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JD(U) seeks special status or special package



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Not in a rush to bring astronauts home: NASA
 Says it is using 'luxury of time' to learn more before Williams, Wilmore return to Earth



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India post record total, South Africa fight back

In a nutshell
Canopy collapses at Rajkot airport
RAJKOT: A portion of a fabric canopy erected at the pick-up and drop area of the Rajkot International Airport collapsed on Saturday after heavy rains. Nobody was injured in the incident. The accident comes days after similar incidents in Delhi and Jabalpur. In a post on X, the airport authorities said that water accumulation was observed on the city side of the canopy at the terminal building due to heavy rains. **PTI**

Kejriwal in judicial custody till July 12
NEW DELHI: A court here on Saturday sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till July 12 in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam. Kejriwal was produced in court by the CBI after the end of his custodial interrogation. The CBI sought 14 days of jail for Kejriwal, saying his incarceration was required "in the interest of the investigation and justice". **NATION PAGE 7**

Woman dupes neighbour using AI
THANE: Police have arrested a woman from Kashmir in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly duping her female neighbour to the tune of more than Rs 6 lakh by calling her and posing as a man, whose voice she created using AI. "The accused woman, Rashmi Kar, cheated her female neighbour and threatened her into paying Rs 6.6 lakh in various instalments by posing as a man," the police official said. **PTI**

Medak mishap: Toll touches six
MEDAK: The toll in Friday's road accident on NH-44 touched six, with one more person, who sustained severe injuries in the mishap, succumbing to injuries while undergoing treatment in a hospital in Hyderabad on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Ramesh alias Rajesh (44), a native of Madhya Pradesh. The condition of three of the four who were injured is said to be still critical.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 112
Retail live.....	Rs. 134
With skin.....	Rs. 194
Skinless.....	Rs. 221
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 69

Vicky Kaushal on Bad Newz
 The actor says he wanted to explore comedy genre

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Team India captain Rohit Sharma celebrates after winning the T20 World Cup title. India outwit South Africa by seven runs in a nail-biting finish to lift the trophy at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday. Star batter Virat Kohli, who anchored the innings with a match-winning 59-ball 76, announced his retirement from T20Is. — Photo: AP (REPORTS PAGE 10)

Adani to collect Old City power bills

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The State government is reportedly planning to hand over some Electricity Circles in Hyderabad to private companies to contain Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses. As part of this, the Old City area, which falls under the Hyderabad South Circle, will be handed over to the Adani Group. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy re-

vealed this to the media in Delhi two days ago, according to reports. Officials sources confirmed that high-level meetings were held in this regard by the government and that the Cabinet too was in favour of handing over power supply and bill collections to the Adani Group. Sources said Adani Group representatives had already gathered information from the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution

Company Ltd with regard to power bill collections and the difficulties being faced by it. A corporate team of Adani Group has been studying the power supply and other issues related to the Old City for the last few months, sources said. According to officials, in order to hand over responsibilities of distribution and bill collection to the private sector, the State government has to grant permission to the Dis-

Deal raises eyebrows
HYDERABAD: In the wake of statements by CM Revanth Reddy, questions are being raised over the selection of Adani Group, allegedly without inviting tenders or even discussing issue at the highest level of government. (REPORT PAGE 5)

DSC, Group-II dates worry aspirants

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

Teacher job aspirants hardly have any breathing time for the Group-II recruitment examination scheduled in August. The District Selection Committee (DSC), a recruitment examination for teacher posts in the government and local body schools, detailed schedule issued on Friday ended up nearly clashing with the Group-II exam. The School Education Department scheduled the DSC exams from July 18 to August 5, while the Group-II exam for 783 vacancies is on August 7 and 8. The close range of these exam dates has given an impetus to the already existing demand of the aspirants for

deferring the Group-II exam till December. **CBT mode** One of the aspirants, Nagaraj, preparing for both DSC and Group-II, said the School Education Department has already said it cannot defer the DSC, citing the unavailability of slots as the exam is held in computer-based test mode. The aspirants, according to Nagaraj, have decided to represent the issue to Telangana Public Service Commission (TGpsc) and Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumar on Monday and seek the Group-II exam postponement. "Majority of teacher job aspirants have registered for the Group-II exam," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Scribe held in NEET-UG case

NEW DELHI

The CBI conducted searches at seven locations in Gujarat on Saturday in connection with the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exam and arrested a journalist in Jharkhand, officials said. According to them, Jamaluddin Ansari, a journalist with a Hindi newspaper, was arrested for allegedly trying to help the principal and vice principal of a Hazaribagh school, both of whom are accused in the paper leak case. Oasis School's principal Ehsanul Haque and vice principal Imtiaz Alam have already been arrested by the federal probe agency in connection with the case. The CBI searched the premises of suspects in Anand, Kheda, Ahmedabad and Godhra of Gujarat. (SEE PAGE 2)

