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High Court relief for Siddaramaiah in MUDA row



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Israel agrees to truce deal, says Blinken

US Secretary of State calls upon Hamas to do the same



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My dream is to work with Vijay Varma, says Dia Mirza

BRS opposes move to install Rajiv statue

SAYS THE SPOT IDENTIFIED NEAR SECRETARIAT DESIGNATED FOR TELANGANA THALLI STATUE

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The BRS strongly opposed the State government's decision to install a statue of former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi at a location originally designated for the Telangana Thalli statue opposite the Secretariat. Party working president KT Rama Rao stated that once the BRS returned to power, they would remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue and install the Telangana Thalli statue at the same location.

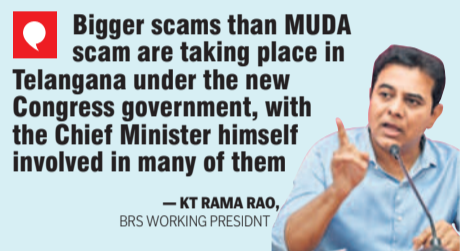
He also mentioned plans to rename the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport after a prominent Telangana icon, following the precedent set by other States, such as Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport and Bengaluru's Kempegowda Airport.

Addressing the media here on Monday, Rama Rao said the decision to install Rajiv Gandhi's statue at the prominent location contradicted the original intention to honour Telangana Thalli. He urged Congress leaders to reconsider their plans. Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao constructed the new Secretariat building due to inadequate fire safety provisions and other facilities in the old one.

The Secretariat complex was also appropriately named after Dr BR Ambedkar, recognising his contribution to Article 3 of the Constitution, which facilitated the formation of Telangana. The Telangana Thalli statue was to be positioned between the Secretariat and the Amara Jyothi memorial, built to honour the martyrs of Telangana. Rama Rao said the Congress government was engaging in cheap politics, leaving the BRS with no choice but to respond.

(SEE PAGE 2)

'State has turned ATM for Cong'



Bigger scams than MUDA scam are taking place in Telangana under the new Congress government, with the Chief Minister himself involved in many of them

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

BRS working president KT Rama Rao said Telangana had become an ATM for the Congress, with thousands of crores of rupees being shifted to Delhi. Stating that a lot of big scams were going on in the State, he said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy himself was involved in many of these scams.

While speaking to the media persons at his residence here on Monday, Rama Rao responded to the Karnataka Governor granting permission to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged MUDA scam. Stating that he was not fully aware of the situation in Karnataka, he felt that if there was any irregularity, it should be investigated. He suggested that the Chief Minister himself should come out clear by seeking an in-depth investigation.

However, bigger scams than the MUDA scam were going on in Telangana under the new Congress government, with the Chief Minister himself involved in many of them. "Telangana has become the ATM for the Congress. Thousands of crores are reaching Delhi from Telangana. We have seen that money from Karnataka is coming here (earlier during elections). I am not fully aware of the situation in Karnataka. But if there is something, then it should be investigated," he added.

Something fishy about Musi Riverfront project

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Congress government's plans for River Musi appear to go much deeper than beautification or development of the riverfront, with the manner in which Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet colleagues are projecting a cost estimate of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, much before a detailed project report is prepared.

Adding more intrigue is the entry of a firm facing probes for embezzlement of funds in Pakistan and an Anti-Corruption Bureau probe in Jharkhand. First and foremost among the triggers of doubt is how the Chief Minister and his Ministers arrived upon the cost estimate, which they themselves revised at least thrice, for a project that they say is for development of a 55-km stretch of the River Musi.

The Rs 1.5 lakh crore for 55 km is when the Centre's multiple-project Namami Gange programme, expected to cover 2,500 km, has in the last 10 years cost a much lesser Rs 39,080 crore. Another project that

Doubts persist

REPEATEDLY REVISED COST ESTIMATES OF MUSI RIVERFRONT PROJECT RAISE DOUBTS

Estimate of ₹1.5 lakh crore dubious with bigger projects costing less

Namami Gange Programme cost is ₹39,080 cr in 10 years till June 2024

Sabarmati Riverfront project began in 2003, ₹1,400 crore spent till 2019

- Cost estimates announced by CM, Ministers without a DPR
- Confusion in Cabinet too over DPR
- Namami Gange Programme and Sabarmati Riverfront project facing challenges
- Previous BRS government launched Rs 3,866.41 crore project to treat Musi water
- Works for 20 STPs grounded, 11 already operational
- Entry of Meinhardt Group, which is facing probes in Pak, Jharkhand also suspicious



has similarities with the Musi project, the Sabarmati Riverfront project, began in 2003 and till 2019, has had Rs 1,400 crore spent on it, with another Rs 850 crore approved for Phase II in 2020.

