

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

TAMIL NADU

AIIMS in T.N.: Much ado about something

In Tamil Nadu, where the current political scenario renders most decisions contentious, it is not surprising that the decision on locating an AIIMS-like institution within the State has run into several inexplicable roadblocks. The bone of contention now, between political rivals, is whether due process was followed by the State government in recommending one site among the five that had been shortlisted as having the potential to host an institution of the calibre of AIIMS. The charge is that Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami had recommended Sengipatti, in Thanjavur, to the Prime Minister, as recently revealed in the Assembly proceedings.

(H.,14/07)

KARNATAKA

From this year, Kannada is compulsory in all schools

Starting this academic year, students will be taught Kannada in all schools in the State, including private, linguistic minority and Central board schools. Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Tanveer Sait, who made the announcement on Thursday, said children would start learning the subject from class one. A circular to this effect was issued on May 29. Stringent action, including withdrawal of the no-objection certificate issued by the Education Department, would be initiated in case of non-compliance, Mr. Sait said.

(H.,14/07)

ANDHRA PRADESH

Absenteeism 'highly alarming' in Secretariat

High level of absenteeism in the Secretariat is a cause for concern for the government. A recent government study showed that more than one-third of the employees were absent in May. As per the study, the average absenteeism is more than 36% in all the departments with the total touching 43% in the Secretariat in May, which is considered "highly alarming" given the permissible limit of 3.5% of leave reserve. The departments of the Backward Classes Welfare and the Public Enterprises stand first with the highest absent man-days of 61%. The Minority Welfare Department has registered the lowest absent man-days of 24%. The higher-ups are worried as the government is losing more than 60% of the man-days due to absenteeism.

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