5 soldiers killed in flash floods

T-72 tank swept away in Shyok river in eastern Ladakh
NEW DELHI

Five soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), were killed during an exercise early Saturday as their Russian-origin T-72 tank was swept away following flash floods in the Shyok river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, officials said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was deeply saddened by the unfortunate accident that occurred in the river near Saser Brangsa. Two T-72 tanks were trying to cross Shyok around 1 am and one of them got stuck in high currents in the river, the officials said, adding the melting of snow resulted in the increase in the water levels. The Army deployed rescue teams but the mission didn't succeed in view of the raging waters in the river. The deceased personnel were identified as MRK Reddy, Subhan Khan, Bhupendra Negi, E Teibam and Sadarbania Nagaraju. "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of five of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate accident while getting the tank across a river in Ladakh," Singh said on X. "We will never forget exemplary service of our gallant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he said. "The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," he said. **Close to LAC** The soldiers belonged to the 52 Armoured Regiment deployed at Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) military base in the strategically located region close to the LAC with China. "... While de-inducting from a military training activity, an army tank got stuck in the Shyok River, near Saser Brangsa, Eastern Ladakh due to sudden increase in the water level," the Army's Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps said. "Rescue teams rushed to the location, however, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission didn't succeed, and the tank crew lost their lives," it said. "The Indian Army regrets the loss of five brave personnel while being operationally deployed in Eastern Ladakh. Rescue operations are underway," it said on X. Army Chief Gen Manoj Pandey and all ranks of the force condole the death of the five personnel. Gen Manoj Pandey and all ranks of the Indian Army express heartfelt condolences on the loss of five brave soldiers who lost their lives during a training activity in Ladakh, it said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Two T-72 tanks were trying to cross Shyok around 1 am and one of them got stuck in high currents in the river, say officials

Patancheru sees 3 dog attacks a day!

T KARNAKAR REDDY
 Sangareddy

Street dogs continue to pose a serious threat to humans and livestock across the erstwhile Medak district, with the Patancheru Area Hospital alone recording 96 street dog attacks in the last 28 days. The death of a six-year-old boy at Isnapur on Friday has exposed how serious the issue was, even as five street dog attacks were reported under Patancheru mandal on Friday alone. Patancheru Area Hospital RMO Dr Praveen said that they had recorded 96 dog attack cases from June 1 till June 28, which meant, more than three persons were being bitten by street dogs in Patancheru mandal

alone every day. The number could be more, with several cases going unreported. While some of the victims were going to other hospitals, a few others were receiving treatment in private hospitals. Most of these victims were children, he noted. Recently, a street dog went on a rampage, biting 10 persons in a day in Lakdaram village. With the population of street dogs multiplying due to lack of birth control measures, dogs were now regularly seen chasing two-wheeler riders everywhere. In a few incidents, two-wheeler riders sustained severe injuries after falling off their bikes while being chased by street dogs. (SEE PAGE 2)

Centre clears way for merger of Cantt areas with GHMC

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The long-awaited aspiration of the Secunderabad Cantonment residents appears set to be fulfilled with the Union government issuing guidelines for the merger of the civil areas under the cantonment board into the GHMC. The efforts, initiated by the previous BRS government and the consistent efforts of the then MA&UD Minister, KT Rama Rao, in the issue finally reached a culmination with the issue of guidelines. The Defence Estates Organisation issued broad guidelines principles for excision of the civil areas of different cantonments, including Secunderabad Cantonment, and their

territorial jurisdiction of the State municipality is proposed to be extended to entire civil areas of the cantonments leaving out the military station. **Title rights** The Centre will retain wherever it owns the title of rights over the land. Accordingly, the GHMC would extend to the residential areas of the cantonment, except the military station. While dividing these areas, the Centre has made it clear that security of the armed forces should be given top priority. In accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Centre, the State government and Cantonment Board officials have been directed to clear the doubts and take further action. As per the guidelines, the proprietary rights over all assets meant for providing civic amenities and municipal services in the excised areas would be transferred to the State government/municipalities free of cost. Also, the assets and liabilities of the cantonment boards would be transferred to the State municipality. It was also clarified that the

merger with the adjoining State municipalities.

Veteran Congress leader DS passes away

HYDERABAD: Veteran Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha Member Dharmapuri Srinivas, popular as DS, passed away due to prolonged illness at his residence on Saturday. He was 76. He is survived by wife and two sons, including Nizamabad BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri. His elder son Dharmapuri Sanjay is a Congress leader and ex-mayor of Nizamabad. Srinivas breathed his last at 3 am at his residence. Family members said Srinivas, who was suffering from illness for the last few days, died of a heart attack. (REPORT PAGE 5)



Ex-MP Ramesh Rathod no more

ADILABAD: Former Adilabad MP and BJP leader Rathod Ramesh passed away while being shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad on Saturday. He was 59. Ramesh was admitted to a private hospital when he had vomiting and upper gastrointestinal bleeding in Adilabad town on Friday night. He died while being shifted to Hyderabad as his medical condition deteriorated. He is survived by wife, daughter and two sons. Ramesh was elected as Khanapur MLA in 1999. He was Adilabad Zilla Parishad chairperson from 2006 to 2009. (SEE PAGE 2)

