



HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

Aircraft engineers in huge demand, says report



WORLD | PAGE 09

TikTok to go dark unless Biden defers shutdown

Supreme Court had upheld law banning the app unless it's sold by its parent company



SPORT | PAGE 11

Swiatek's flawless performance at Aus Open

In a nutshell

Man killed by electrocution

MEDAK: A man killed his brother by electrocution when he was asleep at Nanu Thanda in Shiv-vampet mandal early on Saturday. Gopal and Shankar (28) slept in the same room on Friday night. When Shankar cried out early in the morning, other family members rushed into the room and saw Gopal running out of the house. They found Shankar dead with his leg connected to a live electric wire. Following a he complaint, the Shiv-vampet police examined the crime scene.

Congress MP booked for rape

SITAPUR: Congress' Sitapur Lok Sabha MP Rakesh Rathore has been booked on charges of rape, police here said on Saturday. He was booked at the Kotwali police station here on Friday on the complaint of a woman who had accused him of rape on January 15, Superintendent of Police Chakresh Mishra said. The woman alleged that Rathore raped her several times over the last four years, promising to marry her and making her political career. The woman has also provided call details and call recordings. **PTI**

Saif attack case: Suspect detained

DURG: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has detained a suspect in the case of knife attack on actor Saif Ali Khan from a train at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh, an official said. The man, identified as Aakash Kailash Kannoja (31), was traveling by Jnaneshwari Express which runs between Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to Kolkata Shalimar, the RPF official said. Around 12.30 pm, the RPF Post Durg received information from Mumbai Police about the suspect travelling by Jnaneshwari Express. **PTI**

PM distributes SVAMITVA cards

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". The cards are being distributed to beneficiaries in 50,000 villages. **NATION PAGE 8**

Farmers in distress, dying by suicide

TELANGANA IS REELING UNDER AN AGRARIAN CRISIS WITH FARMERS ACROSS THE STATE FACING HEAT OWING TO PENDING CROP LOAN WAIVERS, LAND ACQUISITION OR RISING DEBTS IN LIGHT OF RYTHU BHAROSA NOT REACHING THE ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

Humiliated farmer ends life in front of Adilabad bank

STATE BUREAU
ADILABAD

Unable to bear the alleged harassment of bank officials over a loan, a farmer died by suicide on the premises of a bank here on Saturday.

Police said Jadav Nagorao (48) from Saidpur village in Bela mandal ended his life by consuming pesticide as he was unable to bear the harassment of officials of ICICI bank, to which he owed Rs 3.5 lakh. He was rushed to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences-Adilabad, but doctors declared him brought dead. Nagorao borrowed a personal loan of Rs 3.50 lakh by pledging his 5 acres three years ago. He allegedly delayed the payment of two installments of Rs 25,000 each. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Displaced by RRR project, ryot dies of heart attack

STATE BUREAU
BHONGIR

In a tragic incident, a farmer from Varkatpally village in Yadadri Bhongir district died of a heart attack on Saturday morning, allegedly due to mental distress over fears of losing his land to the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project.

Nagavelli Chinna Lakshmaiah owned four acres in survey numbers 201 and 202. The local Mandal Revenue Officer visited Varkatpally with his staff for a survey on January 10 and as part of the exercise, he informed Lakshmaiah that his land would be taken for the RRR project. This news reportedly caused severe mental anguish to Lakshmaiah, leading to his untimely death. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Mounting debts: Farmer found hanging in Khammam

STATE BUREAU
KHAMMAM

A farmer, whose whereabouts were not known since Thursday, was found hanging at Lokya thanda of Kusumanchi mandal in the district.

He is said to have ended his life as he was troubled by the burden of debts. The deceased, V Navin Kumar (33), owned half an acre of land and used to work in the farms of others as well. He was said to have left the house 10 days ago for work. However, his mobile phone was switched off from Thursday.

Then the family members started looking for him and found him dead on Friday. He allegedly hanged himself from a tree in his farm. Police booked a case.

Ryots fear displacement due to RRR

Over 3,429 acres slated for acquisition to construct 161.581-km expressway

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The land acquisition process for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project's northern segment has sparked unrest among farmers as it gains momentum.

