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Kuwait tragedy: Moving scenes at Kochi airport



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Putin vows ceasefire, but conditions apply

Says he will begin talks if Ukraine exits Russia-occupied areas, drops NATO bid



SPORT | PAGE 11

EURO kickoff! Germany to take on Scotland

In a nutshell

Six-year-old girl raped, killed

PEDDAPALLI: In a heart-wrenching incident, a six-year-old girl was raped and murdered allegedly by a rice mill worker near Katnapalli of Sultanabad mandal late on Thursday night. According to police, the accused, Vinod Majji alias Rajkumar, a native of Gurnarayanapur in Vishali district of Bihar, was working as a hamali in a rice mill and staying in a shed on the mill premises.

STATE PAGE 5

Six killed in AP road accident

AMARAVATI: Six persons died in a road accident in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh when two vehicles — a container truck and a mini truck —, in which they were travelling, collided on Friday. Drivers of both the vehicles along with three others died on the spot while another one succumbed while being shifted to hospital. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia each the kin of the deceased. PTI

Four foresters injured in attack

NIZAMABAD: A forest range officer, a section officer and two other staff members of the Forest Department sustained injuries when they were attacked by villagers at Kalpole forest area. The incident occurred when the locals were found ploughing the land in the forest area. Upon learning about this, the staff rushed to the spot and tried to stop the villagers from ploughing the land.

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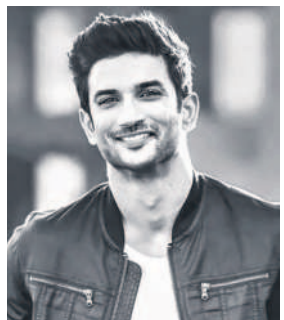
Pawan appointed Dy Chief Minister

AMARAVATI: Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and he will hold the portfolios of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development & Rural Water Supply, Environment, Forest, Science & Technology. Naidu has kept with himself General Administration, Law & Order, Public Enterprises and other portfolios not allocated to Ministers.

NATION PAGE 7

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 136
Retail live.....	Rs. 158
With skin.....	Rs. 229
Skinless.....	Rs. 261
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70

