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## ‘Cong stalling Rythu Bandhu’

**KCR SAYS CONG LEADERS RESORTING TO DESPERATE MEASURES, NOT HESITATING TO PUT RYOTS IN TROUBLE**

**MANY LEADERS, ACTIVISTS FROM OPPOSITION PARTY ARE BENEFICIARIES OF CROP ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

**TEARS INTO THEM FOR DUBBING RYTHU BANDHU, 24-HR POWER TO AGRI SECTOR AS UNNECESSARY EXPENSE**



BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at Praja Ashirvada Sabha in Andole on Monday. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 3)

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

With the Congress once again managing to convince the Election Commission of India (ECI) to stop the Rabi (Yasangi) season financial assistance under Rythu Bandhu to farmers, BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao went ballistic against the Congress, stating that its leaders were resorting to desperate measures to win the elections and were not hesitating to put farmers in trouble during the crop season.

The ECI, on November 25, approved the distribution of the Rythu Bandhu amount to farmers for Yasangi, but on Monday, withdrew the permission fol-

lowing a complaint from the Telangana Congress in New Delhi, he said.

Speaking at Praja Ashirvada Sabhas at Shadnagar, Chevella and Andhole, Chandrashekhara Rao said the Telangana Congress leaders were submitting representations to the ECI on a regular basis seeking to stop the Rythu Bandhu distribution to farmers. “We explained to the ECI that the farm investment assistance was being provided for the sixth consecutive year without a break and requested to allow it as farmers were gearing up for tilling their land for cultivation for Yasangi. Accordingly, the Commission approved the disbursement of the funds for one day, i.e. Tuesday,” he said.

The Chief Minister further revealed that TPCC vice president G Niranjana filed another complaint with the ECI in New Delhi, successfully bringing the disbursement to a halt. “The Congress fools are stooping to a new low, assuming that people will cast their votes based on disbursement or halting of Rythu Bandhu for one season. How many days can they stop Rythu Bandhu? After December 3, the BRS government will return to power and start disbursement of financial assistance from December 6 onwards,” he declared to a cheering crowd.

Chandrashekhara Rao reminded the crowd that many Congress leaders and activists

were also beneficiaries of Rythu Bandhu. He questioned them for supporting a party that “was trying to snatch away food before it reached the mouth of the farmer”.

He called upon Congress activists to reflect on the actions of their leaders, accusing the party of not only impeding Rythu Bandhu but also proposing a new provision to extend it to tenant farmers, rather than actual landowners. He warned that such a move could lead to unnecessary legal disputes over land ownership between landowners and tenant farmers.

The BRS chief also tore into the Congress leaders for dubbing Rythu Bandhu and 24-hour power to agriculture as un-

necessary expenditure. He cautioned people about Congress leaders openly claiming that if they come to power, they would abolish the Dharani land management and registration system to replace it with the Bhoomatha system, which would only spell doom for landowners. “If Dharani is removed, the Congress will open doors for corrupt officials and middlemen of their past regime. Under a Congress regime, farmers will be left with no option but to stage protests for power and water, seed and fertilizer, which are crucial for agriculture,” he said.

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**India set to take on Aus today**  
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**ENTERTAINMENT**  
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**Parvathy excited**

To be seen in supernatural series *Dhootha*



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|--------------------------|---------|
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### Rat-hole mining experts reach Silkyara tunnel



PM's Principal Secretary Pramod Kumar Mishra reviews the rescue operation at the Silkyara tunnel on Monday. — Photo: PTI

UTTARAKASHI/NEW DELHI

Rescuers bored 36 m into the hill above the Silkyara tunnel by Monday evening in their effort to reach 41 workers trapped inside for 15 days as rat-hole mining experts also reached the disaster site to help tackle the challenge simultaneously from another front.

Twelve rat-hole mining experts will be involved in manual drilling and excavation horizontally through the last 10- or 12-m stretch of debris of the collapsed portion of the under-construction tunnel on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route.

