



STATE | PAGE 05
KTR opposes Centre's plans to sell CCI properties



WORLD | PAGE 09
Trump suspends US military aid to Ukraine
US President seeks to pressure Zelenskyy to engage in peace talks with Russia



SPORT | PAGE 10
India chases Australia's 265-run target in 48.1 overs

In a nutshell
Three Serbian lawmakers injured
Belgrade: At least three lawmakers were injured on Tuesday, one of them seriously, after chaotic scenes in Serbia's parliament, during which smoke bombs and flares were thrown, further fuelling political tensions in the Balkan country. Lawmakers were scheduled to vote on a law that would increase funding for university education, but opposition parties said the ruling majority was also planning to approve dozens of other decisions. They said this was illegal. AP

Sensex sinks below 73,000
Mumbai: Falling for the third straight day, benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 96 points to close below the 73,000 mark on Tuesday amid global equity rout on tariff war worries and persistent foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE barometer closed at 72,989.93, down by 96.01 points or 0.13 per cent, as 18 of its components declined and 12 settled with gains. It dropped 452.4 points or to a low of 72,633.54 but recovered. PTI

Ramzan Timings
Iftar Wednesday 6:30 PM
Sahar Thursday 5:10 AM



Mrunal channels her inner fairy
In the update on Instagram, the actor looked ethereal in Indian outfit

12

Man-made water crisis grips Telangana

Lack of irrigation support forcing ryots to abandon Rabi crop

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
HYDERABAD

Despite experiencing a year of adequate rainfall, Telangana's agricultural sector is facing a severe crisis, triggering a distressing rise in farmer suicides.

The previous year, marked by deficient rainfall and poor inflows into major rivers, had led to crop holidays and financial strain on farmers. This year, although rainfall and river inflows were sufficient, the agrarian situation remains dire, primarily due to mismanagement of available resources. The crisis can be attributed to multiple factors, including dwindling irrigation support, poor water resource management, erratic power supply, lack of capital support, and scarcity of fertilizers.

The State government's failure to ensure remunerative prices and timely procurement has also left farmers in despair. The sudden rise in cost of agricultural operations and inadequate investment support further added to the travails of the peasant community.

The farming community in the State is facing a man-made crisis, with many farmers pushed to the brink. The State-level Committee for Integrated Water Planning and Management (SCI-WAM) had planned to extend irrigation support to nearly 43 lakh acres during the Rabi season (2024-25). But at least half of it did not get full-fledged irrigation support. The Irrigation Department had planned to make 350 TMC of water available to the Yasangi command under projects in both the Krishna and Godavari basins. The department had planned to source it from major irrigation projects to support Rabi in 30 lakh acres.

They planned to extend irrigation under medium irrigation projects to 2.9 lakh acres, minor irrigation projects to 7.2 lakh acres, lift Scheme of the IDC to 1 lakh acres. But all its plans were



A farmer, D Madhu, engaged in digging his farm well further deep to revive withering crops on his 76 guntas of land at Manakondur in Karimnagar. Madhu, who received Rs 9,600 per crop season under BRS government's Rythu Bandhu, got a mere Rs 800 under Congress' Rythu Bharosa.

upset with the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme being left abandoned for the second consecutive year.

Rabi operations will last till mid-April. Before the closing of the irrigation canals for the season, tanks should be filled to support the drinking water supply for the rest of the summer.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Farmers in dire straits across State

HYDERABAD: The shortage of water has been troubling farmers much before the onset of summer, with fears rising over what the situation would be if summer actually sets in. In many districts, farmers have already taken to the streets demanding water for their standing crops. In Parvathagiri mandal of Warangal district, farmers on the outskirts of Ravuru village are facing acute scarcity conditions. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Tariffs: China hits back at US

Extra 15% tariff on US goods

BEIJING

China on Tuesday retaliated against US President Donald Trump's imposition of a second round of 10 per cent tariffs on its export by slapping an additional 15 per cent tariff on American goods and initiated legal action against Washington at the WTO.

China stands ready to work with the US to address each other's concerns through dialogue and consultation. China will impose additional tariffs on some products imported from the United States, effective from March 10, the China's Customs Tariff Commission said Tuesday. An additional 15-per cent tariff will be imposed on imported chicken, wheat, corn and cotton originating from the US, it said in a statement. Sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables and dairy products will be subject to an additional 10-per cent tariff. Additionally, China decided on Tuesday to add 10 US firms to the country's unreliable entity list and take corresponding measures against them. They include a number of companies linked to defence and security besides AI, avia-

US tariffs on Canada, Mexico take effect

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's long-threatened tariffs against Canada and Mexico went into effect Tuesday, putting global markets on edge and setting up costly retaliations by the US' North American allies. Imports from Canada and Mexico are now to be taxed at 25%, with Canadian energy products subject to 10 per cent import duties.

tion, IT and "dual-use" items that carry both civilian and military applications. Also, China has initiated legal action against the US under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism regarding the latter's latest tariff increase on Chinese products, the Ministry of Commerce said Tuesday. China's retaliatory actions followed after the US imposition of an additional 10-per cent tariff on products imported from China, effective from March 4. PTI

MLAs' disqualification: SC issues notice on BRS plea

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Supreme Court on Monday issued a formal notice in the plea filed by BRS and its MLAs challenging the delay by the Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions against 10 MLAs who contested the 2023 elections on a BRS ticket but later defected to the Congress party. The matter has been posted for hearing on March 25.

