

**STATE**

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**9 pirates being brought to India to face legal action: Navy** page 8

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## Liquor case approver's father gets TDP ticket

To contest from Ongole Lok Sabha seat in AP where party is in alliance with BJP

**PTI**  
 AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI  
 The TDP has named M Srinivasulu Reddy, father of Raghava Magunta, who is an accused-turned approver in the Delhi excise policy scam case, as candidate for Ongole Lok Sabha seat.



**SRINIVASULU REDDY WAS ELECTED FROM ONGOLE LOK SABHA SEAT ON YSRCP TICKET IN 2019. HE DESERTED THE RULING PARTY RECENTLY CITING 'SELF-RESPECT' ISSUES IN THE YS JAGANMOHAN REDDY-LED PARTY**

Srinivasulu Reddy was elected from the Ongole Lok Sabha constituency on a YSRCP ticket in 2019. He deserted the ruling party recently citing "self-respect" issues in the Y S Jaganmohan Reddy-led party. The TDP on Friday announced the candidature of Srinivasulu Reddy from Ongole constituency. Reacting to the allotment of the seat to Srinivasulu Reddy, political analyst Telakapalli Ravi told said: "That is the paradox of politics today. While talking about high morals and attacking and criticising others, we forget all the morals in our case." Magunta Raghava was arrested in connection with the Delhi liquor scam by the Enforcement Directorate last year.

He later turned approver. The TDP is in alliance with the BJP in Andhra Pradesh for the upcoming elections. The Enforcement Directorate is probing the Delhi excise policy scam case. Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party alleged connection between one of the witnesses in the alleged excise policy scam and the BJP, and challenged the ED to conduct a probe into it. Senior AAP leaders and Delhi Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "I challenge the ED if it is an independent agency to bring in record this connection and probe it," Atishi

said and alleged that the BJP has connections with the so-called 'South Lobby' of liquor traders. No immediate reaction was available from the BJP on AAP's allegation. Kejriwal was arrested on the basis of four statements including by the Maguntas, the AAP leaders claimed. The Delhi Chief Minister was arrested on March 21 in connection with the excise policy-linked money laundering case being probed by the ED. "Earlier, another witness against Kejriwal in the excise policy case, Sarath Reddy, had paid Rs 55 crore to the BJP through

electoral bonds which proves the party has connection with the 'South Lobby'," Atishi further alleged. She charged that the ED had been "torturing" the witnesses till it got statements from them against Kejriwal. Referring to the questioning of Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot by the ED in the excise policy case, she said, "They may summon me, Bharadwaj and other AAP leaders and arrest us but we are not scared of going to jail." She said Kejriwal's arrest was an "assault on democracy" in the country and the whole of I.N.D.I.A bloc opposed it. The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 that was later scrapped. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the liquor policy.

**ED grills Delhi Minister**



**New Delhi:** The ED questioned Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot for about five hours on Saturday and recorded his statement in connection with a money-laundering investigation linked to the AAP government's now-scrapped excise policy, officials said. Gahlot (49), an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Najafgarh, is the minister for transport, home and law in the Delhi government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been arrested in the case by the federal agency. (REPORT PAGE 8)

## KCR to reach out to farmers

To inspect damaged crops



A woman farmer stands in dried up paddy field in Warangal district on Saturday.

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Stepping up the fight against the Congress government's alleged negligence of farmers who were hit by unseasonal rains, BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao will on Sunday begin visiting agricultural fields that suffered damage, and interact with farmers. Chandrashekhara Rao had earlier given a call to party leaders, including MPs, MLAs, MLCs and Lok Sabha candidates to undertake similar visits in their constituencies to meet affected farmers and instil confidence in them. (SEE PAGE 2)

**BRS' 'Nirasana Deeksha' begins**

**PEDDAPALLI:** A 36-hour 'Rythu Nirasana Deeksha' began at the BRS district party office in Peddapalli on Saturday extending support to farmers who are facing trouble to supply water to standing crops. (REPORT PAGE 4)

**Farmers stage protest for water**

**JAGTIAL:** Farmers staged a protest near the Flood Flow Canal near Dumpeta, demanding the release of water from the canal and supply to standing crops. They staged a dharna and rasta roko on the Vemulawada-Korutla road. (REPORT PAGE 4)

**NATION | PAGE 07**  
**'Cong will split after LS polls'**

**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**'Do not let Trump win'**  
 Biden says many leaders told him not to let him win

**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
**Explosive SRH to face GT today**

**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**  
**Parineeti's Rihanna moment**  
 Actor gives rockstar vibes

**Ramzan Timings**  
 Iftar Sunday 6:34 PM  
 Saher Monday 4:48 AM  
**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**  
 Farm..... Rs. 127  
 Retail live..... Rs. 149  
 With skin..... Rs. 216  
 Skinless..... Rs. 246  
 Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... Rs. 51

## Can pull down Cong govt in 48 hours: BJP

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Refuting the claims of Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy that eight MLAs of the BJP were in touch with the Congress, BJP Legislative Party Leader A Maheshwar Reddy warned that if Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy tried to lure BJP MLAs, his government would collapse within 48 hours. "If BJP opens its gates, the entire Congress will become empty within hours," he said. Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Maheshwar Reddy termed the claims of Venkat Reddy baseless and cautioned that if the Congress

did not stop spreading lies, his party would be forced to create trouble for the government in Telangana.

