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**India's first flying taxi prototype unveiled at expo**



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**South Korea's impeached President arrested**  
 He faces possible imprisonment over his short-lived authoritarian push



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**Siraj may play in Ranji tie against Vidarbha**

**In a nutshell**

**Mysterious deaths: Central team in J&K**  
**JAMMU:** A high-level inter-ministerial team Sunday reached Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district where a mysterious illness is wreaking havoc, killing another person on Sunday and taking the death toll to 17. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on Saturday ordered the constitution of an inter-ministerial team to ascertain the causes of deaths that took place within weeks in three families linked to each other in the remote Badhaal village. PTI

**US ban on TikTok takes effect**  
**HOUSTON:** TikTok's app effectively shut down in the US, just hours before a law banning the popular video-sharing platform was set to go into effect. "A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the US. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now," a message reads when American users open the app. Meanwhile, US President-elect Trump said that he would most likely give TikTok a 90-day extension. WORLD PAGE 9

**B'desh man held for stabbing Saif**  
**MUMBAI:** Mumbai Police on Sunday arrested a Bangladeshi man for allegedly stabbing actor Saif Ali Khan at his Bandra residence three days back during a prima facie burglary bid and interrogating him to unravel "international conspiracy", if any. The preliminary investigation suggests that the man was unaware that he had entered a Bollywood star's house and his intention was theft, a police official said. NATION PAGE 7

**Trump to take oath as US President**  
**WASHINGTON:** President-elect Donald Trump is spending the eve of his inauguration in a series of Washington events that celebrate his return to power and his "Make America Great Again" movement as he prepares to move back into the White House at a time of deep national political divisions. Washington has prepared in unprecedented ways to keep the unfolding events safe and secure. WORLD PAGE 9

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 122
Retail live.....	Rs. 144
With skin.....	Rs. 209
Skinless.....	Rs. 238
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

## Farmer suicides haunt State

**Telangana witnesses as many as 402 deaths during the one year of Congress rule**

**D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO**  
 HYDERABAD

A pall of gloom still descends over the serene Saidapur village in Bela mandal of Adilabad district. The suicide of Jadav Devrao (48) on the very premises of the bank that lent him Rs 3.5 lakh came as a shocker for the farming community in the State. The farmer's dream of providing a comfortable life for his two sons and daughter died along with him.

With his five-acre land, Devrao had toiled day and night to cultivate crops, hoping for a harvest that would secure his family's future. But the reality of farming in Telangana was far harsher than he anticipated. The State has witnessed many such deaths during the last two weeks, with farmers feeling cornered by the circumstances, as the financial stability they enjoyed for over a decade in the past is on the wane.

Life has turned nightmarish for them. Devrao's story is not an isolated case. The State witnessed three similar cases in just one day. Telangana has seen as many as 402 farmer suicides during the one year of Congress rule and another 200 unnatural deaths, including cases of deaths due to electrocution.



**Harish blames Revanth, calls it 'govt-orchestrated murders'**

**HYDERABAD:** With two farmers dying by suicide in erstwhile Adilabad district within a span of 24 hours, former Minister and senior BRS legislator T Harish Rao held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government responsible for their deaths. He termed the farmers' suicides as "government-orchestrated murders" due to unfulfilled promises of crop loan waiver and the mounting debt burden on farmers. (REPORT PAGE 5)

**Farmer dies battling for life at RIMS in Adilabad**

**ADILABAD:** A 40-year-old tenant farmer, who tried to end his life a week ago, died while undergoing treatment at RIMS here on Sunday. Family members and locals said that Rathod Gokul from Lingojiguda Thanda in Uttoor mandal tried to kill himself by consuming some pesticide on January 12. He was initially admitted to a hospital in Hyderabad. He was later shifted to RIMS-Adilabad on Saturday, where he breathed his last. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

**Suicide footage sparks outrage**

**HYDERABAD:** A heart-wrenching CCTV video of a farmer's suicide in the erstwhile Adilabad district triggered widespread outrage over the Congress governance in the State.

Jadav Devrao, a 50-year-old tribal farmer, consumed poison in a private bank in Adilabad on Saturday, reportedly crushed by financial burdens and unmet promises from the Congress government. Sharing the distressing CCTV footage on social media, BRS working president KT Rama Rao called it "a gut-wrenching testament to the Congress government's failed administration." The former Minister termed it hard evidence of the fake narrative that the Congress kept peddling repeatedly. (REPORT PAGE 5)

has also fallen short in implementation. Initially, The government promised to increase it from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per acre. But it later announced a reduced amount of Rs 12,000 per acre.

The Congress government released one instalment of Rythu Bandhu due before December 2023, but it later discontinued the investment support scheme for the next two crop seasons, which had a telling effect on the peasant community in the State. This has sparked widespread protests, with farmers expressing their dissatisfaction and sense of deception. Power failures and the deprivation of benefits from various farmer-friendly initiatives have added further to the crisis.

The cumulative impact of these failures has been devastating for the farming community in Telangana. The pressures of financial distress, unfulfilled promises, and lack of support have pushed many farmers to the brink, resulting in tragic outcomes. During the decade preceding 2024, the farmer in the State had found himself on a high perch, with the State government extending full support to the farming community. (SEE PAGE 2)

The tragic spike in the number of suicides in the State has started grabbing attention nationwide once again. Financial burdens, coupled with unfulfilled promises and lack of support, have led to a spike in farmer suicides. The Congress government in Telangana is drawing heavy flak for its failure to fulfil key promises to the farming community.

