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Congress undoing development: KTR

Exudes confidence in BRS winning most Parliamentary seats

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao gave his sweat and blood to develop Telangana into a progressive State within the last decade, but the new Congress rule is sparing no effort to destroy it, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said here on Wednesday.

He said with decade-long tireless efforts, Chandrashekhara Rao had positioned Telangana on the path of development after suffering years of negligence under the previous Congress governments in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. For the eighth consecutive day, the BRS working president presided over the Lok Sabha election preparatory meeting on the Warangal constituency at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

Addressing the party cadre from the Warangal Lok Sabha constituency, Rama Rao said the BRS dedicated 99 per cent of its time



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the party cadre at Telangana Bhavan.

to governance and development with a focus on the quick and sustainable progress of the State. “We gave less time to the party by concentrating fully on the administration. It is observed to be one of the reasons for our defeat. However, we will hold such party meetings at regular intervals to address the issues and strive to strengthen the party,” he said. Rama Rao said several BRS legislators,

who were constantly amidst the people, also lost the recent Assembly elections. He urged the party cadre to intensify their efforts to strengthen the BRS from the grassroots level and work with a focus on the upcoming Parliamentary elections. He exuded confidence in the party’s victory in the majority of the Parliament seats, if the cadre set aside the recent setback in the Assembly polls and channelise

their energies to win the Lok Sabha elections.

Rama Rao asked the BRS leaders to expose the Congress’ deceit and educate the public about its ‘420’ poll promises. He slammed the Congress government for attempting to blame the BRS and the previous Chandrashekhara Rao government for covering up its ineptness and commitment to implement its promises.

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Shinde faction real Shiv Sena: Maha Speaker

MUMBAI

In a relief to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Wednesday held that the Shiv Sena faction led by him was the “real political party” when rival groups emerged in June 2022.

In his 105-minute reading of the key points of the ruling, Rahul Narwekar also rejected the Uddhav Thackeray faction’s petition to disqualify 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including Shinde.

As Narwekar finished reading the order, celebrations broke out among Chief Minister Shinde’s supporters, who burst firecrackers, while Sena (UBT) leaders Sanjay Raut and Aaditya Thackeray said their party would approach the Supreme Court against the Speaker’s order.

NCP leader Sharad Pawar said Uddhav Thackeray will have to approach the SC against the ruling of the Speaker, who gave precedence to the legislature party. Narwekar said no party leadership can use the provision of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution for dissent or indiscipline within the party. Narwekar said Bharat Gogawale of Shinde group is the authorised whip. PTI

Congress to skip Ram Mandir event

Sonia, Kharge accuse BJP, RSS of making it ‘political project’

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday “respectfully declined” the invitation to attend the Ram Temple consecration and accused the BJP and RSS of making it into a “political project” for electoral gain.

The decision of the top leaders was announced by Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who also questioned the motive behind the inauguration of the “incomplete” temple by the leaders of the BJP and RSS.

Last month, Congress chief and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Gandhi and Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Chowdhury received the invitation to attend the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya to be held on January 22.

“Lord Ram is worshipped by millions in our country. Religion is a personal matter. But the RSS/BJP have

Inauguration of the incomplete temple by leaders of BJP, RSS is obviously for electoral gain, says Congress

long made a political project of the temple in Ayodhya. The inauguration of the incomplete temple by the leaders of the BJP and the RSS has been obviously brought forward for electoral gain,” Ramesh said.

“While abiding by the 2019 Supreme Court judgment and honouring the sentiments of millions who revere Lord Ram, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Smt Sonia Gandhi and Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury have respectfully declined the invitation to what is clearly an RSS/BJP event,” the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

The consecration ceremony will be held on January 22. PTI

Taste of home on city streets

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Israel battles genocide claim

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T20I series: Spotlight on Rohit

SPORT | PAGE 10



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 85
Retail live	Rs. 107
With skin	Rs. 155
Skinless	Rs. 177
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 73

Telangana to get new power policy

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana government will soon come up with a new and comprehensive electricity policy to continue uninterrupted power supply and provide free power up to 200 units for domestic connections under the proposed Gruha Jyothi scheme.

The draft policy will be released after an extensive study of the best policies in other States and consultations with experts and other stakeholders.

In an extensive review of the power sector held at the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat here on Wednesday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy asked officials to submit detailed reports on the overall power generation, power purchases, consumption, fiscal performance of distri-

bution companies (discoms) and their operations, among others.