**People's mandate**

"We respect the peoples' mandate. We do not want to destabilise the Congress government. We want you to complete the five-year term. But if you try to lure our MLAs, we will not keep quiet. Congress should not forget that it has only 64 MLAs in the Assembly. A small push will destabilise the government," he warned. Stating that not a single BJP MLA was in touch with the Congress, he said Venkat Reddy was making false claims. (SEE PAGE 2)



**MAHESHWAR SAYS NOT A SINGLE BJP MLA IS IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESS**

## Maheshwar wanted to join Cong: Minister

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Countering BJP floor leader A Maheshwar Reddy's charges, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said in fact, the BJP leader had evinced interest in joining the Congress. "During the Assembly session, Maheshwar Reddy requested me to help him in joining the Congress and even wanted a Cabinet berth," Venkat Reddy said in a statement issued here on Saturday. Dismissing the BJP leader's charges that he had approached union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah for personal favours as baseless allegations, the Minister challenged him to take an oath at the Bhagyalakshmi temple near Charminar.

## Bharat Ratna conferred on PV, three others posthumously

**NEW DELHI**

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday conferred Bharat Ratna on former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan and two-time former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoo Thakur, posthumously at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here. The country's highest civilian honour to Rao, Singh, Swaminathan and Thakur were received by their kin at a ceremony attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries. "As the ninth Prime Minister of India, PV Narasimha Rao led far-reaching economic reforms. Earlier, in his youth, he had taken an active part in the freedom struggle, especially against the misrule and oppression in the Nizam-ruled Hyderabad. He was known for his command over several languages and literature," the



Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's son PV Prabhakar Rao receiving the award, during the Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday. — Photo: ANI

Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post on X. On behalf of Rao, Bharat Ratna was received by PV Prabhakar Rao, his son, it added. PV Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996. Often re-

ferred to as the Chanakya of Indian politics, he is known for initiating far-reaching economic reforms and for his skilful political manoeuvring. He was the first Prime Minister from the south, the

first Congress leader from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to complete a full five-year term and the man who steered India through the turbulent early 1990s. PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGES 5, 8)

## Two injured as group of people come to blows over haleem

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

A clash that started over payment for haleem parcel at a restaurant in Musheerabad left a few persons injured on Friday evening. According to police, a man bought a haleem bowl from the restaurant and was leaving the place when the hotel manager asked him to pay money. The customer told the manager that he had already paid the amount but the latter denied it. An argument ensued between them over the issue and both exchanged blows. Soon, friends of the customer and hotel workers joined in. "Two persons were



A video grab of the incident at Musheerabad.

injured and shifted to hospital. A case was registered," said Musheerabad police. Police said that the hotel manager and customer had previous enmity between them. On information, a police team reached the spot and dispersed the crowd. (SEE PAGE 2)

**Row over quality**

**HYDERABAD:** A video casting aspersions on the quality of haleem provided by the popular Paradise Hotel went viral on social media resulting in Paradise Food Court filing an FIR with the Begumpet Police. The video claimed that the haleem sold by the hotel's Begumpet outlet was spoilt and had a sour smell. However, in a statement, Paradise Food Court clarified that the video in question was not recorded by the mentioned Instagram channel, nor did they visit their outlet during the stated period. They asserted that the video was fabricated with malicious intent. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Meerpet SI in ACB trap

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

The Anti-Corruption Bureau sleuths caught a sub-inspector of Meerpet police station red-handed when he allegedly demanded and accepted a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a man on Saturday. Sub-Inspector B Saidulu, had demanded the amount to 'drop action in a complaint filed against a realtor'. "The accused officer thereby performed his duty improperly and dishonestly," said Anti-Corruption Bureau officials. The Sub-Inspector was arrested and produced before the court.

## Portion of under-construction bridge collapses in UP

**BULANDSHAHR**

Three slabs of an under-construction bridge over the Ganga river in Gajraula village of this Uttar Pradesh district have collapsed, officials said on Saturday. However, no casualties were reported, a senior official said. Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav pulled up the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the incident, accusing it of playing with people's lives by compromising the quality of projects. A committee led by the chief development officer



The part of under-construction bridge which collapsed in Bulandshahr on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

(CDO) has been formed to investigate the matter, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said. According to the DM, the bridge is being built over the Ganga to connect Bulandshahr with Amroha. (SEE PAGE 2)