

STATE

Dark days haunt ryots as they hit the streets for Rythu Bandhu **page 5**

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'Efforts on for final assault on terrorism' **page 7**

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Gyanvapi mosque security beefed up after ASI report **page 8**



Nitish likely to form new govt next week

Rumours rife that he will team up with BJP

IANS
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is likely to form the new government in the State next week with the support of the BJP by once again ditching his alliance partners RJD and other members of the Mahagathbandhan.

Sources said the final round of talks are under way between the JD-U and BJP and is likely to be finalised by next week. "The next Bihar government is likely to be an alliance of the JD-U, BJP and Hindustani Awam Morcha Secular (HAMS) alliance," sources said. The JD-U has 45 MLAs, BJP has 76 and HAMS has four, putting them at 125. The Bihar Vidhan Sabha has 243 seats, while 122 MLAs are required to form the government.

On Friday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also attended the High Tea party at Raj Bhawan on Republic Day and was accompanied by Ashok Choudhary.

Sources said Nitish Kumar has also discussed the possibility of forming the new government with Governor Rajendra Vish-

Mamata downplays Nitish move

KOLKATA: Amid strong rumours of Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar quitting the I.N.D.I.A bloc and reuniting with the BJP in the State, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that the eventuality of Kumar's exit will not affect the op-

position bloc much. "I think Nitish Kumar has lost his credibility in the eyes of the people of Bihar. If he quits, it will be easier for Tejashwi Yadav to operate smoothly in Bihar," Banerjee told media persons on the sidelines of an R-Day event at Raj Bhavan. IANS

RJD urges CM to clear the air

PATNA: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has urged Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to "clear the confusion" that was casting a shadow on the ruling Mahagathbandhan in the State. RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha said he expected Kumar, who heads the JD(U), to make a clean breast of rumours

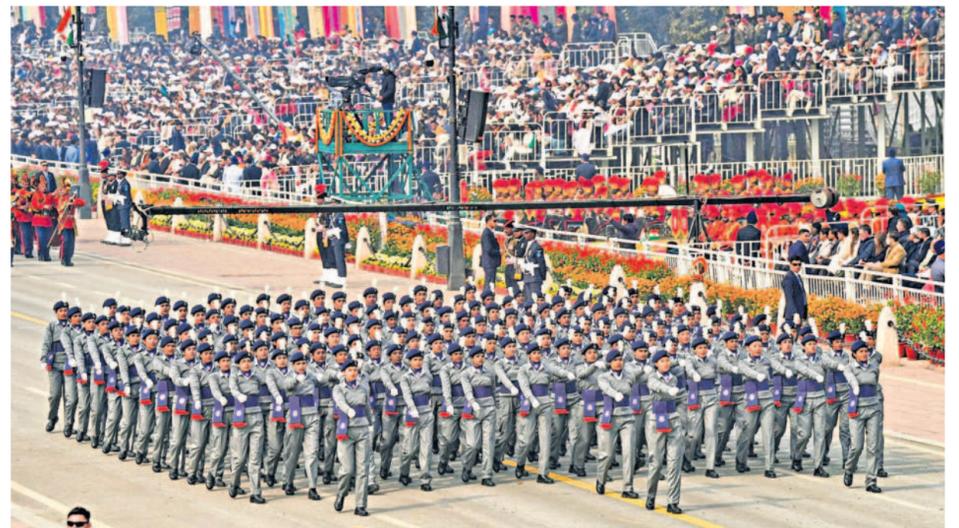
that he was planning to vault back to the BJP-led NDA. "We formed a government together for the welfare of the people and to defeat the BJP. The prevailing confusion is affecting public life in Bihar. Only the Chief Minister can dispel the confusion. We hope he will do so by soon," he said. PTI

wanath Arlekar. Bihar Leader of Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha — who recently participated in a meeting headed by Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi — said the top leadership of the BJP is closely

monitoring the political situation of the State. BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi said Nitish Kumar is a hard bargainer and will bargain on the seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Lok Sabha election as well.

Nari Shakti, military might mark 75th Republic Day

In a first, parade heralded by over 100 women artistes



National Service Scheme volunteers march during the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI (REPORTS PAGE 7)

NEW DELHI

India celebrated its 75th Republic Day on Friday with a grand display of Nari Shakti, rich cultural heritage and military might comprising missiles, warplanes, surveillance gadgets and lethal weapon systems with French President Emmanuel Macron gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

The Republic Day Parade at the Kartavya Path in the heart of the national capital commenced with President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she and

Macron, flanked by the President's Bodyguards, arrived in a traditional buggy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several other union Ministers, the country's top military brass, foreign diplomats and senior officials were among those who witnessed the impressive show, which also included a fly-past by helicopters and other aircraft, with even a dense fog cover failing to dampen the spirits of the spectators.

Soon after, Murmu and Macron left Kartavya Path

in the buggy, which made a return after 40 years. After the end of the parade, Modi, wearing a multi-coloured 'bandhani' print safa, mingled with the excited crowd as people clicked pictures and welcomed him with claps and slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

For the first time, an all-women tri-services contingent marched down the ceremonial boulevard reflecting the country's growing Nari Shakti (women's power). In another first, the parade was heralded by over 100

women artistes playing Indian musical instruments such as 'shankh' and 'nagada' instead of traditional military bands.

