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## 'Congress enemy of State'

**“ I am contesting from Kamareddy to develop the backward areas of erstwhile Nizamabad. I will develop Kamareddy and Yellareddy as twin constituencies apart from supplying irrigation water to each acre in these segments**

**“ A coalition government will be formed at the Centre after 2024. Regional parties will play a vital role at the Centre. Telangana must prove its might**

**“ BRS government will promote the development of IT clusters for young men and women, including those from minority communities**

**“ Telangana will remain secular till KCR is alive. Voters should consider what the BJP and Congress have done for them before voting on November 30**

— K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Chief Minister & BRS president

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

Calling the Congress a permanent enemy of Telangana, BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Wednesday cautioned people against falling prey to false promises from Congress leaders and reminded them how it had destroyed Telangana by merging it with Andhra and later, discriminated against it in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, all the while exploiting its resources.

“If the Congress comes to power, its leaders themselves are pledging to scrap Dharani and throw it into Bay of Bengal. Farmers, who have become millionaires under the BRS rule, will be thrown into the Arabian Sea with the Congress making their lives miserable again,” he said, addressing massive gatherings at Bodhan, Nizamabad (Urban) and Yellareddy on Wednesday.

Chandrashekhara Rao reminded the people that Telangana was a prosperous State during the Nizam era and the Kakatiya rule, when numerous water bodies were developed across the State. The erstwhile Hyder-



BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at a well-attended public meeting in Yellareddy on Wednesday.



abad State, after being annexed into India, had prospered on multiple fronts. But the Congress merged Hyderabad State with Andhra against the wishes of the people of Telangana, raising the curtains for 58 years of

discrimination and injustice towards the region.

“Over 400 people were killed during the 1969 movement by the Congress regime, which was also responsible for the demise of scores of youth who sacri-

ficed their lives in the final phase of the movement. The Congress is solely responsible for all the woes of Telangana,” he said, adding how the Congress had betrayed the people of Telangana for nearly 15 years after promis-

ing to create the new State. Comparing the 10 years of BRS rule with the 50 years of Congress, Chandrashekhara Rao credited the BRS for rejuvenating projects such as Nizam Sagar, enhancing agricultural prospects and

water availability in the region. Congress candidate P Sudharshan Reddy from Bodhan, who served as an Irrigation Minister in the Congress regime, did not get a single paise for the development of Nizamabad, Bodhan

or Banswada. “The Nizam Sagar project was constructed by the Nizams long ago where thousands of acres were irrigated in Banswada, Bodhan and the entire Nizamabad district,” he said. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

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Prannoy lone Indian survivor

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ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 20

Shilpa thanks SRK

Actor completes 30 years in film industry



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 92
Retail live	Rs. 114
With skin	Rs. 165
Skinless	Rs. 188
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 68

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## Dalit Bandhu improved standard of living: Report

**CESS survey says scheme has reduced job insecurity, provided additional employment**

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The Dalit Bandhu scheme — the social investment project meant to empower the Dalit community in Telangana — had a promising start in the Huzurabad constituency, which has witnessed a considerable increase in the standard of living of the beneficiaries, according to an assessment and evaluation of the scheme conducted by the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS).

The report has been submitted to the Karimnagar District Collector. The CESS was entrusted with the task of assessing the scheme, a flagship programme of the State government introduced in August 2021. According to the study report, Dalit Bandhu has reduced the employment insecurity of households and provided additional employment opportunity as well as increased the number of working days for workers. Analysis of changes in household conditions showed that there was an improvement among Dalit entrepreneurial households and that their living standards had improved after they got Dalit Bandhu benefits compared to the situation before.

On average, the annual income of farm households has increased from Rs 1,74,464.8 to Rs 2,68,580.9. This implies that the annual income of farm households has increased by about 50 per cent within one to two years. The income diversification induced by Dalit

### Scheme's impact in Huzurabad

- 16,149: Enterprises supported with Dalit Bandhu Scheme investment grant
- 14,879: Individual units
- 1,270: Group units
- 807: Surveyed sample enterprise units
- Rs 1,802.5 cr: Released to bank accounts of prospective Dalit entrepreneurs
- Rs 693.23 cr: Annual sales turnover of scheme-supported enterprise units
- Rs 230.60 cr: Annual entrepreneurial income of Dalit entrepreneurs supported by scheme
- Rs 66.6 cr: Estimated annual wages paid for all hired labour engaged
- Rs 1,425.8 cr worth Dalit Bandhu schemes grounded
- 44% households report over 50% increase in income
- Rs 2,56,338: Average annual income after receiving scheme benefits
- Rs 1,74,464.8 to Rs 2,68,580.9: Increase in household annual income of farm households
- Rs 1,27,619.3 to Rs 1,90,794.6: Average hike in income of agricultural labourer household
- 94%: Percentage of households receiving Dalit Bandhu not facing difficulty in meeting expenses on basic needs

