



STATE

Krishna projects: BRS for all-party delegation to Delhi page 5

NATION

SFJ warns Kejriwal, Mann of 'political death' page 7

WORLD

Netanyahu rejects any Palestinian sovereignty page 9



Congress, BRS slug it out

Chief Minister's statements trigger war of words between the two parties

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's political statements during a meeting with the Telugu diaspora in London on Friday have triggered a war of words between the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, with the latter hitting back strongly on Saturday at Revanth Reddy's comment that a 100-metre pit would be dug up to bury the BRS after the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The remarks saw BRS working president KT Rama Rao asking why the Congress wanted to bury the BRS. Was it for achieving the State of Telangana or developing it, he asked, going on to say that Revanth Reddy would evolve into the 'Eknath Shinde of Telangana' once the parliamentary elections were over.

Don't pay power bills
 In fact, Revanth Reddy's disparaging remarks on the BRS and its president K Chandrashekar Rao also prompted the BRS working president to remind the Chief Minister about the still unkept promise of the Congress of free electricity under the Gruha Lakshmi

“ A 100-METRE PIT WOULD BE DUG UP TO BURY THE BRS AFTER THE FORTHCOMING LOK SABHA ELECTIONS THEY (BRS) HAVE NOT LEARNT LESSONS FROM THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS RESULT AND THEIR ARROGANCE HAS NOT COME DOWN



— A REVANTH REDDY, Chief Minister

“ WHY THE CONGRESS WANTS TO BURY THE BRS. WAS IT FOR ACHIEVING THE STATE OF TELANGANA OR DEVELOPING IT? CONGRESS, BJP ARE CERTAIN TO JOIN HANDS IN THE STATE AFTER LS POLLS. REVANTH HAS TURNED OUT TO BE THE 'CHOTA MODI' IN THE STATE



— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

Revanth is 'Chota Modi'
 Rama Rao, on the other hand, said the Congress and BJP were certain to join hands in the State after the Lok Sabha elections. Revanth Reddy had turned out to be the 'Chota Modi' in the State since he was carrying very much the bloodline of the BJP and would form a 'triple engine' government here along with Narendra Modi and Gautam Adani. The BRS working president pointed out that Revanth Reddy, who was highly critical of Adani till recently, was now hand in glove with him and was hobnobbing with the businessman in Switzerland. It is high time the deals between the two were exposed, he said.

scheme. Rama Rao went to the extent of asking the public not to pay their electricity bills from January until free power was provided as promised during the election campaign. Revanth Reddy had also said Sonia Gandhi would pay the power bills after the Congress came to power, he said, telling the people that if officials asked for bill payments, they could show a video of Revanth Reddy's promise and then send their

power bills to Sonia's house at 10 Janpath in New Delhi. **Will trap tiger KCR, says Revanth**
 On Friday, challenging the BRS to show its might in the Parliament elections, Revanth Reddy said despite losing in the Assembly elections, the BRS was preparing for the Parliament elections and challenging the Congress. "I am prepared for the challenge and let us fight in the elections. They have not

learnt lessons from the Assembly elections results and their arrogance has not come down," the Chief Minister said. On statements from BRS leaders that the tiger — BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao — was taking rest and would be back soon, the Chief Minister said the Congress was also waiting for the tiger to come out in the public. "We have nets and will trap the tiger," Revanth Reddy said.

Musi vs Thames
 Earlier, the Chief Minister, reiterating that the 55-km long River Musi riverfront would be transformed into a tourist destination, said a senior team of officials from Telangana had studied the development of the River Thames riverfront in London. "In the next 36 months, the River Musi will be transformed like River Thames," the Chief Minister further said.

India to fence Myanmar border

Shah says the govt will end free movement of people

GUWAHATI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the government will end the free movement of people at the India-Myanmar border, and fence it completely so that it can be protected like the country's boundary with Bangladesh. Shah made the announcement while addressing the passing out parade of the first batch of the five newly-constituted Assam Police Commando battalions in Guwahati. "The Narendra Modi government has decided that the India-Myanmar border, which is open, will be protected by barbed fencing. The entire border will have barbed fencing like what we have at the India-Bangladesh border," he said. "The Indian government is rethinking the free movement agreement with Myanmar. Now, the Government of India is going to stop this facility," he added. The Free Movement Regime allows people living on both sides of the border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without a visa. Four Indian states —

“ Entire border will have barbed fencing like what we have at the India-Bangladesh border
 — AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister

Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, share a 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar. Earlier, officials had said that the government was planning to fence a 300-km stretch of the border. More than 31,000 people from Myanmar, mostly from the Chin State, have taken refuge in Mizoram following the military coup in the neighbouring country in February 2021. Many also took shelter in Manipur. Dozens of Myanmar soldiers stationed near the international border with India also fled to Mizoram following intense gunfights with militia group PDF last year. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

ED questions Soren

NATION | PAGE 08

Trump takes a dig at Haley

WORLD | PAGE 09



Unseeded Linda stuns Swiatek

SPORT | PAGE 10



Throwback photos

Sam shares workout pictures of Family Man 2



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 71

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Passport racket: 2 cops among 12 held

