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Dalit lives matter Mr Modi: KCR

KCR SAYS BJP & CONGRESS TREATING THEM AS MERE VOTE BANK

SAYS HE DESIGNED DALIT BANDHU AFTER SEEING PLIGHT OF DALITS

CRITICISES BJP FOR 'MAD OBSESSION' WITH PRIVATISATION OF PSUs

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Holding Prime Minister Narendra Modi responsible for the continuing atrocities against Dalits in North India, particularly in the BJP-ruled States, BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said the BJP and Congress were treating Dalits as mere vote banks and did not take any concrete measures to empower them.

Speaking at the Praja Ashirvada Sabha election rallies at Sathupally and Yellandu on Wednesday, Chandrashekhar Rao said he designed the Dalit Bandhu scheme for Telangana after seeing the plight of Dalits across the country, especially the attacks on them in North Indian States. Since India attained Independence, successive governments have not taken any measures to uplift the Dalit community.

"In North India, there are attacks on Dalits every day. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and even the Prime Minister's home State of Gujarat, attacks are going on against Dalits. Women are being raped. What is this plight? Are we a democratic country? Why this anarchy?" he asked. The BRS chief recalled that he had initiated



BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao at the Praja Ashirvada Sabha rally in Yellandu on Wednesday.

the Dalit Chaitanya Jyoti programme during his tenure as Siddipet MLA for the empowerment of Dalits. The scheme was scaled up to initiate Dalit Bandhu to suit the contemporary needs of beneficiaries across the State.

Under the scheme, the State government provides Rs 10 lakh as financial assistance to each Dalit family, enabling

them to lead a dignified life. He also pointed out that the scheme was being implemented despite not being a promise in the BRS election manifesto.

Hitting out at Modi and the BJP government at the Centre, the Chief Minister also criticised them for their 'mad obsession' with the privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other government entities. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

TS braces for warm, dry Nov

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UK meet on AI risks begins

WORLD | PAGE 09



India to take on Sri Lanka today

SPORT | PAGE 10



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm | Rs. 104 |
| Retail live..... | Rs. 126 |
| With skin..... | Rs. 183 |
| Skinless..... | Rs. 208 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 68 |

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Indian student stabbed in US gym, critical

WASHINGTON/HYDERABAD

A 24-year-old Indian student was stabbed by a man at a public gym in Valparaiso city in the US State of Indiana and is said to be in critical condition, according to a media report.

P Varun Raj, a Computer Science student, was stabbed with a knife into the temple by assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on Sunday morning for reasons the authorities are investigating, *NWI Times* reported.

The attacker was arrested and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder. "Varun was taken to a Fort Wayne hospital and was reportedly given a zero to five per cent chance of survival. His condition is said to be serious," the report said.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Rahul goofs up again, speech replete with blunders

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has once again proved that he hadn't done much homework before coming to Telangana, with his speeches in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district on Wednesday being replete with factual errors and allegations without any basis.

Gandhi, who claimed on Tuesday that he was coming to Telangana as a "brother and son", alleged that the ruling BRS, like the BJP, was against a Backward Class census and against giving power to the OBC. However, what the 'brother and son' forgot was that Telangana was among the first five States in the country to pass a resolution in the State, that too more than two years ago, demanding a BC Census. The 'brother

Forgets that TS among first five States to pass resolution over two years ago demanding BC Census

and son' also did not know that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has for long been demanding that the Centre set up an OBC Welfare Ministry.

In fact, Chandrashekhar Rao, while serving as a Union Minister, had submitted a representation to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on December 17, 2004. The UPA government, however, did not consider his demand.

After Telangana's formation, Chandrashekhar Rao set up an exclusive BC Commission for the welfare of

BCs in the State. The Commission has also made several appeals to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take up a BC census. The Chief Minister, recently, wrote to the Prime Minister demanding a 33 per cent reservation for OBCs, apart from launching multiple schemes such as BC Bandhu.

Another folly in Gandhi's poorly crafted speech was the allegation that the Chief Minister and his family were holding key portfolios, which he claimed included the Excise Ministry that generates revenue for the State government. The fact is that the Excise Ministry in Telangana is held by V Srinivas Goud.

However, the Congress MP kept repeating these false charges at the Kalwakurthy public meeting and again at a roadshow in Jachcherala.