Over 3,429 acres are slated for acquisition to construct the 161.581-km expressway, fuelling fears of displacement among the farmers' community.

The estimated cost of the northern segment of the Hyderabad RRR has now escalated considerably beyond initial projections, but the compensation component remains almost the same. The land acquisition is feared to have a catastrophic effect on many families. For them, every cent of land is as precious as a nugget of gold. The compensation offered under

current norms is perceived as inadequate, with market values of land ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore per acre, depending on proximity to urban areas. The compensation offered, in some cases, is barely 10 per cent of the market value.

The preliminary notifications issued for the northern stretch of the project, spanning five packages from Girmapur in Sangareddy district to Rayagiri in Yadadri Bhongir district, have left many farmers in shock. The emotional toll of the project has been severe.

Nagavelli Chinna Lakshmaiah, a farmer from Varkatpally village in Yadadri Bhongir district, died of a heart attack on Saturday after receiving word from local revenue officials that his land in survey numbers 201 and 202 would be acquired for the project. Despite multiple offers of up to Rs 1.5 crore per acre received from realtors, Lakshmaiah had refused to sell due to his deep emotional attachment to his ancestral land. Unfortunately, he was not the first in his family to succumb to the stress of potential displacement. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Farmers clash on India-B'desh border

MALDA

Tension erupted on the India-Bangladesh border near a BSF border outpost on Saturday morning after an altercation between farmers from both countries escalated into a brief clash, the paramilitary force said.

However, prompt intervention by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) ensured that the situation was swiftly brought under control, a BSF statement said.

The incident took place at the same Sukdevpur border outpost area, where fencing work was briefly paused on January 6 after the BGB claimed it was being conducted on Bangladeshi territory. However, the issue was then resolved through discussions, and construction resumed without further disruptions the next day.

According to a BSF statement on Saturday, the brief clash occurred around 11:45 am near Sukdevpur Border outpost area, when Indian farmers working near the international border accused Bangladeshi farmers of stealing crops.

The verbal argument quickly spiraled, with farmers from both sides gathering in large numbers, hurling abuses, and pelting stones at each other. **PTI**

Official accused of demanding bribe

STATE BUREAU
NARAYANPET

Farmers, who lost their lands under Sangambanda canal works, are allegedly being asked to shell out Rs 8 lakh to get Rs 28 lakh as compensation for their lands. Four farmers, including A Venkateshwar Reddy,

Chinna Krishnaiah, Veeranna Goud and Nalla Hanumanth, were natives of Lankala village under Narwah mandal. Among these, Hanumanth had passed away. These farmers had lost 1.36 acres of land under acquisition for the Sangambanda canal works. The Revenue officials had fi-

nalised Rs 28 lakh as compensation for the four farmers. However, Ravinder Reddy, who works in the land acquisition section, demanded Rs 8 lakh to issue the compensation cheques, the farmers complained on Friday. The farmers also said that Ravinder Reddy had demanded lunch, cigare-

ttes and other services from them whenever he visited Narwah mandal. Vexed with his harassment, the farmers raised the issue before media persons and the same was brought to the notice of Revenue officials.

It is learnt that the matter was also taken up with Additional Collector.

Israel-Hamas truce from today

CAIRO

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will go into effect Sunday at 8.30 am local time, mediator Qatar announced on Saturday, as families of hostages held in Gaza braced for news of loved ones, Palestinians prepared to receive freed de-

tainees and humanitarian groups rushed to set up a surge of aid. The overnight approval of the deal by Israel's Cabinet, in a rare meeting during the Jewish Sabbath, set off a flurry of activity and a fresh wave of emotions as relatives wondered whether hostages would be returned alive or

dead. The names of the first hostages to be freed were expected to be released later on Saturday. The first phase of the ceasefire will last 42 days, and talks on the difficult second phase will begin just over two weeks in. After six weeks, Israel's security Cabinet will decide how to proceed. **AP**

RG Kar rape accused Sanjay Roy convicted

KOLKATA

A Kolkata court on Saturday convicted prime accused Sanjay Roy of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, 162 days after the crime that sparked nationwide outrage and led to prolonged protests.

