

NATION

Farmers' protest at Mohali-Chandigarh border begins **page 6**



NATION

'TN will exempt itself from NEET' **page 12**

WORLD

Hamas releases third group of hostages as part of truce deal **page 17**

Only BRS wave, says KCR

Cautions that Congress is trying to create rift between landowners and tenant farmers

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Amid political slurs and allegations from opposition parties, BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu made a heartfelt appeal on Sunday, asking farmers and voters of Telangana to consider the impact of their choices during the ensuing elections on Telangana's future. Pointing out that the Congress had admitted that it would provide financial assistance akin to Rythu Bandhu to either farmers or tenant farmers and not to both, he cautioned that such a move would result in unnecessary disputes between the stakeholders.

The Chief Minister, who participated in Praja Ashirvada Sabhas at Khanapur, Jagtial, Vemulawada and Dubbak constituencies on Sunday, turned emotional and said nothing was bigger than the reputation that he earned for achieving Telangana and being able to serve as the Chief Minister of Telangana for the last 10 years. Pointing out that he was over 70 years old and that nothing but the future of Telangana mattered to him, Chandrababu Naidu also rubbished claims of a Congress wave in the State, asserting that the only wave in Telangana was the BRS wave.

"My aim is to see that Telangana becomes a 100 per cent poverty-free State.



A section of women cheer during BRS Praja Ashirvada Sabha addressed by party president and Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu at Vemulawada on Sunday.

A 100 per cent literate State like Kerala and also agricultural prosperity. We are fighting only for that, not for any post. I am 70 years old now. What more do I need in life? So please keep the party policies and leaders in mind before you vote," he urged the people, also taking a potshot at the Congress, pointing out that there were already 12 Congress leaders vying for the post of Chief Minister. He asked people to

“ My aim is to see that Telangana becomes a 100 per cent poverty-free State, a 100 per cent literate State such as Kerala and also that it prospers in agriculture

“ I am 70 years old now. What more do I need in life? Compare the previous Congress regime with that of the 10-year BRS rule and vote cautiously

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Expressing concern about the potential repercussions of altering the 'Dharani' land registration system and the

Rythu Bandhu scheme, Chandrababu Naidu recalled the challenges faced by farmers under the previ-

ous Congress regime. He cautioned against the Congress' proposal to replace the Dharani portal and also extend financial assistance to tenant farmers. He feared that it could jeopardise the hard-fought gains under the BRS government in the last 10 years.

"The Congress leaders who till recently stated that they would extend the agricultural financial assistance to both farmers and tenant

farmers, are now openly claiming that only either of them will receive the benefit. This is a serious matter. If financial assistance is given to tenant farmers for three years in a row, there will be a threat to land owners' rights over their own land," he warned.

Land rights

The BRS president urged farmers to safeguard the Dharani portal and their land rights by casting their vote to retain the BRS government in Telangana. He reminded that the BRS reduced the challenges faced by the people under the Congress regime for over 50 years. He stated that Telangana was duped by its local Congress leaders more than it ever was by the rulers of Andhra Pradesh.

"More than Andhra rulers, it was Telangana Congress leaders who duped Telangana. These inefficient Telangana Congress leaders are the reason for the 58 years of suffering of Telangana. They backstabbed us repeatedly, rather than fighting on our behalf," he said. He added that the Congress was responsible for the killings of over 400 Telangana agitators in 1969 and also the deaths of Telangana youth during the second phase of the Statehood agitation. He accused the Congress of delaying the formation of Telangana, despite its promise during the 2004 elections.

26/11:
 Kawach for Mumbai

NATION | PAGE 08

Ukraine's drones shot down

WORLD | PAGE 18



GT retain captain Hardik Pandya

SPORT | PAGE 19



ENTERTAINMENT
 PAGE 20

Rani on age

Actor consciously tried to portray strong women



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Job calendar on Dec 4, says KTR



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday.

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president and Minister KT Rama Rao promised to release a job calendar for aspirants of government jobs on December 4. He also challenged the Congress to come up with facts and pinpoint any State which filled more government jobs than Telangana in the last 10 years.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, he declared that on December 4, he would personally visit Ashok Nagar (where job aspirants undergo coaching for various government jobs) to unveil the job calendar. Asserting Telangana's achievements in job creation, he questioned if any other State in the country had filled more government jobs than Telangana.

