

Kiran Kumar Reddy is scheduled to address election meeting in Kovur today



QUOTE OF THE DAY

TRS' defeat in **Mahbubnagar** will not affect statehood movement

> — N.V.S.S. Prabhakar State BJP leader

> > **Brief**

CRICKET BOOKIE ARRESTED IN CITY

Hyderabad: The East Zone Task Force on Thursday arrested a cricket betting organiser, identified as Md. Khaja Pasha, from near Dherton Hotel, Amberpet Road No. 6.

According to the cops, Khaja used to collect cricket betting money from punters. He used his cellphone for receiving alert massages from Vodafone subscribers for the One-Day International between Australia and Srilanka at Adelaide Oval. The cops seized ₹9,600 and one cellphone from his possession. The accused, along with seized material, was handed over to Amberpet police sta-

Elsewhere

LAND FINALISED FOR NID CAMPUS IN HYDERABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

internationally acclaimed National Institute of Design (NID) will soon have a base in Hyderabad. Confirming that NID has agreed to set up the "prestigious institu-tion" in the city, chief secretary Pankaj Dwivedi said a team of NID officials have zeroed in on a piece of gov-ernment land in Gopanpally village, near University of Hyderabad, for the campus.

The process for transfer of land and other modalities will be worked out soon," Mr Dwivedi told this newspaper on Thursday.

The NID team visited government lands around Gopanpally and Gachi-bowli and settled for a 25-acre piece near TIFR.

The six-decade-old NID has been a pioneer in industrial design education and is known for its pursuit of design excellence education, applied research, service and advanced training in five streams: Industrial communication design, textile, apparel and lifestyle design, IT integrated design and inter disciplinary design studies. The latest addition includes jewellery.

The Ahmedabad-based institute, with a research and development campus in Bengaluru, runs both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. An autonomous body under the department of industrial policy and promotion of the Union ministry of commerce and industry, NID is recognised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

DC GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Test your grey cells with this quiz. Tick the correct answer and check tomorrow's edition to discover how

Who was the President of the US during World War I?

- Theodore Roosevelt
 James Buchanan Woodrow Wilson
- 2Born in Almora, which Briton in 1902 became the first India-born
- William R. CremerAlexander Fleming

Ronald Ross

- Porto-Novo Bamako

2. Tech Mahindra 3. Spider-Man

WEATHER FORECAST

ANDHRA PRADESH

Summary of observations recorded at 8:30 hours IST: The highest maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rentachintala & Cuddapah. Minimum temperatures fell at one or two places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and changed little over Telangana but rose at a few places over Rayalaseema.

■ Forecast and farmers' weather bulletin valid until the morning of March 10, 2012: Mainly dry weather would prevail over Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Dry weather would prevail over Telangana & Bavalassema

Outlook for subsequent two days: No large change.

Forecast for Hyderabad city and neigh-bourhood valid until the morning of March 10, 2012: Sky condition would be mainly tures would be around 37 & 21Degrees Celsius respectively





Old vehicles of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation are dumped at the civic body's dumpyard near Lower Tank Bund, without being sold or auctioned.

Rural health mission falls sick

SULOGNA MEHTA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 7

A tank to supply drinking water has been under construction in a tribal village in Adilabad for the last 10 years. It still remains incomplete. The health-care system and basic infrastructural facilities such as drinking water and sanitation are in pathetic state in rural and tribal areas, leading to high infant and maternal mortality rates, though ₹1,130 crore had been allocated by the Centre as National Rural Health Mission

budget in 2010-2011. It is not just in Uttar Pradesh where NRHM funds are being misappropriated, in AP too, funds are siphoned off at differ-ent levels by village DMHO caught for misuse of funds

Few months ago, a DMHO was caught for misappropriation of NRHM funds. It is due to improper utilisation of the money that PHCs, CHCs and sub-centres still lack basic facilities.

sarpanches, district medical and health officers, revenue officials and higher ups in the absence of proper control.

Few months ago, a DMHO was also caught for misappropriation of NRHM funds. It is due to improper utilisation of the money that PHCs, CHCs and sub-centres still lack basic facilities.

condition of anonymity said that political clout and a nexus between RMPs, NRHM health workers, sarpanches, revenue officials and others, deprive the poor people of their

basic rights.
"There are no checks and

controls on the lakhs of rupees allocated for each every Diseases like malaria, diarrhoea, anaemia, conditions like low birth weight, malnutrition and water contamination continue unabated. Food security, safe drinking water, sanitation and housing are in a bad shape. When a decade passes and still a drinking water tank isn't built in a village, it raises question whether the money meant for the upliftment of the

An NRHM official, on rural and tribal areas is indeed translated into action," said the official. U. Rao, member of an NGO, said, "Many vil-

lagers and tribals aren't even aware of the facilities that they are entitled to under NRHM. The pro-gramme isn't functioning effectively as it lacks coordination and communication at various levels. The state-level advisory committee also doesn't function properly. Instead of touring and inspecting healthcare facilities, most of the DMHOs idle away at the respective district collector's office."

