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Burglar gangs on the prowl, many from other States



WORLD | PAGE 09

Putin warns Seoul against supplying weapons to Kyiv
Says there is no need for South Korea to fear recently signed Russia-North Korea deals



SPORT | PAGE 10

Steady India to take on faltering Bangladesh

In a nutshell

1,563 students to take NEET again

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to defer the NEET-UG counselling process, scheduled to kick off on July 6, saying it is not an "open and shut" exercise. The National Testing Agency is gearing up to conduct on Sunday a retest for the medical entrance exam for 1,563 candidates who were earlier awarded grace marks to make up for the loss of time at six centres. (NATION PAGE 7)

Newly elected AP MLAs take oath

AMARAVATI: The maiden session of the 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly began on Friday with 172 newly elected legislators taking the oath of office. According to an official source, 172 MLAs were administered oath by Pro-tem Speaker and TDP legislator G Butchiah Chowdary. Following the swearing-in, the Pro-tem Speaker adjourned the House to 10.30 am on Saturday. (NATION PAGE 7)

Hasina in India on two-day visit

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday began a two-day State visit to India with an aim to further expand the already close ties between the two countries. It is the first incoming bilateral State visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new government in India following the LS polls. Modi and Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday. PTI

98 Indians died during Haj

NEW DELHI: The MEA said on Friday 98 Indians died due to natural causes and accidents during this year's Haj pilgrimage. Last weekend, over 1,75,000 pilgrims from India converged on Mount Arafat outside Mecca to offer prayers. "This year, we had around 1,75,000 Indians. The core Haj period is from May 9 to July 22," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. IANS

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 119
Retail live.....	Rs. 141
With skin.....	Rs. 204
Skinless.....	Rs. 233
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 69



Versatile Sutherland no more

Canadian actor died in Miami after prolonged illness

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Yellampally water for parched Hyderabad areas

The last time water was lifted from the reservoir was in 2016

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

After a gap of eight years, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has begun emergency pumping from the Sripada Yellampally project.

The last instance of such water extraction from the reservoir on the banks of the Godavari was in 2016. This comes as a precautionary measure to ensure water supply to Hyderabad city remains uninterrupted, following a similar move at the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir in April.

With depleted groundwater levels across the metropolis, water supply became a challenge for authorities in summer. An increase in the supply of water tankers was also observed with over 2.37 lakh trips in April alone.

The Yellampally project is left with live storage of just 4.21 TMC of water, of which around 168 million gallons per day (MGD) will be supplied to the city. A total of 20 pumps have been installed at the Murmur site to undertake this emergency pumping. While only seven are being used, others will



The Yellampally project, located on the banks of the Godavari, is left with live storage of just 4.21 TMC, of which around 168 million gallons per day will be supplied to the city.

be employed as per requirement. "There was no flood from the upper Kaddam project as rainfall was low. As a result, the water level in the Yellampally project has started to decrease gradually. If this continues, there will be problems in the

water supply. Before this happens, water is being lifted through emergency pumping," a press statement released by the water board stated. Managing Director Sudarshan Reddy also inspected the site on Thursday.

Water pumped at this reservoir will be supplied to areas in the IT corridor, including Madhapur, Kondapur, Gachibowli, HITEC City, Lingampally, Miyapur, Chandanagar, Kukatpally, KPHB, Quthbullapur, Alwal and Malkajgiri.

Kejriwal's bail put on hold

NEW DELHI

Embattled Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will have to remain in jail for now with the Delhi High Court on Friday putting an interim stay on a trial court's order granting him bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

The AAP national convenor, who was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), could have walked out of Tihar jail on Friday had the High Court not granted the interim relief to the central anti-money laundering agency. "Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," a vacation Bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said and asked the parties to file written submissions by June 24.

The High Court said it was reserving the order for two-three days as it wanted to go through the entire

BJP'S CONSPIRACY EXPOSED: AAP

NEW DELHI: AAP leader Sanjay Singh on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making a mockery of the justice system after the Delhi High Court put on hold a trial court order granting bail to Kejriwal. Singh said the trial court's bail "exposed" the conspiracy of the BJP and the party should apologise to the AAP and Kejriwal. Talking to X, Singh said: "Look at the hooliganism of the Modi government... Modi ji, why are you making mockery of justice system?" PTI

records. It also issued a notice to Kejriwal seeking his response on ED's plea challenging the trial court's June 20 order by which he was granted bail. It listed the plea for hearing on July 10.

The ED's lawyer mentioned for an urgent listing its petition challenging the trial court's bail order, which was passed late Thursday evening. PTI

Trump promises green card for foreign graduates

WASHINGTON

Softening his stance on immigration, former US President Donald Trump has promised to give automatic green cards to foreign students who graduate from US colleges to prevent them from returning to their home countries such as India and China where they become multibillionaires.

Trump's departure from the anti-immigrant rhetoric comes ahead of the November presidential election in which immigration and deportation of illegal immigrants are among the key issues for voters. He, however, always supported a merit-based legal immigration system.

