

Bharat Ratna for Telangana *bid* PV

Former Prime Minister Charan Singh, Green Revolution pioneer MS Swaminathan also honoured with the top civilian award

PTI
NEW DELHI
Former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh as well Green Revolution pioneer MS Swaminathan will be conferred the Bharat Ratna, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

The government had earlier named former Bihar Chief Minister Karpooi Thakur, a champion of backward empowerment, and I.K. Advani, a founding BJP member credited with charting the course of its rise through the 1990s, for the country's highest civilian honour. At five, one more than the four announced in 1999, this is the maximum number of Bharat Ratnas announced for a year. Making the announcements for Rao, whose liberalisation policies revolutionised the economy, Singh, a champion of farmer causes, and Swaminathan, a globally renowned agricultural scientist, Modi lauded their contributions to the country. Singh, a Jat leader from western Uttar Pradesh

who was prime minister in 1979-80, was one of the pioneers of anti-Congress politics at a time the party was a hegemonic political force. Congress leader Rao, a Telugu, who was Prime Minister for a full five-year term during 1991-96, is widely recognised for ushering in economic reforms.

It is our government's fortune that Singh is being honoured with the Bharat Ratna and it is dedicated to his incomparable contributions to the country, Modi said. Be it as an MLA, as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister or the country's Home Minister, he always speeded up the nation-building exercise and also stood strongly against the Emergency, he added. Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency in 1975. Singh's dedication to farmers and commitment to democracy during the Emergency inspires the country, Modi said. The honour for Singh comes at a time RLD is believed to be in talks with the BJP for an alliance for the Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May. (SEE PAGES 2, 8)



PV Narasimha Rao



Charan Singh



MS Swaminathan

KCR calls it honour for State

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao welcomed the Centre's decision to honour former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna.

He termed it as an honour and a moment of pride for the Telugu people, especially the people of Telangana. In a statement, Chandrashekhara Rao thanked the Centre and also Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accepting the long pending demand of the BRS to confer Bharat Ratna on Narasimha Rao, in recognition of his contribution to the nation.

The former Chief Minister, who had campaigned relentlessly for the honour to be bestowed on Narasimha Rao, also had a post shared on the social media platform 'X', thanking Modi immediately after the Centre's announcement came. "Thanks to Hon'ble PM Sri @narendramodi ji for conferring the Nation's highest award, 'Bharat Ratna,' to former PM Sri PV

Thanks to Hon'ble PM Sri narendramodi ji for conferring the Nation's highest award, 'Bharat Ratna,' to former PM Sri PV Narasimha Rao garu. The people of Telangana rejoice in the decision of PM Narendra Modi ji (sic)

— K CHANDRASHEKHARA RAO, BRS president

Narasimha Rao garu. The people of Telangana rejoice in the decision of PM Narendra Modi ji, (sic)" he said in the post, which was shared on the official 'X' handle of the BRS.

Meanwhile, BRS working president KT Rama Rao too welcomed the Union government's decision to confer Bharat Ratna on PV Narasimha Rao. "We have been demanding the Union government for this honour since the centenary celebrations of Sri PVNR held by Telangana government under the leadership of Sri KCR Garu, (sic)," he posted on X.

Group-IV results out

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The TSPSC on Friday released the general ranking list for recruitment to 8,180 Group-IV vacancies. A total of 7,26,837 candidates have been admitted to the general ranking list, which has been made available on www.tspsc.gov.in.

Candidates were admitted to the list based on the merit secured in the written recruitment examination conducted on July 1, 2023, and as per the existing rules and procedures, and as framed and followed by the commission, the TSPSC said.

Candidates who are rejected/invalid have not been included in the general ranking list, it said, adding that a list of candidates shortlisted for the certificate verification will be announced later. Meanwhile, TSPSC chairman M Mahendar Reddy, administered oath to new commission Member Y Ram Mohan Rao, who assumed charge on Friday.

Cash-for-vote: SC notice to Revanth

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea seeking the transfer of a criminal case against Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy from Hyderabad to either Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh. Issuing a notice on the transfer petition, a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta sought the response of CM Revanth Reddy and others within four weeks. The matter is likely to be taken up for further hearing on March 12.

As per the transfer plea filed under Section 406 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Revanth Reddy and other accused were caught red-handed by Hyderabad's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) when they offered a bribe of Rs 50 lakh as advance to Elvis Stephenson to abstain from casting his vote for the June 2015 biennial election or vote in favour of the TDP.

"The Accused No.1 (Revanth Reddy) is the prime Accused in Crime No. 11/ACB- City Range-1/Hyd/2015 and is the present Chief and Home Minister for the State of Telangana and the Directorate of Prosecution of Anti-Corruption Bureau is answerable and directly under the control of Accused No.1," the plea said. It added that Revanth Reddy can directly influence the de facto complainant and officers by pressurising them to defer or resile from their earlier statements.

It added that there is every possibility that the officers and de facto complainant will depose falsely under threat. The petition said that there cannot be a free and fair trial in the case at Hyderabad or any other court in Telangana and no prejudice will be caused to respondents-accused if the trial is transferred to District and Sessions Judge in Bhopal. IANS

Group-I age limit raised to 46 yrs

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Reiterating that the Congress government was committed to fill two lakh jobs, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday announced that the eligibility age limit for Group-I aspirants was raised to 46 years and a recruitment notification would be issued accordingly. This apart, 15,000 police jobs would be filled in 15

days, besides appointing Vice-Chancellors to different universities, he said in the Assembly on Friday.

Accusing the previous government of failing to protect Telangana's interest in River Krishna water sharing, the Chief Minister urged Speaker G Prasad to permit a discussion on river water sharing on Monday. He also wanted the Speaker to permit the State government to take the 119 MLAs

and 40 MLCs on a tour to Medigadda on Tuesday to understand the ground reality. He also criticised the BRS for planning a public meeting at Nalgonda. Instead, the BRS should protest at Jantar Mantar as Prime Minister Narendra Modi stays in New Delhi, he said, adding that the State government would make all arrangements in this regard till the "BRS turn martyrs", he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Clear pending funds'

NATION | PAGE 07

Trump wins Nevada caucuses

WORLD | PAGE 09



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