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Gold prices see steady increase, trend likely to continue



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Heathrow power outage disrupts flight operations

Thousands stranded as 1,350 flights affected after fire at nearby substation



SPORT | PAGE 10

IPL turns 18, KKR to take on RCB today in Kolkata

In a nutshell

Assembly adjourned

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Assembly witnessed chaotic scenes on Friday evening, with the ruling Congress government concluding the session without allowing opposition members to seek clarifications on Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's reply to the Budget debate. Despite all members participating in discussions on Finance, Planning and Energy departments, Bhatti Vikramarka used most of his speech to attack the BRS regime.

'Will take long to restore normalcy'

BENGALURU: Expressing concern over the recent developments in the strife-torn northeastern State of Manipur, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) asserted that it will take a long for a normal atmosphere to be restored in the region. Mukunda CR, joint general secretary of the RSS, said: "However, there is some hope today after reviewing the decisions taken by the Central government, some of which are political and administrative."

Anti-drone solution soon

NEW DELHI: India is very close to getting a complete anti-drone solution, and it will be achieved within six months, Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed Rajya Sabha on Friday. "We are very close to getting a complete anti-drone solution. We have had six experiments, I am hopeful within six-months we will have an indigenous anti-drone solution, a symbol of Make in India," he said, replying during a debate in the Upper House. PTI

TMC to skip DMK's delimitation meet

NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress will not send any representative for the March 22 meeting of states over delimitation called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in Chennai, said a source in the ruling party of West Bengal on Friday. The source said TMC feels the duplicate voter ID number issue is more important at present, as it may have an impact on the Assembly polls in Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. NATION PAGE 7

Ramzan Timings

Iftar Saturday 6:33 PM
Saheer Sunday 4:56 AM

'Language row raked up to derive political mileage'

NEW DELHI
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday attacked opposition parties in Rajya Sabha for raking up the language row, saying they were doing so to gain political mileage and hide their corruption. Expressing his party's commitment to promoting Indian languages, he said after December, he will do all correspondence with Chief Ministers, MPs and common people in their respective languages. "Those

WATER WOES ARE BACK



With the summer setting in and the only two wells in Mamidpally village going dry, over 160 families are forced to source water by digging a pit in the dried riverbed of the Godavari, in Bellampalli constituency of Mancherial district.

Plethora of problems leave ryots 'power'less

Farmers irked by burnt-out transformers, power cuts

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

A day after some MLAs complained about power supply issues in the Assembly, farmers listed out a plethora of problems at the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission's public hearing on Friday.

From burnt-out transformers, delay in replacing them or arranging for new ones, frequent disruptions in power supply, problem of low voltage and rampant corruption in TGSPDCL, farmers vented their ire at the apathy of officials in coming to their rescue.

The irate farmers from different areas, who gathered in good numbers for the public hearing, called out the tall claims made by the Energy Department over 24-hour power supply. Due to the frequent disruptions and low voltage, electric motors were getting burnt

VENTING OUT

Even months after the payment of deposit money was paid through a DD for installation of transformer, there was inordinate delay. This was against officials' assurance that within two months after DD was paid, the transformer would be installed. After approaching linemen and AE, there was no respite. Leaving my cattle in the dried up crops, I came here to lodge a complaint
— Kishtaiah, Shabad mandal

In 2022, former ERC Chairman Sriranga Rao sanctioned a budget for the replacement of old poles and lines, but the Medak officials did not take up the works. Despite paying DDs, transformers were not being provided. There are severe power cuts and I request officials to ensure 24-hour supply for the next one month so that we can save our crops
— Anil Kumar, Medak

We are vexed with the delay in transformers. When we try to approach the AE, lower-rank officials do not permit us and our complaint lands in the dustbin. Transport cost, which has to be borne by discom, is imposed on us
— Tirupati Reddy, Mustyalapally

In the past, there was good power supply but for the last few months, there have been frequent disruptions. We are clueless about power cuts. When linemen or officials are questioned, they threaten us with disconnections
— Shaik Basha, Rangareddy

out, leading to a financial burden on them, they rued. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh representatives, farmers and consumers complained that at the village-level, power staff demand bribes for even

petty works. The public hearing was conducted under the chairmanship of Justice Devaraju Nagarjun on filings of Revised Aggregate Revenue Requirement, Filing of proposed Tariff

and CSS proposals for the 2025-26 fiscal at ERC Bhavan. The farmers said in case of glitches in transformers in fields, staff ask them to bring these to the repair sheds. (SEE PAGE 2)

SSC Hindi paper fiasco: 2 suspended

STATE BUREAU
 Mancherial

In an embarrassing blunder, question papers for Hindi language instead of Telugu were sent to the Zilla Parishad High School (Boys) on the first day of the SSC examinations on Friday. Officials at the exam centre were shocked when

they found the Hindi language question paper after opening a sealed cover containing question papers at the school. They sent back the paper citing the swap.

On receiving information about the incident, officials from the Education Department reached the centre and made enquiries. The examination was delayed by two

hours and began at 11.30 am instead of 9.30 am, forcing the students to wait in tension. They were allowed to appear for the exam till 1.30 pm as the officials extended the deadline by two hours.

