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'Singareni pride of TS'

KCR says govt making efforts to strengthen SCCL and expand its ops by taking up new mines in India and abroad

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao upped the ante against the Congress and the BJP for attempts to weaken the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), posing a threat to the livelihood of thousands of employees and workers. He said while the inefficient Congress governments gave away 49 per cent of the stakes in the company to the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is asking the State government to shut down the company mines and import coal from abroad.

Instead, the BRS government has been making efforts to strengthen the Singareni company and expand its operations by taking up new mines in India and abroad, the Chief Minister declared. While the Central government failed to construct a steel factory at Bayaram, which was promised under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the BRS government was planning to allot the iron ore mines to Singareni for mining.

"We are making efforts to expand the SCCL operations beyond coal mining as we have efficient manpower and machinery. We even attempted to acquire some mines in Australia and In-



BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at the Praja Ashirvada Sabha in Mulugu on Friday. (Right) Notwithstanding the rain, a large number of people turned up at the venue.



onesia but had to drop the plan after coal prices crashed in international markets. However, we will continue to explore opportunities to expand the company's operations," he declared.

He was addressing massive Praja Ashirvada Sabha poll rallies held at Mancherial, Ramagundam, Mulugu

and Kothagudem constituencies, which are predominantly coal mining areas, on Friday. Notwithstanding the rain, people turned up for these meetings in large numbers, especially at Mulugu and Kothagudem.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrashekhara Rao reminded that SCCL was a pride of Telangana, with 130

years of history. Founded by the Nizams of Hyderabad State, the company was fully state-owned before the Hyderabad State was merged with Andhra Pradesh. "But the inefficient Congress rulers obtained loans from the Centre and were unable to repay. They destroyed the Singareni due to their inability to run it and gave

away 49 per cent share to the Centre in lieu of the loans obtained," he said.

He said only after the BRS government was formed, the company, which was neck-deep in Rs 600 crore losses, was revived and transformed into a company with Rs 2,200 crore profits.

(SEE PAGE 2)

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On Agenda

CONSTRUCT LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEMES AT ANTARGAMM, GUDEM AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN MANCHERIAL CONSTITUENCY

- Take up embankment of Godavari River banks to prevent flooding of low-lying areas in Mancherial town
- Promote industrial development in Ramagundam
- Government engineering college in Jayashankar Bhupalipally district

Government medical college along with a **400-bed** hospital, nursing and paramedical colleges in Mulugu district



Adani: SC directive to Centre

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Kim calls satellite 'space guard'

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'Just played fearless cricket'

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Governors can't sit on Bills indefinitely: SC

Says it will thwart normal course of lawmaking

NEW DELHI

Governors cannot be at liberty to keep Bills pending indefinitely without any action, the Supreme Court said while emphasising that the unelected Head of the State is entrusted with constitutional powers, but that cannot be used to thwart the normal course of lawmaking by State legislatures.

Observing that unbridled discretion to the Governor would virtually veto the functioning of the legislative domain by a duly elected legislature, a Bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said such a course of action would be contrary to fundamental principles of a constitutional democracy based on a Parliamentary pattern of governance. "The Governor, as an un-

“ If the Governor decides to withhold assent, the logical course of action is to pursue the course indicated in the first proviso of remitting the Bill to the State legislature for reconsideration

Federalism and democracy, both parts of the basic structure, are inseparable. When one feature is diluted it puts the other in peril

— SUPREME COURT

elected Head of the State, is entrusted with certain constitutional powers. However, this power cannot be used to thwart the normal course of lawmaking by State Legislatures. Consequently, if the Governor decides to withhold assent under the substantive part of Article 200, the logical course of action is to pursue the course indicated in

the first proviso of remitting the Bill to the State legislature for reconsideration," the Bench said in its November 10 judgment, passed on a plea by the Punjab government.

The Bench said if the Governor decides to withhold assent to a Bill, then he has to return the Bill to the legislature for reconsideration. (PTI)

Tunnel drilling stopped again

UTTARAKASHI

Drilling at the collapsed Silkyara tunnel to rescue 41 men trapped inside for 12 days was halted again on Friday, officials said. Officials said the auger drilling machine faced a hurdle, apparently a metal object, soon after drilling resumed on Thursday, a day after officials had put the operation on hold following a technical snag.