Revanth Reddy & Co., meanwhile, are still a disjointed unit even on the DPR of the project,

with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka saying in the Assembly that the DPR was ready, while Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu later refuted that, saying that it was still in the process of being prepared. Even the cost estimate saw cacophony, with Revanth Reddy saying on April 24 it would

cost Rs 50,000 crore. On June 14, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the programme would cost Rs 70,000 crore. On July 20, the Chief Minister again said it would cost Rs 1.5 lakh crore. On what basis was the cost estimate revised is unknown.

This is also when both the Centre and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation are still encountering different challenges in the execution of the Namami Gange Programme and Sabarmati Riverfront projects, respectively.

For instance, the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (SRDCL) wanted to auction a portion of the 204 hectares of land reclaimed then from the riverbed for commercial and residential development. However, the idea did not find many takers. Eventually, SRDCL came up with the Sabarmati Riverfront Land Disposal Policy 2023 to do away with residential and cut down commercial development and focus on public places and recreational facilities. In this case, too, there were not many takers. (SEE PAGE 2)

Girl on deathbed ties rakhi to brothers

STATE BUREAU
MAHABUBABAD

A 17-year-old girl, who was on her deathbed, insisted on tying rakhi to her brothers, and soon after she managed to do so, breathed her last. A video of the heart-rending scene of her tying rakhi to her brothers in a hospital went viral on various social media platforms on Monday.

The girl, who was a diploma student in Kodad, had allegedly consumed pesticide following harassment by a youngster a few days ago. She was shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

On Saturday, her condition deteriorated, and as she felt that she would not survive till Monday for the Raksha Bandhan festival, she asked her parents to get rakhis. She then tied them to two of her brothers and within hours, breathed her last. A video of the girl tying rakhi to her brothers was shot by her relative, which has now gone viral.

RAINS BRING HYD TO STANDSTILL



Traffic crawls at a snail's pace following heavy rain at Tolichowki on Monday. Hyderabad witnessed heavy rains causing traffic chaos, with commuters caught in knee-deep water and gridlocks. — Photo: Anand Dharmana (REPORTS PAGE 3)

Intellectuals write open letter to Rahul

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Intellectuals from different sections of Telangana society wrote an open letter to AICC leader Rahul Gandhi opposing the State government's decision to install statue of former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi in front of Telangana Secretariat.

Here is the full text of the letter:

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the Telangana government's decision to replace the statue of Telangana Thalli with a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the newly constructed Secretariat building complex.

Telangana Thalli represents the culture, heritage, and pride of the Telangana people. Replacing her statue is not merely an act of removing a monument, but an attempt to erase the identity and indomitable spirit of the Telangana people, who fought for statehood through countless sacrifices.

Telangana Thalli has symbolised our language, traditions, and the collective memory of our struggles for self-respect and autonomy. It is through her that we celebrate our victories, honour our sacrifices, and inspire future generations to uphold our values. Even during the Telangana Armed

UNITED APPEAL

- Prof Haragopal,
- Tankasala Ashok,
- Allam Narayana,
- Goretti Venkanna
- Mallepally Laxmaiah
- Nandini Srida Reddy,
- Ayochitram Sridhar,
- Himawala (Irvanti Venkatramana),
- Parankusham Venugopal Swamy,
- Nalishwararam Shankaram,
- Deshapati Srinivas,
- Ghanta Chakrapani,
- Katta Shekar Reddy,
- Tigulla Krishnamurthy,
- K Sreenivas Reddy,
- Professor Dantu Kanakadurga,
- Rasmayee Balakrishna,
- Sangishetty Srinivas,
- Ele Laxman,
- Sridharrao Deshpande,
- Burdisha Murali,
- STV Srinivas Rao,
- Anishetty Rajitha,
- Inampudi Srilaxmi,
- Kommaraju Ramalaxmi,
- Sridevi Mantri,
- Rajyasri Ketavarapu,
- Venkat Vardelli,
- Mangalampally Visveswar,
- Peedinti Ashok Kumar,
- Vemuganti Murali,
- Kandukuri Sriramulu,
- Mallavarshula Vijayanand,
- Dr. Anjaneya Goud,
- Barri Narson,
- Sriramoju Haragopal,
- Ramesh Hajari,
- Kanchanapalli,