He instructed officials to conduct a detailed study on the agreements signed between power utilities and the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) since 2014.

Revanth Reddy sought complete details of the content of these agreements and payment structures, including specific details pertaining to higher power purchase rates with relevant reasons.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to purchase electricity at lower prices from companies available in the open market. He opined that the State was facing multiple challenges in ensuring adequate power supply, arising from the absence of a proper electricity policy.

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Discount on traffic challans date extended to January 31

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The State government on Wednesday extended the date for clearing pending traffic challans with a discount, up to January 31.

The government announced a waiver of 90 per cent for TSRTC buses, 80 per cent for two- and three-wheelers and 60 per cent for LMV/HMVs on pending e-challans issued under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. Since the waiver offer was announced last month, a total of 1.29 crore challans were paid by the public and it generated revenue of Rs 113 crore for the government. The highest numbers of challans, 37,50,470, were paid in Hyderabad and Rs 28.70 crore was collected. In Cyberabad, 21,25,807 challans were paid and Rs 23.65 crore was collected.

Winter musings



IN ITS HABITAT: A peacock flies amid fog during a cold winter morning on the outskirts of Chandigarh on Wednesday. Chandigarh recorded a maximum temperature of 10.8 degrees C, five notches below normal. — Photo: PTI

First homegrown UAV unveiled



The Drishti 10 Starliner Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for the Indian Navy manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace.

HYDERABAD

Adani Defence and Aerospace on Wednesday unveiled its indigenously manufactured Drishti 10 Starliner Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Indian Navy. The flag-off ceremony was led by Admiral R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff, India Navy,

who was present at the event with 75 Navy personnel, as the UAV left from Hyderabad for Porbandar to be inducted into naval maritime operations.

The Drishti 10 Starliner is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance platform with 36 hours of endurance and 450-kg payload capacity. PTI

Principal, registrar to be held accountable for ragging, suicide

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In cases of extreme ragging and suicide in higher educational institutions, the college principal and university registrar would be held accountable from now on.

To check instances of ragging and suicide on campuses, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has sought to strengthen anti-ragging regulations and fix accountability. A notice issued recently by the UGC reads, “Henceforth, for extreme ragging and suicide cases, the principal of the college and registrar of the university will be called and will be an-

swerable to the national anti-ragging monitoring committee for the reasons of non-compliance of UGC regulations for ragging.” The HEIs have been directed to empower the anti-ragging cell and anti-ragging squads in their colleges with a legal counsel so as to make an

airtight case against the ragging culprits.

Stating that ragging is a criminal offence, the UGC said it framed regulations to curb the menace of ragging. The ‘UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Education Institutions, 2009’ are mandatory and all institutions have been asked to take necessary steps for its implementation in toto, including the monitoring mechanism.

The colleges, as part of an anti-ragging mechanism, have to constitute an anti-ragging committee, anti-ragging squads and an anti-ragging cell, besides installing CCTV cameras.

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Info at your fingertips

Students in distress due to ragging-related incidents can contact: National anti-ragging helpline 1800-180-5522 Write to helpline@antiragging.in

Governor accepts TSPSC resignations

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday accepted the resignations submitted by Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) Chairman B Janardhan Reddy and three members — R Satyanarayana, Bandi Linga Reddy and Karam Ravinder Reddy.

The Governor clarified that contrary to speculation or misinformation, there was no delay on her part in accepting the resignations submitted by the TSPSC Chairman and members. As per Business Rules to the State government, she forwarded the resignations for circulation of the file, along with remarks and opinion of

the Advocate General, through Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy after ensuring a thorough examination of the matter, a statement issued by Raj Bhavan on Wednesday stated.

The release said the ongoing investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) played a crucial role in the decision-making process. In view of this, the State government reviewed the resignations, obtained the Advocate General’s opinion and circulated the file for acceptance of all four resignations on January 9. The Governor had accepted them without prejudice to the ongoing investigations and any potential future criminal proceedings, the statement added.

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Train derailed at Nampally, six injured

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Six persons were injured when three coaches of the Hyderabad-bound Charnminar Express derailed at the Nampally station on Wednesday morning. No casualties were reported and those injured were treated at the Railway Hospital in Lalaguda.

The incident occurred around 9.15 am, when Train No. 12759/12760 Charnminar Express coming from Tambaram in Tamil Nadu to Hyderabad’s Nampally terminal station crashed into the sand barrier at the end of the platform.

The loco-pilot reportedly did not pay attention to the dead-end line and jumped the danger signal.

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