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Will encourage Russia to do whatever it wants, says Trump **page 9**



BRS back in agitation mode

This time it's fighting for Krishna basin projects

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Nearly a decade after leading a mass agitation that led to the formation of Telangana, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (then TRS) is all set to return to agitation mode. This time, it is to lead a fight against the handing over of the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects on the Krishna river to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) under the Centre's control. The crucial move will be made with the party's first major public meeting after the Assembly polls, to be held at Nalgonda on Tuesday.

The 'Chalo Nalgonda' meeting will also see party president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao addressing his first public meeting after the elections and undergoing a total hip replacement surgery. He is expected to reveal the party's action plan to safeguard the rights of Telangana in the Krishna river water, and if talk within the party is any indication, he is also likely to sound the poll bugle for the party's LS poll campaign.

The 'anti-Telangana' attitude of both the BJP-led Central government and the Congress-led State government will be in sharp focus at the meeting. Chandrashekar Rao had been vocal about the rightful share in river waters for Telangana right from the days of the Statehood movement and also after forming

KCR to address party's first major public meeting after recently held Assembly elections, 'Chalo Nalgonda', which will be held on Tuesday

the government, with efforts made towards realising that goal by completing several projects. The BRS-led State government, which was in power for 10 years, had also vehemently opposed the Centre's efforts to take over the projects in the name of river boards. The BRS now plans to mo-

bilise like-minded forces for another movement to protect the interests of Telangana and its people. The party leadership has taken up the public meeting as a matter of prestige as it would be the first since the Assembly elections to be addressed by the BRS chief.

The meeting to be organised at Marriguda village is expected to be attended by over five lakh people, with at least 20,000 people from each constituency covering the erstwhile districts of Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Warangal and Khammam under the Krishna basin. "We have been raising the issue of re-allocation of rightful share for TS in the river waters as per the AP Reorganisation Act since the State's formation. Following an assurance from the Centre, the then BRS (TRS) government agreed to only temporary allocation of water between both States on an annual basis, to ensure the timely release of water to fields. The Centre is yet to resolve the issue and the Congress government is misleading people by handing over both projects," a BRS leader said.

Ryots protest: Delhi turns fortress

National capital, Haryana borders sealed, high security in place

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Ahead of a proposed 'Delhi Chalo' march by farmer unions on Tuesday, authorities in Haryana and Delhi fortified borders with neighbouring States at many places by putting up concrete blocks, road spike barriers and barbed wires and deploying thousands of police personnel, besides imposing prohibitory orders.

While the Centre has invited farmer unions for another meeting to discuss their demands on February 12, the move to block borders to prevent the protesters from entering the national capital drew flak from opposition parties and farmer groups on Sunday. Authorities, however, defended the restrictions, citing the 2020 agitation against the now-repealed three farm laws that had stretched to over a year.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and several farmer associations, mostly from UP, Haryana and Punjab, have called the protest to press the Centre to accept their demands, including the enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price for crops.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shared a video of road spike barriers being placed on State borders and said, "Is laying nails-thorns in the path of farmers 'amritkaal' or



A road is barricaded as security is tightened on the Ambala-Kaithal bypass ahead of the farmers' call for 'Chalo Delhi', in Ambala, Haryana, on Sunday. — Photo: ANI

'anyaykaal?' Punjab Chief Minister and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann likened the roads to enter Delhi and Haryana to the India-Pakistan border. "I urge the Centre to hold talks with farmers and accept their genuine demands... There are as many wires put up on the roads (Punjab-Haryana borders) to go to Delhi as there are at the border with Pakistan," said Mann.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) also slammed the blocking of roads. "Why is the government scared? Huge barricading is being done. Is this democracy?" its leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal said. "If the

situation turns bad, it will be the responsibility of the Khattar government," he said in a video message.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 were imposed in the northeast district of the national capital on Sunday, directing the police to make all efforts to prevent protesters from entering Delhi. Barricades were also put up and police checking intensified along the Ghazipur border, one of the sites of the 2020-21 farmers' stir. "No one will be allowed to breach the law and order situation," an order issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said.

Haryana authorities have sealed the border with Punjab at Shambhu near Ambala. Elaborate arrangements are in place at the borders of Jind and Fatehabad districts to stop the march. Apprehending the disturbance of peace, Haryana has also suspended mobile internet services and bulk SMS in seven districts — Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa — from February 11-13.

