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Union Carbide waste disposal: Stir intensifies in Pithampur



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South Korea's impeached President defies warrant

Presidential security service blocks investigators from entering Yoon's residence



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Rohit rests but makes no difference, India all out

In a nutshell

HCA case referred to CJ

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday referred the long-pending dispute over the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) to the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna for tagging it with a case concerning Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Satish Chandra Sharma took note of the submissions saying the issues may conflict with the other pending matter. **SPORT PAGE 11**

Rana seeks review of extradition

WASHINGTON: An attorney for Mumbai-attack convict Tahawwur Rana has urged the US Supreme Court to review the lower court's decision to extradite him to India, citing the principle of double jeopardy which prevents a person from being tried or punished twice for the same offence. India is seeking the extradition of Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, as he is wanted in the 2008 Mumbai attacks case. **PTI**

BPSC row: Protests rock Bihar

PATNA: Protests intensified on Friday over the demand for cancellation of the recent Bihar PSC exam, as agitators disrupted rail and vehicular movement in Patna, while police stopped a few Left-leading students' organisations from marching to the CM's residence. A day ahead of fresh tests for select candidates, Independent MP Pappu Yadav led his supporters in blocking rail and road traffic in several areas of Patna. **PHOTO PAGE 7**

\$20,000 diamond for Jill Biden

WASHINGTON: A \$20,000 diamond presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to US First Lady Jill Biden was the most expensive gift given by any world leader to the Biden family in 2023, the US State Department has said. The 7.5 carat lab-grown diamond was gifted by Modi in June 2023 at a private dinner at the White House during his state visit on an invitation by President Biden. **WORLD PAGE 9**

'Govt again trying to deny ryots their right'

KTR objects to govt seeking self-declarations for Rythu Bharosa

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Raising strong objections to the Congress government seeking self-declarations from farmers for the implementation of Rythu Bharosa investment support, BRS working president KT Rama Rao dubbed it as another attempt to deny support to farmers and weaken the scheme before scrapping it entirely.

He called the party cadre to organise awareness programmes across the State commencing from Saturday, to sensitise the farmers and stop the Congress government's conspiracy. "The government's actions are nothing short of a conspiracy to demoralise farmers," he said.

He condemned the government's alleged attempts to impose stringent conditions for Rythu Bharosa and file cases against farmers under the guise of affidavits. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Rama Rao termed the Congress government insisting for fresh applications



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday.

under the scheme as a ploy to delay and deny financial assistance to majority farmers on one pretext or other. "Instead of fulfilling its promises, the Congress government is trying to portray farmers as a burden on the State and spreading false propaganda against them," he said.

He pointed out that under the BRS administration, schemes such as Rythu Bandhu were implemented without bureaucratic hurdles. "We deposited Rs 73,000 crore into farmers' accounts across 11 crop seasons without demanding applications or self-declarations. In contrast, the

Congress government has failed to deliver even a fraction of its promised support," he said. He called upon farmers and party cadres to launch awareness campaigns to expose the government's failure to fulfil its poll promises, including the Warangal Farmers Declaration. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Revanth dumps SSA employees

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

After having promised the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) employees that their services would be regularised during the Assembly elections, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has taken a U-turn, stating that it was a Central government scheme and that there was no scope for regularising the services of the outsourced employees.

"If services are regularised in violation of rules, there would be legal issues. There is no scope for regularisation of services and if the employees continue to insist, things will get further complicated," he said.

His observations came during a meeting in which he released the Telangana Gazetted Officers Association 2025 diary and calendar

Says as it is a Central govt scheme, there is no scope for regularising services of outsourced employees

at Secretariat here on Friday. He admitted that due to financial constraints and low revenue, a few issues were not getting addressed.

Though the government was willing to regularise the services of outsourced and contract employees, it cannot be done, he told the officers.

The Chief Minister said the State government's monthly revenue was Rs 18,500 crore and this was insufficient to meet the State government's requirements. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

AAP is aapda for Delhi: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday slammed the AAP as an "aapda" for Delhi, saying this "aapda" has taken the national capital in its grip in the past 10 years.

Addressing people after launching a slew of infra projects in the national capital, including in housing and education sectors, he hit out at the city government led by AAP and said the situation in the national capital would worsen if its reign continued. On the one hand, the Centre is making a lot of efforts; on the other, the Union Territory government stands for brazen lies, he said, accusing the AAP government of committing corruption in a host of sectors ranging from school education to fighting pollution and liquor trade. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'Fast-spreading' HMPV fuelling public apprehension

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

Reports of the surging Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases in northern parts of China, and rapidly spreading across Asia, are raising concerns among experts and people in general.

Videos and images circulating on social media depicting overcrowded hospitals, public spaces and masked people struggling to access healthcare in China, is further fuelling public apprehension.

