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Amendments to nuclear energy laws on the cards



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Ready for peaceful settlement, says Putin

Donald Trump talks to Russian President on Ukraine for over two hours



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Khelo India showcases power of sports: Modi

In a nutshell

Smartphones India's top export

NEW DELHI: Smartphones have officially become India's top exported good in FY25, overtaking traditional heavyweights like petroleum products and cut diamonds, as per latest government figures. Backed by government support and strong local manufacturing by tech giants like Apple and Samsung, smartphone exports rose 55 per cent to \$24.14 billion in 2024-25, compared to \$15.57 billion in the previous fiscal and \$10.96 billion in 2022-23. According to the data, the United States and Japan saw the biggest jump in shipments over the last three years. **PTI**

Russia outlaws Amnesty

MOSCOW: The Russian authorities on Monday outlawed Amnesty International as an "undesirable organisation," a label that under a 2015 law makes involvement with such organisations a criminal offense. The decision by the Russian Prosecutor General's office, announced in an on-line statement, is the latest in the unrelenting crackdown on Kremlin critics, journalists and activists that intensified to unprecedented levels after Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The designation means the international human rights group must stop any work in Russia. **WORLD PAGE 9**



Sharvari Best Young Actor

Says the audience has helped her find her feet in this industry

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Police begin probe into Gulzar Houz blaze

Record statements of eye witnesses, victims' kin; different agencies to be part of probe



BRS working president KT Rama Rao consoles family members of those who died in a fire tragedy at Gulzar Houz area, on Monday.

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Charminar police registered a case following the fire tragedy in a building at Gulzar Houz that claimed 17 lives on Sunday. The case was registered following a complaint made by Utkarsh Modi, requesting the police to conduct a probe into the fire incident at their family house at Gulzar Houz.

The police registered a case under the head 'Fire Accident' and started investigation. The police, as part of the investigation, recorded the statements of the eye witnesses and family members on Monday.

The local police will inform different agencies to visit the spot and conduct an investigation at the place to help them in ascertaining the reasons that led to the fire. The police had communicated to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, the Fire Department, the Power Department, Forensic Experts, GHMC and other departments in this regard. "After obtaining the opinion of the departments, we can reach any conclusion," said a senior police official.

The police had sealed the building on Sunday afternoon and did not allow anyone inside the premises on Monday. Visiting VIPs were allowed only till the shutter leading to the entrance of the building.

TGHRC SEEKS REPORTS ON HYDERABAD FIRE ACCIDENT

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) on Monday directed officials concerned to submit detailed reports in connection with the devastating fire in a building here that left 17 people dead. A blaze triggered by a suspected short circuit in a building at Gulzar Houz near the iconic Charminar here on May 18 killed 17 people, including eight children, belonging to an extended family of a jeweller. According to an official release, the panel on its own took cognisance of the tragic fire accident, based on media reports, indicating possible negligence in building safety, electrical maintenance, and fire preparedness and directed the Chief Secretary, Commissioner of Police, Director General Fire Disaster Response Emergency and Civil Defence and the Chief Engineer, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana (TGSPDCL) to submit reports by June 30.

KTR QUESTIONS GOVT LAPSES; DEMANDS Rs 25 LAKH EX GRATIA

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday lashed out at the State government over serious lapses in the Gulzar Houz fire tragedy that claimed 17 lives on Sunday. He questioned the government over lapses, including ambulances that arrived without oxygen cylinders or masks, and fire engines without water or protective gear. "If basic equipment like oxygen cylinders, water and breathing masks had been available, at least some lives could have been saved," he said, pointing out that locals had said that fire personnel could not enter the building due to a lack of proper safety equipment. After visiting the site and participating in a condolence meeting organised by the Agarwal Samaj, Rama Rao paid respects to the victims, who were all members of the same family that lived near Charminar for over 125 years. The BRS working president castigated the Congress over its misplaced priorities. He felt that the funds given to beauty pageants should be extended to ensure emergency infrastructure to prevent such incidents. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

BIRDS, CAMERA, ACTION!



A flock of starlings takes off from the edge of a building in this photo from **Raghuvamsh Chavali's** award-winning series 'Wings Over Concrete'. The Canada-based photographer of Hyderabad origin bagged first place in 35AWARDS in photo project category. Chavali also earned recognition in Exposure One Awards and 'Highly Commended' honour at the Belfast Photo Festival this year.

