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**India for restoration of peace, says Modi**



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 Democrat V-P nominee says Harris is tough and ready to be the next US President



**SPORT | PAGE 11**  
**US Open from August 26; Djokovic eyes 25th Slam**

**In a nutshell**

**NC ties up with Congress in J&K**  
**SRINAGAR:** An alliance with the Congress is final on all 90 Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said. The announcement came after Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called on the NC leadership at Abdullah's residence. The elections will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1.

**AI Qaeda terror module busted**  
**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police claimed to have busted an AI Qaeda terror module after arresting 11 people and detaining three others from Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. After receiving intelligence inputs, an operation was conducted along with the police forces of the States. Six people were arrested in Rajasthan while they were undergoing training to handle weapons.

**Muslim marriages: Assam tables Bill**  
**GUWAHATI:** The Assam government on Thursday introduced a Bill to repeal a law to register marriages and divorces of Muslims, stating that it had scope to allow marriages of minors from community. Revenue Minister Jogen Mohan tabled The Assam Repealing Bill, 2024 to abolish Assam Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935 and the Assam Repealing Ordinance 2024.

**Centre bans 156 FDC drugs**  
**NEW DELHI:** The government has banned 156 widely sold fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs including antibacterial medicines used for fever, cold, allergies and pain, saying that they are "likely to involve risk to human beings". FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a fixed ratio and are also referred to as "cocktail" drugs.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

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



**Ankith excited for his next**  
 Actor set to return to the big screen with 'Maruthi Nagar...'

# BRS fights for 'cheated' farmers

**Holds massive demonstrations across all constituencies; demands full, unconditional waiver of crop loans**



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the gathering during the farmers' protests at Chevella in Ranga Reddy district on Thursday.

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

Declaring its unbridled support to farmers across the State, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday joined hands with farmers from every mandal and district headquarters to hold massive protests and demonstrations across all 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana, demanding a full, unconditional waiver of crop loans for all farmers. The BRS demanded that the crop loan waiver benefit be extended to all farmers up to Rs 2 lakh of their out-

**KTR VOWS TO INTENSIFY STIR FOR WAIVER**

**HYDERABAD:** The BRS is gearing up to escalate its fight against the Congress-led government in Telangana until the complete crop loan waiver promised to farmers is fulfilled. BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday announced that the party would employ all forms of protests that were used during the Telangana movement to bring the State government to its knees and deliver the electoral promises made to the people. He said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had failed to deliver on his commitment to waive all crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh and said he was misleading the public with false assurances. He pointed out that the State government failed to fully deliver any of its promises and to address the people's issues.

standing debt in banks as promised by the Congress during the Assembly polls. The 'Rythu Nirasana Deeksha' protests, organised at the mandal and constituency levels, saw BRS workers and farmers taking

to the streets, despite police attempts to halt the demonstrations in some areas. The protesters lashed out at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfil his promise to the farming community and called for immediate action on the loan waiver.

The BRS cadre clashed with the Congress activists at a few places, before the police intervened and arrested the former. At Tirumalgi in Thungathurthy of

Suryapet district, the Congress activists organised a counter programme and performed 'abhishekam' to the portrait of the Chief Minister. A heated argument ensued between both the party activists, leading to stone pelting before the police dispersed them. Former MLA Gadari Kishore Kumar is learnt to have sustained minor injuries during a lathi charge by the police. BRS working president KT Rama Rao led the protests in Chevella, while senior leader T Harish Rao participated in the dharna at Alair.

## Women scribes attacked, heckled in CM's village

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Two women journalists — Avula Sarita and M Vijaya Reddy — were heckled, assaulted and pushed into the mud by followers of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, that too in his native village of Kondareddypally in Nagarkurnool district. The incident sparked outrage among journalists, who lodged a complaint with DGP Jitender and are now planning to approach the Telangana State Women's Commission, seeking action against the attackers. According to reports, Sarita and Vijaya Reddy were in Kondareddypally to investigate and report on the status of the farm loan waiver, a contentious issue in the State. The journalists, known for their critical coverage of Revanth Reddy's administration, were allegedly targeted by the Chief Minister's followers, who physically assaulted them, disregarding their status as women. Some of the assaulters snatched the cameras from cameramen and took away the digital storage cards,



Avula Sarita, one of the journalists who was attacked.

preventing the journalists from eliciting the views of the locals. The journalist team was also stopped from leaving the location. After much difficulty, the women, along with their staff, managed to escape and took refuge in the Veldandi police station even as their vehicles were chased, reportedly Congress workers and goons in several vehicles. Some Congress leaders, who arrived at the police station, are also learnt to have misbehaved with the journalists on the station premises even as another group waited outside the police station.

## Medico case: Kolkata cops get an earful from SC for lapses

**NEW DELHI**

A tough-talking Supreme Court on Thursday tore into the Kolkata Police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor, who was raped and killed at the RG Kar Hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing", and questioned the sequence of events and the timing of its procedural formalities.