Several social media handles on X reported that due to circulation of multiple viruses including HMPV, Covid-19 and Mycoplasma pneumoniae, hospitals, crematoriums and other public health infrastructure was getting overwhelmed, forcing the Chinese Government to declare a health

What is HMPV

ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), UNITED STATES, HMPV CAN CAUSE UPPER AND LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN, OLDER ADULTS, AND PEOPLE WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEMS. DISCOVERED IN 2001, HMPV IS IN THE PNEUMOVIRIDAE FAMILY ALONG WITH RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV).

SYMPTOMS

- Cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath
- Clinical symptoms could progress to bronchitis or pneumonia
- Incubation period is 3 to 6 days, and duration of illness will depend on severity

PREVENTION

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Patients with cold-like symptoms should cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.
- Cough etiquette

HOW IT SPREADS

- Coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching objects/surfaces that have viruses on them and then touching mouth, nose, or eyes

TREATMENT: AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO SPECIFIC ANTIVIRAL THERAPY

emergency. However, Community Notes on X later clarified, "There is no information to back-up claims that China has declared a state of emergency over epi-

demics overwhelming the hospitals and crematoriums in the country". So far, the WHO has not given any specific statement/clarification on the issue. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

No need to be alarmed: Centre

NEW DELHI

The National Centre for Disease Control is closely monitoring respiratory and seasonal influenza cases in the country, and is in touch with international agencies in the wake of the recent reports of an outbreak of the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China, official sources said on Friday.

"We will continue to monitor the situation and validate information and developments accordingly," a senior official said. Director General of Health Services Dr Atul Goel said the HMPV is like any other respiratory virus which causes common cold and flu-like symptoms. "We have analysed the data of the respiratory outbreaks in India and there is no substantial increase. There is nothing to be alarmed," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Four dead, 7 injured as speeding car hits 2 autos

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

Reckless driving cost the lives of four persons, including three women, and rendered seven grievously injured. When a speeding car hit two oncoming passenger autos at the Nallavally forest area under the Gummudalada police station limits, three people died on the spot and a woman died an hour later in hospital.

The deceased have been identified as Papagari Manisha (22), an AE in the Panchayat Raj Department in Narsapur; D Aishwarya Laxmi (20), a degree student; Anasuya (62) of Kowdipally and Praveen (30) of Yellareddygudem.

Due to the high intensity of the collision, the passengers of the two autos were thrown out of the vehicles



Police at the spot where the car hit the autorickshaws, at the Nallavally forest area in Sangareddy district on Friday.

and sustained multiple injuries.

The condition of four of the seven injured is said to be critical. The injured are Santosh, Raju, Naveen and Praveen.

The bodies were taken to the government hospital in Narsapur for a post-mortem examination and the injured were shifted to different hospitals after being administered first aid.

Cold wave likely in Telangana for three days

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The India Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad on Friday issued a cold wave warning for Telangana for the next three days.

In its five-day forecast, the IMD-H said cold wave conditions will prevail across several regions in Telangana with minimum temperatures hovering between 2 degrees C and 4 degrees C.

The IMD-H has also issued a special warning for the districts of Adilabad, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad and Nirmal where the average night time temperatures are expected to drop to 5-10 degrees C.

"Mist or hazy conditions are very likely to prevail in the morning hours at isolated pockets over Telangana during the next five days. The minimum temperatures are likely to be below 2 degrees C to 4 degrees C during the next three



The IMD-H has said cold wave conditions will prevail across several regions in the State with minimum temperatures hovering between 2 degrees C and 4 degrees C.

days," the IMD-H forecast said. Meanwhile, Hyderabad shivered on Friday morning as cold wave conditions swept across the city and surrounding regions,

recording single-digit minimum temperatures at multiple locations. The winter chill also impacted districts, with several districts, including Kumaram Bheem

Asifabad, Sangareddy, Adilabad and Vikarabad, also recording single-digit temperatures on Friday.

The lowest minimum temperature of 8.8 degrees

C was recorded at the University of Hyderabad campus, Serilingampally mandal and BHEL Factory, Ramachandrapuram. At Rajendranagar, the minimum temperature was 9.4 degrees C, while Moulali Ali under Uppal mandal recorded a minimum of 9.6 degrees C.

Other parts of Hyderabad where minimum temperatures fell considerably include Gachibowli (11.5 degrees C), West Marredpally (12.1 degrees C), Qutbullapur (12.3 degrees C), Patancheru (13.3 degrees C) and Alwal (13.6 degrees C).

In the districts, the lowest temperature of 6.5 degrees C was recorded at Ginnedari in Tiryani mandal and Sirpur in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad. The mercury fell to 6.9 degrees C at Kohir in Sangareddy district, followed by 7.1 degrees C at Bela in Adilabad, 7.2 degrees C at Bheempur in Adilabad and 7.3 degrees C at Mominpet in Vikarabad.