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'Central agencies will go after BJP post-2024' **page 7**

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China sees mysterious pneumonia outbreak in children **page 9**



'AI only a means, not an end'

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Truce deal to begin today

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Surya shines in India's win

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Vir Das on award

The comedian hopes for a more silly world



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Huge crowd gathered for BRS Praja Ashirvada Sabha meeting addressed by party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in Zaheerabad on Thursday.



'Focus on public infra'

KCR says creating a congenial atmosphere for all to live in harmony will be BRS' priority

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Improved public infrastructure and housing, better investment and employment opportunities and a congenial atmosphere for all to live in harmony will be the priority for the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in its third term after the elections, party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said on Thursday.

Addressing four Praja Ashirvada Sabhas at Maheshwaram, Vikarabad and Patancheru, all part of the suburbs of Hyderabad, Chandrashekhar Rao said the BRS government had been focusing on improving public infrastructure including drinking water supply, drainage systems, roads, transport, health and educa-

'BJP spoiling atmosphere in country'

HYDERABAD: BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao on Thursday said the BJP was spoiling the harmonious atmosphere in the country which would not benefit anyone. He predicted that the NDA government's tenure would last only for a few more days, indicating that the BJP would be defeated in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "People have realised the divisive politics of the BJP and the day is not far when they will be kicked out of power. Then it will be a country with peace and happiness," the BRS president said while addressing the Praja Ashirvada Sabha at Zaheerabad on Thursday. He pointed out that the BJP had recently attempted to destabilise the BRS government by purchasing some MLAs, but the latter successfully foiled their attempts and sent those responsible to jail. (SEE PAGE 2)

KCR'S ASSURANCES

AT MAHESHWARAM

- To develop it as industrial and investment destination
- 500-bed hospital, nursing and para-medical colleges in affiliation with government medical college being established at Kandukur

AT VIKARABAD

- Government medical college along with hospital, nursing and para-medical colleges
- Promotion of establishment of IT and pollution-free industries
- Development of local Anantha Padmanabha Swamy temple and tourism at Anantagiri

AT ZAHEERABAD

- Completion of Sangameswara Lift Irrigation Scheme and supply water to around one lakh acres

AT PATANCHERU

- Will not resume assigned lands as being alleged by Congress. Instead, they will be regularised
- Housing sites or double-bedroom houses for local workers

tional facilities since the State formation.

"Over the years, corrupt Congress governments in the past created a situation where releasing water from local tanks would inundate the low-lying areas in Badangpet, Meerpet, Jalpally and Thukkuguda among other areas. Not re-

leasing water would result in submergence of the upstream colonies," he said. To address the issue, the BRS government undertook the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas with Rs 1,000 crore. A lot of work was successfully completed

in the previous term and this would be scaled up during the third term. About Rs 100 crore was spent on the beautification of tanks in Maheshwaram constituency as well. Stating the government launched the construction of a massive drinking water piping network at a cost of

Rs 670 crore to address drinking water issues in Maheshwaram, Qutbullapur, Serlingampally, Rajendranagar and other suburban areas of Hyderabad, he said the third term of the BRS would see focus on completing the upcoming pipeline project along the Outer Ring Road to perma-

nently resolve any pending drinking water issues.

Industrial development was being promoted by attracting national and international companies like the Foxconn Group which alone was expected to create one lakh jobs. With the company evincing interest to expand its operations further at its Maheshwaram facility, nearly three lakh jobs would be generated, the Chief Minister said, adding that over 52 new major industries were established in Maheshwaram constituency in the last couple of years.

A medical devices park was established in Sultanpur, which was supplying stents, spectacles and others across the world. An exclusive IT park for Muslim entrepreneurs was coming up at Pahadisharifi. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

Tunnel drilling put on hold again

UTTARKASHI

Boring through the rubble of the collapsed Silkyara tunnel was put on hold again Thursday apparently after cracks appeared in the platform on which the drilling machine rests, in a fresh hurdle to the rescue of 41 workers trapped inside for 11 days.

The dampener came hours after the operation resumed earlier in the day, following a six-hour delay to cut through an iron girder that came in the way of the auger machine late Wednesday night.

This is the third time that the drilling exercise has been halted since the multi-agency rescue mission began on November 12 after a stretch of the under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed. According to one official the drilling was stopped Thursday to "sta-

bilise" the platform on which the 25-tonne drilling machine is mounted. Some cracks apparently appeared in the structure, but there was no official confirmation. In the afternoon, a government press statement in Delhi said minor vibrations were noticed at 1.10 pm and the auger was being pushed slightly back to "reassess the force to be applied".

