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Ex-Minister Nagam quits Congress, joins ruling BRS



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Israel unleashes fierce attacks on Gaza
 Hits region's largest hospital; jets strike 450 Hamas targets in last 24 hours



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Friends star Matthew Perry found dead in LA

'Cong made Telangana suffer'

“Contrary to the Congress claim of delivering the State, the truth was that it was forced to announce the formation of Telangana State due to the united fight put up by the people of Telangana led by me

“Telangana continues to suffer the consequences of the past injustices done by the Congress regime even today. Unless the voters act wisely and choose the government which works for them, the dark ages of the past will return to Telangana

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STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Sunday trained his guns one by one on Congress leaders in Telangana for neglecting the needs of the region, which resulted in water diversion to other regions in the undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Criticising the Congress for focusing on votes rather than genuinely working for the welfare of the people, he said the Congress had made the Telangana region suffer when it was in power, with the State still reeling under the aftermath.

Addressing Praja Ashirvada Sabha public meetings at Kodad, Thungathurthy and Alair as part of his Assembly election campaign, the Chief Minister also pointed out that contrary to the Congress claim of delivering the State, the truth was that the Congress was forced to announce the formation of Telangana State due to the united fight put up by the people of Telangana led by him. Telangana continues to suffer the consequences of the past injustices done by the Congress regime even today. Unless the voters act wisely and choose the government which works for them, the dark ages of the past would return to Telangana, he said.

Ridiculing TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy's remarks that



A section of the crowd at the BRS Praja Ashirvada Sabha at Thungathurthy on Sunday. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at the venue.

three hours of power would be sufficient for the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister also slammed former TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy for accusing him of wasting power on the sector. “Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar came to Tandur and shamelessly declared that the Congress government in Karnataka was supplying five hours of power. Isn't it stupidity to make such an announcement in a State where 24-hour power

supply is already in place?” he asked.

Chandrashekhara Rao also targeted Congress Legislature Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka for stating that no area in Kodad received Kaleshwaram project water, whereas the fact was that several areas of Kodad, including the Mote area, were getting Kaleshwaram water for the last three-and-a-half years. He appealed to farmers to decide whether they wanted their agricultural lands to reap two crops

per year or become barren. The Chief Minister urged voters to carefully consider their choices in the upcoming elections, emphasising the need to select candidates and parties that would work for the State's betterment. He asked them not to rely solely on the words of others, but to think independently and make informed decisions. “While the BRS is working with dedication for the well-being of the people, opposition parties like the Congress are busy with their self-

serving motives,” he said. At Kodad, Chandrashekhara Rao vowed to supply water from the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme to the Udayasamudram project via the Musi River, to end the irrigation water woes of farmers of erstwhile Nalgonda district permanently.

(SEE PAGES 2, 5)

2 dead, 51 injured in blasts at Kerala prayer meet

'Member' of Jehovah's Witnesses surrenders

KOCHI

Two women died and 51 persons were injured, some seriously, in multiple blasts at a Christian religious gathering in a convention centre near this port city on Sunday morning, sending shockwaves across Kerala.

The blasts took place at an international convention centre in Kalamassery where hundreds of followers of the minority Christian group Jehovah's Witnesses had assembled on the concluding day of a three-day-long prayer meeting. A few hours after the incident, a man claiming to be a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, surrendered before police in Thrissur district of the State, saying that he carried out the multiple blasts. Po-



Kerala Ministers K Rajan, VN Vasavan interact with an injured woman at a hospital in Ernakulam on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

lice has registered an FIR against unknown persons under Sections 302 and 307 of the IPC as well as provisions of the Explosives Act and the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Later in the day,

Health Minister Veena George said of the 51 injured, 30 were admitted in various hospitals and of them 18 were in ICUs. Of the 18, six — including a 12-year-old child — were in critical condition. (REPORTS PAGE 7)

Eight killed as two trains collide in AP

VISAKHAPATNAM/NEW DELHI

At least eight persons died and around 20 were injured after two trains collided in Vizianagaram district on the Howrah-Chennai line on Sunday evening, a police official said.

A senior official of the East Coast Railway said the Palasa Passenger hit the Rayagada Passenger from behind at Kankatapalli, which caused three coaches to derail. East Coast Railway CPRO said that the ac-

cident took place between Alamanda and Kankatapalli in Vizianagaram-Kotavalasa Railway Section of Waltair Division of East Coast Railway Zone at about 1900hrs.