DMHOs allege that vil-

lage administrative heads siphon off part of NRHM funds which are given to PHC and CHC for maintenance of the village

People don't want to forego dowry in the name of 'parental decisions and tradition'

City techies refuse to let go of dowry

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Asked how many would opt for a dowry-free marriage, not a single hand went up at a recent seminar involving a group of IT professionals and software engineers. Little surprise then, an anti-dowry matrimonial website has just over 14,000 registered members since its inception nearly six years ago.

Experts say this social evil is showing no signs of abating.

According to National Crime Records Bureau, 8,391 cases of dowry-related deaths were registered in 2010, a number that has doubled in a decade. In the same year, 94,041 cases of domestic violence and dowry harassment were filed under IPC Section 498-A.

Experts also said the tardy conviction rate has not helped matters much. According to records, though 93.2 per cent accused are chargesheeted, only about 33 per cent are actually convicted - most **Launched six** years ago, idontwantdowry.com, has seen only **5,165** women and 8,948 men registering on the website

cases are dismissed and culprits acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Citing the instance of the IT professionals who didn't want to forego dowry in the name of "parental deci-sions and tradition", author Kalpana Sharma, who was recently in the city, said, "It's not just consumerism that has given dowry a new dimension. A complex weave of different layers, including culture, rituals, traditions and economy, are all embedded in the practice. The dowry culture has spread from North to South India, (and) from Hindu to non-Hindu communities."

Ms Sharma said a study had found that 61 per cent of Muslim women in Kerala felt dowry was their right and would fetch them better treatment from in-

So instead of actively leading anti-dowry campaigns, like in the 1980s, young women and men instead seek dowry today, she said.

Ms Sharma also added saying dowry is linked to female foeticide, or sex-selective abortion, as families want to get rid of the 'burden" of a girl child and avoid giving dowry.

Launched six years ago, the website, idontwant-dowry.com, has seen only 5,165 women and 8,948 men registering themselves.

Commenting on the trends of dowry and ostentatious ceremonies, which have also become a trend these days, advocate Anita Salabh Jain, said, "Parents and children are both to be blamed (for these practices going on unabated). While parents encourage, children demand dowry or an

MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAKER DRDO TO FIGHT MOSQUITOES

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, MARCH 8

The Defence Research and Development Organisa-tion, which develops tion, which develops defence equipment, has now developed a new tech-nology to combat the mosquito menace.

The new method uses an "attractant" in combination with "insect growth regulators" to form an

"attracticide." It attracts the female mosquitoes to lay eggs in water containing the attractant. These eggs hatch into larva but do not grow into adults. The attracticide uses the "lure and kill" technique to prevent the mosquitoes from propagating.

Normally, insecticides work for a short duration only. After a while, the insecticides become useless as the mosquito popu-

lation develops resistance. According to the World Health Organisation, at least 700 million people are infected each year by mosquito-borne diseases. Field trials have been carried out in Delhi by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which confirmed its efficiency in control-ling the dengue vector population.

The new technology is simple and cost effective.

Principal threatened my girl, says father

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM,

Singuri Pavani wno was thrashed by her school principal for speaking in Telugu, said, "The principal threatened my daughter of dire consequences if she revealed that he had beaten her up. She also didn't tell us anything until we noticed the swelling on her hand and questioned her in the morning. Is he a sadist? The principal should be

punished severely." Kancharapalem CI S. Tata Rao said, "We have registered a case after receiving a complaint from Pavani's parents. We have summoned the principal to the police station and have started questioning him."

It has also come to light that M.S.N. Murthy had been running the school since 1999 without recognition. After the news of the beating became public on Thursday morning, district education department officials visited the

In the course of inquiry, they found that the school did not have valid permis-

District education officer D. Madhusudan Rao Pavani.

It has also come to light that Poli Naidu, father of principal M.S.N. Murthy had been running the school since 1999 without recognition

> has issued notices to the school's management to shut it down immediately.

"After knowing about the incident, I rushed one of our inspectors to the school. Notices for the immediate closure of the school were issued on the spot as it is being run without valid permissions and government recognition," said Mr Madhusudan Rao.

The department has also lod-ged a separate complaint with Kancharapalem police seeking severe action against the principal for violating child rights and the Right to Education

Meanwhile, child rights activist B. Achyutha Rao demanded that the principal be booked for attempt of murder and demanded ₹1 lakh ex gratia for



Woman aspires to drive Rajdhani

experience, she said that it

wasn't very different from

driving a goods train apart

from the fact that the job

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

S. Satyavathi, the first-ever woman loco driver of the South Central Railways, independently drove the Matribhoomi Ladies Special train from Falaknuma to Lingampally.

