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**PM releases Rs 20,000 cr for Kisan Samman Nidhi**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**17 people killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza**  
 Israel Defense Forces says it eliminated terrorist cells



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**France win opener, Mbappe injured**

**In a nutshell**

**PM to lead yoga day in Srinagar**

**NEW DELHI:** The main International Day of Yoga celebrations this year will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on June 21 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the event there, AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav said on Tuesday. It will be Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after being sworn-in as the Prime Minister for his third term. **PTI**

**Over 200 stranded tourists rescued**

**GANGTOK:** Over 200 tourists have been evacuated while around 1,000 are still stranded in Lachung in Sikkim's landslide-hit Mangan district, a senior police officer said. The tourists were evacuated via Chungthang and taken to Mangan town from where the vehicles have been arranged by the Transport department to take them to Gangtok, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia said. **PTI**

**1.52 lakh rly safety posts vacant**

**NEW DELHI:** Out of around 10 lakh sanctioned posts under the safety category in the Indian Railways, over 1.52 lakh are vacant, the Railway Ministry said in response to an RTI application in March. Officials, however, said railways has made significant investments in this matter in the past 10 years while also taking up many structural and systemic improvements that have had a positive impact on safe operations. **PTI**

**Jr doctors call for indefinite strike**

**HYDERABAD:** The junior doctors in government hospitals of Telangana on Tuesday gave an indefinite strike call from June 24, following lack of tangible action by the State government in addressing issues related to medical education. A few months ago, TJUDA, had launched an indefinite boycott of all medical duties due to delayed payment of their stipends and other issues. **HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 139
Retail live.....	Rs. 161
With skin.....	Rs. 233
Skinless.....	Rs. 266
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67



**Akshay determined to defy odds**

His character aims to make flying affordable for all

## 'Official leaks' to target KCR backfires


**Evidence proves the then BRS govt signed PPA with C'garh**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

An attempt by the Congress government to target Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao through planned media leaks alleging that there was no formal Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Chhattisgarh by the previous BRS government and that the State Electricity Regulatory Commission had not ratified the PPA, is backfiring, with documentary evidence proving the 'official leaks' to be false. The media leaks were engineered on Monday through multiple sources in the media itself in the garb of "statements from officials", with some sections of vernacular media stating that there was no formal PPA and that the ERC had not ratified the PPA, while some others, based on such leaks, wrote that the PPA had resulted in losses to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore to the State government.

The narrative was presented so as to portray that even while the then-BRS government had stated that

**PPA with Chhattisgarh**



- **JUNE 2014:** KCR met the then Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh to discuss power purchase possibilities
- **JULY 31, 2014:** Raman Singh and KCR met again to finalise power purchase
- **NOV 3, 2014:** KCR reached Raipur as TS government signed MoU with Chhattisgarh govt for procurement of 1,000 MW
- **SEPT 22, 2014:** TSSPDCL & TSNPDCL entered into PPA with Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited
- **APRIL 30, 2016:** Provisional tariff of Rs 3.90/kwh comprising Rs 2.70 fixed charges and Rs 1.20 /kwh energy charges were determined
- **JUNE 8, 2016:** PGCIL wrote to TS government to sign Line Transmission Agreement for dedicated power corridor
- **MARCH 31, 2017:** TSERC issues consent order to PPA

it purchased power at Rs 3.90 per unit, it had actually spent Rs 5.64 per unit. This was by taking "other expenses" into account, the reports 'suggested'.

The leaks claimed that since the commencement of the agreement in late 2017, Telangana purchased 17,996 million units of electricity

and that the financial disbursements towards this purchase amounted to Rs 7,719 crore, with dues to Chhattisgarh reaching Rs 1,081 crore. The 'officials' quoted in the leaks claimed that additional costs such as transmission line charges of Rs 1,362 crore pushed the effective per-unit cost up to

**Jagadish refutes reports**

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Former Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Tuesday sharply criticised the Congress government and the Justice L Narasimha Reddy Commission for making baseless allegations against the previous BRS government. He rubbished the reports that the State incurred a loss of Rs 6,000 crore in power purchases, questioning how was this possible when the entire cost was Rs 7,000 crore for the purchase of 17,000 million units of electricity from Chhattisgarh. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

Rs 5.64. On whether a formal PPA was signed or not, and whether the ERC had ratified the PPA or not, are very much evident in documents available from the ERC website ([www.tserc.gov.in](http://www.tserc.gov.in)), which has a copy of the PPA that was signed on September 22, 2015. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Need firm action, SC to NTA, Centre on NEET

**Says even 0.001% negligence must be dealt with**



Aspirants taking part in a protest organised by student unions against NEET, in Hyderabad.

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not to be treated as adversarial. "Even if there is 0.001 per cent negli-

gence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with," a vacation Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti told the advocates appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA). The Bench was hearing two separate petitions raising grievances, including on grace marks given to students in the examination held on May 5.