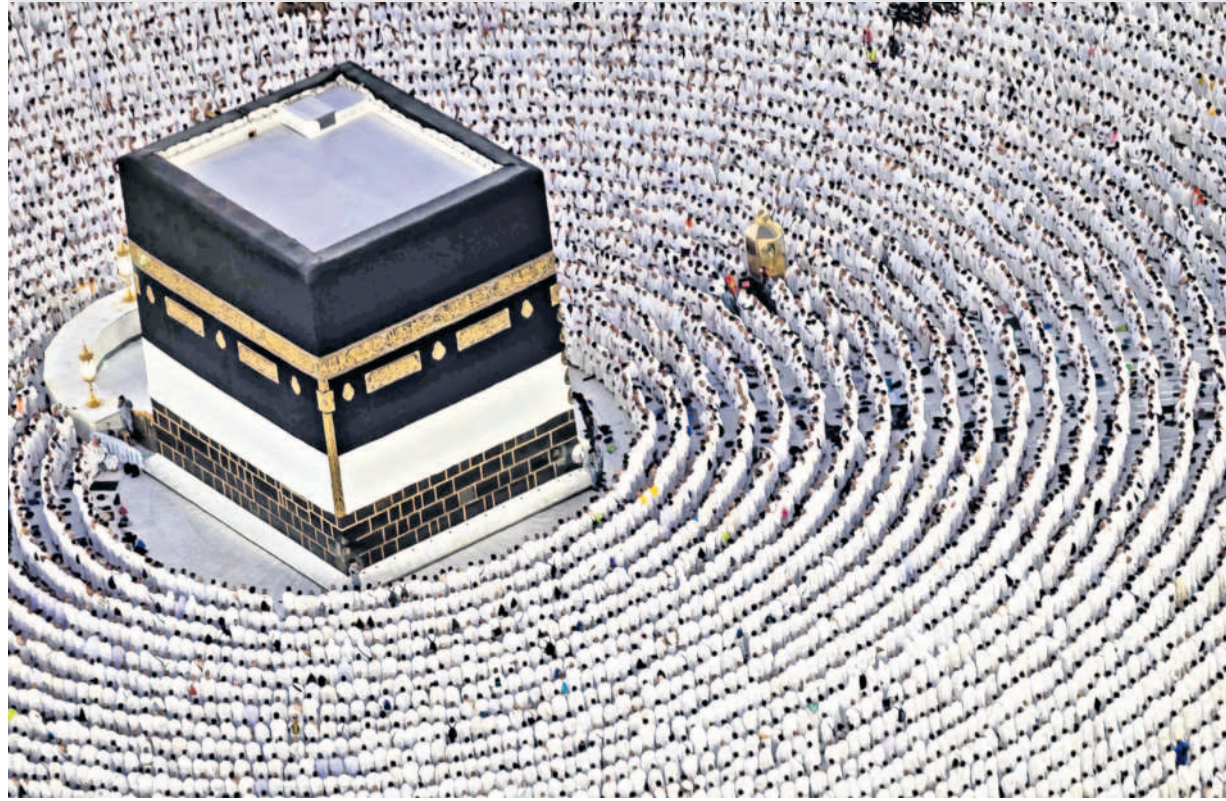


Sushant's 4th death anniversary

Late actor's sister requests for closure of his case

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HAJ PILGRIMAGE BEGINS



Faithfuls pray around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca. Braving sweltering heat. Muslims arrived in large numbers at Mecca. Authorities expect the number of pilgrims to exceed 2 million this year. — Photo: AFP

NEET: SC notice to Centre on CBI probe

Apex court seeks response within two weeks

NEW DELHI

In a significant development amid a raging row over the NEET-UG, the Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a CBI probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

A vacation Bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing a batch of pleas including a PIL filed by Hiten Singh Kashyap, also sought responses from the CBI and the Bihar government within two weeks. It said the pleas will be taken up with other pending ones on July 8, when the top court will start functioning after the summer vacation.

During the brief hearing, the Bench got irked when a lawyer referred to the students committing suicides at Kota, a hub of coaching centres, in Rajasthan as an argument to buttress his

Will not tolerate any malpractice: Minister

NEW DELHI: The government will not tolerate any malpractice or irregularities in the conduct of exams and accountability of the National Testing Agency will be fixed if lapses are found, union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Friday amid a row over medical entrance exam NEET. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has come under criticism amid allegations of irregularities and inflation of marks in the medical entrance exam. "Every aspect is being looked into. Accountability will be fixed and depending on the nature of lapse, action will be taken." "There is no scope for any malpractice or irregularities in the conduct of any exam. We will not tolerate that," he said. PTI

case for a CBI probe. "Don't make unnecessary emotional arguments here," Justice Nath said.

Responding to the submission for ordering a CBI probe, the Bench said the reply of the NTA was necessary before an order could be passed. "It is the future of 24 lakh students," the lawyer said. "We under-

stand. We are conscious of all that," the Bench said. The Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) had on Thursday told the Supreme Court they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Student run over by bus

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An Intermediate student was run over by a TGSRTC bus at Yousufguda. According to police, Mehreen (16), who was on her way to her college in the bus, accidentally slipped and came under the front wheel of the bus. "The bus driver who failed to notice that Mehreen had fallen moved the vehicle ahead. She sustained grievous bleeding injuries and died on the spot," a police official said.

State tries to fix textbook goof-up

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Congress government, which found itself in an embarrassing situation with former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's name printed in the Telugu textbooks foreword and workbooks, has taken up measures to cover goof-up.

The School Education Department on Friday issued instructions to government and local body school teachers asking them to cut



the foreword and stick it on the back of the cover page of the textbook, ensuring the Pledge, National Anthem, and Vande Mataram were

visible. Initially, the schools were asked to remove the foreword page that thanked former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and his Cabinet colleagues, including former Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy, for their guidance and advice. These textbooks were issued by the SCERT. As per instructions, teachers who distributed the Telugu textbooks for Classes 1 to 10 students on the first day of school recalled them and removed

the foreword page. As the foreword back page has the Pledge, National Anthem and Vande Mataram song printed, the move to remove the foreword drew criticism from the former Education Minister and stakeholders.

