

STATE

TS top in welfare, development, says Jagadish

page 7

NATION

'Mastermind' behind two missing Manipuri students held

page 9

NATION

Satyajit Ray award for Douglas

page 10



'BRS will fare even better'

Polls all about progress Vs empty promises: KTR

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The ensuing elections to the Telangana Assembly will be all about the BRS' progressive report of nine and half years against the empty promises of the Opposition parties, declared the party working president and Minister KT Rama Rao. He said the BRS was way ahead of its political rivals and will perform better than the previous elections.

Rama Rao stressed that the Assembly polls were not just about electing MLAs but an opportunity where voters evaluate not only the party's ideology, caste or religion but also various factors especially the leader who will become the Chief Minister.

He exuded confidence that the people of Telangana would consider the progress achieved by the BRS government under Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, before casting their vote. In an in-



“While BRS is gearing up for second spell of campaign, Oppn parties are yet to release first list

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

formal interaction with media persons here on Friday, Rama Rao said the majority of the 114 candidates announced by the BRS have already completed their first round of campaigning in their respective constituencies. The list of the remaining five candidates

will be released in a couple of days.

“While the BRS is gearing up for the second spell of campaign, the Opposition parties are yet to release the first list. The Congress, which does not have effective candidates in 40 segments including 25 of 29 in Hyderabad and erstwhile Rangareddy districts, is boasting of winning 70 constituencies,” he said.

Rama Rao stated that the BJP, which lost deposits in 105 constituencies in the last elections, will lose them again in 110 segments and the winning constituencies will be confined to a single digit.

The BRS working president felt that no ideology was left in the Telangana Congress and the TPCC chief was busy in allocating tickets to those who paid for them. He mentioned a conversation with a Congress leader who had been asked for Rs 15 crore for a particular seat in Hyderabad.

(SEE PAGE 2)

I-T seizes cash boxes in K'taka

Recovers them in raids at contractor's properties in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Income Tax sleuths are said to have recovered a huge cache of money stashed in several boxes during searches at properties belonging to a city-based contractor, official sources said on Friday.

Similar searches are underway at properties belonging to a few other contractors, the sources said. BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister CN Ashwath Narayan, targeting the Congress government in the State, alleged that the money was collected from contractors as commission to fund upcoming elections in five States.

“This proves the ‘ATM government’ allegations (against Congress govt) with evidence... This is the small size consignment of the collection by the ‘ATM government’ that has been caught. Many such things are there. This is collected money. This is just a sample,” he said, as he urged other contractors to speak out about the money they had allegedly paid.

BJP leader and MLC N Ravi Kumar, speaking to reporters, claimed that the cash recovered from the contractor's property have a value of Rs 42 crore, and that the currency notes are of Rs 500 denomination and were stored in 23 boxes.

Word is going around the city that the money was collected for the Telangana polls, he said, also alleging that it was the money gained as ‘commission’ to clear Rs 650 crore pending dues of the contractors from the government. Ravi Kumar demanded a probe into it. Several other BJP leaders have made similar allega-



Huge cache of money stashed in several boxes seized by the I-T in Bengaluru on Friday. —Photo: Twitter

CONGRESS PUMPING CRORES INTO TS: MINISTER

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Congress party of pumping crores of rupees into Telangana to purchase votes in the ensuing Assembly elections.

He shared a news report, informing the people about seizure of around Rs 42 crore from a BJP corporator's residence during Income Tax raids in Karnataka on Friday. Taking to social media platform X, Rama Rao asked people to reject the ‘Scamgress’ in Telangana. He accused the ‘intellectually bankrupt’

Congress of pumping crores of rupees from Karnataka to purchase votes in Telangana which is set to witness Assembly polls on November 30. “Their PCC Cheap was the one who was caught on camera bribing in Vote for Note scam and now since this criminal is now leading the pack of Thugs, this was very much expected. Let's say No to ‘Scamgress’ in TS,” he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Harish Rao said the Congress has planned to pump in close to Rs 1,500

crore to fund its candidates in the elections. He said that a portion of Rs 1,500 crore has already reached Chennai and Hyderabad. He said that Congress leader Ambikapathi, who is also a contractor, had earlier accused the erstwhile BJP government of charging 40 per cent ‘commission’ from contractors when the Congress was in opposition in Karnataka. Now the Congress government is charging “50 per cent”, the Minister charged.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Haley ahead of Biden: Poll

WORLD | PAGE 11

Ind face Pak in Battle Royale

SPORT | PAGE 12



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Shandilya is new Hyd CP

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The State government on Friday issued orders appointing senior IPS officer Sandeep Shandilya as Hyderabad Police Commissioner. Following the transfer of senior officers as ordered by the Election Commission of India, the State government issued orders posting new Commissioners and Superintendents of Police. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Ponnala quits Congress

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In a huge blow to the State Congress, former Minister Ponnala Laxmaiah tendered his resignation to the party on Friday. He is likely to join the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), though nothing has been confirmed yet. (SEE PAGE 2)



Gazans flee after Israel's ultimatum



Palestinians with their belongings crowd a street in Gaza City as they flee from their homes on Friday. — Photo: AFP

JERUSALEM

Palestinians began a mass exodus from northern Gaza on Friday after Israel's military told some 1 million people to evacuate toward the southern part of the besieged territory, an unprecedented order ahead of an expected ground invasion against the ruling Hamas militant group.

The UN warned that so many people fleeing en masse — almost half the Gaza population — would be calamitous, and it urged Israel to reverse the order.

Families in cars, trucks and donkey carts packed with blankets and possessions streamed down a main road out of Gaza City, the biggest city. Israel hammered neighbourhoods in southern Gaza with airstrikes on Friday, and it said ground troops have conducted temporary raids in the territory to battle militants, search for weapons and evidence of the missing

'70 killed in Israeli strikes'

JERUSALEM: Hamas officials say that 70 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israeli airstrikes on convoys fleeing Gaza City. Hamas' media office says the cars were struck in three places as they headed south from Gaza City. It was not immediately clear who the target of the airstrikes was, or whether the militants were among the passengers. AP

hostages. Hamas, which staged a shocking and brutal attack on Israel nearly a week ago, called on people to stay in their homes, saying the order was “psychological warfare” to break their solidarity. (SEE PAGES 2, 11)

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