"We all know the labour which the children undergo, especially in preparing for these exams," it said, adding, "Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor,

he is more deleterious to the society". "Representing an agency which is responsible for conducting the examination, you must stand firm. If there is a mistake, yes this is a mistake and this is the action we are going to take. At least that inspires confidence in your performance," the Bench told the NTA's counsel. Stressing on timely action by the authority, the top court said the pleas would come up for hearing on July 8 along with other pending petitions, including those which have sought a direction to conduct the exam afresh. **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)**

## Power cuts make people recall BRS 'good old days'

SRUTHI KURUGANTI  
 Hyderabad

Those were the days. Power outages at the slightest of the rain or during hot and humid summer have become the unsettling reality in Hyderabad lately. And frustrated citizens in Hyderabad are increasingly taking to social media to voice their discontent, with many recalling the era of the BRS government fondly when such power cuts were unheard of.

Heavy rains on Monday exacerbated the situation, causing widespread power outages across Hyderabad and sparking frustration among residents. Tagging Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in numerous social media posts, citizens questioned the ability of the Congress government to manage the power infrastructure developed by the previous BRS administration.

The recent spate of outages has many longing for those "good old days" when the city's power supply was more reliable. A user on the X lamented, "Thank you @INCTelangana for bringing back dark days. It's such a shame that the infrastructure set up by the previous govt has been destroyed. There was no power for nearly 30 minutes at 3 am and now again there is a power cut here in the heart of Hyderabad." Another post read, "10 years of BRS rule and no power cut in Hyderabad. Congress has come to power bringing power cuts. Didn't they ask votes in the name of development? What kind of development is this? (sic)"

Residents from affected areas expressed frustration over what they see as a deteriorating situation. "Why are there frequent power cut issues now? Earlier,

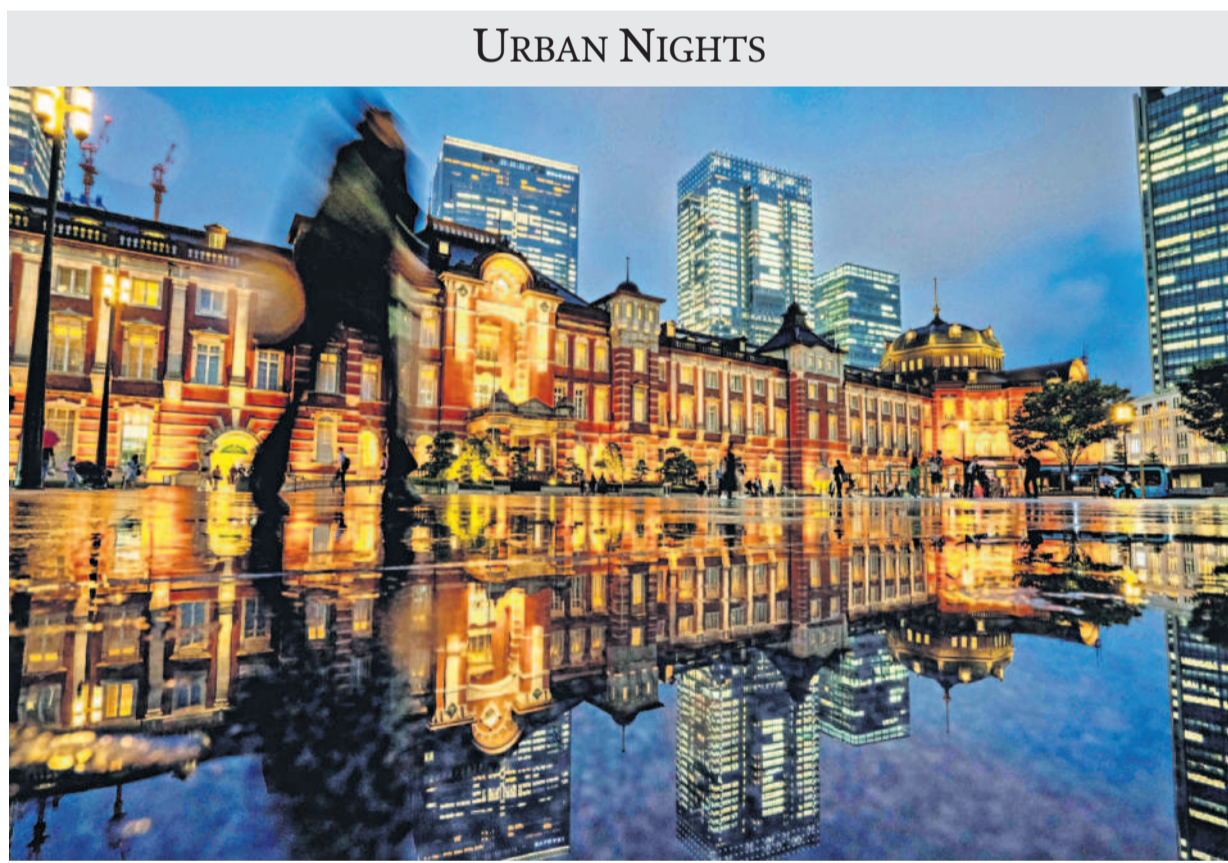
**'Censorship' on social media**

**HYDERABAD:** Amid the outcry, several allegations surfaced online claiming that complaints about power cuts were being forced to be deleted. Numerous X users accused officials of visiting homes and compelling individuals to delete their tweets, citing government pressure.

