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Tungabhadra crest gate will be fixed in 3-4 days: Sidda



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Hasina demands probe into 'terror acts'
Says several lives lost in violence in name of agitation since July



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Trinadh Varma on his journey in cinema so far

In a nutshell

J&K: EC to meet Home Secretary

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission will hold a meeting with Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Wednesday to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The EC had reviewed poll preparedness in J&K last week. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar emphasised that the poll authority is committed to holding Assembly elections in the UT at the earliest. PTI

Cong to hold stir against Adani row

NEW DELHI: The Congress announced that it will organise public mobilisation campaigns over its demands for a JPC probe into the Adani issue, a caste census and adherence to the Constitution in letter and spirit. Amid a raging row over Hindenburg's allegations, the party also said it will hold a nationwide agitation on August 22 demanding SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch's resignation and a JPC probe into the Adani issue. PTI

Army on high alert ahead of I-Day

SUNDERBANI: Backed by advanced surveillance equipment, soldiers of the Indian Army brave inhospitable terrain and harsh weather conditions to maintain round-the-clock vigilance along the Line of Control to thwart cross-border infiltration in the Rajouri-Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday. PTI

AP relieves 122 Telangana staff

HYDERABAD: The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday relieved 122 Telangana local employees in the Non-Gazetted cadre and issued GO Ms 1412 in this regard. In the orders, the AP instructed HODs to relieve the employees of their duties immediately in the post category specified by the Telangana government.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 82
Retail live.....	Rs. 104
With skin.....	Rs. 151
Skinless.....	Rs. 172
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 60

In just 8 months, TG debt touches Rs 50,118 crore

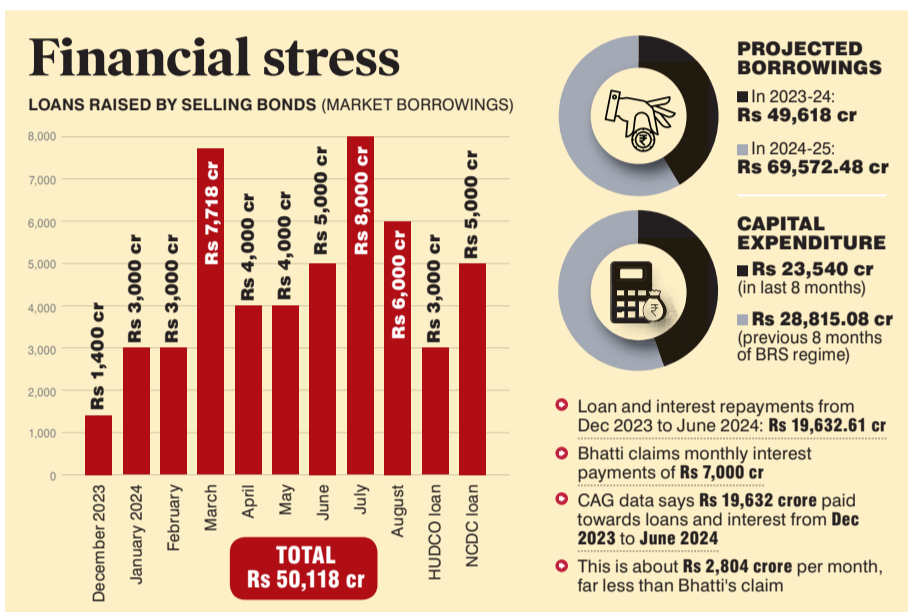
Govt relies on borrowings, accumulates Rs 35,000 cr debt in last 5 months alone

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

As the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government in Telangana marks 250 days in power, a fresh borrowing of Rs 3,000 crore through market loans on Tuesday pushed the State's debt to a staggering Rs 50,118 crore in just eight months. Despite its criticism of the previous BRS government alleging excessive borrowing, the Congress is not hesitating to borrow left, right and centre.

