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Worried over spread of conflict, says Jaishankar



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Devastation rages on as Israel bombs Gaza, Lebanon

16 killed as Israel targets school in Gaza; 10 killed in airstrikes on south Lebanon



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Sundar's magic floors NZ, shines with 7/50

In a nutshell

Justice Sanjiv Khanna is new CJ

NEW DELHI: Justice Sanjiv Khanna was on Thursday appointed the 51st Chief Justice of India. He will take oath on November 11, a day after incumbent Justice DY Chandrachud demits office on attaining the age of 65. Justice Chandrachud took over as the CJ on November 8, 2022. Justice Khanna will have a tenure of a little over six months as CJ and would demit office on May 13 next year. PTI

Amaravati to get rail connectivity

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two rail projects worth Rs 6,798 crore — a 57-km line to connect Andhra Pradesh's new capital Amaravati and for doubling of a section in north Bihar. In another decision, the Cabinet approved the doubling of Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Sitamari-Darbhanga and Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur section in Bihar covering 256 km. Both projects will benefit AP & Bihar. PTI NATION PAGE 8

Envoy: Canada backstabbed India

NEW DELHI: Calling Canada's behaviour "the pits", India's recalled High Commissioner Sanjay Verma said India was backstabbed and treated in a most unprofessional manner by a country that is supposed to be a friendly democracy. He said "a handful" of supporters of Khalistan have turned the ideology into a criminal enterprise, which indulges in a range of activities such as gun-running and human trafficking, and yet Canadian officials turn a blind eye. PTI NATION PAGE 8

Bomb threats to over 80 flights

NEW DELHI: More than 80 domestic and international flights of various Indian airlines received bomb threats on Thursday. Sources said around 20 flights each of Air India, Vistara and IndiGo got bomb threats while Akasa Air got the threats for 13 flights. Five flights each of Alliance Air and SpiceJet received threats too. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 120
Retail live.....	Rs. 142
With skin.....	Rs. 206
Skinless.....	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



## 'Ready to be jailed for people'

Says with Congress govt breaking poll promises, there would be a revolt



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing a massive gathering of farmers during the Rythannala Poru Bata meeting at Ramleela ground in Adilabad on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU  
 ADILABAD

Declaring that the BRS would not bow to pressure tactics from the Congress government, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday said he was ready to be jailed for the sake of the people and farmers.

Addressing a massive gathering of farmers at the 'Rythannala Poru Bata' meeting organised by the BRS and local farmers' organisations at Ramleela ground here on Thursday to protest the anti-farmer policies of the Congress government, Rama Rao said he was ready to go to jail for the

people and farmers. With one promise after the other made to the people being broken, there would be a revolt against the government, with people not hesitating to thrash leaders of the Congress soon for failing to fulfil their poll promises.

Listing out each of the broken promises of the Congress, right from Rs 2,500 for women, Rs 4,000 for unemployed youth, two lakh jobs, bonus on paddy and so on, he said even the one tola of gold promised to the beneficiaries of the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme was not given yet. Rama Rao, who reached the venue to a vociferous applause from the farmers and

the public, said the situation was such that farmers would have to lodge a complaint against the government for evading payment of Rythu Bandhu, not initiating the promised Rythu Bharosa scheme and for not extending the crop loan waiver in a full-fledged manner.

Even the unemployed would have to lodge a complaint against the government for not providing two lakh jobs per annum. No leader of the Congress would be left in the State if all sections lodged complaints against the government, he said. Almost every section of society was now on the streets protesting,

with the latest being the wives of police personnel, who are also demanding justice at work for their husbands. Even they were being treated with disrespect, with police using force against women staging peaceful dharnas, he said.

Cautioning that the BRS would not remain silent if cases were booked against farmers, he said none would keep quiet if the government demolished the houses of the common man either. He cited a case registered against Bodigam Ganganna for allegedly abusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. People were given house sites and permissions during

the earlier regime of the Congress, but now the same party was targeting them for no fault of theirs. He also asked whether cases would be booked against the Congress, which claimed to keep its word within hundred days at the office, or against the farmers or the poor. Cheating cases should be registered against those who duped farmers and people, he said, adding that illegal cases won't be tolerated.

He asked the public to warn people in Maharashtra about Congress as the State was going to polls, and inform them what was happening in Telangana.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 5)

## Farmers in dire straits

With no Kisan Sarkar in TG, they are facing a host of challenges

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO  
 Hyderabad

The once-robust support system for farmers in Telangana, right from sowing operations to harvest and procurement, is apparently missing under the current Congress regime.

The State support that encompassed crop investment assistance, timely irrigation, uninterrupted power and assured purchase of produce till the last grain, appears to have faded. The administration has failed not just on Rythu Bandhu/Bharosa, loan waiver or incentive bonus, but even in providing farmers with the minimum support price.

Nizamabad and Nalgonda, major paddy-producing districts, usually see farmers hitting the markets early with their kharif produce. However, this year, they face a grim reality with not many takers for their produce. Unseasonal rains

PROCUREMENT DELAYS

HYDERABAD: Although the State government planned to open 7,139 paddy purchase centres for the 2024-25 Vanakalam crop, less than 2,550 have commenced operations. Many are yet to begin purchasing, primarily due to delays in integrating weighing operations online. The State had decided to establish separate procurement centres for grade-A paddy and coarse varieties, with a new bonus scheme offering Rs 500 per quintal for the fine rice. The process of identifying the 33 varieties that qualify for the bonus is still lacking a fool-proof system. (SEE PAGE 2)

have further dashed the hopes of kharif farmers. Many, moving their produce to the yards from harvest points, have suffered extensive damage due to rain. Paddy stocks were exposed to rainwater as farmers struggled to cover them with tarpaulins in yards.

