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'Six Guarantees' will entail Rs 70,000 crore expenditure **page 5**

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Release funds or vacate office, Didi to Centre **page 8**

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Iran bans Mahsa Amini's family from travelling to receive EU award **page 9**



Tribal CM for Chhattisgarh

BJP picks Vishnu Deo Sai; vows to fulfil promises

PTI
RAIPUR

The BJP on Sunday picked Vishnu Deo Sai, a prominent tribal leader, as the next Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, ending the suspense over who will helm the State, which the saffron party wrested from Congress in recent polls. Sai (59) was elected as the BJP's legislative party leader during a meeting of 54 newly-elected MLAs held at the party's State headquarters, a party functionary said.

After the meeting, a delegation of BJP MLAs led by Sai met Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan to stake a claim to form the next government. "We have handed over a letter to the Governor stating that Sai ji has been elected as the legislative party leader," senior BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal said. He said the date of the swearing-in ceremony would be informed later.

As a Chief Minister, Sai said he would try to fulfil PM Modi's "guarantees" and sanction 18 lakh houses to the beneficiaries of the PM Awas Yojna, who were deprived of the benefits under the erstwhile Congress government, will be the top priority. BJP's three observers — Union Ministers Arjun Munda and Sarbananda Sonowal and party general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam — attended the



Chhattisgarh CM-designate Vishnu Deo Sai meets Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan to stake claim to form govt. — Photo: ANI

Decision on MP CM likely today

BHOPAL: The BJP's newly-elected MLAs in Madhya Pradesh will meet on Monday to elect the leader of the legislative party. The meeting is expected to begin at 4 pm on Monday and the name of CM may be announced by 7 pm, an MLA said. The BJP retained power in MP in the November 17 polls by winning 163 seats. PTI

Suspense continues in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: Some newly elected BJP MLAs met former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje at her Civil Lines residence on Sunday, amid suspense over whom the party will pick for the CM post in the State. The BJP is yet to announce the meeting of the legislature party to choose its leader, who will be the Chief Minister. (REPORT PAGE 7)

meeting of the MLAs, besides BJP's in-charge for Chhattisgarh Om Mathur, union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and party's co-in-charge for the State Nitin Nabin. At the meeting, the

proposal to elect Sai as the legislative party leader was moved by former Chief Minister Raman Singh, which was seconded by State BJP president Arun Sao. (SEE PAGE 2)

Ram idol consecration on Jan 22



MUCH-AWAITED: The construction work on the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple underway, in Ayodhya. The sanctum-sanctorum is almost complete, according to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. — Photo: ANI (REPORT PAGE 7)

SC verdict on Article 370 today

Security stepped up to ensure peaceful atmosphere in J&K

NEW DELHI

Was the decision taken by the Centre on August 5, 2019, to abrogate the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, constitutionally valid?

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict on Monday on a batch of petitions challeng-

ing the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370. According to the cause list for December 11, uploaded on the apex court's website, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud would deliver the verdict.

The other members of the Bench are Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant. The apex court reserved its verdict on the matter on



September 5 after a 16-day hearing. Meanwhile, adequate security arrangements have been made to

ensure a peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir, a senior police officer said. "We are duty-bound to ensure that peace prevails in the valley under all circumstances," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone V K Birdi said.

While the IGP refused to divulge specifics of the security set-up for Monday, he said "adequate arrangements" have been put in place. (SEE PAGE 2)

Carbon tax plan sparks row
BUSINESS | PAGE 08

Trump ahead of Biden in Prez race
WORLD | PAGE 09



West Indies clinches series
SPORT | PAGE 10



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

'Hustle 3' heals Sam

Gets emotional on contestant's performance



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Revanth wishes KCR speedy recovery

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday visited BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at Yashoda Hospital and wished him a speedy recovery. He was accompanied by Minister Seethakka and party leaders, including Mohammed Shabbir Ali.

He expressed hope that the BRS chief would get well soon and join the deliberations at the State Legislative Assembly.