Iron sheets have been installed along the two sides of the road on the Ghaggar flyover to prevent protesters from throwing police barricades off it. (SEE PAGE 2)

Trust vote in Bihar today

NATION | PAGE 07

Zardari bats for Bilawal as PM

WORLD | PAGE 09



India juniors lose to Australia

SPORT | PAGE 10



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Sam back with a bang

Says she was jobless after taking a break



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Loot & divide is Cong motto: Modi

JHABUA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he is confident that the BJP will cross the 370 seats-mark in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, and even the opposition leaders in Parliament are saying the ruling coalition will get over 400 seats.

Addressing a public meeting of tribal community members in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district, PM Modi (donning a tribal waistcoat), said the Congress was anti-tribal and thought of villages, farmers and the poor only during elections.

He also said he had got overwhelming love from the people as he visited temples associated with Lord Ram in the south of the country. Aware of their imminent defeat, the Congress and its allies are resorting to last-ditch tactics, the PM said, adding that "loot and divide" is the motto of the

“ People showed the mirror to the Congress in the Assembly polls. The mood of the nation is similar in the LS polls — NARENDRA MODI, PM

Congress. The Congress and other opposition leaders abuse him because he is working for the betterment of tribals and the poor, Modi said.

"The Congress, when it is in power indulges in loot, while out of power, it engineers divisions (in society) based on language, region and caste. Loot aur phoot Congress ke oxygen hain (corruption and politics of division are Congress' oxygen)," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Mission to track weather patterns



GEARING UP: Preparations under way for the launch of ISRO's GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission, at the Satish Dhawan Space Station in Sriharikota. The launch of the spacecraft is set for February 17 at 5.30 pm. — Photo: PTI

Student found hanging in SC welfare hostel

STATE BUREAU
Suryapet

A second-year Intermediate student was found hanging in a room of the SC Welfare residential college at Imampet in the district on Saturday night.

Daggupati Vaishnavi was in her second year BiPC, while her parents reside at Ambedkar Nagar in Suryapet. According to police, a farewell party was organized in the residential school on Saturday evening, in which Vaishnavi participated actively. She also spoke to her mother, over a WhatsApp video call, about the party.

Her father Durga Prasad said the hostel staff called them at 9.55 pm saying their daughter had fallen sick. They asked the parents to come to the Government General Hospital of Suryapet as his daughter was shifted to hospital. (SEE PAGE 2)

Rats nibble at patient in govt hosp ICU

STATE BUREAU
Kamareddy

Rats reportedly nibbled on the legs and fingers of a patient inside the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Kamareddy Government Hospital.

The patient, Sheikh Mujeeb, was undergoing treatment in the ICU for the last one week and was found to have suffered rat bites on his legs and fingers. His family spotted the bite marks on Sunday, after which they brought the incident to the notice of the hospital authorities. According to officials, fol-



Mouse traps have been laid on the Kamareddy Government Hospital premises after the incident.

lowing a preliminary inquiry report by Kamareddy District Collector Jitesh V Patil, Director of Medical Education

(DME) Dr B Triveni suspended two duty medical officers and a staff nurse. The services of District Coordinator of Hospital

Services (DCHS) Dr S Vijaya Lakshmi were also surrendered to the government by the District Collector. The preliminary inquiry found "gross negligence" on part of ICU in-charge Dr Kavaya, general medicine in-charge Dr Vasanth Kumar and ICU staff nurse G Manjula.

The family complained that rats were everywhere in the hospital and that their presence was creating fear among patients. Patients said they had been complaining about the presence of rats in the hospital, including in the ICU. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Sex racket busted; couple and B'deshi woman held

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An alert police officer from Hyderabad not only saved the life of a vulnerable and distraught woman but enabled the Telangana Police to bust an international human trafficking racket in the city.

The cop's timely action also led to the arrest of three people, including the Bangladeshi immigrant, who entered India illegally. The incident occurred in the city on Friday night when a woman from Bangladesh was desperately

Incident occurred in Hyd on Friday night when woman from B'desh was seeking help while arguing with two people

seeking help while arguing with two people at Attapur. Alert onlookers, noticing her plight, dialled 100. A police team from the Attapur police station, headed by ASI Rashiduddin, reached the spot. On enquiring, they realised that the woman was a Bangladeshi national.

Further enquiries revealed that she was allegedly lured to India on the pretext of a job in Hyderabad by a couple, Syeda Sania and Mohd Salman, both residents of Gazimillat Colony in Chandrayangutta. The young woman somehow managed to reach Hyderabad but was shocked when she was forced into prostitution.

The ASI from the Attapur police station alerted his counterparts in Chandrayangutta and handed over the Bangladeshi woman and the local couple. (SEE PAGE 2)