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Seven die as heavy rains lash Gujarat; 6,000 rescued



WORLD | PAGE 09

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including 8 children  
 IDF claims it rescued a hostage from an underground tunnel in Gaza



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

Mohanlal resigns as AMMA president

**In a nutshell**

**Only cheetah in Kuno dies**

**SHEOPUR:** The only free-ranging cheetah in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park has died, with officials suggesting drowning to be the primary cause of death. Wildlife activists, however, suspect poaching although there were no external injuries on the Namibian cheetah Pawan, found lying near the edge of a swollen nullah amid bushes. The incident comes as India is expediting efforts to bring a new batch of cheetahs by year-end. **PTI**

**2 UP girls found hanging from tree**

**FARUKKHABAD:** The bodies of two girls, aged 15 and 18, were found hanging from a tree outside a village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehgarh on Tuesday, with police launching an investigation into what it prima facie believed to be a case of double suicide. Police said the bodies were recovered outside a village in the Kayamganj police station area on Tuesday morning and a probe is underway in the matter. **PTI**

**Kurian, Singhvi elected to RS**

**NEW DELHI:** Union Ministers Ravneet Singh Bittu and George Kurian were elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha on Tuesday along with senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi and former Minister Upendra Kushwaha. Other candidates who were declared winner after the deadline for the withdrawal of nomination ended were BJP leaders Kiran Choudhry, Mamata Mohanata and Manan Kumar Mishra.

**Three siblings drowned in Adilabad**

**ADILABAD:** In a tragic incident, three siblings from Maharashtra drowned in a stream while fishing at Pochera village in Adilabad rural mandal. According to Adilabad Rural Sub-Inspector Mujahid, Nagulawar Akshay, 24, Akash, 26, daily wage earners and Vijay, 28, driver, all from Nanded district of Maharashtra, met a watery grave when they were fishing using sarees in the stream.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 109
Retail live.....	Rs. 131
With skin.....	Rs. 190
Skinless.....	Rs. 216
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

## SC grants bail to Kavitha; questions ED, CBI 'fairness'

Apex court asks if agencies were free to 'pick and choose' anyone as accused

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to BRS MLC K Kavitha in the cases initiated by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation in relation to alleged corruption in the implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

The court also questioned the central agencies over the fairness of their probe, asking if they were free to "pick and choose" an accused. The Bench, comprising Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan, passed the order after noting that since 493 witnesses were to be examined and 50,000 pages of documents were to be considered in the two cases, there was no likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future.

They ordered her release on bail, on furnishing bonds of Rs 10 lakh in each of the cases, while allowing her appeals against the July 1 verdict of the Delhi HC, which had denied her bail.

The two federal agencies also came in for some sharp criticism over the "fairness" of their investigation, with the apex court observing, "Sorry to see this state of affairs". "You will pick and choose anyone?" it asked



An emotional Kavitha being welcomed by her family members as she walks out of Tihar jail on Tuesday.

while referring to one of the witnesses whose statements were read out in the court during the arguments. "The prosecution has to be fair. You can't pick and choose anyone. What is this fairness? A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness," the Bench said, adding, "Tomorrow you will pick up anyone as you choose and leave anyone as you choose as an accused? Very fair and reasonable discretion!" **(SEE PAGES 2, 4)**

**KTR SLAMS BANDI FOR REMARKS ON BAIL**

**HYDERABAD:** Taking strong exception to remarks made by Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay on the grant of bail to BRS MLC K Kavitha, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday urged the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court to take cognisance of the Minister's

comments and initiate contempt proceedings against him.

Reacting strongly to Bandi Sanjay's comments that were defamatory in nature, BRS working president Rama Rao said despite being a Union Minister in charge of Home Affairs he was casting aspersions on the Supreme

**SC's observations**

**ON ED, CBI**

- "Sorry to see this state of affairs?"
- "You will pick and choose anyone?"
- "The prosecution has to be fair. You can't pick and choose anyone. What is this fairness? A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness..."
- "Tomorrow you will pick up anyone as you choose and leave anyone as you choose as an accused? Very fair and reasonable discretion!"
- "We will have to observe about the fairness and impartiality of the investigating agencies..."

