



HYDERABAD

KTR meets men released from Dubai prison, vows all support page 4



BUSINESS

Sunil Mittal knighted by Charles page 8

WORLD

Trump, Biden win Michigan primary; Haley faces a drubbing page 9



Hyd realty market soars
HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Navalny to be buried tomorrow
WORLD | PAGE 09



Kishan, Iyer lose central contracts
SPORT | PAGE 10



Tough time for farmers



IN CRISIS: An almost dried-up well being revived on the Mugdampur outskirts of Karimnagar district on Wednesday. With no irrigation water available and summer fast approaching, farmers are facing severe hardships.

Congress govt in Himachal on the edge

Min offers to resign, 15 BJP MLAs suspended

PTI SHIMLA/NEW DELHI
The Congress scrambled on Wednesday to save its government in Himachal Pradesh, amid dramatic developments that included the suspension of 15 BJP MLAs by the Speaker and a resignation offer by high-profile Minister Vikramaditya Singh.

“Neither the high command has asked me nor anyone else for resignation and there is no such thing”
— SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU, Chief Minister

“I have offered my resignation but CM Sukhu has not accepted it... In the larger interest, I will not press for it”
— VIKRAMADITYA SINGH, Minister

Singh, the son of Himachal Congress president Pratibha Singh, said in the morning that he is submitting his resignation from the Council of Ministers but hours later softened his stand. After a meeting with central observers, who were rushed by the party to Shimla, Singh cited Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's "rejection" of his "offer" to resign and the need for unity in the party. In view of this, he told reporters, he is not "pressing" for it. He also claimed that when the State government was never in crisis. The turbulence in Himachal was triggered by Tuesday's cross-voting by six Congress MLAs in the Rajya Sabha election for the lone seat from Himachal Pradesh. The party has now sought the disqualification

of these MLAs from the Assembly. The matter was heard by Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania who has reserved his order. The suspended BJP MLAs, who include leader of the opposition Jai Ram Thakur, initially refused to leave the House — in an apparent bid to stall the Assembly from passing the Sukhu government's Budget through a voice vote. The BJP wanted voting on the Budget, which they felt would reveal that the Congress has lost its majority in the State Assembly. But in the afternoon, the crisis was staved off for the time being as the House passed the Finance Bill by voice vote with no BJP member being present. The Speaker adjourned the session sine die. Sukhu dismissed speculation that he was resigning. "Neither the high command, nor anyone else has asked me for resignation," he said. He said the Congress government will complete its five-year term in the State. Meanwhile, the six Congress MLAs, who crossed-voted for BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan during the Rajya Sabha elections on Tuesday, were flown back to Panchkula after they appeared for hearing on a petition on anti-defection law before Speaker Pathania.

Police targeting BRS leaders at behest of Cong

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

An apparent attempt by the Karimnagar police, allegedly at the behest of the Congress leaders from the district, to target BRS leaders came to light on Wednesday when the court questioned the arrest of three BRS leaders, pointing out the invalid sections charged against them and ordering their release. The embarrassing episode for the police came after the arrest of E Ashok, K

Srinivas and T Balaiah in connection with a civil dispute case. The three, whose wives are BRS corporators in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, were later produced before the First Class Judicial Magistrate in Karimnagar. The court, which found that the case was still pending in a civil court, is learned to have first questioned how the police could register a case on the same issue when the civil court was dealing with the case. It also pointed out that the sections under

which the three were charged were not applicable. The court, ordering the police to release the three BRS leaders, asked the police to follow procedure and issue notices to them under Section 41 A of the CrPC. With the police action triggering suspicions of the arrests being politically motivated, it was also pointed out to the court that the recently constituted economic offences wing of the Karimnagar police was targeting only BRS leaders. (SEE PAGE 2)

Manipur cops protest ASP's kidnap

IMPHAL

Over 1,000 Manipur Police commandos took a stand on Wednesday by laying down their arms in response to Tuesday's attack on Additional Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Moirangthem. Demanding the freedom to retaliate, the commandos from Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching voiced their concerns and called for action against Metei radical group Arambai Tenggol as well as Meira Paibis. PTI

Hyderabad braces for early summer



Temperatures are likely to rise in mid-March across Hyderabad. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

SOWMYA SANGAM
Hyderabad

As the calendar inches towards March, Hyderabadis are gearing up for the familiar battle against the scorching summer. The IMD-Hyderabad has issued a forecast indicating an early onset of summer in the city. According to Dr A Shrivani, a scientist at IMD-H, mid-March is likely to witness a significant rise in temperatures, signalling the start of summer. Typically, Hyderabad experiences the onset of summer around

March 21, but this year, the IMD anticipates it to arrive earlier. "The signs are clear that summer is knocking on our doors sooner than expected," said Dr Shrivani. Despite heightened temperatures and humidity in February, she said these conditions were within the seasonal norms for this time of year. The city can expect partly cloudy skies with haze till March 5. The average maximum temperature is predicted to hover around 35°C, with nighttime temperatures dipping to 23°C.