Covid dashboard active again

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a sign of a slight increase in cases of new Covid-19 infections, the union Health Ministry (MoHFW), which has started to update its Covid-19 dashboard since May 12, is now reporting 257 active Covid-19 infections across various Indian States, as on Monday, May 19.

The modest increase in Covid-19 infections, especially in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, which have 95, 66 and 56 active Covid infections respectively, should be seen in the backdrop of the recent surge of Covid infections in South East Asian countries including Singapore and Hong Kong, according to senior

KEEP IN MIND

General precautions for vulnerable groups such as individuals with co-morbid conditions, chronic heart and kidney ailments, diabetics, liver disease, pregnant women and elderly

- Use good fitting safety masks at crowded areas or while in airports
- Good hand hygiene practices like frequent washing or using sanitisers
- Avoid enclosed spaces, maintain distance to reduce risk of transmission
- Travelers advised to check their health status during and after trip
- Consider influenza shots by seeking advice from general practitioner
- No need to panic, say experts
- For typical healthy individuals, risk from Covid infections remains low

doctors here in Hyderabad.

According to the Covid-19 dashboard data from MOHFW and doctors familiar with the surveillance program note that the Public Health department in

Telangana State has yet to start the process of identifying symptoms if any among individuals and conduct tests on suspected cases.

Meanwhile, the neighbouring State of Karnataka

has reported 13 active infections, Pondicherry has reported another 10 and Tamil Nadu has reported 66.

"Since the monsoon season is about to start in a week or two, it's better to keep a close tab on emerging seasonal ailments like Covid-19, influenza and other vector-borne diseases. It's also advisable for the health authorities to start collecting samples from patients and conduct tests to ascertain any new variants that have emerged in the recent past," a senior health official in Hyderabad said.

Meanwhile, senior chest specialists from Hyderabad have urged vulnerable population like persons with chronic heart, kidney diseases must be careful.

Snapped power lines kill 2 farmers

STATE BUREAU
Khammam/Jagtil

Alleged negligence of Electricity Department officials claimed the life of a farmer at Kothur village of Sathupalli mandal in Khammam on Monday. According to the locals, the wires of a 33kv distribution line had snapped after unseasonal rains on Sunday night damaged electricity poles at the village. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Ryots corner CM on wages, house plots

STATE BUREAU
Nagarkurnool

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy found himself cornered by a group of tribal women farmers at the launch of the Indira Soura Giri Jala Vikasam scheme at Macharam village in Amrabad mandal on Monday. He was taken aback when the beneficiaries, mostly women, politely pointed out a few burning issues.

While interacting with the Chief Minister, a woman farmer, U Alivelu,

pointed to delays in MGN-REGS wage payments, to which Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka responded with a familiar tune, blaming the Centre for the holdup. "Funds have not been released on time," Revanth Reddy said, while Bhatti Vikramarka nodded in agreement.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was visibly upset when another farmer, Lingamma, questioned him about house plots. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Teen dead after woman learning driving runs over 2

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

A woman who was learning to drive a car without a proper qualified guide ran over two children playing at a playground in Narre Gudum under Ameenpur municipality limits on Monday morning, killing one of them. According to locals, one Shekar (40), who was residing at Narre Gudum and working in a private company, took his two children Yekavani (14) and

The woman, Maheshwari, had no driving licence and allegedly not undergone any prior training, say police

Manidhar Varma (10) to the playground on Monday. While the kids were playing, Maheshwari accompanied by her husband Ravi Shekar, residents of Navya

Colony, arrived at the ground in a car. While learning driving, Maheshwari ran over the siblings. While Manidhar died on the spot, Yekavani sustained serious injuries.

The locals caught the wife and husband and handed them over to Ameenpur police. They shifted the injured Yekavani to a nearby hospital. The woman had no driving licence and had allegedly not undergone any prior training. A case was registered.

Cop held for misusing FASTag at RGIA

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The RGIA police arrested one Nissar Ahmed (30), a Police Transport Organisation (PTO) constable trainee on charges of steal-

ing at least 10 'FASTags' belonging to the police vehicles from office and lending them to private cab drivers for money.

Nissar Ahmed, who was earlier working as a home guard in the PTO, was sub-

sequently selected as the constable and was currently under training for the same.

FASTags belonging to police vehicles

According to the police, Nissar Ahmed stole the

FASTags belonging to police vehicles and gave them to private cab drivers who operate at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) to avoid the toll charges at the airport as well as Outer Ring Road.

He collected money from the private cab drivers for using the FASTag. Based on a complaint from the toll manager, the RGIA police booked a case and arrested Nissar Ahmed and seized three cars.

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