The first Army contingent leading the mechanised column was the 61 Cavalry, which was raised in 1953. It was followed by 11 mechanised columns, 12 marching contingents and a fly-past by advanced light helicopters of the Army Aviation Corps. The T-90 Bhisma tanks, NAG missile systems, infantry combat vehicles and all-terrain vehicles were among the key displays. PTI

Jarange gets draft ordinance

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Trump likely to be Prez nominee

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Rahul leads India charge

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Fight for development, KCR to MPs

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Reassuring his MPs that the party will continue its crusade in an intensified manner to safeguard the interests of Telangana, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Friday wanted them to present a strong case of the unfulfilled commitments given to the State at the time of bifurcation.

Addressing a meeting of the BRS Parliamentary Party, Chandrashekhara Rao also said he would soon be back in action and was recovering fast from hip surgery. He said the BRS remained wedded to the cause of the State's development. It had waged many a struggle for the sake of its share in river waters and the transfer



BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao with BRS Parliamentary Party leader K Keshav Rao during the meeting at Yerravalli on Friday.

of common assets. The members of Parliament must fight with their voice strongly heard for realising its due in the Budget session to commence at the end of

the month. KCR had an elaborate discussion with the MPs on the strategies to be adopted in both Houses on the issues likely to figure in the debates. The meeting,

held at Yerravalli, lasted nearly three hours. The former Chief Minister said the BRS was the only party that fought for the interests of the State. (SEE PAGE 2)

WHO hails Telangana's palliative care initiative

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

A report on palliative care programmes being implemented in India, released by the World Health Organization (WHO), has praised the special initiative for terminally ill patients, which was developed and implemented from scratch by the former BRS government in Telangana.

The WHO, in its 'Expanding Availability and Access to Palliative Care' report, which was presented by palliative care experts from Southeast Asia during a workshop held recently, said: "The planning and implementation of the palliative care services in Telangana has been remarkable."

Outlining the ongoing palliative care programme in Telangana, which was launched by the former BRS government in collaboration with voluntary organisations, the report stated that: "In Telangana, the government has leveraged well

Healing touch

THEN BRS GOVT FIRST IN INDIA TO LAUNCH PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES AT PATIENT'S DOORSTEP

- Mobile homecare units for palliative care receives high praise from WHO
- Free palliative care facilities to terminally ill patients in all 33 districts
- Each facility provides inpatient, outpatient, home visits
- Free physiotherapy, medicines to relieve pains being provided to patients
- BRS govt incurred expenditure of Rs 30 lakh to Rs 35 lakh for each centre a year

Rs 100 cr
SPENT ON PROVIDING CANCER TREATMENT THROUGH AAROYASRI

on the skills and expertise available with CSOs, highlighting a successful collaboration between the governmental and civil service organisations."

Recognising the fact that palliative care is fundamental to health and dignity and is a basic right for patients, the then BRS government, for the first time in India, had launched an initiative

that delivered palliative care treatment facilities at patients' doorstep. The BRS government provided financial assistance and mobile vans (Mobile Home Care Units-MHCU) to enable healthcare workers travel to the houses of such patients. "The planning and implementation of palliative care services in TS has been remarkable," it said. (SEE PAGE 2)

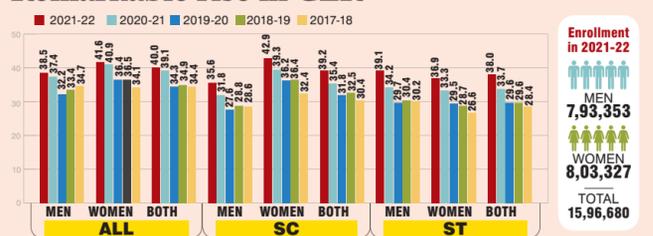
TS sees more women in higher education

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

Novel initiatives launched by the former BRS government to empower women are bearing fruit, with Telangana recording a remarkable growth in the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of women by 7.5 per cent in higher education.

The GER of women in the State soared from 34.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 41.6 per cent in 2021-22. Similarly, the GER of men went up by 3.8 per cent from 34.7 per cent to 38.5 per cent during the period,

Remarkable rise in GER



according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, released by the Union Ministry of Education on Thursday.

Telangana is featured among the top 10 States where women's enrollment is significantly higher than men's. Overall, the State recorded an

impressive GER of 40 per cent in 2021-22, while the national average stood at 28.4 per cent, according to the Ministry's recent report. (SEE PAGE 2)

Hyd's Tanmay slams fastest triple hundred

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad cricketer Tanmay Agarwal on Friday etched his name in history, crafting the fastest First-Class triple hundred in a mere 147 deliveries against Arunachal Pradesh during a round four match of the Ranji Trophy at the Nex-Gen Cricket Ground here.

Agarwal eclipsed the record set by South Africa's Marco Marais in 2017, who took 191 balls to reach 300. He also dismantled the 39-year-old milestone set by former Indian captain Ravi Shastri. IANS (REPORT PAGE 11)

'Govt will fulfil all promises'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Asserting that the Telangana government's top priority was to fulfil its people's aspirations and ensure their welfare, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said its objective was to implement the remaining four guarantees in 100 days.

The government has initiated an action plan to fulfil

the assurances given to the people. Two of the six guarantees have already been implemented. Already, more than 11 crore women have utilised the free TSRTC bus transportation services under the Maha Lakshmi Scheme, implemented as part of the six guarantees, she said.

Addressing the 75th Republic Day celebrations at Public Gardens here on Fri-

day, the Governor said the State government was committed to the well-being of farmers as well. "Twenty-four hours of free quality power is being supplied to farmers along with the implementation of the Warangal Declaration," Soundararajan said.

The government was already working to fulfil the promise of the Rythu Bharosa scheme. (SEE PAGE 2)