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested 12 persons, including two policemen, for facilitating foreign nationals obtain passports by submitting documents obtained through fraudulent means. On specific information about the racket being operated in the city, the Telangana CID teams conducted simultaneous raids at Hyderabad, Jagtial, Korutla, Nizamabad and Karimnagar and arrested nine agents and two policemen. The main agent, Abdus Sattar Osman Al Jahwari (50) of Hyderabad, was also caught in the city. "Abdus Sattar, a graphic designer had mastered the art of preparing fake educa-

According to officials of Telangana CID, so far, the gang had helped 92 people obtain passports

tional and birth certificates. He was helping the foreign nationals, basically Sri Lankans, obtain the certificates for submission to get Indian passports and charged Rs 75,000 from an agent in Chennai," said Shikha Goel, Additional DG (CID), Telangana. So far, the gang had helped 92 people obtain passports. "Preliminary enquiries revealed the gang had obtained more than 100 passports. A thorough investigation is being carried out," said the official.

A Legacy Of Valour



GEARING UP: The Indian Army's Sikh Regiment personnel during rehearsal for the Republic Day parade, in New Delhi on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

Nikhil can be extradited to US: Czech HC

PRAGUE

A Czech High Court has ruled that Indian national Nikhil Gupta, detained in a prison on murder-for-hire charges in an alleged assassination attempt on a Khalistani extremist on American soil, can be extradited to the US, according to local media reports. Gupta, 52, was charged by US federal prosecutors in an indictment unsealed in November last year with working with an Indian government employee in an alleged plot to kill Khalistani separatist Gurbhawan Singh Pannun, who holds dual US and Canadian citizenships, on American soil. Gupta, arrested in the Czech Republic on June 30 last year, is currently held in Prague's Pankrak prison. (SEE PAGE 2)

Maratha march for quota begins

JALNA

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange along with thousands of others on Saturday embarked on a protest march from Maharashtra's Jalna district to Mumbai to draw the State government's attention to the demand for reservation to his community. Jarange lambasted the government for its "cruel and insensitive" attitude and failure to resolve the Maratha reservation issue, and vowed to continue the fight till his last breath. The protest march began from Jarange's native Antarwali Sarati village around 11 am. The protest march led by Jarange is likely to reach Mumbai on January 25. The distance between Antarwali Sarati village and Mumbai is more than 400 km. (REPORT PAGE 7)

No Ayodhya invite yet for Bhadradi Rama

JAMES EDWIN
 Kothagudem

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which is looking after Ayodhya Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha on January 22, has reportedly not invited the Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam in the district. This has come as an un-savoury episode for the Devasthanam, which looks over the Bhadradi Temple, known as Dakshin Ayodhya and has been a popular pilgrimage place for devotees of Lord Rama. The temple holds great significance in the legend of Lord Rama, who was believed to have stayed in the Par-nasala area near

Amazon removes 'Ayodhya Prasad' after CCPA notice

NEW DELHI: After getting a notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), Amazon has removed sweets sold under the name 'Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad'. The products include 'Ghee Bundi Ladoo', 'Khoya Khobi Ladoo', 'Raghupati Ghee Ladoo', and 'Desi Cow Milk Peda', reports Moneycontrol. "We have received a communication from the Central Consumer Protection Authority regarding misleading product claims by certain seller(s) and investigating them for violations," an Amazon spokesperson was quoted as saying. A company also mentioned that Amazon.in is a third-party marketplace where sellers, not Amazon, list and sell products to customers according to Indian laws and the Amazon policy. (ANS)

Bhadrachalam during his 14-year exile. According to news reports, the trust invited the heads of major temples such as Kashi Vishwanath, Vaishno Devi and others besides representatives of religious institutions. (SEE PAGE 2)

Israeli strikes kill 5 Iranians in Syria

DAMASCUS

An Israeli strike on the Syrian capital on Saturday destroyed a building used by the Iranian Paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, killing at least five Iranians, Syrian and Iranian state media reported. The Syrian army said the building in the highly guarded western Damascus neighbourhood of Mazzeh was entirely destroyed, adding that the Israeli air force fired the missiles while flying over Syria's Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Israeli military did not comment. A few hours later, an Israeli drone strike on a car near Tyre killed two Hezbollah members who were in the vehicle and two people who were in a nearby orchard, an official said. (SEE PAGE 2)

US, UK attack Yemen's port city

SANAA

The US and the UK have launched airstrikes on Yemen's port city of Hodeidah late Friday night, the media reported. The Houthi-run al-Masirah TV did not disclose the specific targets or other details. Meanwhile, in the early hours of Saturday, the US Central Command announced that US Navy ships in the Red Sea conducted strikes against three Houthi anti-ship missiles that were aimed at the southern Red Sea, Xinhua news agency reported. **Preemptive action**
 The White House confirmed that this was the fourth preemptive action taken by the US military amid boiling tensions in the Red Sea. The US-Britain

US Navy ships conducts strikes in the Red Sea against three Houthi anti-ship missiles

maritime coalition in the Red Sea has carried out several airstrikes on Houthi camps in various northern provinces of Yemen. The coalition said these actions are aimed at preventing the Houthi group from launching missile and drone attacks on commercial vessels. Houthi chief negotiator Mohammed Abdul Salam said that the group's attacks on Israeli, US and British ships in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea will continue until Israel ends its war and siege on the Gaza Strip. (ANS)