In stark contrast to its pre-election rhetoric, the Congress accumulated nearly Rs 35,000 crore in debt during the last five months alone, against the projected Rs 69,572.48 crore in the current financial year to be sourced through market borrowings, Central government loans, deposit transactions and other loans.

Experts warn that if this borrowing spree continues, the debt might exceed Budget estimates. The Revanth Reddy administration already revised its Budget



estimates, increasing the projected borrowings from Rs 57,112.48 crore during the Vote-on-Account in February to Rs 69,572.48 crore in the full Budget introduced in July. The pattern is not new to the Congress. During the previous financial year, the State's debt exceeded its

Budget estimates, with borrowings being revised from Rs 38,235 crore under the BRS regime to Rs 49,618 crore after the Congress assumed power.

Critics argue that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's lack of experience is contributing to an additional fi-

other stakeholders over unpaid bills underscore the government's failure to clear major pending payments.

Capital expenditure, crucial for development, also remained underwhelming. The Congress government allocated only Rs 33,486.5 crore, just 11.5 per cent of the total Budget of Rs 2,91,159 crore for 2024-25, towards capital projects. In the last eight months, around Rs 23,540 crore has been spent on capital expenditure, compared to Rs 28,815 crore during the previous eight months under the BRS.

While Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka defended the borrowings, claiming monthly interest payments of Rs 7,000 crore, data from the CAG suggests otherwise. The government paid approximately Rs 19,632 crore towards loans and interest payments from December 2023 to June 2024, averaging about Rs 2,804 crore per month, far less than the claimed amount.

Bhatti visits Peddapur school, calls for inquiry

STATE BUREAU
Jagtial

Barely 24 hours after BRS working president KT Rama Rao visited the family of a student who died at the Peddapur Residential School on Monday and announced a BRS committee to look into issues plaguing residential educational institutions in the State, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka too rushed to the school on Tuesday. He said an inquiry would be ordered into the deaths of two students and how four students had fallen sick in the school.

Bhatti Vikramarka, who visited the school in Metpalli along with his Cabinet colleague Ponnab Prabhakar, said the deaths of the students were unfortunate and said an inquiry would be ordered soon after receiving the postmortem report of the students.

Deputy CM's visit comes barely 24 hrs after KTR visited the family of a student who died at the residential school

Assuring help to the parents of the deceased students, he said apart from ex gratia, members in the affected families would be given jobs under the outsourcing method in the Gurukul Society as per their educational qualifications.

Rs 50 lakh for school
The District Collector was instructed to sanction Rs 5 lakh under the Indiramma Housing scheme if the affected families had no house, Bhatti Vikramarka said, adding that as an immediate response, the State

government had sanctioned Rs 50 lakh for cleaning the residential school premises to ensure there was no stagnant water and for improving hygiene, construction of toilets and other facilities.

Funds would be released without delay once they received proposals for the construction of permanent buildings, dormitories, and dining halls in accordance with the strength of students. Not just the Peddapur school, but all residential schools in the State would be revamped and required funds would be provided, he said, also blaming the previous government for the current situation of residential schools. The Deputy Chief Minister also instructed the Residential Schools secretary to make available emergency medicines for dog and snake bites as well as paramedical staff. (SEE PAGE 2)

CBI to probe WB doc case



Doctors of Government Medical College in Nagpur protest the rape and killing of a PG trainee doctor in Kolkata. — Photo:PTI

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered the transfer of probe into the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital from the Kolkata Police to the CBI.

A widespread agitation by junior doctors has crippled State healthcare services for the fifth day, with the functioning of even emergency and outdoor departments coming to a halt in most State-run hospitals.

