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**Cash-for-seat row rocks Congress, leaders demand probe** **page 7**

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**Macron holds security meeting** **page 11**



# 'Think twice before voting'

**KCR SAYS VOTING FOR CONG WILL SOUND DEATH KNELL FOR FARMERS**

**EMPHASISES SIGNIFICANCE OF DHARANI PORTAL**

**STRESSES THAT FARMERS' RIGHTS, THEIR LAND SHOULD BE PROTECTED**

STATE BUREAU  
 JANGAON/BHONGIR

Think twice before casting your vote was the refrain from BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao at Jangaon and Bhongir on Monday. Continuing a spirited attack against opposition parties, particularly the Congress, he reminded the people that its threat to scrap the Dharani portal would sound the death knell for farmers' rights over their land.

Chandrashekhar Rao stressed that the rights of farmers and their land should remain protected. The Congress was either making promises without considering the consequences or conspiring to take away farmers' rights over their land and bring back the dark age of the broker system where farmers would be forced to run from pillar to post to protect their own land.

Addressing massive gatherings at the Praja Ashirvada Sabha public meetings at Jangaon and Bhongir, Chandrashekhar Rao said the Congress was trying to mislead people by making false promises regarding financial assistance to tenant farmers on the lines of Rythu Bandhu. He said tenant farming was similar to leasing out a property in any commercial or residential area. "If the tenants keep changing every crop season, it would be a cumbersome task for the State government to identify them and extend financial support.



BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao welcoming Ponnala Lakshmaiah into the party fold in Jangaon on Monday. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

Further, it could lead to legal issues if someone encroaches upon the land and that will prove detrimental to farmers' interest as well as trigger confusion over land rights," he said.

Recalling his own farming background, the Chief Minister emphasised the significance of the Dharani portal, which revolutionised land

registration and made the process simple and secure. "The power to make changes to land records now rests with landowners, ensuring their rights and protecting their interests," he said.

On Telangana's progress since its formation, Chandrashekhar Rao highlighted that when the State was

formed, it faced numerous challenges, including power shortage and frequent outages, water scarcity and economic instability. "With a lot of effort, the BRS government has overcome these problems and made Telangana a role model for others on various fronts," he said, urging the people not to disrupt the State's progress by

voting for other political parties.

Asking why the Congress could not provide 24-hour electricity for farmers under its previous regime, he demanded to know the logic behind its proposal to provide only three-four hours of power supply for agricultural development. Explaining the party's plans to im-

plement life insurance coverage to all white ration card holders, supply LPG cylinders at Rs 400, enhance Aasara pensions up to Rs 6,000 and Rythu Bandhu assistance up to Rs 16,000 per acre per annum in a phased manner, Chandrashekhar Rao said the BRS made promises it was capable of fulfilling. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Ponnala joins BRS

STATE BUREAU  
 Jangaon

Former Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief and ex-Minister Ponnala Lakshmaiah formally joined the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) at a massive public meeting held as part of the election campaign here on Monday.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao welcomed him into the party fold with a pink scarf.

Addressing the meeting, Lakshmaiah urged the people to rally behind Chandrashekhar Rao and support his bid for a third term as Chief Minister. "It is a historic necessity to see K Chandrashekhar Rao serve as Chief Minister for the third time," he said.

The former Congress leader did not mince words when slamming the Congress' approach to issues concerning Backward Classes (BC). In contrast, he lauded the Chief Minister for his early initiation of the Samagra Kutumba Survey, which included a comprehensive household survey and caste census. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Rahul hits out at Modi

NATION | PAGE 09

## Nawaz to unveil recovery plan

WORLD | PAGE 11



## Australia keep alive title hopes

SPORT | PAGE 12



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## Rs 94 cr cash, jewellery seized in I-T raids

NEW DELHI

The Income Tax (I-T) department has seized Rs 94 crore in cash as well as gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 8 crore and 30 luxury watches following raids on government contractors and real estate developers in Karnataka and some other States, the CBDT said on Monday.

The searches were launched on October 12 and 55 premises were covered by the department in Bengaluru and some cities in neighbouring Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as well as in Delhi.

### Sleuths crack down on government contractors, real estate developers across Karnataka, Telangana, AP

"The search has resulted in the seizure of unaccounted cash of approximately Rs 94 crore and gold and diamond jewellery of over Rs 8 crore, aggregating to more than Rs 102 crore," the Central Board of Direct Taxes said. "Further, a cache of about 30 luxury wristwatches of foreign

make were unearthed from the premises of a private salaried employee, not engaged in the business of wristwatches," the CBDT said without identifying the accused entities.

Meanwhile, a war of words on the matter has broken out between Karnataka's ruling Congress and the opposition BJP following the recovery of the "unaccounted" cash.

BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said the money was linked to the Congress. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has denied the allegation as baseless. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Netanyahu warns Iran, Hezbollah

RAFAH

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday warned Iran and Hezbollah not to "test us" in the north.

Netanyahu gave a speech in the Israeli Knesset on Monday in which he said the world needed to unite to defeat Hamas. He said, "This war is also your war," and he compared Hamas to the Nazis.

The Israeli Prime Minister's office also denied reports that it has agreed to halt fire in southern Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to enter through the Rafah border crossing. AGENCIES (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 11)

## From riots to business hub, Old City turns over a new leaf



The past decade saw a sea of change in markets, education, real estate and entertainment, among other segments, in Old City. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

ASIF YAR KHAN  
 Hyderabad

With peace prevailing and communal riots becoming a thing of the past, 'Purana Shehar' is now catching the attention of businesses keen on exploring commercial interests in the area.

The past decade saw a sea of change in markets, education, real estate and entertainment, among other segments. The last time Old City witnessed a major communal disturbance and curfew was in 2010, while in 2012 and 2014 there were communal

skirmishes but restricted to small areas. The peaceful atmosphere helped the mushrooming of supermarkets and convenience stores in Old City. Although the trend picked up late in 2018, it gained momentum with at least three big supermarkets coming at Alijeh Kotla, Engine Bowli and Chandrayangutta, while a few more are in the pipeline.

Several educational institutions, including the Narayana Group of Institutions and MS Group of Institutions, which once stayed away from Old City have now set up their branches here. (SEE PAGE 2)

**fashion yatra**  
 by *Magnum Starf*

**FESTIVE EDIT**

**October 17th**  
 Tuesday,  
 11am to 8pm  
**Taj Krishna, Hyd**