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Obama, Pelosi concerned over Biden's candidacy
 His campaign refutes any move by him to drop out of race or make transition for Kamala Harris



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India name squads for Lanka tour, SKY T20 captain

In a nutshell
Indians in B'desh told to avoid travel
DHAKA: India on Thursday advised its citizens residing in Bangladesh to avoid travel and minimise their movement after ongoing protests demanding reforms in the quota system in government jobs turned violent and left several dead across the country. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka also provided multiple 24-hour emergency numbers for any assistance. **PTI**
WORLD PAGE 9

2 boys die in lightning strike
KOTHAGUDEM: Two boys were killed in a lightning strike at Jamedar Banjar village in Dammamet mandal of the district on Thursday. Borra Siddhu (15) and his brother Borra Chandu (11) went to their farm near the Pulliah tank in the village along with their parents Mallesh and Nagamani when it was raining. The boys died on the spot after being struck by lightning while their parents fainted.

Assembly session from July 23
HYDERABAD: The State Assembly Budget session will commence from July 23 and the Legislative Council session will start from July 24. The annual Budget is expected to be presented on July 25. The State Government issued a notification to this effect here on Thursday. Though, there is no confirmation on the number of days, the session is likely to be held at least for a week. **STATE PAGE 5**

Terror attack in J&K foiled
JAMMU: Two Army personnel were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, officials said, as security forces continued their search in the region for the ultras who killed four soldiers three days ago. The gunfight, lasting more than an hour, took place at Jaddan Bata village in the Kastigarh area around 2 am. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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

Stree 2 pays ode to pulp literature
 Rib-tickling dialogues shown in trailer promise a terrific follow-up



Crop loan waiver launched; BRS says funds diverted

Loans up to Rs 1 lakh to be waived by depositing Rs 6,098 cr in 11.5 L ryots' a/c

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD
 Still under a shadow of uncertainty on how many farmers would actually benefit from it, the much-awaited crop loan waiver scheme was launched here on Thursday. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, formally launching the scheme, said the previous government, during its 10-year tenure, had waived Rs 21,000 crore and that the latest version of the scheme would see crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh being waived by depositing Rs 6,098 crore into the bank accounts of 11.5 lakh farmers in the first phase. Under the second phase, loans of up to Rs 1.5 lakh would be waived, for which about Rs 8,000 crore was required. Similarly, in the third phase, loans of Rs 2 lakh would be waived before August-end, for which Rs 15,000 crore would be required, the Chief Minister said. Alleging that the BRS government had failed to fulfil the promise made to farmers on the crop loan waiver, he claimed that the Congress government, within seven

months, had fulfilled the promise made to farmers "without imposing any terms and conditions". Addressing farmers at different Rythu Vedikas via video conference from the Secretariat, Revanth Reddy said the passbook was the only parameter for the crop loan waiver and not the ration card, which would be used to "only determine a farmer's family". Stressing that the Congress government was committed to the welfare of the people, the Chief Minister said in the last seven months, Rs 29,000 crore was spent on welfare schemes. "We are paying salaries to the employees on the first of every month. Rs 5,000 crore is being released towards pensions and salaries," he said. While interacting with a farmer from Warangal, the Chief Minister said it was from the same place where the Congress had announced the Rythu Declaration. Accordingly, a public meeting will be conducted this month to thank the AICC leadership. **(SEE PAGE 2)**
(CONGRESS A GOVT OF FAILURES, SAYS BRS PAGE 5)



The Cong govt, in seven months, fulfilled the promise made to farmers without imposing any terms and conditions
 — A REVANTH REDDY, Chief Minister

Rythu Bandhu disbursal affected, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Thursday called out the deceit of the Congress government, pointing out that in the guise of implementing the crop loan waiver, the Congress was taking farmers for a ride. The government had diverted Rs 7,000 crore, meant for the disbursal of the Rythu Bandhu farm input assistance for this season, to the crop loan waiver scheme, it said. Pointing out the government's silence on the Rythu Bandhu assistance, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the Congress government was yet again deceiving the farmers. Under Rythu Bandhu, the Congress government had to extend Rs 7,000-crore assistance to farmers in June, but these funds were diverted for the implementation of the



As promised, Cong should waive all loans up to Rs 2 L. All eligible farmers should be extended Rythu Bandhu immediately
 — KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

crop loan waiver, he said. Over 40 lakh farmers had secured loans up to Rs 1 lakh but the Congress government was waiving the loans of only 11 lakh farmers. More so, the crop loan waiver being offered by the Congress government was meagre compared to the waiver done under the KCR government in 2014 and 2018, he said. Giving details, he said in 2014, the then KCR government had waived loans up to Rs 1 lakh secured by 35 lakh farmers by spending about Rs 16,144 crore. Again in 2018, loans of 37 lakh farmers were waived by spending about Rs 19,198 crore, he posted on X. "As promised in its manifesto, the Congress government should waive all loans up to Rs 2 lakh. These apart, all eligible farmers should be extended Rythu Bandhu assistance immediately," Rama Rao demanded. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

NEET-UG: SC wants results by tomorrow

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare by 12 noon of July 20 the centre- and city-wise results of controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024 while masking the identities of the aspirants, saying it wanted to ascertain whether candidates appearing at allegedly tainted centres scored more than those elsewhere. As it strove to address the allegations of malpractices in the conduct of the May 5 examination, a Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said any order for conducting it afresh has to be on a concrete conclusion that the alleged leak was "systemic" and the sanctity of the entire process was affected. "We direct the NTA to publish the marks obtained by students at the UG-2024 NEET examination, while, at the same time, without disclosing the identity of the students. The result should be declared city- and centre-wise by 12 noon on July 20, 2024, and shall be uploaded on the website of the NTA," the Bench, also