Collector Kumar Deepak is learnt to have expressed displeasure over the incident. He instructed DEO S Yadaiah to investigate and

to submit a report. Parents, however, criticised the officials for showing negligence in organising the examinations. They demanded that officials ensure the smooth conduct of the exams. Meanwhile, The superintendent of the examination centre and custodian officer were suspended for showing negligence. (SEE PAGE 2)

No end to farmer suicides in State

STATE BUREAU
 Adilabad

RYOT ENDS LIFE OVER CROP LOSS

MULUGU: A young farmer from Chiruthapalli village in Venkatapuram mandal ended his life on Friday by consuming pesticide. According to local sources, the farmer, identified as Lokam Madhu Krishna (35), grew maize in four acres using seed provided by a private company. But the yield was far less than his expectations and he incurred severe financial losses. Struggling with mounting debts and unable to cope with the distress, Madhu Krishna resorted to the drastic step. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination. The local police registered a case and started an investigation.

by suicide in the district in the last three months. Poshetti (60) breathed his last while undergoing treatment at RIMS-Adilabad after he along with his wife Indira attempted to kill themselves at Vadur village in Neradigonda mandal on March 5. Indira managed to survive.

Earlier, nine farmers in the district died by suicide as they were disheartened by their inability to repay loans between December 1 to February 15, indicating the gravity of the unprecedented agriculture crisis prevailing in the district.

wife and two sons. Based on a complaint received from Linganna's wife Lakshmi, a

case was registered and investigations were taken up. At least 10 farmers have died

Judge at centre of cash-in-home row

Huge stash of cash discovered from official home of Delhi HC's Justice Yashwant Varma

NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma was on Friday at the centre of a huge row over reports of alleged cash discovery from his official home here after a fire incident following which its Chief Justice initiated an in-house inquiry against him and the Supreme Court clarified the move to transfer him was not linked to the probe.

After reports emerged that Justice Varma, 56, was being repatriated to Allahabad High Court in the wake of the alleged cash discovery, the Supreme Court came out with a clarification that the proposal to transfer him was "independent and separate from the in-house enquiry procedure".

Justice Varma, who is the second senior-most judge in the Delhi High Court, was appointed to the court on October 11, 2021. The purported discovery of the huge stash of cash happened following a fire at Varma's Lutyens Delhi residence at around 11.35 pm on March 14, prompting the Delhi fire department personnel to rush to the spot and douse it. The quantum of the alleged discovered amount was also not known. It was reported that "a fire that broke out in



Justice Yashwant Varma

Delhi Chief Justice initiates in-house probe against him; SC clarifies move to transfer him not linked to investigation

the residential bungalow of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma resulted in recovery of a huge pile of cash forcing the Supreme Court collegium led by CJI Sanjay Khanna to decide to transfer him to another HC."

In a twist to the unusual development that shocked the judiciary and the legal fraternity, Delhi Fire Services Chief Atul Garg claimed that firefighters found no cash during their operation at the residence of Justice Varma. The control

room received a call about a blaze at Varma's residence at 11.35 pm on March 14 and two fire tenders were immediately rushed to the spot, Garg said.

Fire tenders reached the spot at 11.43 pm. The fire was in a store room stocked with stationery and domestic articles, Garg said, adding that it took 15 minutes to control the flames. There were no casualties. "Soon after dousing the flames, we informed police about the fire incident. Thereafter, a team of fire department personnel left the spot. Our fire fighters did not find any cash during their fire fighting operation," the DFS chief said.

The incident created ripples in the legal circuit, with many voices calling for the judge's resignation. Some also criticised the move only to transfer him. The incident also echoed in Rajya Sabha. On Friday, Justice Varma, who is currently heading a Division Bench dealing with cases of sales tax, GST, company appeals and other appeals of the original side, did not hold court, said his court master. To put to rest the supposed conjectures, the SC said, "There is misinformation and rumours being spread with regard to the incident." (SEE PAGE 2)

An error that turned into terror: Harish on Revanth

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Exposing the hollowness of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims of an economic slowdown in the country affecting Telangana's growth, former Finance Minister T Harish Rao pointed out that Telangana was registering negative growth rate in different sectors while neighbouring States were witnessing a positive growth.

This was not because of an economic slowdown, but because of the Congress government's failure, he said, adding that the people of Telangana made one error, that of electing Revanth Reddy, and that was turning out to be a terror for them. Speaking during a general discussion on the Budget in the Assembly, he said as per the CAG report, the State recorded only a 5.5% growth rate in GST collections in the last 11 months. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Akbar hails KCR's role in TG's growth

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi emphasised the need to acknowledge the role of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and the previous BRS administration for Telangana's unprecedented growth over the past decade.

He pointed out how Telangana had surpassed national averages in GDP (Gross State Domestic Product) and per capita income growth.

Speaking in the Assembly during discussion on the State Budget on Friday, Owaisi said the State budget had grown from Rs 1.06 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 3.04 lakh crore in 2025-26.

"We must appreciate all leaders who contributed to Telangana's progress over the years. But without K Chandrashekar Rao's governance, we would not have surpassed the national averages and achieved this level of economic growth," he



Without KCR, we would not have surpassed the national averages and achieved this level of growth

— AKBARUDDIN OWAISI, AIMIM FLOOR LEADER

said. Owaisi also took Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka to task for not raising his voice against the Central government's failure to release pending funds to Telangana. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

US judge blocks deportation of Indian student

NEW YORK

A US federal judge has blocked the deportation of an Indian student at Georgetown University who was arrested after federal authorities accused him of "actively spreading Hamas propaganda".

Badar Khan Suri is a postdoctoral fellow at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington DC. PTI