The much-touted loan waiver promise, which aimed to waive crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh, remains un-

fulfilled for many farmers. Data from the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) reveals that while Rs 49,500 crore in crop loans were disbursed during the financial year 2023-24, only Rs 17,933 crore has been waived, covering just 22.37 lakh farmers.

This has left many farmers feeling betrayed and abandoned.

The Rythu Bharosa Scheme, as promised by the Congress leadership, was intended to provide financial assistance of Rs 15,000 per acre per year. However, this

## Hamis releases first three hostages



Relatives and friends of people abducted by Hamas react to the news of the hostage release, in Tel Aviv on Sunday. — Photo:AP

**DEIR AL-BALAH**

The first three hostages released from Gaza have arrived in Israel, the military announced on Sunday, hours after the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold. Their mothers were waiting to meet them.

Israeli media, carrying live footage from Qatar-based Al Jazeera, showed the three women walking to Red Cross vehicles as their convoy moved through Gaza City. The vehicles were accompanied by armed men who wore green Hamas headbands and struggled to guard the cars

from an unruly crowd that swelled into the thousands. No further glimpses of the three were immediately expected as they will be taken for medical assessment. "They appear to be in good health," President Joe Biden said in brief remarks as they were arriving in Israel.

In Tel Aviv, thousands of people gathered to watch the news on large screens erupted in cheers. For months, many had gathered in the square to demand a ceasefire deal. The ceasefire ushers in an initial six-week period of calm and raises hopes for the release of dozens of militant-held hostages. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

## Cylinder blast triggers fire at Kumbh

**No casualties reported; CM tells officials to take steps to avoid such incidents**

**MAHAKUMBH NAGAR (UP)**

A major fire broke out at the Maha Kumbh Mela here on Sunday due to a cylinder blast, engulfing 18 tents in Sector 19, officials said. No casualty was reported in the incident.

Thick clouds of smoke enveloped the mela area as panic gripped the nearby akhadas. The officials said 15 fire tenders managed to bring the blaze, which started at around 4 pm, under control within an hour. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was in Prayagraj to review the preparations ahead of Mauni Amawasya, also reached the spot and directed authorities to take steps to avoid any such incident in future, they said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Adityanath over phone to enquire about the incident. "The Chief Minister told PM Modi that the blaze was quickly brought under control by teams of SDRF, NDRF and fire department," a senior official said.

Prayagraj Zone Additional DGP Bhanu Bhaskar said that the blaze has been extinguished and the situa-



Firefighters try to douse a fire that broke out in the tents during Maha Kumbh, at Sangam in Prayagraj on Sunday. — Photo:PTI

tion is under control. "...People have been evacuated and the fire has been brought under control. No casualty was reported in the incident. The situation is normal here and losses are being quanti-

fied," he said. Bhaskar said the thatched roofs of the tents caught fire while the rest of the structures are still there. Police said that initially straw in a tent caught fire due to which an LPG

cylinder exploded. Prayagraj District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mander said that they received information at 4:30 pm about a fire in a tent housing the Gita Press in Sector 19 of fair

area. "The blaze spread to some other tents. Fire brigade and police teams reached the spot and extinguished the blaze. There is no report of any loss of life," Mander said.

## Be wary of fake ORS with higher sugar content!



**M SAI GOPAL**  
 Hyderabad

Consumers of readily available Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) drinks should be wary of the pitfalls of excessive sugar content in them as public health experts advise a careful review of the nutrition label to track sugar content in them.

The WHO recommends 1.35 grams of sugar (glucose) per 100 millilitres, which is also its standard formula for

manufacturing ORS. "Parents are being misled into giving commercially available ORS to their children thinking that it is ORS. Diabetic patients consume such drinks thinking it is ORS. However, such ready-to-drink ORS have excessive sugar, more than the WHO recommendations. Such drinks only end up worsening diarrhea and causing dehydration," says a senior paediatrician from Hyderabad, Dr Sivaranjini

Santosh. The developmental paediatrician, who has been active in making the public aware of excessive sugar content in commercially available ORS products, advises "Parents must purchase ORS packets which have clearly written 'WHO recommended formula' message. Usually, such ORS packets will also be cheaper than other ORS juices".

The senior paediatrician pointed out that

there is a glut of products in the market that are marketed as ORS. "Nobody realises that in some of ORS products, sugar content is 10 times more than the recommended WHO level. When we started objecting to such practice, the companies started adding the message 'do not use during diarrhea' in microscopic print. However, this is still a misleading label." Dr Sivaranjini pointed out. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Scolded for using mobile, 16-year-old girl ends life

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

An intermediate student died by suicide at her house in Maheshwaram. The girl, Nikhita Das, (16), was pursuing an intermediate course at a private college at Ibrahimpatnam and recently came home for the Sankranti vacation. On Saturday afternoon, the girl's father reprimanded her for spending more time on her mobile phone. A case was registered.

## 47 devotees injured as van overturns

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Adilabad

Nearly 50 devotees of the Jangubai Jatara sustained injuries when a van overturned at a ghat road near Malepur village in Narnoor mandal on Sunday.

As many as 47 devotees from Suryaguda village sustained injuries when the van turned turtle at a curve on the ghat road. Around 60 devotees of the village had

left for the Maharajuga to visit the deity. The injured devotees were admitted to RIMS-Adilabad and PHCs in Narnoor and Uttoor mandal centres.

Jangubai Jatara, a month-long important religious and cultural affair of tribals is underway at a cave in Sahyadri hills at Maharajuga hamlet under Kotaparandoli village of neighbouring Kullam Bheem Asifabad district.