

**HYDERABAD**

**Demand up for engg stream, applications for EAPCET increases** **page 3**

**NATION**

**India corners key positions in important UN bodies** **page 8**

**WORLD**

**Bibi's handling of war a mistake, says Biden** **page 9**



**Daredevil act**



**STRONG TRADITION:** An artiste dressed as Lord Shiva spews fire during the Shyamalamba Jatara in Katheru village near Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. — Photo: Dronamraju Bhagavan Doss

## BJP ignored Bhadradri Rama: KTR

**Says party using Lord's name to win elections**

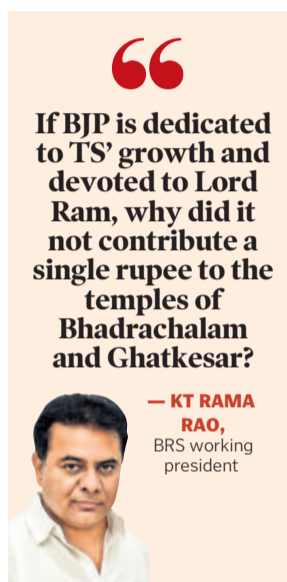
STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday gave a clarion call to voters to defeat the BJP, which was a communal party, in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections, citing its lack of contribution to Telangana in the last 10 years and for trying to stifle the voice of Telangana in Parliament.

Addressing the BRS cadre during the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency meeting at Medipally near Medchal on Wednesday, Rama Rao said though former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao built the Yadadri temple, he never misused the name of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy for political gains unlike Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders who were using the name of Lord Ram for building the Ayodhya temple.

He reiterated that the BRS has devotion towards Lord Ram, but would never use his name for votes. "Lord Ram does not belong to the BJP alone. He belongs to all Hindus like us. I have Rama in my name as well," he said.

Rama Rao said there was no issue with Lord Ram, but given the ideology of the BJP, it should be dethroned from power to end the communal hatred being spread



**“If BJP is dedicated to TS' growth and devoted to Lord Ram, why did it not contribute a single rupee to the temples of Bhadrachalam and Ghatkesar?”**

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

in the country. "If the BJP is genuinely dedicated to Telangana's growth and devoted to Lord Ram, why did it not contribute even a single rupee to the temples of Bhadrachalam and Ghatkesar? Should Ayodhya be the exclusive development? Why is there such bias in favour of Lord Ram temples across the nation?" he asked.

Rama Rao lashed out at Modi, dubbing him the most inhuman Prime Minister, who did not even arrange trains for migrant labourers to reach their native places during the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. In sharp contrast, he

said former Chief Minister Chandrashekhara Rao arranged for food and transportation of these migrant labourers. He added that Modi, who waived corporate loans worth Rs 15 lakh crore for his crony capitalists, did not implement a crop loan waiver for debt-ridden farmers.

He also criticised Modi for arm-twisting political opponents to join the BJP and forcing Chief Ministers of different States to toe the line of the BJP or spend time behind the bars, with fabricated cases against them. He drew parallels between Modi and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing them of hatching conspiracies to decimate the BRS.

"Revanth Reddy has chalked out plans to join the BJP just after the Lok Sabha elections. He loves Modi more than Rahul Gandhi," Rama Rao said, pointing out the sharp contrast between the public statements of Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy with regard to Modi, Adani and the Delhi excise policy case as well. He said Revanth Reddy would shift his loyalties to the BJP with 30 Congress MLAs after the Lok Sabha polls.

He said Revanth Reddy would fail automatically and that he himself was aware that he could not fulfil the poll promises. (SEE PAGE 2)

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**TDP, JSP leaders join YSRCP**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**

**Xi meets Lavrov**

**Vows to build strong Chinese, Russian ties**



**SPORT | PAGE 10**

**RCB vs MI in battle of equals**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**Patralekhaa all praise**

**Overjoyed by Rajkumar Rao's Srikanth trailer**



**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 156
Retail live.....	Rs. 178
With skin.....	Rs. 258
Skinless.....	Rs. 294
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 51

## AAP Minister resigns from party

NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi High Court dismissed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest by the ED in the excise policy case, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Minister Raaj Kumar Anand resigned from the party, saying he doesn't want to associate his name with "corrupt people".

"We got life lessons from BR Ambedkar's works, and that is why I joined politics and became an MLA. Despite being a businessman, I became a Minister and served the people. I stood with the AAP and Arvind Kejriwal as he talked about following Baba Saheb's ideals," Anand, who was the

**'BJP breaking our Mins'**

**NEW DELHI:** The AAP on Wednesday claimed that the resignation of Delhi Minister Raaj Kumar Anand vindicates its stand that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest was aimed at finishing the party. Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the BJP was using the ED and the CBI to "break our Ministers and MLAs". "It is 'agnipariksha' (trial by fire) of AAP Ministers and MLAs," he said. Singh asserted that although the resignation may demotivate some party workers, the AAP will largely stand strong against such attempts. PTI

**“I am resigning because I don't want to work with corrupt people. There is no respect for Dalit MLAs, Councillors or Ministers in AAP”**

— RAAJ KUMAR ANAND, Delhi Minister

**“It is agnipariksha (trial by fire) of AAP Ministers and MLAs. The AAP will stand strong against attempts to break the party”**

— SANJAY SINGH, AAP Rajya Sabha MP

Social Welfare Minister in the Delhi Cabinet, said on Wednesday. He also said Ambedkar's photo is placed at every government office, but when it comes to working on his ideas, nothing is done. "Reservation is a con-

stitutional compulsion. Yet, we don't have a single Dalit or backward class leader representing the AAP in the Rajya Sabha," Anand said. He also said when it comes to reservation, the AAP always remains silent.