CBI arrests 4 AIIMS medicos

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Thursday arrested four medical students of AIIMS Patna, who are alleged to be part of the 'solver module' working in collusion with a key accused held two days ago, in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case, officials said. Three students of MBBS third year — Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant and Kumar Shanu — and second-year student Karan Jain were arrested. **PTI**

comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said in its order. "We want the identity of students to be masked. You can have dummy roll numbers. But let us see it centre-wise what is the marks pattern," it said. The SC will resume hearing on July 22 on a batch of pleas seeking the cancellation, re-test and court-monitored probe into the allegations of malpractice in the exam. **PTI**

HC pulls up TS over dog menace

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court on Thursday expressed serious dissatisfaction with the State's inaction in addressing the problem to tackle the growing issue of street dogs in Hyderabad. It directed the State government to immediately formulate a comprehensive action plan to tackle the growing issue of street dogs in Hyderabad within a week. The Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti, was dealing with a suo moto PIL taken based on reports of street dogs attacking children and causing panic among residents. Initially, the PIL was taken up on a report on a pack of dogs mauling a four-year-old boy to death in the city. Another tragic event took place on July 16, wherein an 18-month-old toddler was attacked by a pack of street dogs in Adarsh Nagar, Jawaharnagar. The boy suffered severe injuries on his scalp and died despite receiving immediate medical treatment.

Directs government to formulate action plan within one week to tackle growing issue of street dog attacks in Hyderabad

The court on Thursday took up a suo moto case and reprimanded the government for its negligence in addressing the problem. The State government informed the court that approximately 3,80,000 street dogs were present within the GHMC limits. It also stated that relocating these dogs to shelters was a challenging task. The court pointed out that improper waste disposal on roadsides significantly contributed to the street dog problem. It emphasised the need for authorities to ensure proper waste management and maintain clean surroundings to mitigate the issue. The court has directed the government to explore effective solutions to protect children, and adjourned the matter for a week.

Group of women lynch man for harassing them

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A group of women thrashed a man with sticks, causing his death, for misbehaving with them at Shamshabad on Wednesday night. According to the police, Kumar (35), a resident of Shamshabad, used to harass women in and around his village. On a couple of occasions, the local police, following complaints from women, counselled him and advised him to mend his ways. But on Wednesday evening, he again misbehaved with a woman of Prakashnagar Colony in Shamshabad. "A group of women, including Sangeeta, Maheshwari and Chandrakala, tied his hands and legs with a rope. They thrashed him with sticks resulting in grievous injuries. He died at a hospital," the RGIA police said. The police registered a case under Section 105 of BNS against the women.



Passengers and locals near the derailed coaches of the Dibrugarh Express train in Gondia, UP. Two passengers were killed and 34 injured when eight coaches of the train derailed. — Photo: PTI

DSC exam held in State amid protests

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Amidst protests by aspirants, the District Selection Committee (DSC), a recruitment examination for teacher vacancies, commenced in the State on

Thursday. Allying that police personnel did not allow some applicants to appear for the exam by putting them under house arrest, student organisations and political leaders on Thursday staged a demonstration at the Secretariat in protest

against the police action. The protesters burnt an effigy of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy near the Secretariat and demanded that the State government immediately postpone the examination. The police personnel swung into action and

detained the protesters. Aspirants have been demanding to defer the DSC by three months, citing lack of preparation time as recruitment exams for posts of hostel welfare officer and divisional accounts officer were held in June. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Heavy rain, gale to lash Telangana

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Multiple districts in Telangana are expected to witness extremely heavy rainfall in the coming days, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad has issued red, orange and yellow alerts for various parts of the State till July 21. A yellow alert has also been issued for Hyderabad indicating moderate showers, along with occasional intense spells, and gusty winds. On Thursday, the city experienced occasional drizzles and pleasant weather with a maximum temperature of around 29 degrees. However, other parts of the State, including Bhadradi

Kothagudem, Mulugu, Mancherial, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Khammam, reported downpours. Meanwhile, Dammameta and Aswaraopeta in Bhadradi Kothagudem recorded 109.3 mm and 86.8 mm of rainfall, respectively. For Friday, a red alert has been issued for isolated places in Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Mahabubabad, indicating extremely heavy rain. Additionally, an orange alert, signifying very heavy rain, is likely in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Warangal and Hanamkonda, according to the India Meteorological Department. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

51 stranded in stream rescued

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

Several hours after 51 persons were stranded in the floodwaters of the Peddavagu stream at Narayanapuram village in Aswaraopet mandal, combined efforts by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Kothagudem Police's District Disaster Response Force (DDRF) ensured that no lives were lost on Thursday. A Navy helicopter from Eluru in Andhra Pradesh was also part of the rescue operations. Forty-one persons, who were stranded on a low-



Rescue operations under way at Narayanapuram in Aswaraopet mandal of Kothagudem district on Thursday night.

level bridge, at a temple in the area and some who climbed up trees after floodwaters of the Peddavagu stream trapped them, were

rescued by the NDRF and DDRF. Ten others managed to reach safe shores on their own as the water receded a bit. **(SEE PAGE 2)**