That snag was set right earlier in the day and the 25-tonne auger machine was restarted. But after a brief while the operation had to be stopped again in the second setback in two days. The multi-agency rescue effort began November 12 when a portion of the under-construction tunnel on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed, trapping workers who were still inside. Rescue workers said that the drill bit was pulled out through the passage already bored by the machine. (PTI)

BRS unveils new scheme for middle-class homebuyers

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has announced a new scheme in which the government would bear the interest component of the home loans to be availed by middle-class people aspiring to buy apartments in the range of 1,200 sft to 1,500 sft.

The scheme, announced by IT Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao, would be a component of the 'Housing for All' initiative by the BRS. Party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao was working out modalities for the new scheme, which would be implemented parallel to the existing double-bedroom housing and Gruha Lakshmi programmes, Rama Rao announced here on Friday.

Elaborating on the new scheme, the Minister said the "interest subvention" would be extended to middle-income group people,

Government to extend interest subvention to those who wish to buy flats in the range of 1,200- 1,500 sft

who wish to buy flats in the range of 1,200- 1,500 sft. If they can afford to take loans, the interest component would be borne by the government, he said in his address at the Real Estate Summit 2023.

Basic necessities

Having addressed the basic issues of supplying power, drinking water and irrigation requirements in the first two terms, the BRS government's focus in the next term would be on achieving a 100 per cent literacy rate. This apart, the emphasis would be on urban flooding management and underground drainage systems, he said.

During the one-hour presentation, the BRS working president shared his vision for the growth of Telangana, especially for the next 10 years. "Let us go from being good to great. Like the 24-hour power supply, the target is to provide a 24-hour water supply. This apart, Hyderabad Metro Rail network would be expanded to 415 km in 10 years in three phases," Rama Rao said.

Stressing on the importance of the Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS), he said the 150 kmph speed trains would be operated from Hyderabad to different Tier-II cities. For instance, the 250 km distance between Hyderabad and Vijayawada can be covered in RRTS within a short time. This would augur well for both the Telugu States. Similarly, a few corridors have been identified covering nearly 790 km, he explained, adding that it would decentralise growth and decongest Hyderabad. (SEE PAGE 2)

JEE Advanced to be held on May 26

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, organising the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2024, has released a detailed schedule with the entrance exam scheduled for May 26.

The Paper-I will be held from 9 am to 12 noon, and Paper-II from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. As per the schedule, the registration for the entrance test for admis-

sions into the Indian Institutes of Technology will commence on the website jeadv.ac.in/ on April 21 and conclude on April 30, while the last date for fee payment by registered candidates is May 6. Admit cards will be made available for download from May 17 to 26.

Following the entrance exam on May 26, the IIT-Madras will release a copy of candidate responses on its website on May 31. (SEE PAGE 2)

'No new pathogens in latest China outbreak'

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The surge in respiratory infections among children in China, which has attracted everybody's attention due to the past experience with the Covid pandemic, is being attributed to the local circulation of known pathogens such as flu, Mycoplasma pneumonia and RSV, the common respiratory virus that causes mild cold-like symptoms.

While the rise in respi-

'Ready for any exigencies'

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry on Friday said it is closely monitoring the reported outbreak of H9N2 cases and clusters of respiratory illness in children in northern China and that India is prepared for any kind of public health exigency. There is low risk to India from both the avian influenza case reported from China as well as the clusters of respiratory illness. (PTI)

ratory infections in China put public health institutions in Hyderabad and elsewhere on the alert, the World Health Organization (WHO) along with

the local authorities in China have said that no new (novel) pathogens have been detected, following the recent rise in infections.

For the past few weeks, multiple known viruses, including influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Mycoplasma pneumonia, which is a common bacterial infection and can be treated through antibiotics, have been circulating in China. Quite significantly, the WHO and the local health officials there have clarified that the rise in respiratory infections has not put any pressure on hospital admissions. (SEE PAGE 2)

EC gives nod for Rythu Bandhu aid

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Much to the delight of farmers, the Election Commission of India gave its nod for the disbursement of Rythu Bandhu farm investment assistance for Yasangi crop season commencing Friday. The officials immediately initiated the disbursement process, catering to the timely needs of farmers who have already commenced the Yasangi operations. According to the offi-

cials, about Rs 7,300 crore will be deposited directly into the bank accounts of over 65 lakh farmers over the next couple of days.

With the Model Code of Conduct in force, the Telangana government had recently written to the ECI for approval to disburse amounts pertaining to Rythu Bandhu assistance and crop loan waiver to farmers as well as pay pending DA amount to the State government employees. (SEE PAGE 2)