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**Will fast-track girls' sexual abuse case, says Shinde**



WORLD | PAGE 09

**Joe Biden passes baton to Kamala Harris**

Makes strong pitch for the Democratic candidate, says she will be a 'historic President'



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

'Every blockbuster does not need a sequel'

**In a nutshell**

**Woman labourer abducted, raped**  
**KHAMMAM:** A 42-year-old woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by an unidentified person in Kusumanchi. The incident, that took place a couple of days ago, came to light on Tuesday after the victim filed a complaint. The woman, a labourer, was kidnapped by her neighbour Anjamma with the help of a man on the pretext of offering work. She was taken to a house on a bike and raped by the man with help of Anjamma.

**Class 1 student dies of dengue**

**KOTHAGUDEM:** A Class 1 student died of dengue fever in the district. Mithun Sai (6), who was studying at DAV High School at KTPS IM Colony in Paloncha, celebrated his birthday on August 12. He was suffering from dengue fever for the past few days. He succumbed to fever at his residence at Vengal Rao Colony. It was said that a Class III student, Lachith Rathod, of the same school, died of viral fever a fortnight ago.

**Twins killed in road accident**

**KHAMMAM:** In a tragic incident, twin brothers were killed in a road accident while another was seriously injured at Madulapalli village on Tuesday. The incident occurred when the twins — Attuluri Mahesh and Naveen — aged around 22, along with one of their friend, were going to their native village Jakkepalli in Kusumanchi mandal on a bike when a pickup truck rammed their vehicle from behind.

**Back-to-back quakes jolt J&K**

**SRINAGAR:** Two back-to-back earthquakes jolted Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday causing panic across the Valley, but there were no reports of loss of life or damage to property. The first earthquake of magnitude 4.9 on the Richter Scale struck at 6:45 am at a latitude of 34.17 north and a longitude of 74.16 east at a depth of 5 km with the epicentre in Baramulla district of north Kashmir. PTI

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 107
Retail live.....	Rs. 129
With skin.....	Rs. 187
Skinless.....	Rs. 213
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 64

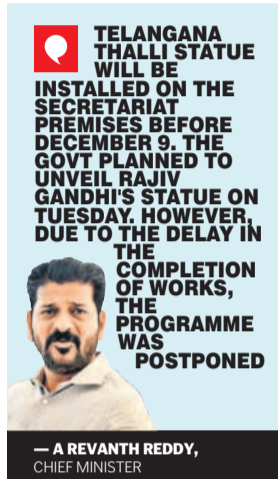
## BRS statue demand rattles Revanth

**CM says Telangana Thalli statue will be installed before Dec 9**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

Barely a day after BRS working president KT Rama Rao raised objection to the installation of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's statue at a site earlier marked for a statue of Telangana Thalli, an apparently rattled Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy responded, saying his government would install a Telangana Thalli statue on the Secretariat premises before December 9.

However, the abusive and unparliamentary language used by the Chief Minister while making the announcement, that too in front of school children, drew sharp criticism from multiple quarters. Victory, however, was evidently with the BRS, having prompted Revanth Reddy to immediately announce a prominent location for the Telangana Thalli statue, with the Chief Minister even rushing to the Secretariat by afternoon to 'inspect' a suitable location for the statue within the Secretariat premises. The episode began unfolding on



— A REVANTH REDDY, CHIEF MINISTER



— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Monday with the Congress government's decision to install Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat, to which BRS and different sections of society raised objections, pointing out that the same location was already marked for the installation of a Telangana Thalli statue.

Rama Rao, in fact, warned on Monday that after coming to power, the BRS would remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue, apart from renaming the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and multiple

other institutions after Telangana icons instead of Congress leaders. Echoing similar opinions, poets, writers, academicians, historians, editors and others also wrote to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday asking him to withdraw the plans for Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat.

Following the backlash, Revanth Reddy, while addressing a gathering at the birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister here on Tuesday, announced that

the Telangana Thalli statue would be installed on the Secretariat premises before December 9. He said that the Congress government had planned to unveil Rajiv Gandhi's statue on Tuesday. However, due to the delay in the completion of works, the programme was postponed, he said.