**ON PHONE TAMPERING ALLEGATION**

- Court agreed that merely formatting a mobile phone cannot be sufficient reason to hold a prima facie case against Kavitha
- "For tampering with evidence you need (more). Here it only shows formatting..."

(Courtesy: Agencies, BarandBench.com)

Court. "Highly unbecoming of your position. I respectfully urge the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India & the respected Supreme Court to take cognisance," he said after the Union Minister congratulated the Congress and its advocates for securing bail for the BRS MLC. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Tummala abuses ryots over waiver



Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao argues with a farmer for shouting slogans, at the District Collectorate in Khammam.

STATE BUREAU  
 KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao abused farmers for questioning him over the government's failure over crop loan waiver and even tried to manhandle a farmer.

The incident occurred when a large number of farmers, activists of Left parties and Telangana Rashtra Rythu Sangham arrived at the district Collectorate to stage a protest seeking an unconditional crop loan waiver. The Minister, who was leaving the Collectorate after a meeting with the district Collector, was gheraoed by the farmers at the main gate.

As soon as the Minister got out of his car to speak with the protesting farmers, they started shouting slogans. Irked at the slogans, he refused to speak but was convinced by CPI leader B Hemant Rao to give clarity over the crop loan waiver issue. The Minister, who spoke harshly with the CPI leader, also tried to grab an activist who continued shouting slogans and one of

the protestors questioned the Minister why he was abusing them. Later addressing the gathering, Nageswara Rao said crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh would be waived and any loan amount above that limit had to be cleared by the farmers to regularise the loan and to avail a fresh one.

Telangana Rashtra Rythu Sangham district general secretary Bhukya Veerabhadram said crop loans in the district were not waived completely. Loans of only 40 per cent of farmers were waived while loans of 60 per cent of farmers were yet to be waived.

The government started taking applications from farmers whose loans were not waived only after the farmer organisations started protesting but failed to clearly state that loans up to Rs 2 lakh would be waived. Instead, the government was asking farmers to clear the loan amount above Rs 2 lakh, he said warning that if the government failed to address the issue, serious protests would be staged across the State. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Doubts raised over accuracy of data for DPH fever survey

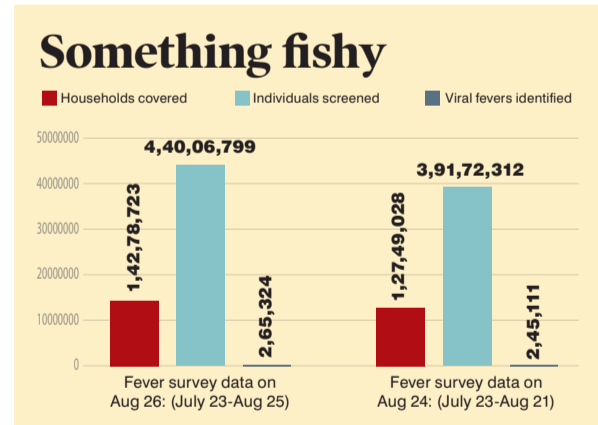
M SAI GOPAL  
 HYDERABAD

The fever survey conducted by the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) in Telangana during the ongoing season of viral fevers and vector-borne diseases raised several questions over the accuracy and reliability of the statistical data collected and presented to the general public by the Health Department.

The fever survey was conducted between July 23 and August 26, and the office of the DPH claimed that a total of 4.40 crore individuals in the State were covered, and 2,65,324 were identified with fevers.

**Household visits**

However, questions are being raised over the possibility of covering 4.40 crore individuals within a short



frame of a month. Moreover, the population of Telangana is anywhere between 3.50 crore and 3.80 crore and not 4.40 crore as claimed in the survey.