She later said that her next objective is to drive Rajdhani Express someday. While Ms Satyavathi has

been shuttling goods trains in and around

Hyderabad since 2005, this

demanded a greater sense of responsibility. "It doesn't feel very different driving a passenger train for the first time, but it definitely gives me a much higher sense of responsibility. I am now responsible for the lives of a large number of passen-

gers. However, this is noth-

ing great, it is just a part of my job," she said.
The fact that she became

is the first time she drove a passenger train independently. Speaking about the the first woman loco driver on International Women's Day has added some extra meaning to her achievement. "Today, women are playing a prominent role in every field. I feel happy to tread this road. Although there are a few women drivers in the Railways, this is still a male-dominated field but I have found support from everyone around me," she

Med exams to be 'transparent'

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

Learning a lesson from the brouhaha over alleged irregularities in last year's examination, NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS) has taken several precautions for this year's PG medical

In a first, the university has decided to issue the "key" a day after the examination as an effort to bring in transparency.

entrance test, to be held on

March 11.

The decision comes in the wake of complaints that last year's medical entrance test was "rigged" to benefit a section of candidates, while students who expected good ranks did not even qualify.

The authorities have also decided to upload OMR answer sheets of candidates on the website as soon as the results are announced on March 23.

According to NTRUHS officials, 12,996 candidates have registered for this year's entrance test, which will be held between 10 am

and 1 pm. "We have taken all precautionary measures to check copying and impersonation cases this year. We will not

allow candidates into the

examination centres if they are late by even a minute after the exam starts," Vice-Chancellor professor L.V. Rao said.

The PG medical entrance test has faced controversies over the last few years due to "non-transparent" methods followed in conducting the examination. Claiming that the exam

procedure had loopholes that led to irregularities, hundreds of medicos in medical colleges across the state last year sought that the examination should be conducted again. Following their agitation,

the state government constituted a committee to look into the issue The committee subsequently recommended that

the university should adopt more transparent measures. The university has established 16 centres in eight cities across the Andhra Pradesh. With just about 800 Post

Graduation seats in the medical field on offer in the state, the demand for admission is huge. Cashing in on the deficit,

private colleges charge capitation fee and donations ranging from ₹1 crore to ₹1.5 crore, depending on the course, for admission in management quota.

INFECTION ALERT

30% Indian patients carry superbug

SYED AKBAR | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 8

A harmful bacterium present in all types of medical facilities, not hospitals alone, has emerged as a major health hazard. Clostridium difficile could be present wherever medical care is given, health experts say, and could infect outpatients too. Symptoms include severe diarrhoea, bloating, abdominal pain and fever

among others The mortality rate is about 25 per cent, especially among the elderly or ailing. According to the latest report on *C. difficile* from the Centre for Disease

in the USA, death rate has gone up by almost 400 per cent in the last two years. There are no medical records in India of death due to C. difficileinduced diarrhoea, but the number could be higher according to researchers, given the compromised sanitary conditions in India. Due to the lack of technology, there is not much research on C. dif*ficile*-associated diarrhoea in India. Moreover, it is difficult to culture the pathogen.

The bacterium has become stronger of late, say doctors. Hand sanitisers are ineffectual against it. Those using the toi-

diagnostic centres should wash their hands with soap or disinfectants. spore-killing warn doctors.

The organism is spread by hospitalised patients who are on antibiotics. One-third of patients themselves do not exhibit any C. difficile infection, but they silently pass on the bacterium into the hospital environment. According to gastroenterolo-

gist Dr Ch Vaishnavi, the prevalence of *C. difficile* in Îndia is around 30 per cent among patients.

Earlier, it was believed that patients on antibiotics were

Control and Prevention (CDC) lets in hospitals, clinics and the source of C. difficile infection. "The spectrum is changing. Factors like proton pump inhibitors, immunosuppressive agents, staying in the intensive care unit and inflammatory bowel disease now also play a key role in the spread of the infection," says gastroenterologist Dr D. Devendra.

According to the latest report on C. difficile by the CDC, almost half the infections occur in people younger than 65, but more than 90 per cent of deaths occur in people who are 65 and older. About 25 per cent symptoms show in hospital patients; while the others show in nursing home patients.



SHOULD WASH THEIR HANDS

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE

■ The bacteria is spread by patients taking antibiotics.

90% deaths occur among

people who are 65 and above. It infects outpatients in

most cases, say doctors. C. difficile in India affects around 30% patients.

Proton pump inhibitors, staying in the ICU