- Naveen Achari,
- Juluri Gowrishankar,
- Varshula Shivakumar,
- Oddiraju Praveen Kumar,
- Vemuganti Muralikrishna,
- Dyavanapalli Satyanarayana,
- Penna Shivaramakrishna,
- Kotla Venkateshwar Reddy,
- Laxman Goud,
- Dr. Bheempally Prashanth,
- Vanapatla Subbaiah,
- Laxman Murari (Banduk),
- Cartoonist Nruthyunjay,
- Chimmani Manohar,
- Yedirepalli Kashanna,
- Dr. A Jayanthi,
- Swarna Kilari,
- Bola Yadaiah,
- K Veeraliah,
- S Balram,
- Uppuri Tirumalesh,
- Amarnath,
- Chikondra Ravi,
- Biraju Chandrashekar,
- Biraju Rajashekhar,
- Biraju Shyam Sunder,
- Waheed Khan,
- Veddram Madhusudhana Sharma,
- R Ratnakar Reddy,
- Ch. Usha Rani,
- Bellamkonda Sampath Kumar,
- Ponnala Balaiah,
- K Anjaiah,
- Siddenti Yadagiri,
- Chaman Singh,
- K Ranga Chary,
- Taidala Anjaiah,
- Nagilla Ramaswamy,
- Ghanapuram Devender,
- Veendhra Kaparthi,
- Pragathi,
- Parada Venkateshwar Rao,
- Acharya Pillalamarri Ramulu,
- Sanghani Maleshwar

Doctor rapes Dalit nurse in UP

MORADABAD

A Dalit nurse was allegedly raped by a doctor after being held hostage inside a private hospital, police said on Monday. According to the complaint filed by the victim's father, the incident occurred around midnight on Sunday. Three people were arrested in the case, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sandeep Kumar Meena said.

On Saturday evening, the victim (20) went to the hospital for her duty at 7 pm. She had been working there for the last seven months. Late night, another nurse, Mehnaz, asked her to meet Dr Shahnawaz in his room. When she refused to do so, Mehnaz and a ward boy, Junaid, forcibly took her to a room on the top floor of the hospital and locked it from the outside, Meena said.

Later, Dr Shahnawaz entered the room and raped her after holding her hostage, Meena added. He also threatened to kill her and also

Student arrested for social media post against Mamata

KOLKATA: The Kolkata Police on Monday arrested an undergraduate female student of a city college on charges of making a provocative social media post against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the rape and murder of a junior doctor. Police

sources said that Kirti Sharma, who uses the handle 'kirtisocial' on Instagram, was accused of encouraging people to assassinate the CM, and disclosing the identity and photograph of the victim whose bruised body was found. (REPORT PAGE 7)

hurling casteist slurs. While police arrested the three accused, on the instructions of Chief Medical Officer Dr Kuldeep Singh, the hospital was sealed after inspection by the health department team on Sunday evening. Further investigation is underway, the SP said.

BDS student alleges assault by doctor, accused arrested

A dental student accused a doctor at Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Rohtak of assault-

ing her. The police said the accused has been arrested after a case was registered. In her complaint, the woman student alleged that on August 16, the accused kidnapped her from PGIMS and took her to Ambala and Chandigarh and tortured and beat her, said police. The victim had been medically examined and her statement has also been recorded before a Judicial Magistrate. Police said no evidence of sexual harassment had yet come to the fore in girl's statement. PTI

CRPF inspector killed in J&K terror attack

JAMMU

A CRPF inspector was killed when the terrorists opened fire on a patrol party in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Monday, officials said. The CRPF along with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police was fired upon by the terrorists around 3:30 pm in the remote Chill area under Dudu Police Station jurisdiction of Basantgarh, the officials said.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Inspector Kuldeep, belonging to the G company of the 187th battalion, was hit by a bullet and later succumbed to his injuries while being taken to the hospital, they said. The Udhampur Police posted information about this incident on its official X handle. "During area domination patrol at Chill, Dudu, exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of JKP and CRPF. (SEE PAGE 2)

In a nutshell

Four orphans die of food poisoning in AP

AMARAVATI: Four orphan children who ate adulterated food two days ago succumbed to health complications in Anakapalli district and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the incident on Monday. PTI

Alert loco pilots save two lions

BHAVNAGAR: Two alert loco pilots of a goods train saved the lives of two lions that had wandered onto a railway track in Gujarat's Amreli district. The duo were alerted about the presence of two lions on tracks by two 'trackers' deployed there to ensure safety of lions. PTI

13 girls sexually abused in TN

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Police on Monday said that 11 people, including the principal and two teachers of a private school in Krishnagiri district, have been arrested in connection with the sexual abuse of 13 girls in a fake NCC camp. NATION PAGE 7

UK tycoon missing as yacht sinks

ROME: British tech magnate Mike Lynch and five other people were missing after their luxury superyacht sank during a freak storm off Sicily early Monday, Italy's civil protection and authorities said. Lynch's wife and 14 other people survived. WORLD PAGE 9

Modi for Ukraine on August 23

NEW DELHI: Days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kyiv, India said it is willing to contribute in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine. Modi will visit the Ukrainian capital on August 23 to hold talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. PTI