The officials said that train number 08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger train and 08504 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger Special were involved in the accident and said that the Rayagada passenger had overshot the signal. PTI

TDP not to contest Telangana polls

STATE BUREAU
 VISAKHAPATNAM

The Telugu Desam Party will not contest the upcoming Telangana Assembly elections. TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu has taken a decision to this effect and is said to have conveyed this to the party's Telangana State chief Kasani Gnaneswar when the latter met him at the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison on Saturday.

TS hiring spree realises govt job dreams

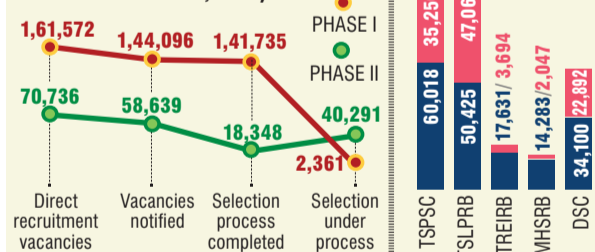
STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Job seekers never had it so good in Telangana. Helping several thousands of youngsters fulfil their dream of a government job, the State government has ensured jobs for a staggering 1.6 lakh aspirants till October 16 this year, after notifying 2,02,735 vacancies in two phases from June 2, 2014.

It did not stop with just notifying vacancies. Recruitment too began soon enough, with multiple recruitment agencies involved and the entire process still

ON THE JOB

(POSTS FILLED FROM JUNE 2, 2014 TO OCTOBER 16, 2023)



continuing. According to official statistics, from the day of the formation of Telangana, the State permitted

2,32,308 direct recruitment vacancies till October 16 with 1,61,572 posts in the first phase and 70,736 in the sec-

ond phase. The selection process has been completed for 1,60,083, while selection was under process for 42,652 vacancies.

After the TSPSC, through which recruitment was permitted to 60,918 vacancies and through which selection to 35,250 vacancies were completed, it was the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board that was permitted the highest number of vacancies and the single agency after TSPSC that completed the highest number of selections at 47,068 against permitted vacancies of 50,425. (SEE PAGE 2)

Onions turn dearer, sell for Rs 80/kg

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The rising prices of onions are bringing tears to the eyes of the common man, with the staple vegetable now costing around Rs 80 a kg. The price, which shot up by twofold in just a couple of weeks, has not only impacted households, but hoteliers, caterers, and even street food vendors were pushed into a tight spot.

The usual sight of onion heaps in vegetable markets of the city also seems to have dwindled over the last few days, attributed to a lack of supply due to unstable weather conditions. Sold anywhere between Rs 25



to Rs 30 per kg just a couple of weeks ago, onion prices have experienced a significant hike, although the quality across markets mostly remained subpar. “Yesterday, the price was Rs 69 per kg, this morning, we changed it to Rs 79. In the last few days, we have observed a spike in the prices,” says a sales associate at a leading supermarket in Banjara Hills. (SEE PAGE 2)

Karnataka ryots exposed Congress govt, KTR tells DKS

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Stating that Telangana people were very much aware of the hardships being faced by Karnataka people, especially the farming community, Industries Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao said a vote for the Congress would spell doom for Telangana.

Responding to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's offer to visit Karnataka and check about the implementation of welfare programmes, the BRS working president said there was no necessity for that as farmers from the neighbouring State were already visiting Telangana in batches and cautioned the farming community here about the Congress government's failure in extending sufficient power supply.



Slamming the Congress, he sought to know the credibility of the leaders to seek votes in Telangana, while

people in Karnataka were facing several hardships due to lack of power and water. “Telangana is providing 24-hour free power supply to farmers and it is deplorable that Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar admitted that five hours of power is being supplied to farmers in Karnataka,” Rama Rao posted on X.

The instances of farmers taking crocodiles and attempting suicide at electricity substation offices reflected the Congress government's inability in Karnataka, he said. Referring to the failure of the Congress government in implementing the 'Five Guarantees' promised to Karnataka people, the BRS working president said Gruha Jyothi and Anna Bhagya schemes did not take off. (SEE PAGE 2)

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 114
Retail live	Rs. 136
With skin	Rs. 197
Skinless	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 67

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