friday, adding the Army has initiated a court of inquiry to determine the cause of the accident. Gunner Gohil Vishvarajsinh (20) and Gunner Saikat (21) from the Artillery Centre Hyderabad died during the exercise at the Deolali Field Firing Ranges in Nashik district. A team of Agniveers was firing a field gun when one of the shells exploded. The duo sustained injuries and were taken to military hospital, Deolali. PTI

Trial flight lands in NMIAL

MUMBAI: The Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd (NMIAL) successfully conducted the trial landing of an aircraft with the touch-down of an Airbus C-295 plane on Friday. The Indian Air Force transport carrier C-295 landed at the Southern runway 26 at 12.14 pm, and was accorded the ceremonial water cannon salute. This was followed by a flypast by a Sukhoi-30 fighter jet. The inaugural landing is not just a symbolic gesture but a critical milestone in the airport's journey from construction to operations, NMIAL said. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 114
Retail live.....	Rs. 136
With skin.....	Rs. 197
Skinless.....	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



Alia Bhatt shares future plans

Includes 'more movies, babies and lots of travel' in her list

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State revenue officials to turn all-powerful

New Record of Rights Act poses threat of reviving old, flawed revenue system

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

The Congress government plans to enforce the proposed Record of Rights (RoR) Act, 2024, commencing next month, promising sweeping reforms in Telangana's land and revenue administration.

On paper, it aims to streamline processes, simplify land record corrections and prevent fraud. However, a closer examination reveals significant concerns, particularly its potential to revive a deeply flawed revenue system, giving undue power in the hands of revenue officers and placing citizens, especially farmers, at their mercy.

One of the central criticisms is the reintroduction of a system that grants considerable authority to revenue officers. A majority of the provisions in the proposed Act mandate revenue administration mechanism at the village level, which is likely to require the State government to revive the Village Revenue Officers

(VROs) system, which was abolished by the previous BRS government to prevent corruption and irregularities.

Under the new law, tahsildars and revenue officers will have the power to unilaterally make decisions on land ownership based solely on possession, without adequate judicial oversight.

fraudulent changes, with minimal accountability and limited options for appeals, leaving farmers vulnerable to arbitrary decisions. "This unchecked power could lead to widespread corruption, as it shifts decision-making powers from courts to individual officers, with limited accountability," observed a retired revenue of-

through unpaid registration fees and stamp duties. "The potential for fraud here is enormous, and it's a step back from efforts to clean up the system," said another expert. The proposed law also neglects crucial safeguards such as the Land Appellate Tribunals (LAT), which were promised by the Congress in their manifesto.

previous BRS government to integrate digital land records — the Congress government is effectively undoing reforms that aimed at eliminating bureaucratic red tape. While the Dharani portal had its flaws, replacing it with the Bhumata portal doesn't guarantee solutions. Instead, it risks creating more confusion and technical glitches that could further delay justice for landowners.

The proposed law may bring back the worst of the old revenue system, making farmers vulnerable to exploitation. While packaged as a reform, the RoR Act 2024 risks reversing years of progress made in land transparency, placing Telangana's citizens — particularly farmers — at the mercy of a corrupt and inefficient revenue bureaucracy once again.

For Telangana's rural population, this proposed legislation could be a step backward, reintroducing an outdated system that is poised to create more problems than it solves.

UNDER THE NEW LAW, TAHSILDARS AND REVENUE OFFICERS WILL HAVE THE POWER TO UNILATERALLY MAKE DECISIONS ON LAND OWNERSHIP BASED SOLELY ON POSSESSION, WITHOUT ADEQUATE JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT. THIS OPENS THE DOOR TO WIDESPREAD MISUSE AND CORRUPTION

This opens the door to widespread misuse and corruption, as decisions on land records could be manipulated to favour certain parties, thereby undermining the very transparency the law claims to promote.

One major issue is Section 4(6), which allows tahsildars and RDOs to alter land records based on possession claims. Experts warn that this provision could lead to

ficier and consultant, adding that the lack of efficient recourse makes the situation worse for landowners.

Moreover, the proposal to allow unregistered transactions, or saadabainama, to be regularised (Section 6) poses a significant risk. Experts believe this could encourage the misuse of land records, as it has done in the past, leading to disputes and loss of government revenue

Without an independent tribunal to handle land disputes, farmers are left with no recourse but to approach senior officials for resolution — a practically impossible task for many rural landowners, thereby reinstating their dependence on a corrupt and inefficient local administration.

Additionally, by scrapping the existing Dharani portal — introduced by the

Two LI projects suffer major infra damage

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The recent submergence of the Vattam pump house under the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) and the Bhakta Ramadasu Lift Irrigation Scheme pump house at Palair on the NSP Left Canal System resulted in a significant loss estimated at Rs 700 crore.

The twin projects have suffered extensive infrastructural damage, pushing the already cash-strapped Irrigation Department into a severe financial crisis.

The State government has responded by releasing Rs 60 crore to address immediate needs and maintain the PRLIS, where work has been stalled since last December. This fund is aimed at jumpstarting the restoration process and mitigating further delays.

