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 Muslim nations oppose emptying Gaza Strip
 Back plan for administrative committee of Palestinians to govern the territory



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 Champions Trophy: Will India's spin cull the Kiwis?

In a nutshell

Israeli tourist raped in Hampi
KOPPAL: Two women, including a 27-year-old Israeli tourist, were allegedly gang-raped and assaulted while stargazing near Hampi, police said on Saturday. Three male tourists who were with the women were also assaulted and pushed into a canal and one of them was found dead, they added. "Of the three accused, we have arrested two and efforts are on to nab the third suspect in the case," Ram L Arasiddi, Superintendent of Police of Koppal, said. PTI

NTPC official shot dead in Jharkhand
HAZARIBAGH: A 42-year-old NTPC official was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne gunmen in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Saturday, police said. Six people have been detained in connection with the murder of Kumar Gaurav, who was posted as deputy general manager (dispatch) at NTPC's Keredari coal mines project, police said. The incident happened around 9.30 am under the Katkamdag police station limits. PTI

Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Sunday 6:30 PM
 Saher Monday 5:07 AM

'Premature to talk about Indo-US trade deal'

NEW DELHI
 Negotiations between India and the US for a trade deal have just begun and it would be premature to talk about its details, government sources said on Saturday, hours after US President Donald Trump said India agreed to cut tariffs "way down". It is natural for both the countries to have their interests and sensitivities and these are legitimate matters for a discussion, the sources said. Last month, India and the US announced that they would negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement following talks between Prime Minister Modi and Trump. PTI

Open wells turn last resort for farmers

High cost factor, erratic power supply, no guarantee of hitting water make borewells unreliable

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
 HYDERABAD

Faced with the unreliability of surface water irrigation and the soaring costs associated with deep borewell drilling, farmers across several districts in Telangana are increasingly turning to the age-old practice of digging open irrigation wells. This shift is driven by the need for a more dependable and sustainable water source to support their agricultural activities.

Surface water irrigation, a cornerstone of agricultural practices during the BRS regime, has become increasingly unreliable due to poor management of water resources. As a result, farmers are left searching for alternative methods to ensure a consistent water supply for their crops.

Borewells costly and uncertain
 Drilling deep borewells, a common modern solution, has proven to be both costly and uncertain. With no guarantee of hitting sustainable water sources, many farmers face financial strain after investing heavily in borewells that yield little to no water. This has led to a shift in preference towards more traditional methods.



A farmer draws water from the dried up Akeru stream in Chinna Gudur mandal of Mahabubabad district. — Photo: Gadipally Srinivas

In Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Warangal and Khammam, open wells have become the preferred choice for many farmers. These wells tap into shallow aquifers replenished by surface water, proving to be a more sustainable option over time. Unlike borewells, open wells do not rely heavily on consistent power supply. Farmers can use diesel-powered pump sets to draw

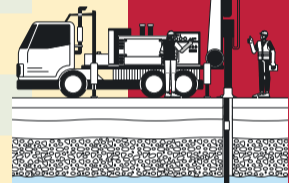
water, ensuring critical wetting during crucial crop stages. Open wells can be dug using a JCB in just 15 to 20 hours, costing between Rs 20,000-Rs 25,000. Diesel engine pump sets are also relatively affordable, with prices ranging from Rs.12,000 (2 HP) to Rs.42,500 (5 HP). This is significantly cheaper than borewells, which can cost between Rs 1 lakh-Rs 2 lakh.

Open wells require minimal maintenance compared to borewells, making them a practical and economical choice for farmers. Open wells are not only a reliable backup but also add value to the land in terms of real estate calculations. They provide a sustainable water source that can support irrigation needs even when surface water sources like tanks and ponds dry up. (SEE PAGE 2)

Age-old practice

SURFACE WATER IRRIGATION UNRELIABLE DUE TO POOR MANAGEMENT

- Drilling deep borewells costly and uncertain in water yields
- Open wells tap into sustainable, shallow aquifers replenished by surface water
- Open wells reduce dependency on inconsistent power supply
- Mission Kakatiya had helped replenish groundwater levels



FARMERS IN POCKETS SUCH AS TIRUMALAYAPALM, DORNAKAL FIND SUCCESS WITH OPEN WELLS

- Open wells can be dug with JCB in 15-20 hours
- Open-well digging costs Rs 20,000-Rs 25,000
- Diesel engine pump sets come for Rs 12,000 (2 HP) to Rs 42,500 (5 HP)
- Borewells can cost between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh with no guarantee of water

1 killed, 40 injured in Manipur clashes

IMPHAL

A protester was killed while over 40 others, including women and policemen, were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces in different parts of Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Saturday, officials said. The deceased has been identified as Lalgouthang Singit. The 30-year-old suffered bullet injuries during the clashes at Keithel-manbi and died on the way to hospital, police said.

Clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces in the Kuki-dominated district after police fired tear gas to disperse them, as they opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive allowing free movement across the

State. The situation worsened when protesters set fire to private vehicles and attempted to stop a state transport bus traveling from Imphal to Senapati.