This drilling was earlier being carried out by a huge auger machine that got stuck in the rubble on Fri-

day, forcing officials to focus on an alternative option — drilling down from above the tunnel. About 40 per cent of the 86-m vertical drilling required is now done. For the horizontal through-the-rubble option, officials decided that the final stretch would be handled through a manual approach in which individual workers will go into the escape passage with drills, as well as gas-cutters to tackle obstacles like iron girders.

By Monday evening, the last bit of the stuck auger was cut out and a steel pipe inserted further into the partially complete passage. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said efforts were on to rescue the workers. (SEE PAGE 2)

### ECI stops Rythu Bandhu again over Congress complaint

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

With the Congress once again approaching the Election Commission of India (ECI) crying hoarse over the disbursement of financial assistance to farmers under Rythu Bandhu, the apex poll body on Monday issued orders withdrawing the permission it had given to the State government to continue the scheme.

The Congress had first written to the ECI alleging that the BRS would gain political mileage from Rythu

### BRS writes to poll watchdog

HYDERABAD: With the Election Commission of India (ECI) once again withdrawing permission for the disbursement of funds under Rythu Bandhu, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) wrote to the apex poll body on Monday, pointing out that contrary to what was being stated, there was no violation of the Model Code of Conduct by Finance Minister T Harish Rao that should prompt the withdrawal of permission for the scheme. (SEE PAGE 2)

Bandhu, following which the ECI issued orders putting the disbursement of funds to farmers on hold. The BRS government wrote back stating that the scheme was

an ongoing one for the last five-and-a-half years and that the funds were disbursed from October to January for the Rabi season to help farmers. (SEE PAGE 2)

### Bear mauls caretaker to death in zoo

AP BUREAU  
 Visakhapatnam

A caretaker was mauled to death by a Himalayan black bear at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (Vizag zoo) here on Monday.

B Nagesh, 25, entered the bear enclosure to clean it as part of his regular duty. Engrossed in the task, he did not notice the bear, which suddenly attacked him. He was found lying unconscious with serious injuries on head, left arm and chest. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

### Indian envoy heckled in NY gurdwara

NEW YORK

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu offered prayers at a gurdwara in Long Island, New York, on the occasion of Gurburab where a group of Khalistani supporters heckled him but they were escorted out by members of the Sikh community.

During the visit to the gurdwara, some pro-Khalistan elements heckled Sandhu and shouted questions about Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, killed in Canada in June, ac-

ording to videos being circulated of the incident. “Privileged to join the local Sangat, including from Afghanistan, at Guru Nanak Darbar of Long Island in celebrating Gurburab — listened to Kirtan, spoke about Guru Nanak's everlasting message of togetherness, unity & equality, partook langar, and sought blessings for all,” Sandhu said in a post on X on Sunday.

He received a warm welcome at the Hicksville Gurdwara against the perceived notion of opposition from Khalistanis. PTI

### Hyd braces for rains amid delayed winter

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

People in Hyderabad, who were looking forward to a chilly winter, will have to wait a week or two as the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDDS) has forecasted rains and heavy humidity.

Adilabad, Nirmal and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad received showers. Lokari in the Adilabad district, in particular, recorded 25.8 mm of rainfall until noon on Monday

Gujarat, for the next few days, several parts of Telangana, including Hyderabad, Adilabad, Nirmal, Asifabad, Kamareddy, Sangareddy and Medak, are expected to receive thunderstorms.

Until the first week of December, above normal minimum temperatures are projected to persist, al-

tering the usual course of seasonal transition. Areas such as Begumpet, Malkajgiri, Kapra, Osmania University, Moosarambagh, Khairatabad, Alwal, LB Nagar, Falaknuma and Uppal are expected to witness moderate intensity rain, while other localities may experience lighter

showers during this period. According to meteorological projections, the maximum temperatures in Hyderabad are likely to stabilise around 30 degrees Celsius.

Simultaneously, the minimum temperatures are expected to linger above 20 degrees Celsius, indicating a delay in the customary drop associated with the arrival of winter.

The forecast indicates that other districts are also likely to experience light to moderate rainfall on Tuesday.