Making an impassioned appeal to the protesting doctors across the country, the apex court also asked them to get back to work, saying "justice and medicine" cannot be stopped and moreover, it was issuing all the necessary directions to ensure their safety. It further directed no coercive action against them.

The strong reprimand of the Kolkata Police by the top court in which a three-judge bench highlighted its "lapses" in its probe came even as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, said there was an attempt to cover up the case by the local police as the crime scene was "al-



Protestors during a demonstration against the rape and murder of the doctor, in Kolkata. — Photo:AFP

tered" by the time the federal agency took over the probe. The Bench, which was hearing a suo motu case related to the crime, asked political parties not to politicise the case and said the law would take its course after Mehta pointed to an objectionable statement of a West Bengal Minister. Expressing surprise that the postmortem of the victim

was conducted on August 9 between 6.10 pm to 7.10 pm before the registration of case as unnatural death, the top court pulled up the Kolkata police over "unexplained" delay of 14 hours in lodging of the FIR in the case. "How was it that the post-mortem was conducted at 6.10 pm on August 9 and yet the unnatural death information was sent

to Tala police station at 11.30 pm on August 9. This is extremely disturbing," the Bench, also comprising Justice J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said. Pointing out the laxity in the investigation by the Kolkata Police, Justice Pardiwala said, "When you start performing the post-mortem, it means that it is a case of unnatural death."

## TG fiscal health thrived under BRS

**Maintained revenue surplus Budget for most FYs**

**PS DILEEP**  
 Hyderabad

Telangana's fiscal health has been a topic of intense debate, particularly with the recent claims by the Congress government that it was forced to obtain loans just to pay salaries.

However, an analysis of the State's actual expenditures furnished in the Assembly over the years reveals a different story, pointing out the financial prudence of the previous BRS government, which maintained a revenue surplus Budget for most financial years, except for three years affected due to Covid.

For the uninitiated, a revenue surplus Budget indicates the sound fiscal health of the State. When a government's income from taxes and other sources exceeds its revenue expenditures, then it is known as a revenue surplus. The salaries and pensions of government employees are paid from the

**The facts**

**CONGRESS CLAIMS ON TELANGANA'S FINANCIAL HEALTH SUSPICIOUS**

- Analysis of State's actual expenditures furnished in Assembly reveals truth
- Records show financial prudence of previous BRS government
- BRS govt maintained revenue surplus budget for most financial years
- Exception only for three years due to Covid-19 pandemic

**REVENUE SURPLUS BASED ON ACTUAL EXPENDITURE DATA (IN RS. CRORE)**

2022-23: **5,943.64**

2023-24: **9,031.48**

(Revised estimates in Feb 2024) and 1,704.89 (Revised estimates in July 2024)

2024-25: **297.42**

(As per Budget estimates for 2024-25)

revenue expenditure account. The State's debts are not reflected in this account. When Telangana was formed in 2014, the BRS government inherited a challenging financial situa-

tion. As per the audited actual Budget expenditures, the then Congress government handed a revenue surplus Budget of just Rs 368.65 crore to BRS (TRS) government in 2014-15.

## Group-II written exam on December 15, 16

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

The written examination for Group-II Services Recruitment will be conducted by the Telangana Public Service Commission on December 15 and 16.

Objective type Paper-I General Studies and General Abilities will be conducted from 10 am to 12.30 pm on

December 15, while Paper-II — History, Polity and Society — will be conducted from 3 pm to 5.30 pm on the same day. Paper-III, comprising Economy and Development, will be held from 10 am to 12.30 pm on December 16, while Paper-IV, consisting of Telangana Movement and State Formation, will be held from 3 pm and 5.30 pm on the same day.

## Buffaloes die after drinking contaminated water

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Sangareddy

Grazing cattle outside is proving costly for cattle rearers in villages located in industrial areas of Jinnaram mandal, with many buffaloes dying after drinking water from lakes and other water bodies.

In the last ten days, over 20 buffaloes belonging to farmers of Khajipally, Gad-

dapotharam, and Kistaipally died after drinking water from water bodies here.

Since the industries located around these villages were releasing harmful effluents into the water bodies, whenever the area witnessed rain, these water bodies reportedly turned into poison. While four buffaloes died on Thursday, four others were battling for life. Buffalo deaths were reported for four consecutive days in these villages beginning Monday.

When the local pollution control board officials failed to respond to their complaints, the farmers, led by local leaders, took the carcasses of these buffaloes to the head office of the PCB on Wednesday and staged a massive protest.

However, things have failed to change for them. Speaking to 'Telangana Today', Basetti Sai Kumar, a resident of Kistaipally, said that he had lost 14 buffaloes so far and three others were battling for life. Stating that they were suffering huge losses, he said the government had failed to act on their complaints, though the industries were making life difficult. Farmer and Sarpanch Prakash Chary said that sheep, goats and other livestock were also

dying due to pollution, but these cases were going largely unreported. Another farmer, Neerudi Srinivas, said that the residents in these villages were also falling sick quite frequently as the industries were releasing harmful effluents thereby polluting water, land and air. The effluents were disturbing aquatic ecosystems in lakes, he added.