The High Court directed the city police to hand over the case diary to the central probe agency, and all other documents by 10 am on Wednesday. The direction was passed in the wake of a

Doctor booked for raping patients

CUTTACK: A doctor was booked for allegedly raping two women patients at the SCB Medical College and Hospital. The alleged incident took place on Sunday when the women had come to the cardiology department of the premier government hospital for an echocardiogram test. PTI

petition moved by the victim's parents praying for a court-monitored probe and multiple other PILs seeking probe transfer to the CBI. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)



Kids watch the underwater flag-waving spectacle ahead of Independence Day, at VGP Marine Kingdom, Chennai on Tuesday. — Photo:PTI

TT IMPACT

Ensure sanitation in GPs, Minister asks officials

Fund crunch hits sanitation in GPs

HYDERABAD: Promising to address the paucity of funds in GPs, Panchayat Raj Minister D Anasuya directed officials to focus on sanitation in villages. In an indirect reference to a report published in these columns on Swachhadanam-Pachadanam programme, she claimed the programme was a success. The results were on expected lines, but there still was scope for improving sanitation in the villages, she said. (REPORT PAGE 4)

Never craved for publicity, says Tummalala

KHAMMAM: Responding to reports and comments of Congress Ministers using the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project for publicity and to claim credit, Agriculture Minister Tummalala Nageswara Rao said he did not work for publicity and claim credit for the projects he executed. The Minister said the Enkoor link canal was taken up to bring the project into use and that he did not own an acre of land under the project. (REPORT PAGE 4)

Cong to launch 'incomplete' Sitarama project

Operating structure for Sitarama project has been affected on the ground. The project is incomplete and the government is not ready to launch it. The project is incomplete and the government is not ready to launch it. The project is incomplete and the government is not ready to launch it.

OU hostel mess turns indoor pool

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

In a troubling recurrence, the research scholars' mess facility on the Osmania University campus was inundated with water after rains that lashed the city on Tuesday. With ankle-deep water on the floor, students were forced to dine in the 'indoor pool', and several videos of the dining facility inundated with water were widely circulated by the research scholars. One of the videos showed a student wearing a raincoat and manually pouring rainwater from the floor into a bowl.

According to new research scholars, seepage from the rooftops led to the water in the mess facility. "Initially, water seepage was at a single table, but now the entire rooftop is leaking, which is causing water pooling in the dining hall of the mess facility. Despite our pleas, the issue persists," said Satya Nelli, a research scholar at the Political Science department, Arts College. (SEE PAGE 2)



According to scholars, seepage from rooftop led to water in the mess facility.

State seeks Ramsar tag for five wildlife sanctuaries

T KARNAKAR REDDY
Sangareddy

The State government proposed five wildlife sanctuaries in the State, including the Manjeera and Pocharam Wildlife Sanctuaries here, to be tagged as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of International Importance.

The government placed the proposal before the experts during a meeting held in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the team of officials, including Leena Nandan (Additional Secretary, union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change), Vani Prasad (Principal Secretary, Tourism and Youth Affairs) and Ahmad Nadeem (Principal Secretary, Forest and Envi-

WHAT IS RAMSAR SITE

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, is an international agreement promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Wetlands on the Ramsar list are designated for their high value to the country and the world for the ecosystem services and benefits provided. Ramsar Sites are designated by the National Administrative Authority, which is responsible for the Ramsar Convention in each country. Once designated as a Ramsar Site, the Convention helps member countries to prevent, stop and reverse wetland loss and degradation. It encourages policies and land use planning that integrate wetland issues and aims to enthuse the public about the benefits and services that wetlands provide. Some of the 82 Ramsar sites in India are the Sundarban wetlands (West Bengal), Pallikarai marsh reserve forest (Chennai), Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh), Vembanad-Kol wetland (Kerala) and Sasthamkotta Lake (Kerala).

ronment) and other officials will visit the Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary on Wednesday. During a two-day regional workshop held on conservation and wise use of wetlands for southern States and union Territories under Mission Sahbhagita, State officials proposed the five wildlife sanctuaries at Manjeera, Pocharam, Kinnersani Lake, Pakhal Wild Life Sanctuary and Ramappa Lake seeking the Ramsar tag. (SEE PAGE 2)