



NATION | PAGE 07

Saying 'talaq' thrice not enough to end marriage: HC



WORLD | PAGE 09

Nepal landslide: Search continues, 3 bodies found

First body from the buses was recovered from 50 km away from the accident site



SPORT | PAGE 10

Jaiswal, Gill shine in win against Zimbabwe

In a nutshell
PM launches new projects in Mumbai
 MUMBAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched and laid foundation stone for projects worth Rs 29,000 crore in Mumbai ahead of the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections slated for September-October. The launch of these projects is a part of the Mahayuti's Assembly poll strategy to flag off its development agenda to counter the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Four students bitten by snake
 GADWAL: Four students of an Urban Residential School in the district were hospitalised after a snake bit them while they were relieving themselves on the school campus. Hearing their screams, the school staff shifted the students to the Government General Hospital. The health condition of students is said to be stable. Meanwhile, the parents demanded stern action against the school staff for negligence.

Wedding called off over cooler in UP
 BALLIA: A wedding was called off, and four people, including the groom, were arrested after an argument broke out over sitting in front of a desert cooler. According to police, an argument broke out between the attendees of the wedding over the seating arrangement in front of a desert cooler during the function. Questioning the behaviour of the groom's relatives, the bride refused to marry the groom, police said.

'Ratna Bhandar' to reopen today
 BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha government is set to unlock the 'Ratna Bhandar', the revered treasury of Lord Jagannath temple in Puri, on Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of the ornaments and other valuables, officials said. The treasury was last opened in 1978. The ASI, which looks after the maintenance of the 12th century shrine, will use the opportunity to carry out repairs, they said.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 110
Retail live.....	Rs. 132
With skin.....	Rs. 191
Skinless.....	Rs. 218
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70

Kalki 2898 AD going strong!

Crosses Rs 1,000 crore-mark at BO, makers call it 'celebration of love'

12

More powers for J&K L-G

Step towards disempowering people: Oppn

PTI
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

The Centre has significantly strengthened the authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering him to make decisions on crucial matters such as police, and all-India services officers and granting sanctions for prosecution in various cases.

The opposition slammed the union government's move and termed it a step towards "disempowering" the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Home Ministry gave more powers to the L-G on Friday by amending rules framed under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. This Act, passed alongside the Abrogation of Article 370, bifurcated the erstwhile State into two union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

In the past, proposals concerning police, public order, all-India services and the Anti-Corruption Bureau required approval from the Finance Department of Jammu and Kashmir before reaching the L-G. Under the revised rules, such proposals must now be presented directly to the L-G through the Chief Secretary of the union territory.

The L-G's authority extends further to the appointment of the Advocate General and other law officers.

PARTIES IN J&K OPPOSE MOVE

SRINAGAR: The political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday voiced their strong opposition to the Centre's move. While the National Conference and the PDP said the decision would "disempower" the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress termed it the "murder of democracy" and the Apni Party urged all parties to shun differences and unitedly protest against the move.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better than a "powerless, rubber stamp" Chief Minister, who will have to beg the Lieutenant Governor to get a peon appointed. Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the notification was issued by the Central government, anticipating that the BJP will not be able to form a government there if elections are held. PTI

These appointments, previously decided upon by the government, will now require the L-G's approval. The Supreme Court has directed the restoration of statehood in J&K "at the earliest" and holding elections to the Assembly by September 30, 2024.

On Saturday, various political parties expressed their disapproval of the Centre's move to grant additional powers to Jammu and Kashmir's lieutenant governor in matters concerning police and all-India service officers. The National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) labelled the decision as a step towards "disempowering" the people of Jammu and Kashmir while the Congress condemned

the move as a "murder of democracy".