The Sealadh court, where Roy's trial was held, will announce the quantum of punishment on Monday, Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said. Roy, a former civic volunteer with the Kolkata police was arrested on August 10, 2024, a day after the 31-year-old medic's body was found in the seminar room of the

Abused women, had 4 wives

KOLKATA: Sanjay Roy, who initially joined the Kolkata Police's Disaster Management Group as a civic volunteer in 2019, has a history of exploiting his position, manipulating those around him, and committing heinous acts. His association with the

Kolkata Police began when he was recruited as a civic volunteer in 2019. Roy's personal life also paints a dark picture of domestic violence and abusive behaviour. According to reports, he has been married multiple times. **(REPORT PAGE 7)**

hospital. He was charged under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the BNS. Section 103(1) carries a possible punishment of death or life imprisonment. The judge said Roy

was found guilty of sexually assaulting the doctor and strangling her to death and that the CBI had proven all the charges against him. Das said Roy entered the hospital and attacked the doctor while she was asleep. **PTI**

RURAL SPORT



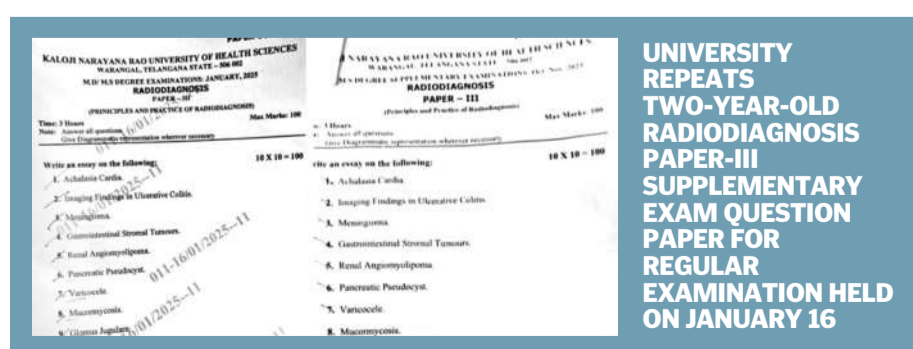
A bullfighter tries to tame a bull during a Jallikattu competition in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

KNRUHS goofs up PG question paper

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

In what appears to be an embarrassing goof up, the Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS), Warangal, repeated the PG supplementary exam question paper, from two years ago, for the recently conducted regular theory examination.

The question paper distributed to students during the MD/MS Degree Examinations (January 2025) for Radiodiagnosis Paper-III (principles and practice of



Radiodiagnosis) on January 16 was already used in the supplementary examinations held in October/No-

vember 2023. The students were perplexed to see the question paper being repeated. The issue came to

light on Saturday after some of the students pointed out the faux pas. Interestingly, except for the year and

name of the examination, everything, including the paper code, questions and their numbering, remained the same, which raised serious concerns over the university's question paper preparation process.

This was not the first time that such a goof up was committed by the university. Earlier, it reportedly gave out-of-syllabus questions in the Biochemistry Paper-I and Paper-II in the first-year annual MBBS examination. As per rulebook, question papers prepared by experts are scrutinised. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Siraj's omission from Champions Trophy tough pill

BARKHA JHA
HYDERABAD

The Indian cricket team's selection for the 2025 Champions Trophy has raised eyebrows, with Mohammad Siraj's exclusion taking centre stage. The 15-man squad, announced by the selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar, has left fans and experts alike questioning the decision to leave out one of India's consistent pacers. **(FULL REPORT PAGE 10)**

Conman's plan backfires, held

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

A conman, who tried to cheat a gold trader, got tricked himself and was arrested by the Filmnagar police on Thursday.

Inamul Hussain (30), a resident of Rajasthan, contacted businessman Abdullah Ibrahim, a resident of Filmnagar, over phone, informing him that he has 8 kg of gold and plans to sell it for Rs 6 crore in bulk due to

some personal issues. As Inamul was making repeated calls, Abdullah sensed something fishy and contacted the cybercrime police, who asked him to avoid the calls for fear of being duped.

However, Inamul came to the city from Rajasthan and again contacted Abdullah using a different phone number. The suspect told Abdullah that he was in the city to deal with some other businessmen. **(SEE PAGE 2)**