

**STATE**

**'Cong failed to fulfil 6 guarantees in Karnataka' page 4**



**NATION**

**ED attaches Rs 752-crore assets of National Herald page 8**

**WORLD**

**Thailand approves Bill to give equal rights to same-sex couples page 9**

## 'Attacks on Dalits a stain on nation'

**KCR blames Congress for backwardness of SCs and STs**



Huge crowd at BRS Praja Ashirvada Sabha meeting addressed by party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in Dornakal.

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday said the Congress was solely responsible for the backwardness of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, having ruled the country for over five decades. Even today, attacks on the Dalits were being reported in north Indian States, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State of Gujarat, since political parties were still treating them as mere vote banks. "The Dalits were made to live on the village outskirts. No effort was made to help them till the BRS government launched Dalit Bandhu in Telangana for their socio-

economic empowerment. Notwithstanding the achievements of the country, the backwardness of Dalits and atrocities against them will remain a stain on this nation, unless there is action for their uplift," he said. Addressing Praja Ashirvada Sabha meetings at Madhira, Wyr, Dornakal and Suryapet on Tuesday, Chandrashekar Rao said the Dalit Bandhu scheme launched by the BRS government would serve as a testimony for the entire country to display Dalit empowerment. He said the scheme could not be implemented to benefit all eligible Dalit families at one go due to financial constraints. "It is an ongoing process and will be implemented in a phased

manner during the third term of the BRS," he said, also promising to implement the scheme on saturation mode in Madhira constituency if voted to power. Pointing out that the BRS government took multiple measures for the uplift of Dalits, ranging from reservations to SCs in licenses to operate liquor shops, fertilizer shops and medical shops, apart from government contracts among others, he said this was to ensure that the Dalits venture into new areas where they had no presence and to empower themselves. The BRS government never discriminated against constituencies represented by opposition leaders. Citing Madhira as an example, he said the Dalit

Bandhu scheme was being implemented in the constituency on saturation mode in Chintakani mandal on a pilot basis. "Every inch of Telangana is mine. As a person who strived hard for a separate State, I want to see all the parts of Telangana developed," he added. He pointed out that the BRS also took measures for the empowerment of tribals, including the distribution of podu land pattas and the extension of Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima schemes on par with farmers in plain areas. He said the BRS government also upgraded tribal hamlets and constituted over 3,500 tribal GPs fulfilling the decades of their aspirations to enable them to rule their areas.

## Nirmala links release of funds to fixing meters

**Says there is no exemption for Telangana**

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday made it clear that the Centre was not allowing any enhanced borrowings by Telangana under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) norms as those were linked to the power sector reforms. Telangana had refused to implement these power reforms arguing that they would impose financial burden on the farming community. This is exactly what Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been saying all along while highlighting what he termed as the Centre's discrimination towards the State. Even during his recent public meetings, the Chief Minister has repeatedly been pointing out that the State was being deprived of Rs 25,000 crore at the rate of Rs 5,000 crore a year since it did not accept the Centre's insistence that the State should implement a series of reforms in the power sector, including installation of meters to agriculture pump

**"YOU HAVE NOT FIXED METERS AND YOU WANT EXTRA BORROWING. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? YOU FULFIL THE CONDITIONS, WE WILL INCREASE THE BORROWING. HOW CAN WE GIVE AN EXEMPTION TO TELANGANA? IT IS NOT POSSIBLE"**

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Union Finance Minister

**"THINGS ARE IMPROVING IN TELANGANA DUE TO OUR INITIATIVES. HENCE, I REJECTED THE PROPOSAL. BUT THE PRIME MINISTER CUT RS 25,000 CRORE I.E. 0.5 PER CENT OF OUR BORROWINGS OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS"**

— K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO, Telangana Chief Minister

sets in the State. The meters would mean a huge financial burden on farmers, the CM had pointed out. Sitharaman, talking to the media here on Tuesday, said the Centre was not allowing additional/enhanced borrowing to Telangana as it had refused to implement the power reforms. Other States had fixed the meters and the Centre had given them permission for additional borrowing. "You have not fixed meters and you

want extra borrowing. How is it possible? You fulfill the conditions, we will increase the borrowing. How can we give an exemption to Telangana? It is not possible," she said. Sitharaman's statement has contradicted the assertion of Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy RK Singh, who recently said he never made any statement on making fixing of meters to agriculture pump sets compulsory. (SEE PAGE 4)

**Anti-ship missile tested**

NATION | PAGE 07

**N Korea to launch spy satellite**

WORLD | PAGE 09



**Prannoy off to flying start**

SPORT | PAGE 10



## Cam captures visuals of trapped men

UTTARKASHI/NEW DELHI

As the first visuals of the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel emerged on Tuesday, officials said the focus of the multiple-agency rescue mission remains on digging horizontally through the debris of the collapsed stretch. However, rescue workers continued to prepare for other options — including drilling from above the tunnel to reach the workers trapped inside for nine days. Horizontal drilling through the debris was put on hold last Friday after the heavy-duty auger machine encountered a hard boulder, making the rescue agency consider other ap-



Visuals of workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakashi district, released by rescuers on Tuesday.

proaches as well. But on Tuesday, remarks by National Disaster Management Authority member Lt General (retd) Syed Ata

Hasnain, Road Transport and Highways secretary Anurag Jain and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made

it clear that resuming this paused operation was the main priority. At the disaster site in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, a video clip captured by an endoscopic camera sent in through a new six-inch wide pipeline brought hope to relatives who are camping there for days. The pipeline was pushed late Monday through 53 metres of debris — the collapsed stretch of the under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route. In the video released by the rescue agencies, the workers wearing yellow and white helmets are seen receiving food items sent to them through the pipeline and talking to each other. (PTI)