Following the Centre's move, decisions regarding prosecution sanctions and filing appeals will also come under the L-G's purview. Additionally, matters related to prisons, the Directorate of Prosecution and the Forensic Science Laboratory will be handled directly by the L-G. "No proposal which requires previous concurrence of the Finance Department with regard to 'Police', 'Public Order', 'All India Service' and 'Anti Corruption Bureau' to exercise the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor under the Act shall be concurred or rejected unless it has been placed before the L-G through the CS," notification stated.

Aasara recovery: SERP takes action

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) CEO has reportedly responded to the matter of issuing recovery notices to Aasara pension beneficiaries in Kothagudem district. "Telangana Today" published a news report on Saturday about the plight of an 80-year-old Aasara pensioner, Dasari Mallamma, in Kothagudem town, to whom a notice was served recently to recover a pension amount of Rs 1.72 lakh she was paid during the last several years.

The reason for serving the notice was that she was receiving a dependent pension she was sanctioned after the death of her daughter. Kothagudem SERP ad-

ditional project director Ranga Rao and municipal staff, who issued the notice, visited her residence on Saturday for verification of the facts related to her case, the family members said.

It was the mistake of the officials who failed to cancel Mallamma's Aasara pension if she was ineligible to receive a pension, but asking her to pay back the pension amount was wrong, they added. Stating that it was disheartening for the people who pinned hopes on the assurances made by Congress to scale up benefits under the welfare initiatives, only to find themselves at the receiving end, BRS working president KT Rama Rao wanted the government to mend its ways or face the ire of the people.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Modi bowing to demands of AP, ignoring TS: BRS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

With reports indicating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's demand for a Rs 60,000 crore petrochemical hub and Indian Oil refinery, one of the promises in the Thirteenth Schedule of the AP Reorganisation Act, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi has registered its protest over the Centre's continued discrimination towards Telangana.

Pointing out that Modi was bowing to pressure from Naidu on account of the TDP's support to the NDA, the BRS demanded the eight BJP MPs from the State to spell out their stance. Addressing a press



71 KILLED IN ISRAEL ATTACK

Palestinians evacuate a body from a site hit by Israeli bombardment on Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip, on Saturday. Israel said it targeted Hamas' shadowy military commander in a massive strike that killed at least 71 people. — Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 9)

Bypoll: I.N.D.I.A bags 10 seats

NEW DELHI

In a boost to the INDIA bloc, its constituents won 10 of the 13 Assembly seats where by-elections were held in seven States, while the BJP managed to bag two and an Independent pocketed one seat as votes were counted on Saturday.

The Congress won four seats — two in BJP-ruled Uttarakhanda and two in Himachal Pradesh.

The TMC bagged all four seats in West Bengal while the AAP won the Jalandhar West seat in Punjab and the DMK emerged victorious in the Vikravandi constituency in Tamil Nadu. The BJP



TMC supporters celebrate following party candidate Supti Pandey's victory from Manikata, in Kolkata. — Photo: PTI

won the Hamirpur seat in Himachal Pradesh while Independent candidate Shankar Singh clinched the Rupauli seat in Bihar. Voting

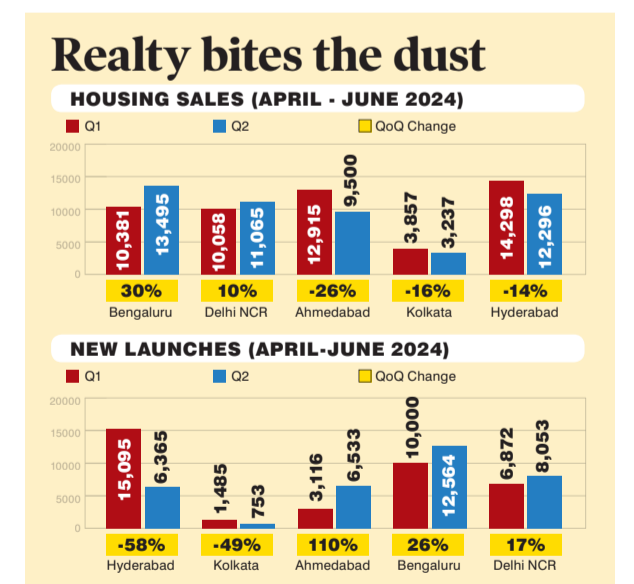
was held in these seats on July 10.