During a previous hearing on February 10, the court had asked Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Shekhar

Naphde, who appeared on behalf of the Telangana Assembly Speaker, about the time limit for deciding on the disqualification petitions. The matter was posted for hearing on February 18, but as the judges were occupied in the Constitutional bench, it was posted to March 4.

On Tuesday, the apex court heard both petitions filed by BRS working president KT Rama Rao on behalf of the party and also by BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, which were clubbed together for hearing.

During the hearing, the Speaker's counsel, including

Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, objected on technical grounds citing the absence of a formal notice to the Speaker to clarify on reasonable time to decide on the disqualification petitions. The Supreme Court observed that it was "hyper-technical" without doubt, but necessary to ensure that no objection was raised at a later point that the matter was decided without following principles of natural justice. The Court issued a formal notice and waived it on behalf of the respondents. The case will now be taken up on March 25.

Protests over Mamnoon airport land survey

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

Within days of the Central government giving clearance for the Mamnoon airport, farmers are up in arms against the land acquisition survey for the airport.

Demanding justice from the State government, the farmers, especially women, staged a protest on the Nakkalpalapally road near the airport on Tuesday. Sensing trouble, police deployed teams at the protest site. Videos of the farmers staging protests and raising voices against the government are going viral in different social media platforms.

"One acre values at least Rs 4 crore to 5 crore in this region and the government should extend compensation as per the value," a farmer at the protest site said. There is no official announcement from the State government so far. While Forest Minister Konda Surekha assured that market value compensation or sim-



Villagers staging protest on Nakkalpalapally road on Tuesday.

ilar land would be allocated, local MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy came up with a different version, the farmers fumed.

Farmers were losing 175 acres as part of the acquisition for the airport. They are also insisting that the highway should pass near their villages as it would increase the land values further and facilitate transport connectivity. The farmers are against the closure of the Nakkalpalapally road as well. They said that Nakkalpalapally, Gunturpally and Nekkonda road from Gavicharla cross-

roads was being closed under the land acquisition for the airport. Once the road was closed, the villagers would face a lot of difficulties, they argued.

Already, 690 acres was allotted to Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the past. However, the increased infrastructure requirements, especially establishing new runways and terminals, required additional 280 acres.

Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu had said the AAI was keen to execute the airport works.

Cops thrash, give 'electric shock' to youth for stealing roosters

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

In an alleged custodial torture incident, a youngster was beaten up severely by the police at Aswaraopet police station in a rooster theft case.

The youngster, who could not walk because of pain in his legs, is being treated in a hospital. According to family members of K Nagaraju of Naramvarigudem village in Aswaraopet mandal, he



Injured youth K Nagaraju.

was tortured for allegedly stealing a neighbour's roosters. He was summoned to the police station following

a complaint by one Appa Rao alleging that Nagaraju had stolen his roosters. The youth said he was kept in the police station from morning to night every day and was tortured for the last 12 days.

Even though he said he had not stolen the roosters, the police subjected him to torture.

An SI called him again to the station a couple of days ago, abused him, gave electric shock. (SEE PAGE 2)

Woman software employee ends life

C.ROMEO CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A woman software employee died by suicide in her house in Raidurgam. She is suspected to have committed suicide allegedly due to the harassment from her husband.

Identified as Devika (35), from Vikarabad district, she had completed her MBA and was working for a software firm in Hitec City. She fell in love with one Satish

who studied at IIT Kharagpur and currently working in a software company. According to the police, the duo got married in last August in Goa and moved into an apartment in Raidurgam. However, they reportedly were having frequent fights over trivial matters for the past few months. After one such argument, Devika hanged herself from the ceiling fan in the bedroom when her husband was sleeping in hall. (SEE PAGE 2)

Beware of plastic sheets in steaming idlis

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

The next time when you walk to your favorite 'bandi' to have piping hot idlis for breakfast, better make sure the owner has not utilized plastic sheets to steam the idlis, which is an alarming trend and carries a serious health risk.

Traditionally, a cloth is utilized in the steaming process of idlis by bandi

owners and even by small eateries and restaurants. However, in a recent alarming trend, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) came across instances where plastic sheets were utilized in the steaming process of idlis in Bengaluru.

The use of plastic sheets in steaming idlis at high temperatures poses a significant health risk, because hot plastic tends to leach

harmful chemicals into the food items. Even serving hot food on plastic sheets can be quite risky, as harmful chemicals in the plastic can leach into food items.

The FSSAI stated "low-grade plastic can release toxic substances such as bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, and other chemicals when exposed to high heat and can leach into food items, potentially causing adverse effects". (SEE PAGE 2)