'TS self-respect vs Delhi hegemony'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

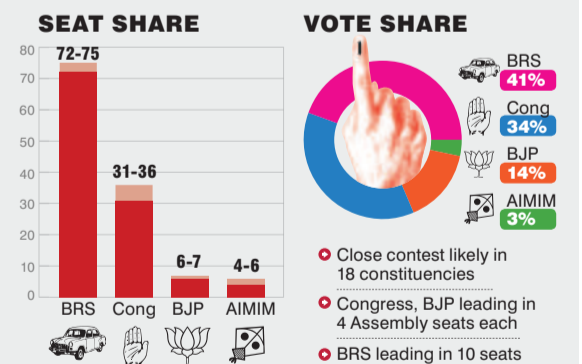
The high and mighty, who have started descending in hordes from Delhi and elsewhere in India to take on BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, must bear in mind that he might look frail, but had emerged stronger winning many a mighty battle and the forthcoming elections would be one more addition to his string of victories, BRS working president and Minister KT Rama Rao said on Wednesday.

Rama Rao also said the turnout at the massive rally to be organised at Kamareddy on November 9, the day the Chief Minister will file his nomination, should be a message for the opponents. The message must be loud and clear, he said. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Janta ka mood with BRS, reveals survey

No match to KCR

SURVEY BY JANTA KA MOOD POLITICAL RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY FINDS THAT NONE CAN MATCH K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO'S POPULARITY, WHO IS THE MOST PREFERRED CM AMONG LEADERS IN TS. HERE ARE THE ASSEMBLY POLL PROJECTIONS



STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

One more survey, this time by the reputed Janta Ka Mood Political Research and Consultancy, has found that the election mood in Telangana is still firmly with the BRS.

According to the survey report, released in New Delhi on Wednesday, the BRS would lead with a 41 per cent vote share, followed by the Congress with 34 per cent. The BJP stood third with 14 per cent and the AIMIM with three per cent.

As for the seat share, the survey has found that the BRS would win 72-75 seats, while the Congress would manage 31-36 seats. The AIMIM would win six-seven, while the BJP would end up fourth with four-six seats. The report, which pointed out that though the

Congress fared closer to the BRS in terms of vote share, it was still far behind the BRS in terms of seats.

There were also about 18 Assembly seats where there could be very close contests between the BRS, BJP and the Congress. The Congress and the BJP were leading in four Assembly seats each, while the BRS was leading in 10 Assembly seats in the 18 constituencies that could see close fights.

The report says one of the reasons why the Congress re-emerged was the victory in Karnataka. However, despite its guarantees sounding good, the report said the Congress was unable to implement such policies or guarantees in Karnataka. The stark difference between poll promises and implementation in Karnataka has made the voters doubt the ability of the Congress. (SEE PAGE 2)

5 months in power, K'taka Cong sees bitter factionism

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Just over five months into power, severe factionism is threatening to destabilise the Congress government in Karnataka, with factions of Chief Minister K Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar slugging it out against each other over a Cabinet reshuffle and appointments to different board and corporation posts.

Though the rift was simmering over the days, things boiled over on Wednesday with the situa-

tion turning so grave that the Congress high command had to intervene and despatch AICC general secretary KC Venugopal to try to rein in the warring factions.

The trouble is said to have escalated when Mandya MLA Ravikumar Gowda claimed that Shivakumar would become the Chief Minister after two-and-a-half years. This was opposed by the Siddaramaiah faction, who declared that he would complete the full term as Chief Minister.

Those who were on the fence between the factions

said it was for the high command to decide. The battle has much more to it than the mere handing over of the Chief Minister's seat. There are caste equations in play, with BC leaders up against Vokkaliga leaders led by Shivakumar.

While, a few section of leaders accused Siddaramaiah of neglecting the Lingayat community, others accused him of being biased towards the BC community.

Throwing weight behind the Chief Minister were Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Social

Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa and Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna. Things turned uglier when Jarkiholi engaged in a fight with Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar for dominance in the Belgavi unit's affairs. Hebbalkar is a close associate of Shivakumar.

A couple of weeks ago, Jarkiholi had planned to take a team of 20 MLAs to Mysuru to celebrate Dasara. The plan did not materialise after the party high command intervened from Delhi.

However, Shivakumar participated in the Dasara

festivities albeit without being received by Jarkiholi and his camp.

To bring things under control, senior Minister G Parameshwara, who also reportedly has an eye on the Chief Minister's seat, invited leaders from both factions for dinner at his residence. But despite the sumptuous dinner, the war continued.

With the discord escalating, Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala on Wednesday warned of action against those violating party discipline. (SEE PAGE 2)

Shinde promises Maratha quota

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday said the all-party meeting held earlier in the day decided that reservation should be given to the Maratha community without tampering with the existing quotas of other communities in the State.

Shinde also appealed to activist Manoj Jarange, who has been on a hunger strike for the Maratha reservation since October 25, to call off his fast. PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)