**76%** of households feel that children's educational aspirations will be fulfilled due to Dalit Bandhu income

**Rs 17,000 cr** Budget allocation for Dalit Bandhu in 2023-24

Beneficiaries say respect, trust, support, equal treatment, interaction, invitation by others, friends from other communities, participation in other communities' functions and festivals increased than before

Average monthly food expenditure, clothing and footwear expenditure for Dalit Bandhu-supported employers increased by 16.8% and 21.7%, respectively

Bandhu has resulted in a sudden hike in their income. Around 21 per cent of farm households have witnessed a doubling of their annual income during the period.

Likewise, agricultural labourers' households have also witnessed a 50 per cent hike in their income on average, from Rs 1,27,619.3 to Rs 1,90,794.6 during the same period. About 19 per cent of these households witnessed a doubling of their annual income. Even the percentage of households not facing difficulty in meeting expenses on basic needs has drastically increased from about 71 per cent to 94 per cent.

The report further stated that though on average a lower percentage of Dalit

Bandhu households are indebted, the level of debt is high and repayment is also high. This shows a higher financial appetite and capacity to absorb indicating a higher economic value added through their businesses.

One of the key findings was that about one-fourth of the total households reported that their previously unemployed member got employment because of Dalit Bandhu. A total of 226 previously unemployed or homemakers started working in scheme enterprises. About half of the households have reported the number of working days has increased due to the scheme for their household members. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 38 killed as bus falls into gorge in J&K

DODA

At least 38 people were killed and 20 injured when a bus carrying passengers skidded off the road and rolled down into a 300-ft gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, officials said.

The bus bearing registration number JK02CN-6555 was reportedly carrying 58 passengers, they said, adding that it skidded off the road near Trungal-Assar on the Batote-Kishtwar National Highway and fell 300 feet downhill.

A rescue operation has been launched and some bodies have been retrieved, the officials said. The death toll is likely to go up. According to a police spokesperson, the accident occurred at around 11.50 am at Trungal-Assar and the bus was on its way from Kishtwar to Jammu.

20 others injured as bus skids off road and rolls down into 300-ft gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district

In a statement, Public Relations Officer (Defence) Lieutenant Colonel Suneel Bartwal said 38 people were killed in the incident, with 32 passengers declared dead initially, and 20 sustained injuries.

“In a commendable display of promptness and coordination, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the civil administration, conducted a swift rescue operation in response to a grievous accident on NH-244 at Assar, near Wani Mod, approximately 4 km from COB ASSAR towards Batote,” he said. PTI

## Run machine



TAKE A BOW: Virat Kohli celebrates his century during the semi-final match against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium. — Photo: ANI (REPORTS PAGE 18)

## TS all set to establish more medical colleges

M SAI GOPAL  
 HYDERABAD

Paving the way for more medical colleges in Telangana and other States, the National Medical Commission (NMC) on Wednesday deferred the decision to implement the allocation of only 100 MBBS seats for a population of 10 lakh, till 2025-26.

This implies that the stage is set for Telangana to have eight more medical colleges — in Jogulamba Gadwal, Narayanpet, Mulugu, Warangal, Medak, Yadadri Bhongir, Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajigiri — in the com-

### Year-wise govt medical colleges

- 2014 (EXISTING MEDICAL COLLEGES):** OSMANIA & GANDHI IN HYDERABAD, KAKATIYA MEDICAL COLLEGE IN WARANGAL, RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (RIMS), ADILABAD AND GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE IN NIZAMABAD (5)
- 2016-17: Mahabubnagar, Siddipet (2)
  - 2018-19: Nalgonda, Suryapet (2)
  - 2022-23: Mancherla, Ramagundam, Jagtial, Wanaparthy, Nagarkurnool, Mahabubabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Sangareddy (8)
  - 2023-24: Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Khammam, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Asifabad, Nirmal, Sircilla, Vikarabad, Jangaon (9)
  - 2024-25: Jogulamba Gadwal, Narayanpet, Mulugu, Warangal, Medak, Yadadri Bhongir, Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajigiri (8)

ing academic year, i.e. 2024-25. The NMC said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) had urged the regulatory body to re-ex-

amine the provisions of the ratio of 100 MBBS seats for 10 lakh population in States. “A decision has been taken by the Undergraduate Medical Edu-

cation Board, National Medical Commission that the ‘OBJECTIVE’ clause under Chapter-1 of ‘Guidelines for Under Graduate Courses and Assessment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses & Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023’ shall be implemented from academic year 2025-26.” Recently, NMC decided to implement the new Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023, which made it mandatory for all States to follow the ratio of 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population. (SEE PAGE 2)