"What I want to do and what I will do is — you graduate from a college, I think you should get a Green Card automatically as part of your diploma, a Green Card to be able to stay in this country. That includes junior colleges too," Trump said in the 'All-In' podcast. PTI

Student electrocuted while trying to escape from hostel

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Fed up with his hostel, a student wanted to escape but ended up losing his life. An Intermediate student died of electrocution when he reportedly came in contact with the electric fence lin-

ing the compound wall of his college hostel at Koheda in Hayathnagar on Thursday night. It is said that Girish Kumar did not want to stay in the hostel and tried to escape when the mishap occurred. His desire to leave led him to scale the compound wall. (SEE PAGE 2)

MLA's wife dies by suicide

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The wife of Congress' Choppadandi MLA Dr Medipally Satyam reportedly died by suicide on Thursday night. Upset over health issues, she is suspected to have taken the ex-

treme step, police said. Roopa Devi, a resident of Panchasheel Colony in Alwal, was found hanging from the ceiling. She worked as a teacher at a government school in Vikarabad district. The couple had a love marriage 12 years ago. (SEE PAGE 2)

TS model of development worth emulating: Report

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The creation of new States in India can be a powerful catalyst for regional development, as evidenced by the success story of Telangana. This state, formed in 2014, provides a compelling model for why and how new States can contribute to economic growth, better governance and improved public services.

Amid recent debate over centralisation versus decentralisation in rapid changes in Indian governance, two recent analyses from an international weekly newspaper, *The Economist*, highlight a transformative

INNER PEACE



Enthusiasts take part in the 10th International Yoga Day celebrations at Sanjeevaiah Park in Hyderabad. Various such events were held across the city on Friday. (REPORTS PAGE 7)



Makes compelling arguments for decentralising power by creating more States, granting greater autonomy to big cities

approach that could redefine the nation's administrative and economic future.

The articles, 'Administering India: Small-states theory' and 'Indian federalism: Here's a model', make compelling arguments for decentralising power by creating more States and granting greater autonomy to mega-cities.

The case for smaller States

In its 'Administering India: Small-States theory', *The Economist* suggests that decentralising power from the Central government to more localised authorities can lead to more effective governance. Modi's centralisation strategy, although initially successful in modernising India, has reached its limits. Recent election results indicate a shift in the political landscape, suggesting that a more decentralised approach may now be necessary. The Constitution describes the nation as a "union of states", a concept that has evolved since Independence. (SEE PAGE 2)

Bonds instead of retirement benefits?

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Is the government planning to issue financial bonds in lieu of cash payment of benefits for those retiring from service on superannuation?

Employees circles are agog with speculation that in a bid to tide over the financial crisis, the government was planning to do so. A sense of fear has gripped the employees who are due to retire.

The bonds, which are likely to be issued to the retiring employees, will have to be encashed after a stipulated period of time.

But many, who just retired from service and those who are about to, fear their

retirement benefits could be delayed.

K Bhiksham Naik, a Record Assistant in the Revenue Department, is set to retire on June 29. He is already tense about his retirement benefits.

"There are reports that the government may issue financial bonds with a period of two or three years for encashment for people like us. This will be against the rules. I will not accept any bonds and stage protest," he said.

The government employees allege that there was a delay in the Finance Department over the approval of cheques issued to retired employees. (SEE PAGE 2)



Do you not agree that auctioning of TS coal blocks will pave the way for the privatisation of SCCL under guise of disinvestment?

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Coal auction: Cong faces flak

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Congress government is facing severe criticism from multiple quarters for its passive approach towards the auction of coal blocks belonging to the State-owned Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). The current Congress administration is being criticised for not mounting a strong defence against the Centre's plans, unlike the previous BRS government, paving the way for privatisation.

In 2011, under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the UPA government introduced the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill to replace the MMDR Act of 1957. However, objections from industry stakeholders led to the Bill being referred to a parliamentary standing committee, which suggested 107 changes and eventually elapsed. When the BJP-led NDA came to power, the Narendra Modi government passed the MMDR Amend-

ment Ordinance in 2015, facilitating commercial coal block auctions. Since 2020, the Centre has auctioned over 107 coal blocks in nine tranches, with 256 million tonnes of peak-rated capacity. In the latest and 10th round, 62 more blocks are up for auction.

Telangana has 82 coal blocks, but SCCL controls only 40. The Centre plans to auction the remaining 42 blocks to private companies. The latest auction includes four SCCL coal mines — Kalyan Khani block-6, Koyagudem block-3, Sathupalli block-6 and

Shranavapalli. The BRS government had previously fought vigorously against the Centre's auction plans, seeking to keep these blocks under SCCL's control. Despite this, the Centre insisted that even State-owned companies must participate in the auctions. Ironically, it allocated mines to other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Gujarat and Odisha without auction.

After the NDA government returned to power this month for a third term, the Centre proposed to auction 62 coal blocks, including four in Telangana. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy initially stated that the SCCL also will participate in the auction. When opposition parties such as the BRS, along with Singareni workers' unions, raised strong objections to the auction, he backtracked. After being reminded about his stance opposing the auction of coal blocks in 2021, Revanth Reddy urged Modi to allocate all four blocks to the State. (SEE PAGE 2)