Revanth orders probe into ORR toll tenders

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ordered a comprehensive probe into the alleged irregularities in the Outer Ring Road (ORR) toll tenders. Expressing displeasure over low-rate tenders that dented government revenue, he questioned HMDA officials on the tender procedures and ordered an investigation into individuals and organisations involved. HMDA Joint Commissioner Amrapali Kata has been tasked with providing details on tender irregularities and file movements. In case of any missing files in this regard, she has been asked to file cases against

“The State govt lost over Rs 15,000 crore in revenue due to the faulty tender process adopted by HMDA officials”
— REVANTH REDDY, CM

the responsible officials. Upon receiving a full report, the Chief Minister decided to discuss the matter in the Cabinet meeting and hand over the case to the CBI or a similar investigation agency. In a review meeting with HMDA officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Chief Minister asked why the ORR with annual revenue of Rs 600 crore, which translates to a total revenue of Rs 18,000 crore for 30 years, was handed

over to the bidding company IRB for Rs 7,380 crore. He felt that the State government lost over Rs 15,000 crore in revenue due to the faulty tender process adopted by HMDA officials. He sought a thorough investigation into the tender process and asked for an investigation into the bidding company's transactions, especially the sale of 49 per cent of the company to foreign firms and their transactions. (SEE PAGE 2)

DSC NOTIFICATION FOR 5,089 TEACHER POSTS CANCELLED

HYDERABAD: The School Education Department on Wednesday cancelled the District Selection Committee (DSC) 2023 notification for 5,089 teacher posts and a fresh notification will be issued with 11,062 vacancies on Thursday. The fresh notification will comprise vacancies of 6,508 Secondary Grade Teachers, 2,629 School Assistants, 727 Language Pandits, 182 Physical Education Teachers, and 1,016 Special Education Teachers with 220 posts under the SA cadre and 796 under the SGT cadre. The posts also include 5,089 vacancies that were notified by the previous BRS government. Earlier, the DSC attracted applications from 1.77 lakh candidates.

SIMULTANEOUS POLLS LIKELY TO BE HELD IN 2029

NEW DELHI: The Law Commission is likely to recommend adding a new chapter to the Constitution on 'One Nation, One Election' and holding the gigantic democratic exercise of simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies across the country by mid-2029, officials sources said on Wednesday. The Commission, under Justice (ret'd) Ritu Raj Awasthi, would recommend an amendment to the Constitution to add the "new chapter or part" on simultaneous elections, the sources said. The panel would also recommend synchronising the terms of Assemblies in "three phases" in the next five years so that the first simultaneous polls could be held in May-June 2029. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 135
Retail live	Rs. 157
With skin	Rs. 228
Skinless	Rs. 259
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 62

Eight killed in 2 road accidents

STATE BUREAU
Suryapet/Siddipet

Eight people were killed and 18 others injured in two separate road accidents in the State on Wednesday. In the first incident, four women labourers and a man died, while 11 others were injured when a TSRTC bus hit an auto-rickshaw at Mothe in Suryapet district

in the morning. Three of the women, all agriculture labourers, died on the spot, while the fourth woman died in hospital. The victims have been identified as Kandula Nagamma (50) and Chevula Narayanamma (50) from Vijayaraghavapuram, Pakala Anasurya (47) from Vepala in Munagala mandal, and Soubhagyamma (45). The man was identified as

Kandula Guravaiah (57), who died in hospital. According to police, the bus from the Madira depot hit the auto from behind while the workers were on their way to work at Burkacherla. The injured were shifted to the Government General Hospital in Suryapet by a 108 ambulance, where Soubhagyamma died. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Beware of overpricing of essential meds'

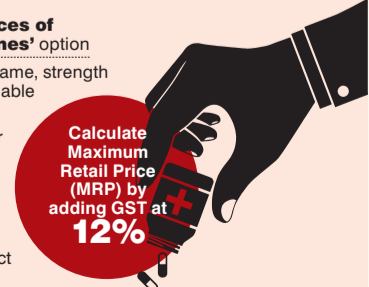
CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Overpricing of essential medicines is a violation and the public can verify the cost and insist on a bill from the medical shop. Instances of overpricing can also be reported to the Drugs Control Administration (DCA) to ensure stringent action against violators. In a public advisory, the DCA, Telangana, stated that essential medicines are those that fulfill priority healthcare needs of the majority of the population. Essential medicines are

How to verify cost of meds

VISIT PHARMA SAHI DAAM WEBSITE: nppaidms.gov.in/NPPA/PharmaSahiDaam/searchMedicine

- Select 'Ceiling Prices of Essential Medicines' option
- Enter the medicine name, strength in search boxes available on the page
- Ceiling price fixed for the product appears on the page
- Add the ceiling price to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of 12.1218% with effect from 01-04-2023



the prices of the medicines are in accordance with the ceiling price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is calculated by adding the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which is 12 per cent for the majority of medicines, to the ceiling price fixed by the Central Government. The advisory informed that the public can refer to the Pharma Sahi Daam website, which provides information on the ceiling prices fixed by the NPPA, and that one must always insist on a bill. (SEE PAGE 2)

Another ends life over loan harassment

STATE BUREAU
Rajanna-Sircilla

Unable to tolerate harassment by online loan app executives, a man died, reportedly by suicide. The body of Chippa Sai Raju (28) was found in the Mid Manair reservoir on Wednesday. This comes a day after an engineering student ended his life over alleged harassment by online loan app executives. According to police, a native of Nehrunagar in Sircilla town, Sai Raju had gone missing three days ago. Police have launched an investigation.