The Congress hailed the results, saying they "reflect the changing political cli-

mate in the country" and it has now become clear that the web of "fear and illusion woven by the BJP has been broken". West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee thanked the people and said the party will dedicate the by-election and the Lok Sabha poll victories to the "martyrs" on its July 21 Martyrs' Day rally.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin referred to the I.N.D.I.A bloc's good show and said BJP should learn lessons from its defeats. "BJP must realise that without respecting regional sentiments it cannot run the government and the party," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

New residential launches in Hyd down 58% in Q2



Bullet pierces through flat window, residents panic

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A bullet that pierced through the glass window pane of an apartment flat created commotion at Narsingi on Saturday morning. The occupants of the flat had a narrow escape as one of them had gone out for a morning walk, and another was out of the bullet's trajectory.

The incident took place at Shivapuri colony in Bairagiguda of Narsingi on the city outskirts. According to the police, a family of two live in the flat, and one of

The occupants had a narrow escape as one of them had gone out for a morning walk, and another was out of bullet's trajectory

them had gone out for a morning walk when a bullet pierced through the window facing the colony's main road and landed inside.

The cracking sound of the window panes had the locals rushing to the flat, and

on noticing the bullet lying on the floor, they alerted the police.

The reason?

The police suspect the bullet might have come from the nearby army firing range. Locals informed the police that since morning, they have been hearing the burst of gunfire from the firing range where firing is practised. Also, nearby is a police firing range where regular sessions are held. The police and the clues team visited the scene and seized the bullet. The police are conducting an inquiry.

Global AI summit in Hyd on Sept 5-6

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government will launch "Telangana's AI Compendium" and other groundbreaking announcements for the future of the State's AI ecosystem during the Global AI Summit, to be held on September 5 and 6 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced the Global AI summit, while IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, along with Special Chief Secretary of the IT E&C Jayesh Ranjan, unveiled the logo on Saturday. During the logo launch, the Chief

Minister said the summit will represent the government's commitment to position State at the forefront of technological innovation. The summit, with its overarching theme 'Making AI Work for Everyone', aims to explore how Artificial Intelligence can benefit and empower society.

The event will feature keynote addresses and sessions by global AI experts, tech industry leaders, policymakers and academicians. These discussions will delve into crucial aspects of AI, including its potential for social good, the importance of safe AI practices and more. (SEE PAGE 2)

SRUTHI KURUGANTI
Hyderabad

Hyderabad has recorded the most significant decline in new residential launches among India's major cities for the April-June quarter.

According to PropTiger.com's latest report, 'Real Insight Residential - April-June 2024', the city witnessed a 58 per cent drop in new housing units, making it the biggest loser among the top eight cities.

New launches plummeted from 15,095 residential units in the first quarter of 2024 to just 6,365 units in the second quarter. This dramatic decline, being attributed to moderation in sales, starkly contrasts with the performance of other major metros, many of which have shown significant growth.

Ahmedabad, for instance, showcased an unprecedented 110 per cent increase, doubling from 3,116 units in Q1 2024 to 6,593 units in Q2 2024. Bengaluru (26%), Delhi NCR (17%), and Mumbai (10%) also posted notable growth. Meanwhile, Chennai and Pune saw relatively minor declines of 2% and 11%, respectively. Kolkata followed Hyderabad with a 49% drop.

Not just new launches, Hyderabad also appears to be dropping out at residential sales, with a 14% drop, making it the third-highest decline after Ahmedabad (26%) and Kolkata (16%), according to the report. Meanwhile, Bengaluru saw a 30 per cent increase in residential unit sales, followed by Delhi at 10 per cent. (SEE PAGE 2)