Though the decision for the Telangana Thalli statue was welcomed, Revanth Reddy once again drew flak for his language, which in the most mildest of terms, could be called 'unparliamentary'. The fact that the speech, replete with abusive words, insults and wild accusations, was made before a gathering that had a good number of school children, many of them barely 10 years old, sparked widespread condemnation from multiple quarters. Many on social media pointed out that Revanth Reddy was repeatedly failing to maintain the decorum of the Chief Minister. He had, in fact, hurled threats too, stating that anyone who dared to touch Rajiv Gandhi's statue would be thrashed with 'chappals'. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Yadadri plant saviour for Cong

**Govt relies on project which it once called a burden on the people of Telangana**

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The Congress government, which had right from the beginning targeted the previous BRS government, alleging delays in construction of the 5x800 megawatt Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) being constructed in Damaracherla of Nalgonda district, even calling it a burden on the people of Telangana, is now hoping that the same project will rescue the State from an imminent power crisis in the near future.

The State government in March constituted a judicial commission, headed by Justice L Narasimha Reddy (now replaced by Justice Madan B Lokur), to probe the awarding of the contract for the YTPS and the Bhadradi Thermal Power Station (BTPS) to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

### Ray of hope

THE YADADRI THERMAL POWER STATION

- Plant capacity: **4,000 MW**
- Land acquired: **1,133.14** hectares
- Project cost: **Rs 29,965.48 cr** (May touch **Rs 34,542.95 cr**)
- Employment: **2,000 (Direct) & 2,000 indirect**



- Environmental clearance: **June 29, 2017**
- PCB clearances: **July 25, 2017**
- Commencement of construction: **Oct 17, 2017**
- Term of Reference: **November 8, 2023**
- Project executing agency: **BHEL**
- COMMISSIONING SCHEDULE STIPULATED BY STATE GOVT**
- First unit: **October 30**
- Second unit: **October 15**
- Third unit: **February 2025**
- Fourth unit: **December 2024**
- Fifth unit: **March 2025**

(BHEL). The Congress also raised serious doubts over the delay in the completion of the project and the awarding of the contract works on a nomination basis without competitive bidding to some agencies, including BHEL. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy alleged in the Assembly that

there was large-scale corruption in the project as the BRS government opted for the sub-critical technology, stating that it had caused huge losses to the State exchequer. The Congress also found fault with the location of the Yadadri plant, saying that it was far from coal mines. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Bhatti in a soup over loan waiver statements

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday landed himself in a soup with his contradictory statements over the crop loan waiver, that too within a span of a few hours.

The series of conflicting statements began when Bhatti Vikramarka claimed to have waived farm loans worth Rs 3,000 crore at the birth anniversary celebrations of former Prime Minister, the late Rajiv Gandhi, in Hyderabad.

Hours later, at the State Level Bankers Committee meeting held at Praja Bhavan, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government released Rs 18,000 crore for the crop loan waiver to the banks. He urged the bankers to expedite the disbursement of the loan waiver amount into the accounts of the beneficiary farmers and to avoid any further delay. Addressing the bankers, he

**Says government waived loans worth Rs 31,000 crore only to say hours later that it released Rs 18,000 cr to banks**

said the government was giving equal priority to the agriculture sector and also to the industrial sector, urging the bankers to provide required loans to meet annual targets in each sector.

In the first quarter of the financial year of 2024-25, the banks achieved around 40.62 per cent of the annual credit plan for priority sectors. The cash reserve ratio of the State also improved to 127.29% in the first quarter itself, he said. Interestingly, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Monday that over 17 lakh farmers were yet to get the loan waiver due to multiple technical issues.

## Fierce lightning storms jolt Hyderabad

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Amidst heavy rains during the early hours of Tuesday, Hyderabad was struck by a fierce lightning storm, startling residents. At around 5:44 am, a powerful lightning bolt, with an intensity of 516 kA, reportedly hit near the Miyapur Metro Depot, causing strong vibrations that reverberated across the area.