Submergence of PRLIS' Vattam pump house, Bhakta Ramadasu LI Scheme pump house results in Rs 700 crore loss

In terms of equipment, the PRLIS employs some of the largest pumps ever used in lift irrigation projects in the world, each with a capacity of 145 MW, supplied by BHEL. These pumps are even more powerful than the 139 MW units used in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, often dubbed the 'Bahubali' pumps.

The PRLIS pumps, now humorously referred to as the 'Baap of Bahubali,' were overwhelmed by floodwaters filling the giant tunnels and surge pools to the brim, with 'adit' tunnels directing

water to the core of the pump house.

The initial step in the recovery involved completing the arduous dewatering process. Technical teams are engaged in a detailed inspection for visible damage, signs of corrosion, cracks or debris in the systems. They are also assessing the water damage to the electrical components, which is crucial, as floodwaters can cause short circuits or significant wiring damage. Simultaneously, mechanical parts such as impellers and bearings are being examined for damage caused by sediment and debris.

Once the initial inspections are completed, the agencies concerned will conduct test runs to check the pumps' functionality. As part of the restoration, the 450 MW substation of the PRLIS pump house has been charged. (SEE PAGE 2)

AI flight faces mid-air scare, lands safely

CHENNAI

A Sharjah-bound flight from Tiruchirappalli, shortly after departure on Friday evening, witnessed mid-air technical glitch and later landed safely, police said.

Chief Minister MK Stalin held an emergency meeting with officials and directed them to follow all safety measures. Later, he congratulated the flight captain and

crew for the safe landing. After taking off at about 5.30 pm from the airport, the fault related to hydraulic systems, the landing gear, was noticed. Deftly handling the situation, the pilots later safely landed the aircraft in Tiruchirappalli airport.

The Chief Minister, in a post on X, said: "I am heartened to hear that the #AirIndiaExpress flight has landed safely. Upon receiv-

ing news of the landing gear issue, I immediately coordinated an emergency meeting with officials over the phone and instructed them to implement all necessary safety measures, including deploying fire engines, ambulances, and medical assistance."

"I have also now directed the District Collector to ensure the continued safety of all the passengers and to

provide further assistance. My compliments to the Captain and crew for the safe landing," Stalin added in his post on the social media platform.

Earlier, as part of protocol, fire tenders, rescue personnel and ambulances had been rushed to the airport. Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was monitoring the situation. PTI

'Conquer evil': KCR extends Dasara greetings

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Dasara, a festival that embodies the triumph of good over evil.

He wished that the festival would illuminate the lives of citizens, guiding them toward success in their noble aspirations.

In his message to the people of the State, Chandrashekhar Rao reflected on the significance of Vijaya Dashami or Dasara.

The BRS president stated that the festival serves as a reminder for individuals to confront and conquer the evil within themselves, ultimately striving towards righteousness. (SEE PAGE 2)

Noel Tata to head Tata Trusts

MUMBAI

Noel Tata, the half-brother of legendary industrialist late Ratan Tata, will be the new head of Tata Trusts — a collective of charities that indirectly controls the \$165-billion conglomerate.

Noel Tata has been appointed as chairman of all the trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designated chairman of Tata Trusts, Tata Trusts said in a statement. The trustees of various trusts that comprise the Tata Trusts met at a joint meeting in Mumbai on Friday and condoned the demise of Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, and "re-called his yeoman services not only to the Tata Group



but also to nation building", it said. "In separate meetings held immediately, thereafter, it was unanimously decided to appoint Noel Naval Tata as

the chairman of the various trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designate him as chairman, Tata Trusts," the statement said. His appointment is effective immediately, it added. Noel Tata said, "I look forward to carrying on the legacy of Mr Ratan N Tata and the founders of the Tata Group. Founded over a century ago, the Tata Trusts are a unique vehicle for undertaking social good." He was chosen by the board to lead the string of philanthropic trusts that control the Tata empire. (SEE PAGE 2)

Jewellery store staff booked for stealing gold bars

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The city police booked a case against eight employees of a jewellery store, Sri Krishna Jewellers Private Limited, in Banjara Hills for allegedly stealing gold bars worth Rs 6 crore. The theft was discovered recently

during an internal audit taken up by the company following which the management approached the Banjara Hills police and lodged a complaint.

According to the police, two employees — Uday Kumar and B Srikanth — were found to have stolen the gold bars. Upon ques-

tioning, Srikanth revealed that Uday Kumar, with the help of several other employees, orchestrated the theft over a long period. Other employees, including Chintu, Satya, Ajay, Tinku and Chandra, were allegedly operating under the instructions of Sukhetu Shah, the company's manager.

Based on the complaint from the company's HR manager, Vijay Kumar, the Banjara Hills police booked the case and after preliminary investigation, transferred it to the Hyderabad Central Crime Station.

Meanwhile, Sukhetu Shah's wife Sruti Shah filed a missing persons complaint with the Banjara Hills police stating that her husband was missing since one month. She told the police that her husband had told her about facing harassment over a financial matter at workplace. He left the house leaving a letter and video, which was submitted to the police as evidence.

NATURE'S WONDER



The Northern Lights, also known as aurora borealis, seen over The Kissing Trees near Kinghorn in Fife, Scotland, on Friday. — Photo: AP