"In recent days, many people were recruited in the Assembly on high salaries, but no place was given to Dalits. This made me angry... I cannot work openly here despite being the Social Welfare Minister," he said. IANS

**FACEOFF**

## High-octane campaign in TN

**DMK keeping TN in old mindset: Modi**

Lashing out at the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday accused it of keeping the State "trapped" in an old mindset and politics, which is impeding the growth of the State's youth.

Prime Minister Modi, while addressing a public rally as part of the election campaign for the BJP, took a swipe at the DMK, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin and accused the party of being "anti-Tamil". "The DMK has the first copyright on corruption. DMK wants to keep Tamil Nadu trapped in old thinking, old politics," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)



**Stalin likens PM to migratory bird**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday took strong exception to PM Narendra Modi's campaign in the State and likened the latter's visits to a migratory bird arriving at the sanctuary during season and posed him questions on a series of issues. The PM has come to the State with a set of guarantees for the 2024 general elections as his Gujarat model and Chaukidar role has been exposed, he said. "PM Modi hovers over Tamil Nadu during the election season just like migratory birds come to the sanctuary during the season," he posted on X. (SEE PAGE 2)



## Will rip you apart, SC tells officials in Patanjali ads case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to accept the affidavits of yoga guru Ramdev and his close aide Balkrishna of Patanjali Ayurved tendering unconditional apologies to publish "misleading" advertisements. It asserted that the court doesn't want to be "so generous" as the apologies were issued after the duo was caught with their "backs against the wall".

The apex court also came down hard on the Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority for its inaction on the issue and said it is not



**“Why should we not think that you were in cahoots with the respondents & keeping your eyes shut...?”**

— SUPREME COURT

going to take it lightly as the authority appeared to have kept its "eyes shut deliberately". "We will rip you apart," a Bench of Justices

Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah told the counsel representing the authority in an unusually stern reprimand.

The top court observed that after the notices to show cause were issued to Ramdev and Balkrishna, they "attempted to wriggle out" of their personal appearance before the court which is "most unacceptable". "Having regard to the entire history of the matter and the past conduct of the contemners..., we have expressed our reservations about accepting the latest affidavit filed by them," the Bench said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## BRS picks Niveditha for Cantt bypoll

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao on Wednesday announced G Niveditha, the younger daughter of former Secunderabad Cantonment MLA late G Sayanna and sister of former MLA late Lasya Nanditha, to contest in the Cantonment bypoll as the party candidate.

He decided this after discussing with key BRS leaders from the Assembly constituency recently. The decision follows the demise of Nanditha in a road accident, necessitating the by-election.

## CBI to probe Sandeshkhali crimes

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday ordered a CBI investigation into allegations of crimes against women and land grabbing in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali, which had witnessed protests over the issues.

Stating that the investigation will be monitored by the court, a division Bench presided by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam directed the CBI to file a comprehensive report on the alleged illegal conversion of agricultural land into water bodies for pisciculture after inspecting revenue records. PTI

## UoH among world's best in seven subjects

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Winning laurels at an international level, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been named one of the world's top universities for studying seven subjects.

As per the QS World University Subject Rankings 2024 released recently, the top-ranked UoH subjects are Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Economics & Econometrics, English Language Literature, Linguistics, Performing Arts and Physics & Astronomy. In academic reputation, the



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UoH performed the best in Performing Arts, in which it scored 65.6. As for employer reputation,

the university got the best in Linguistics with a 57.4 score.

In citations per paper, a

QS' measure of research quality, the UoH received the best score of 75.7 in Chemistry.

Similarly, in H-Index, which also measures research impact and productivity, the varsity performed best in Economics, in which it scored 60. With a 49.6 score in the International Research Network, the UoH performed best in Chemistry.

University Vice Chancellor Prof BJ Rao congratulated the fraternity of the schools/departments that figured in the rankings, adding, "However, the university needs to work towards adding more subjects into this august list."

## 12 killed in Ch'garh bus accident

**DURG:** At least 12 people were killed and 14 injured -- all employees of a private firm -- as a bus they were on fell into a murum' soil mine pit in Chhattisgarh's Durg district on Tuesday night, officials said. The incident took place around 8.30 pm near Khapri village under Kumhari Police Station limits when the victims were returning home after work from a distillery, Durg Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla said. According to preliminary information, the bus with more than 30 people onboard skidded off the road and plunged into the 40 feet deep 'murum' mine, he said. "Twelve people, including three women, were killed in the accident," he added. PTI (REPORT PAGE 8)

## 5 die trying to rescue cat from well

**AHMEDNAGAR:** In a tragic incident, a rescue operation went horribly wrong in Ahmednagar's Wadki village of Maharashtra as five people lost their lives while attempting to save a cat, which had fallen into an abandoned well being used as a biogas pit. The tragedy occurred when one of them entered the well to rescue a cat that had fallen in it and others followed suit in an effort to rescue him as he got trapped. The deceased are Manik Govind Kale (65), Sandeep Manik Kale (36), Bablu Anil Kale (28), Anil Baburao Kale (53) and Babasaheb Gaikwad (36). ANI