At least 16 protesters sustained different types of injuries during the clashes with security forces at Gamgiphai, Motbung and Keithelmanbi, police said, adding they have been admitted to the nearby public health centre for treatment. Unofficial figures, however, put the number of civilian injuries at more than 23.

In a statement, Manipur Police said at least 27 security personnel were injured during clashes with protesters in the district and that there were incidents of firing from among the demonstrators forcing them to retaliate. (SEE PAGE 2)

Chest pain leads to accident, three of family drown

STATE BUREAU

Warangal

It was reportedly a chest pain that led to the tragic accident that claimed three lives, including that of two toddlers, at Theegarajupalli village of Sangem mandal in the district on Saturday.

LIC development officer Somarapu Praveen Kumar (30), who was living in Warangal, set out to his native place in Mecharajupalli of Inugurthi in Mahabubabad district, with his wife Krishnaveni, daughter Chaitra Sai (4) and Saivardhan (2). However, as they reached Theegarajupalli, Praveen Kumar suddenly felt severe chest pain. He reversed the car to return to Warangal to go to a hospital. But, he lost control of the vehicle, probably due to the chest pain. (SEE PAGE 2)

HIDDEN CAMS ON CHARGER FOUND IN WOMEN'S HOSTEL

SANGAREDDY: Inmates of a women's hostel found hidden cameras in the hostel and complained to the Ameerapur police. When a woman found a hidden camera fixed to a mobile charger, it left the inmates in shock. The Ameerapur police said, Bandaru Parameshwar was running the hostel at Mythri Villas in Ameerapur municipality. Inmates found the hidden cameras at multiple spots. (SEE PAGE 2)

NEWLYWED WOMAN ENDS LIFE

HYDERABAD: A newlywed woman died by suicide at her house in Balreddy Nagar, Balanagar, on Thursday night. Police said T Vijaya Gowri (26), a native of Andhra Pradesh, got married about a month ago and was reportedly upset over not being interested in her marriage. She was found hanging from the ceiling fan in the bedroom. The Balanagar police are investigating.

HEALTH ISSUES DRIVE BRIDEGROOM TO SUICIDE

JAGTIAL: A bridegroom, who was reportedly suffering from chronic health issues, died by suicide one day before his wedding in Ramachandrapeta, a village near Vellulla of Metpalli mandal, on Saturday. Lakkampalli Kiran (35) was suffering from several health issues for long. He was found hanging in his home in the morning, even as preparations were on for his wedding on Sunday. (SEE PAGE 2)

Inter students struggle to keep track of time

YUVRAJ AKULA

Hyderabad

They are racing against time but without a clock in sight. This is the situation of several thousands of students who are appearing for the ongoing Intermediate Public Examinations, which concludes on March 25.

For several students who took the first three exams, the absence of wall clocks in the examination rooms has added further pressure to the existing stress of producing correct answers in the exam.

After several complaints from students and parents,

the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TG BIE) on Saturday finally stepped in, instructing its officials to install wall clocks in all the examination halls.

In a message circulated to District Intermediate Public Educational Officers, the Board directed them to inform all Chief Superintendents (CS) and departmental officers to install a wall clock on or before Monday and post photos of the same in the WhatsApp group. The TG BIE sanctioned Rs 1,000 or more for the purchase of wall clocks.

The Board's sudden decision did not go down well


with officials on examination duty. They asked how can they buy a wall clock for Rs 100 for a college, which is holding the examination in 10 rooms.

An examination centre chief superintendent said the BIE should have made proper arrangements for wall clocks before the commencement of the exams. "How can we purchase a wall clock for Rs 100 for the college, which has 10 rooms, from the sanctioned Rs 1,000? After enquiries, we got a deal for Rs 200 for each wall clock, excluding batteries. We are meeting expenses from our own pocket

as it is the Board's directive," a CS said, on condition of anonymity.

Welcoming the move to install wall clocks for the students' convenience, Telangana Gazetted Junior Lecturers Association-475 president Dr V Srinivas and general secretary Dr K Suresh urged the Board to buy the clocks in bulk and hand them over to centres as clocks at Rs 100 a piece cannot be bought from the sanctioned amount.

The issue stemmed from the Board barred students from wearing wristwatches in exam centres this year. (SEE PAGE 2)



FACTS

ABOUT CHICKEN AND EGGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

READ THE FACTS THEN MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND

- The Bird flu (H5N1) virus never be transmitted to humans by eating fully cooked Chicken or Eggs.
- Indian style of cooking is always above 70° C, so the virus will get destroyed.
- As per WHO/OIE, in areas experiencing outbreaks of Bird flu, poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed, provided these items are properly cooked and properly handled during food preparation.
- Avoid eating raw Eggs and semi cooked meat.

The temperatures recorded in Indian cooking

Frying	: 150° C and above
Boiled Egg	: 100° C
Omelette	: 150° C
Baking	: 130° C and above
Tandoor	: 240° C and above
Curry	: 140° C and above

ISSUED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY
 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad-28.
 Space Courtesy by:
 Telangana Poultry Breeders Association