

'DON' SHOTS CLASSMATE - WOOLMER MURDER SUSPECT IDENTIFIED - ASH-ABHI FOR TIRUPATI - CLERIC SAYS INDIA FINE FOR SONG AND DANCE - FAB CITY DEAL SIGNED WITH NON-EXISTENT FIRM: DESAM - BARRED DANCERS STORM SINGAPORE - AP SELLS ASSETS TO BUY FOOD - WATER UNITS FLOUT RULES, 40 CASES BOOKED - MCH SETS TOUGH AD LIMITS - MONEY RETURNS TO TREASURY - INDIA, CHINA START 10TH ROUND OF TALKS - RAHUL IS NOT A NOVICE, PRIYANKA TELLS UP CM - NAMES OF 3 MORE MPS SURFACE - OOTY HILLS PLAY PERFECT HOST TO DELEGATES - PRIYANKA TO UP CM: RAHUL NOT A NOVICE - SOZ TO CONVENE 2ND AP, MAHA CMS MEET - HASINA DENIED TRAVEL TO DHAKA - NASA WORKER KILLS HOSTAGE AND HIMSELF, ONE INJURED - IN THE END, LUCK RAN OUT ON LARA - PREPARE FOR A ROUGH RIDE: PUNTER



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TD objects to Jagan's speech

Rajampet (Kadapa), April 21: Rajya Sabha MP from Telugu Desam (TD) C. Ramachandraiah said that there seems to be no difference between the government's rule and the rule by family of Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in the State.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Mr Ramachandraiah objected to the speech of Mr Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, son of the Chief Minister, at a Praja Patham meeting organised in Jammalamadugu on Friday. The TD leader criticised that even ministers and MPs were not given prominence in the Praja Patham. He alleged that Dr Rajasekhara Reddy was blurring the difference between the government and the family.

Mr Ramachandraiah said that it was not the policy of the TD to obstruct construction of industries adding that TD president N. Chandrababu Naidu had strived hard to bring investments into the State. He said that the TD would help Mr Jaganmohan Reddy if he sets up industries in the State. However, the TD would not remain a mute spectator in case of any wrongdoing, Mr Ramachandraiah added.

The TD leader said that he had only gave Raghuram Cements Factory to Mr Pratap Reddy and the TD would not obstruct its construction. Mr Ramachandraiah said that they would raise the issue of

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Adding that they are committed towards the formation of separate coastal Andhra, Mr Harirama Jogaiah said that they could convince the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi over the urgency of the separate State for coastal districts. Amalapuram MP Harsha Kumar said that they have been demanding the Union government to allow Reliance Energy to utilise only surplus gas of Krishna Godavari (KG) basin.

Mr Harsha Kumar demanded that natural gas should be utilised first in the coastal districts. "Then only we will allow the pipeline to cross our border," the MP said.

He also questioned the integrity of the governments both at Centre and State, as to why they were tight-lipped when Reliance was taking away natural gas through pipeline from KG basin to other States. "We will devise an action plan over this act of Reliance during the seminar," Mr Harsha Kumar said. He also took serious objection over the language frequently used by some leaders from Telangana on people from coastal districts.



Villagers gherao minister

Visakhapatnam, April 21: Irate over the State government's negligent attitude in solving many long-pending problems, villagers of Vempadu and D.L. Puram under Nakkapalli mandal gheraoed commercial taxes minister Konatala Ramakrishna during his visit to Vempada to take part in the Praja Patham programme.

Hundreds of farmers under the aegis of Payakaraopeta TD MLA Chengala Venkat Rao stopped the minister's convoy and did not allow it to go further. The minister was on his way to Vempadu after laying foundation stone for the Vempadu-D. L. Puram road works.

Mr Ramakrishna who was shocked to see the villagers in large numbers took shelter at the residence of a local leader for two hours. Later, Mr Ramakrishna asked the MLA to allow him to take part in the meeting organised as part of the Praja Patham.

The minister also asked Mr Chengala Venkat Rao to take part in the meeting and let him know the problems which were pending for long. The MLA did not get convinced to the minister's proposal and continued to sit on the road blocking the way.

Tension prevailed for more than four hours as the activists of both the parties got into a brawl. Police had a tough time in controlling the mob. MLA demanded the minister to give assurance on solving 102-acre D.L. Puram land issue and also to withdraw the land acquisition for proposed SEZ.

He demanded the minister to give assurance in writing on both the issues. The minister inturn said that as of now they were not having any proposal to acquire land for SEZ and on the other issue, Mr Ramakrishna said he need to discuss with the officials. Not convinced over the minister's reply MLA and his followers did not leave the place. Finally police forcefully picked up the MLA and the minister managed to proceed further.



Women's panel admits misuse of dowry law

Visakhapatnam, April 21: State women's commission chairperson Mary Ravindranath observed that Section 498A of the Criminal Procedure Code pertaining to dowry harassment was being widely misused. However, she maintained that there was no need to amend the section.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, the chairperson said people who misuse the controversial section should be exposed and punished so that others don't try to misuse it. "Section 498A is being widely misused by everyone. Such cases needed to be exposed," said the chairperson.

Speaking on the mandatory HIV test before marriage, she opined that there is nothing wrong in undergoing the test. "Taking a HIV test before marriage does not violate human rights. But if a girl marries a person who hides his HIV infection, then it certainly comes under human rights violation" she added.

Out of more than 3,000 cases received by the Commission in the last one year, the Commission chairperson said more than 25 per cent were related to sexual harassment of women at workplaces. Expressing concern about high crime rate against women in the State, she stressed the need to take steps to address it.

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