It said the operation will then restart. Before the setback, officials were looking at the possibility of the operation ending during Thursday night - provided no more obstacles emerged during the drilling as it entered the last stretch of 10 to 12 metres. "I expect that in the next few hours or by tomorrow, we will be successful in this operation," NDMA member Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain said in Delhi, even as warned that there could be more hurdles that could delay it. PTI

ED summons Prakash Raj

CHENNAI

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned actor Prakash Raj for questioning in a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 100-crore ponzi and fraud case against a Tiruchirappalli-based jewellery group, official sources said.

The investigation pertains to a case against Pranav Jewellers, a partnership firm based in Tiruchirappalli, whom the ED raided on November 20 and claimed to have seized "unexplained" cash of Rs 23.70 lakh and some gold jewellery.

Prakash Raj has been a brand ambassador of this company. He has been asked to depose before the federal agency in Chennai in the first week of December. According to sources, the ED wants to record his statement and understand some purported payments made by the company to the actor. PTI

KTR unveils story of 'Trailblazer Telangana'

Says PCI of State higher than national average

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Before the formation of Telangana, save for Hyderabad, the rest of the nine districts were declared backward by the then Congress-led Central government.

The Backward Region Grant Fund was sanctioned to all nine districts. In 2023, due to rapid development, Telangana's each district recorded higher Per Capita than the national average. This sums up BRS working president KT Rama Rao's presentation on 'Trailblazer Telangana' here on Thursday.

Teething problems
All this was achieved by Telangana, despite being the youngest State in the coun-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao during a presentation on the State's progress, in Hyderabad on Thursday.

try and facing many teething problems. Lots of money was spent on drought-proofing Telangana by constructing Kaleshwaram and other irrigation projects with an expenditure of Rs 1.70 lakh crore, he said. Telangana leads in Per Capita Income

in the country, besides being one of the fastest-growing States in terms of GSDP. More importantly, Telangana reduced the multidimensional poverty from 13.18 per cent in 2014 to 5.8 per cent in 2023. (SEE PAGE 2)

Rs 5 crore unaccounted cash seized

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Gachibowli police on Thursday seized Rs 5 crore unaccounted cash from a car and detained three persons during vehicle checking near the Botanical Garden.

The vehicle, heading towards Madhapur was stopped as part of the checking, and the officials found bags filled with cash under the seats. The detained, identified as D Santosh Rao, M Naresh and Ch Sampath Rao, all from Pedapalli district, failed to give any satisfactory response on the source of money which was seized.

In another instance, the Cyberabad Police seized unaccounted cash of Rs 14.8 lakh being transported in a car, during a vehicle checking. Officials said the seized cash will be handed over to I-T Department.

Doc cheated of Rs 19L

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A doctor from the city, who wished to earn extra money through a part-time job, ended up being duped by cyber fraudsters to the tune of Rs 19.7 lakh.

The 40-year-old, a resident of Kondapur, works for a private hospital in Kukatpally. A few months

ago, the doctor received a message on his Telegram account offering a good salary for part-time jobs.

Believing it, the doctor expressed his interest in the job. Police sources said the fraudsters collected his personal details and bank credentials on various pretexts, extracted money and cheated him. A case was registered.

NEW DELHI

The government is planning new regulations that may impose penalties on both creator and platform hosting deepfakes as it looks to clamp down on what IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishaw described as "a threat to

democracy." Amid some celebrities reporting their faces being manipulated onto another video, new protection regulations being considered will look at measures including watermarking AI-generated content, deepfake detection, rules for data bias, privacy and guards against concentration.

"Deepfakes have emerged as a new threat to democracy. These (can) weaken trust in society and its institutions," Vaishaw said after meeting with various stakeholders, including social media platforms, Nasscom and other professors from the field of artificial intelligence (AI). "We will start

drafting the regulations today itself and within a very short timeframe, we will have a separate regulation for deepfakes," he said.

The government, he said, would come up with actionable items on four pillars — detection of deepfakes, preventing the spread of such content,

strengthening reporting mechanisms, and spreading awareness on the issue — within 10 days. All stakeholders present at the meeting shared similar concerns regarding deepfakes, he said. "All social media platforms agreed to have extensive technology to detect deepfakes," it further said. PTI