Following this, it was planned to reprint the foreword. However, the idea was dropped and teachers were asked to cut the foreword page and stick it on the back of the cover page.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Works on Medigadda nearing completion, but issues still persist

HYDERABAD: The interim works taken up on the Medigadda barrage are nearing completion. However, only two of the eight gates in the seventh block of the project are yet to be lifted. The project authorities are hopeful of lifting the gates without causing any damage to the piers. One of the eight gates in the seventh block was dismantled by cutting. Works on the impacted structure are being carried out extensively as the project continued to receive inflows. Initial plans to put up a coffer dam to facilitate the lifting of water from Medigadda barrage were given up.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Land row: Man beaten to death

STATE BUREAU
Narayanpet

In a shocking incident, one person was beaten to death over a land dispute in Chinaparla of Utkoor mandal in the district on Friday.

Guvvali Sanju, 28, was attacked by a group of people over a land dispute in the village. Though locals di-

alled 100, the police reportedly failed to turn up in time. The victim was rushed to Mahabubnagar for treatment, where he died while undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, IG Sudheer Babu suspended Utkoor SI Bijja Srinivasulu for dereliction of duty. Taking serious objection to the incident, Chief Minister A Revanth

Reddy directed the officials to initiate action against the police personnel if they were found neglecting duties. He also instructed the DGP Ravi Gupta to ensure such incidents do not recur. He also directed cops to book a case under POSCO against the offender, who allegedly raped and killed a six-year-old girl in Peddapalli.

Woman injured in mine blast, loses leg

STATE BUREAU
Mulugu

A woman sustained severe injuries when she stepped on a pressure-activated mine near Karrigutta of Venkatapuram mandal on Thursday. The doctors at Bhadrachalam hospital had to amputate her leg on Friday. This comes in the wake of a continuing face-off between the outlawed Maoists and security forces on the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border.

The pressure-activated mine was planted to target the security forces on counter-insurgency operations. The woman, D Sunitha, was among 100 villagers who ventured into the forests to visit Beeda Mallana temple near Doli village. According to villagers, Sunitha stepped on the IED, which went off with a deafening sound.

The villagers initially ran helter-skelter but gathered again only to find that Sunitha had sustained severe injuries on her left leg.

Sunitha sustained severe injuries when she stepped on the pressure-activated mine allegedly set up by Maoists

They made a makeshift stretcher and carried her for nearly 25 km to Mallapuram near Palam project. Later, she was rushed to Venkatapuram in a car and subsequently to Bhadrachalam.

This is the second incident in which pressure-activated mines went off in the last ten days. On June 3, Yelandula Yesu was killed in a landmine explosion suspected to have been planted by Maoists in the Kongala Hills forest. The security forces have recently intensified anti-Maoist operations along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border and found many booby traps laid along beaten tracks to target the police teams.

Eye in the sky to ensure smoother commute



Equipped with advanced surveillance capabilities, the Third Eye Traffic Monitoring Drone will enable real-time updates of traffic flow and related issues. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An eye in the sky will now help streamline the traffic chaos that has become a common factor on the streets of a bustling Cyberabad.

The Cyberabad Traffic Police, in partnership with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), on Friday announced the deployment of the Third Eye Traffic Monitoring Drone capability.

This cutting-edge unmanned aerial surveillance vehicle (UASV) sets in motion a significant stride towards an enhanced traffic

management system in the region, the police traffic said.

Equipped with advanced surveillance capabilities, the Third Eye Traffic Monitoring Drone will enable real-time updates of traffic flow and related issues, allowing Traffic Police teams to address them rapidly and ensure a smoother commute for road users.

This collaborative initiative leverages technological advancements to optimise traffic management strategies, ultimately contributing to improved road safety and efficiency across Cyberabad Police Limits.