"Unlike Rahul Gandhi, I have appeared for entrance exams, pursued post-graduation, attended interviews and even worked in MNCs before foraying into politics. Rahul, who never sat for a competitive exam or attended an interview, can

Gulf policy on the cards

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao said that soon after coming to power, the BRS would introduce a Gulf policy by extending Rs 5 lakh insurance coverage to people who went to the Gulf countries for livelihood and employment. The new policy would be launched in January. Apart from insurance coverage, other welfare schemes would also be implemented under the Gulf policy, he said while addressing a road show at Sircilla.

never understand the struggles of the unemployed," he said. Responding to Rahul's claims about job creation in Karnataka, he questioned why no notification was issued in Karnataka even after six months in power, though the former promised to fill over one lakh jobs within a year in Karnataka. (SEE PAGE 2)

Cong backtracking on Rythu Bharosa?

HYDERABAD: Is the Congress backtracking on its assurance of the Rythu Bharosa input subsidy for farmers even before the elections? Well, going by TPCC president A Revanth Reddy's remarks, things appear to be moving in that direction.

Copying the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi's flagship programme Rythu Bandhu, the Congress, under its manifesto, had announced what it called Indiramma Rythu Bharosa for farmers. Under the programme, the Congress promised to provide both land-owning farmers and tenant farmers Rs 15,000 per acre per annum.

However, Revanth Reddy is now making contradictory and confusing statements on the party manifesto. In an interview with former MLC Professor K Nageshwar, when he was asked whether both farmers and tenant farmers would be given financial assistance, the TPCC president replied: "There will be no overlap. If the assistance is deposited in one account, it will not be deposited in another account," he said, indicating that either a land-owning farmer would get the assistance or the tenant farmer, but not both. (SEE PAGE 2)

Man charred to death in car

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A man was charred to death when the car in which he was travelling in caught fire on ORR near Adibatla on Saturday night.

According to the police, the incident occurred when the car was on the ORR between exit number 12 and 13 when flames started in the vehicle. B Venkatesh, a student and a resident of Kodad, who was behind the wheels, is suspected to have got trapped in the car and was charred to death. On receiving information, firefighters rushed to the spot and managed to douse the flames but were not able to save Venkatesh. The police registered a case.

Can't fill 2.5L jobs in one year: Sidda

HYDERABAD: Karnataka Chief Minister K Siddaramaiah said that the pre-poll promise of filling 2.50 lakh jobs in one year could not be implemented in one go, leaving the Telangana Congress in a spot of bother. Addressing the media here, he said: "We have fulfilled five guarantees in the first phase and also 76 promises are fulfilled in this year's Budget. The manifesto is always for five years. At once, all the promises, which are made, cannot be implemented..."

However, this is in stark contrast to what Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had said before the Karnataka elections when he said the Congress Yuvanidhi would empower Karnataka's unemployed youth. "Rs 3,000 per month to graduates, Rs 1,500 per month for diploma holders, 2.50 lakh government jobs in one year and 10 lakh private sector jobs. That's a Congress Guarantee," was what he said. Following the Karnataka Congress model, the Telangana Congress too has promised to fill 2 lakh government jobs within one year if it came to power, and to this effect, advertisements were also issued in the media.

However, his statement has now put a question mark on the promises made by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress in Telangana as well. (SEE PAGE 2)

'5 guarantees' take a toll on Karnataka

S SANDEEP KUMAR
 Hyderabad

The Congress government in Karnataka is struggling to take up irrigation projects, even as work orders that were issued for different tenders are being cancelled for paucity of funds due to the impact on the State exchequer of the party's pre-poll promise of five guarantees.

Doubts are being raised by irrigation experts on the government's action plan for completing pending projects. They were stressing that funds should be provided on priority for Upper Bhadra, Upper Krishna Project (UKP-3), Mahadevi and Mekedatu projects to ensure the works were completed as per schedule.

Both Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited and Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited had invited tenders worth nearly Rs 20,000 crore for taking up different irrigation projects in the State. However, the Siddaramaiah government decided to halt all the works. These apart, work orders that were issued earlier were also being stopped, irrigation expert Ashok Chandargi was quoted as saying in media reports. (SEE PAGE 2)

Vertical drilling begins at Silkyara tunnel

NEW DELHI

Rescuers began drilling into the hill above the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel Sunday, boring nearly 20 metres on the first day of adopting the new approach to reach 41 workers trapped inside for 14 days.

The vertical approach was one of the at least five options on which preparatory work had begun some days back, as anxiety mounted over the fate of the men trapped in the under-construction tunnel on Char Dham route.

Rescue workers have to drill down 86 metres to reach the tunnel. By evening, the heavy drilling equipment had bored



The earth-boring machine deployed to drill a vertical hole into the collapsed tunnel. — Photo: AFP

down to about 19.5 metres. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited man-

aging director Mahmood Ahmed said vertical boring would be over by Thursday if there are no hurdles.

As the drilling progresses, 700-mm wide pipes are being inserted to create an escape passage. PTI