## KTR launches job stats portal

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Assuring that a job calendar would be released soon after the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government retains power this December, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday launched telanganajobstats.in website, which provides all details on job recruitments in the last 9.5 years in the State. The website is for the convenience of youngsters to learn about the recruitments taken up in the State, besides countering the opposition parties' false propaganda. "In the last 9.5 years, Telangana government identified 2,32,308 direct recruitment job vacancies and has filled 1,60,083 jobs, which is the highest for any State in India," Rama Rao said in a statement. The website has comprehensive details related to direct recruitments completed in Telangana, vacancies notified so far, besides details of completion of recruitments exercise and the ones under process. It also provides de-

The website is for the convenience of youngsters to learn about recruitments taken up in State

tails, including recruiting agency-wise details, department-wise details, and government jobs filled between 2004 and 2023. While, 10,116 vacancies were filled between 2004 and 2014, a staggering 1,60,083 were filled during 2014 and 2023. The website was released a day after the BRS working president interacted with job aspirants on Monday. Though the BRS government already filled many jobs and issued notifications for many more, the youth were getting apprehensive due to the opposition parties' false propaganda, they had told the BRS working president. He promised youngsters that a job calendar would be released after the BRS government came to power in December. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Tesla may set up unit in India

NEW DELHI

India is all set to finalise a deal with Tesla Inc., the American automaker, which would permit the automaker to import its electric vehicles to the country from next year. According to media reports, Tesla plans to establish a manufacturing plant within a span of two years. An official announcement is expected to be made at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January, the reports further said citing sources. The States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu are being considered for the venture, which would see an initial investment of \$2 billion. It may be recalled that in June, Tesla CEO Elon Musk said that the firm intends to make a "significant investment" in India and he plans to visit in 2024. Last week, union Minister Piyush Goyal visited the Tesla factory in Fremont, where the elected representative was scheduled to meet Elon Musk. However, the meeting couldn't happen due to Musk's health but the billionaire promised to meet the Minister soon. AGENCIES

## Will the BJP gain traction in Telangana?

Though BJP's star campaigners — Modi, Shah, Nadda, Yogi, union Ministers and other Chief Ministers — are descending on Telangana to bolster the party's chances in the Assembly elections, there remains the proverbial slip between the cup and the lip. Apparently, the saffron party is aiming to gain power and is, otherwise, ready to settle for the number 2 position. But it seems poised to remain "the third player." It hopes to be a "king-maker" if the two

main contenders fall short of numbers. That option is also foreclosed since the BRS or Congress will not do "business" with the saffron party even if either of them needs support to cross the halfway mark. Then, why is it that the BJP is resorting to all tricks and staging a high-voltage campaign by spending fortunes on the Assembly polls in Telangana? The reason is obvious. Firstly, the Modi-Shah duo seek to checkmate the regional parties that question the BJP and Congress hegemony and dominate the political scene in

NEWS ANALYSIS SYED AMIN JAFRI

**THE PARTY IS AIMING TO GAIN POWER AND IS, OTHERWISE, READY TO SETTLE FOR THE NUMBER 2 POSITION. BUT IT SEEMS POISED TO REMAIN "THE THIRD PLAYER"**

their States. Secondly, Telangana is one of the six States where the BJP is yet to wrest power or make its mark. Its mission remains unfinished in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, despite repeated attempts in successive elections since 2014. BJP's USP of enjoying power at the Centre is invoked to grab the reins in the States under the concept of "Double-Engine" governments. But, somehow, the BJP could not emerge as an alternative to BRS despite its modest successes in Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Telangana since

2014. BJP won Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency and 5 Assembly seats in the State in the simultaneous elections in 2014. It could secure only one Assembly seat in 2018 though its tally dramatically rose to 4 in the Lok Sabha polls in 2019. This time, the saffron party is contesting 113 Assembly seats and allotted 8 seats to its ally, Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party. In 2018, the BJP contested 117 seats and its candidates forfeited their security deposit in 104 constituencies. The party secured 6.96 per cent of the popular votes. How-

ever, in Lok Sabha elections, the party's vote share jumped to 19.65 per cent. BJP has a long history of contesting elections in Telangana since the first general elections. From 1951 to 1971-72, the party fielded its candidates on the banner of its earlier avatar, Bharatiya Jana Sangh. In 1977-80, Jana Sangh leaders were part of the Janata Party. The BJS was re-launched as BJP in 1980 and since then, the party contested all the successive Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Telangana and the (now residuary) AP. (SEE PAGE 2)

## LeT a terror outfit, reaffirms Israel

JERUSALEM

Israel on Tuesday reaffirmed its declaration of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as a "terror organisation" ahead of the 15th year anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in which 166 persons, including six Jews, were killed. "Yes, I can confirm it. It's not a new thing and it is actually from 2013. It was recently re-published because of a bureaucratic error but it is not a new thing," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Lior Haiat, said.

"To symbolise the marking of the 15th year of commemoration of the Mumbai terror attacks, the state of Israel has listed Lashkar-e-Taiba as a "Terror Organisation." "Despite not being requested by the Government of India to do so, the state of Israel has formally completed all necessary procedures and has satisfied all required checks and regulations to the result of introducing LeT into the Israeli list of illegal terror organisations," the Israeli embassy statement said. (RELATED REPORTS PAGES 7, 9)