"After complaining that there had been a power cut, a few people from the electrical team came home to make me delete the tweets citing pressure from the government. What kind of government is this? (sic)," lamented a user named Krithika. Responding to the tweet, BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Energy Department and Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) for intimidating citizens who voiced concerns for better services.

In a tweet, he said, "Nincompoops who can't solve basic issues are frightened when people start questioning them..." **(SEE PAGE 2)**

there were no such problems. The temperature is breaking all records and so are the power cuts. It's very sad to see such poor governance. It feels like we've gone back in time by ten years. These long and frequent power cuts are terrible," said a resident. A similar sentiment was echoed by another post on X which criticised the ongoing situation as the "new norm" for Hyderabad.



A man walks towards Tokyo Station reflected in the rain-soaked square at Tokyo on Tuesday. — Photo: AFP

## Govt misses deadline again, this time in appointing V-Cs

YUVRAJ AKULA  
 Hyderabad

The Congress government has failed to meet its own deadline of appointing regular Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to ten State universities. While recently appointing bureaucrats as in-charge Vice-Chancellors, the government had decided to appoint regular V-Cs by June 15.

For instance, the government orders for Osmania University, issued on May 21, appointed MA&UD Department Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore as in-charge Vice-Chancellor with immediate effect till the regular V-C is appointed, or till June 15, 2024, whichever is earlier.

Like the other nine universities, not much has progressed since then, though

**While appointing bureaucrats as in-charge V-Cs, the govt had decided to appoint regular V-Cs to varsities by June 15**

in terms of technicality, Dana Kishore's term as OU in charge V-C is over since the mentioned date happened to be June 15.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is learnt to have directed Education Department officials to select regular V-Cs before the tenure of outgoing V-Cs ended on May 21. However, the process for regular V-Cs selection appears to have remained on the back burner despite forming the manda-

tory university-wise search panels on May 15. Each search committee comprises one nominee each from the State government, the University Grants Commission and the respective university's executive council. According to sources, while the search panels were formed on May 15, the information was communicated to the committee nominees in the last week of May.

"The order copy has mentioned that the search committee meeting will be scheduled shortly. So far, there has been no progress on the meeting nor, the government has asked for dates for such a meeting. I have no idea why there is a delay in holding the meeting," one of the nominees of a search panel told 'Telangana Today'. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Jilted lover bludgeons woman to death in Maha

**PALGHAR:** A jilted lover struck 18 blows on the head of his girlfriend on a road in Vasai on Friday, even as scores of people watched the gory spectacle, police said. "The accused attacked the woman with an industrial spanner. There were 18 wounds on her body," senior inspector Jairaj Ranawre of Valiv police station said. The man, Rohit Yadav (32) and the woman Arati Yadav (22) were neighbours and in a relationship for the last few years, police said. Of late, she had stopped contact with him, making him to suspect that she was having an affair with someone else. "Kyun kiya aisa mere saath (why did you do this to me)," the man kept saying as continued to hit her head with the spanner. **PTI**

## Man stabs woman with screwdriver over marriage

**HYDERABAD:** A 30-year-old man tried to kill a woman by stabbing her with a screwdriver at her house in Chattrinaka, reportedly after she refused to marry him. According to the police, Manikantha, who runs a food court at Abid Road, was in friendship with the woman, a beautician and a resident of Chattrinaka. The woman was earlier married to one Arshad, and the couple had approached the court and filed a divorce petition. The case is in the court.

In the meantime, Manikantha, also a distant relative of the woman, met her, and both of them got into friendship. Manikantha insisted they get married soon and was pestering her. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Land deal: Elderly man accuses ACP of cheating

STATE BUREAU  
 Bhupalpally

An elderly man from Arepalli village of Tekumatla mandal in the district, along with his family members, staged a dharna holding pesticide bottles on the Tekumatla road here, alleging that Peddapalli ACP Gaji Krishna had cheated him in a land deal.

Itikala Rayamallu alleged that the ACP had purchased 39 guntas of agricultural land from him in Arepally village and registered it in the name of his wife, Bandari Radhika.

During the registration, the ACP showed Rayamallu Rs 7 lakh and promised to pay the amount at his home. However, the ACP did not turn up and left the village without paying the amount. The elderly man said that police and elected representatives were not helping him get justice.