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Telangana State Regional News

<p>Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty surrounds the possible summoning of former CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, leading the probe into irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. • Justice Ghose, when asked about summoning Rao, emphasized the importance of facts over individuals, stating that if needed, anyone could be summoned. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aims to provide water for drinking and irrigation to about 45 lakh acres in Telangana. • It involves constructing a barrage at Medigadda in Jayshankar Bhoopalpally district to harness water from the Godavari river. • The project includes the world's longest water tunnels, aqueducts, underground surge pools, and biggest pumps. • Water will be lifted to a height of 618 meters from its source at Medigadda to Kondapochamma Sagar, about 227 km away in Gajwel district. • It spans approximately 1,832 km in length, including 1,531 km of gravity canals and 203 km of water tunnels. • The project is divided into seven links and 28 packages, with 20 reservoirs built across 13 districts, capable of storing 145 TMC of water. • Project cost: Around 80,000 crores solely bore by the Govt of Telangana. <p>Judicial Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state government has appointed Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose(former Judge of Supreme Court) under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952, to investigate allegations of irregularities and embezzlement in the construction of barrages for the Kaleshwaram project.
<p>Yadadri Thermal Power Plant in Telangana Receives Approval</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has granted permission for the construction of the Yadadri thermal power plant in Telangana's Nalgonda district. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision was made during the eighth meeting of the expert appraisal committee (EAC) on thermal power projects held on April 5.



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- The proposed **4,000 MW coal-based supercritical Yadadri thermal power station** will be located at Veerlapalem village in Damercherla mandal on 1,133.14 hectares of land.
- Construction work began on October 17, 2017, by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) after receiving environmental clearance from MoEF&CC on June 29, 2017, and consent from the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) on July 25, 2017.
- The clearance faced a challenge in the National **Green Tribunal (Southern Zone), leading to additional terms of reference granted by MoEF&CC on November 8, 2023.**
- Following this, the EAC approved the proposal for an amendment to the clearance, aligning with NGT directives and the additional TOR issued by MoEF&CC.

Project Details:

- **Estimated cost:** Rs 34,542.95 crore
- **Aim:** To bridge the power deficit in Telangana
- **Employment:** 2,000 direct and 2,000 indirect jobs
- **Coal supply:** 100% indigenous coal link with SCCL mines for 14 MTPA
- **Ash management:** 400-acre ash pond on-site, aiming for full fly ash utilisation within 4 years

Rejected Proposal:

- The EAC rejected NTPC Limited's proposal to expand the Ramagundam STPP by an additional 2x800 MW (Stage-IV, Telangana STPP, Phase-I) at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district.
- NTPC's proposal to use the existing ash pond from Stage-I for Stage-II was rejected due to environmental concerns.

Duvvuri Subbarao Urges Governments to Safeguard Civil Servants

Context:

- During his book launch "**Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career**", Subba Rao has made significant comments on delicate balance between civil servants and politicians.
- Former **Reserve Bank of India governor Duvvuri Subbarao** emphasized the need for governments to refrain from exploiting civil servants for political gains.

Key suggestions made by Former RBI Governor:

- Governments should not misuse civil servants for political purposes.
- A "**cooling-off**" period should be implemented for IAS officers and diplomats before they enter politics.



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- Civil servants need to remain anonymous and unbiased.
- Tensions between the government and the Central bank are inherent, based on the chemistry between key officials.
- The RBI has gained more independence over time, contrary to sensationalized news suggesting otherwise.
- **India's economy is projected to grow**, but it's crucial to ensure equitable distribution of growth benefits, particularly among lower-income segments.
- India must focus on increasing per capita income, balancing its status as a large economy and a developing nation.
- Subbarao suggested **reforms in the UPSC exams, proposing a reduction in the number of attempts, with exceptions for certain communities.**
- Before his tenure at the RBI, Subbarao held key positions in the Indian government and the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.



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