Social media buzzed with reports of the intense storm, with users describing the loud noises and the shaking of buildings. One user on X mentioned, "One friend reported his bed shaking, and another said his house shook!"

"There was a sudden bright flash followed by loud, prolonged thunder, which felt like experiencing vibrations, and the building seemed to have shaken (sic)," another user said.

The residents of Nizampet, Kukatpally, Kondapur, Punjagutta and other neighbourhood areas said the thunderous sounds jolted them out of their sleep, while some likened it to an earthquake. In Punjagutta, an apartment bore the brunt of the storm, with the lightning strike reportedly demolishing the building's



Vehicles make their way through a waterlogged road at Tolichowki in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

railing and destroying a nearby car shed along with the vehicle parked inside. Meanwhile, authorities issued a yellow alert for the city on August 21, warning of potential thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by light to moderate rains. Citizens have been urged to stay indoors, limit travel, and remain vigilant for further updates. (REPORTS PAGE 3)

## City sees unusual rainfall pattern

SRUTHI KURUGANTI  
 Hyderabad

Of late, Hyderabad has been witnessing an unusual rainfall pattern with above-average showers but a lack of the typical monsoon atmosphere. The time that the rain gods chose to lash the city

has also changed. While the daytime gets scattered and patchy rains with sweltering humidity persisting, the heaviest downpours are being recorded late at night or early in the morning. This pattern of heavy rains has been consistent for the last few days. Mahesh Palawat, a

meteorologist at Skymet Weather Services, attributes this unusual pattern to the absence of a significant weather system. "The high temperatures and increased humidity over the past several days have contributed to this shift," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## SC forms National Task Force to ensure docs' safety

NEW DELHI

Amid spiralling nationwide protests over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

Termining the incident as "horrific", the apex court excoriated the State government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands of miscreants to vandalise the State-run fa-



Bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra at the Supreme Court in New Delhi.

cility. It also asked the West Bengal government to not unleash the "power of the State" on peaceful protesters. The 10-member task force headed by Vice Admiral Arti Sarin been

asked to submit its interim report within three weeks. Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, CMD, AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, is also a member of the task force. PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

**CRIME WATCH**

### MAN DIES WHILE TRYING TO HELP ACCIDENT VICTIMS

**SIDDIPET:** A man died in a road accident while trying to help victims of a road mishap at Chittapur. According to locals, a car rammed a divider at Chittapur. Rama Goud, who was passing by, tried to rescue the occupants of the car. As he was trying to get them out of the vehicle, an auto rammed Goud, killing him on the spot.

### NEWLY ENGAGED COUPLE KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

**KOTHAGUDEM:** In a tragic incident, a betrothed couple died in a road accident at VK Ramavaram in Mulakalappalli mandal. The deceased were identified as Tati Prasad (25) and Nagamani (19). They got engaged a few days ago, with both families still looking for a 'muhurtham' to fix their wedding. The duo met with an accident while they were going to Dummugudem on a tractor fitted with a cultivator late on Monday.

## UPSC cancels lateral entry recruitment ad

NEW DELHI

Amid a political row, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday cancelled its advertisement for lateral entry recruitment to bureaucracy following a request from the Central government.

The UPSC had on August 17 issued a notification for recruiting 45 joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries through lateral entry — referred to as appointment of specialists (including those from the pri-

private sector) in the government departments. "It is for the information of all concerned that the advertisement pertaining to lateral recruitment for 45 posts of the level of joint secretary/director/ deputy secretary in different departments published in the Employment News, various newspapers and on the website of the Commission on 17th August, 2024 is cancelled as requested by the requisitioning authority," read a cancellation notice by the UPSC. (REPORTS PAGE 7)

## BRS to hold stir tomorrow

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The BRS will hold a State-wide protest on August 22, demanding implementation of an unconditional crop loan waiver for all farmers. The protests will be held in mandal and constituency headquarters across Telangana to pressurise the State government into fulfilling its loan waiver promises. BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the government imposed unnecessary conditions on the waiver process. (REPORT PAGE 5)