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'BRS all set to make massive comeback'

KCR says people developing aversion to Congress rule

STATE BUREAU
NAGARKURNOOL

Striking back at the Congress, which had undone the Telangana State which he had rebuilt and nurtured so well and for so long, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Saturday said his party was all set to make a comeback with a resounding victory in the ensuing parliamentary polls.

Addressing a roadshow at the district headquarters town of Nagarkurnool, Chandrashekhar Rao exuded confidence that the BRS would be able to take the State in its stride once again if the mood of the people across the districts he had toured so far was any indication. He said he had just completed the fourth day of his bus yatra as part of his massive outreach programme. The yatra was receiving an overwhelming response all the way. With crowds coming out onto the roads in an unprecedented manner, the yatra was inching forward the tough way.

Attributing the response to the aversion people had started developing to the Congress rule, he stated that the BRS was certain to garner the Parliamentary constituencies of Nagarkurnool and Mahabubnagar with impressive margins.

Recalling that the party was launched the same day 23 years ago with the avowed goal of Statehood,



BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao and party's Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha candidate RS Praveen Kumar at a roadshow in Nagarkurnool on Saturday.

he said it had witnessed many a hurdle in its splendid journey. The need for the party was realised by the people of the State once again. Appealing to the elec-

torate of Nagarkurnool to ensure the victory of RS Praveen Kumar, he said the former IPS officer had a proven record of success as the architect of Gurukul

schools and colleges in the State. He had the potential to place Nagarkurnool on the global map, Chandrashekhar Rao said. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

'Komatireddy approached BRS to topple Revanth gov't'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy on Saturday said he had received feelers from Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy offering the support of 22 MLAs from the Congress to topple the government of A Revanth Reddy.

Addressing a press conference, Kaushik Reddy revealed that Komatireddy wanted him to talk to the BRS leadership on his offer of support.

He, however, did not take up the issue either with the party president or other leaders so far, he further added. (SEE PAGE 2)

Will not back out of our mission, vows KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS celebrated its foundation day on Saturday, with its working president KT Rama Rao hoisting the party flag at Telangana Bhavan as part of the celebrations.

Addressing the party workers on the occasion, he said the BRS would continue working for the people with unwavering focus and effort. The founder president of the party and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, going by his history, is known for his steadfast commitment to the cause he had shouldered, unmindful of the obstacles and setbacks.

The BRS would not back out of the mission he had been spearheading with a



BRS working president KT Rama Rao hoisting the party flag on the occasion of the party's foundation day on Saturday.

steely resolve. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi was renamed Bharat Rashtra Samithi, transforming it into a national party with a good intention to reach out to the rest of the country with the development strategies

tried out successfully in the State. The move received an overwhelming response in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Odisha. The setback in the Assembly polls will not deter the intended outreach of the party. (SEE PAGE 2)

Facial recognition likely for TS EAPCET

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

In a bid to thwart impersonation and enhance the examination's integrity, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU)-Hyderabad is likely to introduce facial recognition in the Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TS EAPCET) scheduled for May 7-11.

As per the new feature, which is in the test-run

stage, a student's photograph — captured before the commencement of the entrance test — synchronises with the photo uploaded in the application form. A student will be permitted for the exam if the captured photo matches the one in the registration form. Special software has been designed for this feature to ensure bonafide students take the test.

Every year, the JNTU-H, which holds the TS EAPCET, verifies candidates' credentials — admit

card and valid identity card — besides capturing biometric fingerprint details and photographs, which are manually cross-verified. These biometric details and photographs are again verified during the admission counselling to ensure there is no impersonation. This time, the impersonation is checked using software before the commencement of the examination.

"A new facial comparison feature is being planned for TS EAPCET 2024. A final test run is

scheduled for Sunday. If everything goes as planned, it will be introduced in exams this year if not next year," official sources told Telangana Today.

The A&P entrance exam is scheduled for May 7-8 and the engineering test is from May 9-11. As many as 3,54,393 students registered for the entrance test till the last count on Saturday. Of the total, 2,54,158 students enrolled for the engineering stream, 99,890 for A&P and 345 for both engineering and A&P.

2 CRPF personnel killed in Manipur

IMPHAL

Two CRPF personnel were killed and two others injured as militants attacked a camp of security forces in Manipur's Bishnupur district early on Saturday, police said.

The militants attacked an India Reserve Battalion (IRBn) camp at Naranseina in the Moirang police station area, they said. "The militants fired indiscriminately from hilltops, targeting the camp. It started around 12.30 am and continued till about 2.15 am. They also hurled bombs, one of which exploded in the outpost of CRPF's 128 battalion," a senior police officer said.

The deceased were CRPF Sub-Inspector N Sarkar and Head Constable Arup Saini, he said. The injured were Inspector Jadav Das and Constable Aftab Das, he said. PTI

(RELATED REPORT PAGE 8)

CBI planted arms, says Didi

KULTI/USHAGRAM

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said there was "no evidence" of arms seizure in Sandeshkhali, asserting that CBI teams conducted searches without informing the State police.

She expressed scepticism regarding the operations, stating that the recovered items "might have been brought by officials of the central agency". "If a firecracker goes off in Bengal, the NIA, CBI, NSG are coming to investigate. It seems that a war is going on. The State police were not informed. It is not known what was found. There was no evidence. The seized items might have been brought by them (CBI) in a car," Banerjee said here.

She was addressing an election rally for TMC's Asansol Lok Sabha candidate Shatrughan Sinha. The CBI on Friday seized arms and ammunition, including

'TMC govt protecting terrorists'

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Saturday accused the TMC government of "protecting" terrorists and rapists, alleging that the State appears to be on the brink of anarchy. BJP's national spokesperson Prem Shukla hit out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a press conference. While goons in Sandeshkhali robbed women of their "mangalsutra", "rapists" like Sheikh were given protection. PTI

a police service revolver and foreign-made firearms, during searches at two premises of an associate of now-suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh in Sandeshkhali. (SEE PAGE 2)

Iran to free Indian crew soon

DUBAI

Iran on Saturday said the mostly Indian crew of a Portuguese-flagged ship, which was seized by Iranian forces in its maritime territory two weeks ago, is being granted consular access, raising hopes for their early release and extradition.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on April 13 seized the Israeli-affiliated, Portuguese-flagged MSC Aries, a container ship, manned by a crew of 25, including 17 Indians, near the

Strait of Hormuz as a result of a series of attacks between Iran and Israel.

A statement from Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Portugal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel had a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian and exchanged views on the bilateral relations and the situation in the region, with the developments in Palestine standing out in their talks.

It was during this telephonic conversation that

both sides exchanged their latest views on the Portuguese-flagged Israeli ship seized by Iranian forces. "We (will) seriously consider the release of the ship's crew as a humanitarian issue and have announced to their ambassadors in Tehran their access to consular services, release and extradition," Amirabdollahian said.

Ann Tessa Joseph, the sole woman cadet among the 17 Indian crew members of MSC Aries, was released on April 18. (SEE PAGE 2)

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