Even if one counts repeat visits to households by field-level healthcare workers, it is impossible to cover every person in Telangana

in just 30 days, point out senior health officials involved in similar fever surveys and Kanti Velugu initiatives in the past. Moreover, the data generated appears not to add up between the fever survey statistics presented on August 24 and August 26. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

**State braces for heavy rains**

CITY BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

The IMD Hyderabad issued yellow and orange alerts across Telangana, warning of heavy rainfall and thunderstorms over the next five days. The alerts, in effect until September 1, anticipate significant rainfall and gusty winds in several districts across the State. A yellow alert has been issued for the next three days indicating heavy rains and orange alert indicating very heavy rains is issued at many places in the State on August 31 and September 1. **(REPORT PAGE 2)**

## 'Nabanna Abhijan' turns violent

Several protestors, cops injured; over 200 people arrested



RAF personnel lathi-charge activists of the Paschimbanga Chhatra Samaj during the protest march to 'Nabanna' in Howrah. — Photo:PTI

KOLKATA

Large-scale violence on the streets of Kolkata and adjacent Howrah marred the cries for justice for the RG Kar hospital victim on Tuesday afternoon after protestors, aiming to reach the West Bengal State secretariat, Nabanna, fought pitched battles with the police at multiple stoppage points.

The violence, which lasted for nearly four hours, led to several injuries on

both sides with senior police officers and women protestors among those who were hurt. More than 200 people were arrested from across the State, police said.

Protestors took to the incessant pelting of stones and glass bottles on the police at several spots where their progress was stopped. Fifteen personnel of the Kolkata Police and 14 from the State Police force were injured in the clashes, police said. Police resorted to large-scale lathi-charge, un-

leashed water cannons and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the aggressive crowd who poured in from multiple converging points at Nabanna. BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari alleged that over 160 protestors, including 17 women, suffered injuries in the police action.

The 'Nabanna Abhijan' call was given by an unregistered student body 'Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj' and a dissident State government employees' platform 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha' who

demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the alleged rape-murder of a medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. ADG (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar confirmed that 25 people were arrested from across the State on Monday night prior to the secretariat rally as a preventive measure. "We have credible proof that these miscreants were planning to use firearms and bombs in the rally, he said. **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**

## Why this targeted approach? HC questions HYDRRA

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
 HYDERABAD

Justice Bollaram Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court came down heavily on the HYDRRA for its targeted approach.

As Justice K Lakshman was on leave, the batch of writ pleas filed by residents of the Kavuri Hills challenging the notices against the encroachment of the FTL limits of Durgam Cheruvu came up for consideration before Justice Vijaysen. The judge wondered why the judge wondered why the Raheja Towers aka Inorbit

Mall not on the list for demolition. Even that was under the FTL limits of Durgam Cheruvu, and only after that the Kavuri Hills starts, the judge remarked. He also quizzed the Special Government Pleader appearing for HYDRRA as to why the constructions were being touched after 10-20 years?

"Change of government and change of strategy doesn't work. What was the government doing all these years?" the judge questioned. He further questioned the State why no action was initiated against GHMC offi-

cers who granted permissions for constructions in the FTL and buffer zone.

First, take action against the erring government officers who granted permission by initiating proceedings under the Prevention of the Money Laundering Act and booking ACB cases starting from the top officials, the judge commented. "There are one lakh unauthorised structures in the city. Why have you not issued one lakh notices? Why are only a particular party's structures targeted?" the judge asked. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

**WON'T LET 'MIYA' MUSLIMS TAKE OVER ASSAM, SAYS HIMANTA**

**GUWAHATI:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said that he would take sides, and won't let 'Miya' Muslims "take over" the Assam. Sarma was speaking in the Assembly on adjournment motions brought by the opposition parties to discuss the law and order situation in the State in the backdrop of the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Nagaon. Replying to the motion, he said the crime rate has not increased if the population growth is taken into account. When the opposition charged him of being partisan, Sarma retorted, "I will take sides. What can you do about it?" **(REPORT PAGE 8)**

**DALIT BANDHU SCHEME APPEARS ALL BUT SCRAPPED**

**HYDERABAD:** The Dalit community in Telangana was witnessing a revolutionary social transformation since August 2021. That was when they found a companion in the State government when former Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu launched the Dalit Bandhu scheme. However, exactly three years later, they are without that 'bandhu'. The Congress has apparently done all but announcing that the scheme has been scrapped. Those who were sanctioned second instalment by the BRS government last year, now are struggling to run their units after the Congress government froze all Dalit Bandhu accounts. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**