He interacted with BRS working president KT Rama Rao and senior leader T Harish Rao who were present in the hospital, and enquired about the health condition of the former Chief Minister with the team of senior doctors treating him at the hospital. Chandrashekhara Rao had undergone a total hip replacement



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy interacts with BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao at the Yashoda Hospitals, in Hyderabad on Sunday. BRS working president KT Rama Rao is also seen.

surgery in the hospital under the supervision of specialist doctors as he suffered a fracture due to an accidental fall in the bathroom two days ago. Later, talking

to the media at the hospital, Revanth Reddy hoped that the former Chief Minister would recover quickly and ensure his participation in the Assembly session. The

government was in need of his suggestions and advice. Quoting the hospital doctors, he said that the former Chief Minister's condition was stable.

Hamas members surrender in Gaza

TEL AVIV

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Sunday said dozens of Hamas men have surrendered before it in South Gaza. Sources in the IDF said that the Hamas men, during interrogation, revealed that they had no option but to surrender as they were abandoned by their leadership.

The IDF said that the Hamas militant rule in the Gaza region is "beginning to collapse". They reportedly shared a video showing an apparent Hamas operative handing over an assault rifle while surrendering with

dozens of Palestinian men to Israeli troops, according to a report from 'Times of Israel'. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces is in search of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who is considered the mastermind behind the October 7 massacre and mayhem of Israelis and foreign nationals in South Israel, an IDF official said. Sources in the IDF said that the Israel army has specific intelligence inputs that Sinwar had escaped from Northern Gaza in a humanitarian vehicle convoy and that he was hiding in the Khan Yunis area. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)

Cong govt may fall in K'taka, claims HDK

HASSAN

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday claimed that an 'influential Minister' of the ruling Congress may join the BJP as he is desperate to wriggle out of 'cases' filed against him by the Centre. The Minister may quit the Congress and join the BJP along with '50 to 60 MLAs,' and he is currently 'negotiating' with BJP brass, Kumaraswamy, a former Chief Minister claimed.

The JD(S) State president predicted that "something like Maharashtra" may happen any moment in Karnataka. PTI

Telangana to press for NH status to 14 State roads

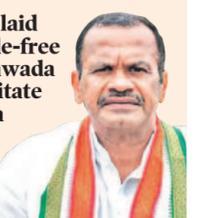
STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said a representation would be submitted to the Central government to sanction National Highway status to 14 State roads, especially the Regional Ring Road (South).

"I will personally meet Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday and make an appeal regarding these 14 roads," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said after assuming the office here on Sunday, adding that an increase in allocation of Central Road Infrastruc-

Emphasis will be laid on ensuring hassle-free travelling on Hyd-Vijayawada Highway. Idea is to facilitate people reach Vijayawada within 2.5 hrs from Hyderabad

— KOMATIREDDY VENKAT REDDY, Roads and Buildings Minister



ture Fund Budget to Telangana would also be taken up. Speaking to media persons, the Minister, who will be tendering his resignation as Bhongir MP on Monday, said road maintenance would be given top priority, particularly the widening of existing roads during the

next two to three years. Emphasis would be laid on ensuring hassle-free travelling on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada Highway. The idea was to facilitate people reach Vijayawada within 2.5 hours from the city by developing it as a six-lane route, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Solar power to light up TS govt schools

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

More classrooms in government schools across Telangana would soon be illuminated with solar power. Harnessing the energy of the sun, as many as 6,490 government and residential schools will be powered with solar electrical power connections, ushering in a new era of clean energy.

The School Education Department sanctioned the installation of grid solar electrical power con-

6,490 government and residential schools will be powered with solar electrical power connections, ushering in a new era of clean energy

nections in Zilla Parishad High Schools, Mandal Parishad Primary Schools, Telangana State Model Schools and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas.

The expenditure of Rs 289.25 crore will be met from the funds under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Develop-

ment (NABARD) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) — XXIX for the financial year 2023-24. The premises of these schools will be transformed with 2KW, 5KW and 10KW solar power generating panels. On the basis of the enrollment, the Model Schools and

KGBVs will get 10KW solar power units, while the ZPHS and MPPS will get 2KW or 5KW solar power generating panels. Each 1 KW is expected to cost Rs 1 lakh. This initiative will not only aid schools in harnessing green energy but also earn revenue by selling the excess energy to discoms. The Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited has been asked to design, supply and commission solar power connections via tendering. (SEE PAGE 2)