Despite this, officials have reiterated that they will accept only paddy with up to 17 per cent moisture, whereas many farmers are arriving with stocks containing over 30 per cent moisture. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 'Congress cheated Muslims'



Rashtriya Muslim Morcha president SM Abdul Qadeer and other leaders during a press conference in Hyderabad on Thursday.

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The Congress has a history of targeting the Muslim community and stirring the communal cauldron, and the same is now being repeated in Telangana, charged several Muslims intellectuals and social activists.

"Muslims in Telangana are being cheated by the Congress," they averred.

At a press conference here on Thursday, they rued that ever since the Congress government took over the reins of the State, a nefarious plan to eliminate Mus-

lim leadership and instill fear among Muslims was being implemented by orchestrating communal disturbances in different parts of the State.

Rashtriya Muslim Morcha president and noted social worker SM Abdul Qadeer said there were no Muslim leaders or representatives in Revanth Reddy's government to represent and highlight the issues and concerns of the community. "The Congress government is out to eliminate the Muslim leadership and is adopting its age-old modus operandi, orchestrating communal violence and,

then during the elections, seeks votes pretending to be the ones shielding the Muslims from communal forces," he said.

He cited the example of the Jainoor violence and said police knew about the possibility and plans of the violence, but for some reason, arrests were not made. The recent trend of the rise in communal violence is a failure of the government and police, Qadeer said, adding that the administration, too, failed to act timely in the recent temple desecration in Secunderabad, which happens to be a peaceful area. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Lakhs evacuated as Dana barrels towards Odisha, WB

BHUBANESWAR/KOLKATA

Authorities in Odisha and West Bengal evacuated lakhs of people, shut schools, cancelled more than 400 trains and suspended flight operations as they braced on Thursday for severe cyclonic storm Dana, which is expected to make landfall in Odisha past midnight at a speed of 120kmph.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department's latest bulletin at 5.30 pm, Dana moved north-northwestwards with a speed of 13 kmph during the past six hours and lay centred about 90 km southeast of Paradip (Odisha), 110 km south-southeast of Dhamara (Odisha) and 210 km south of Sagar Island (West Bengal). Odisha's Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the government has deployed 385 rescue teams compris-



A police jeep patrols at the beach in view of Cyclone Dana, which is expected to make landfall in Odisha, at Dighe in East Midnapore district, West Bengal, on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

ing 19 NDRF teams, ODRAF (51), Fire Service (220) and Forest staff (95). As many as 150 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) of

Odisha Police personnel have been pressed into service for rescue, road clearing and other activities at the ground level. Claiming that

the state was well prepared, Pujari said 3.5 lakh people have so far been evacuated and housed in 4,756 relief centres. PTI

## Future bleak for contract teachers?

YUVRAJ AKULA  
 Hyderabad

Exposing the hollow nature of the Congress government's promises, the assurances on regularising services of contract teachers in universities are yet to be fulfilled.

Despite nearing 10 months into ruling, the government continues to be mum on its promise of regularisation given to contract teachers in universities during the Assembly elections.

This year saw at least five-six contract teachers retire from services without being regularised and with another 25 assistant professors set to superannuate next year, the future looks bleak for these educators who, in the absence of regu-

larisation, do not have any benefits, including during retirement and in death.

As many as 1,445 assistant professors on contract have been rendering their services in 10 universities in the State. As for the Osmania University, 340 regular teachers are on rolls as against a sanctioned strength of 1,267. To fill vacant positions, the university has been utilising the service of over 300 contract teachers, including nearly 200 in the budgeted posts, for the past several years.

Apart from teaching, the educators, who also undertake significant research and administrative responsibilities, remain bereft of security and recognition afforded to their regular counterparts. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Jeevan Reddy questions top party posts for turncoats

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Continuing his tirade against the State leadership for encouraging political defections, Congress MLC Jeevan Reddy asked how turncoats, including former Minister Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, could be given top positions at the cost of ignoring the services of leaders who were loyal to the Congress.

Taking serious objections to the State leadership encouraging defections, the MLC wrote to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge. Addressing media persons here on Thursday, he said the turncoat MLAs and leaders were dominating party affairs and calling the

Congress MLC says turncoat MLAs and leaders dominating party affairs, calling the shots in different constituencies

shots in different constituencies.

"At this juncture, what is our position in the party?" he asked, also alleging that former Minister Pocharam Srinivas Reddy was the leader of the turncoats. He had held a meeting with turncoat MLAs and leaders and directed them to dominate the Congress leaders in the constituencies, he alleged, stating that the high

command was against defections into the party. The Congress had got a clear majority in the Assembly and did not need support of any turncoats, he said.

"Will the Congress government not survive without the support of turncoat MLAs? Is this the democratic governance Rahul Gandhi promised?" Jeevan Reddy asked.

Interestingly, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud has been claiming that defections into the party were as per the high command's instructions. But Jeevan Reddy took strong objection to the defections reminding that it was the Congress which was fighting against defections by elected public representatives. (SEE PAGE 2)

## J&K: Two soldiers, 2 civilians killed

SRINAGAR

In a major terrorist attack, two soldiers and civilian porters were killed and three other soldiers injured when an Army vehicle came under fire in J&K's Baramulla district on Thursday, officials said.

Official sources said terrorists fired at a vehicle of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) at Nagin Chowk of Botapathri area near Gulmarg ski resort in the evening. "Two soldiers and two civilian porters were killed and 3 soldiers injured in this attack. The area has been cordoned off and reinforcements have been rushed to the area," an official said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack. "Very unfortunate

news about the attack on the Army vehicles in the Boota Pathri area of North Kashmir which has resulted in some casualties & injuries. This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern. I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms & send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that injured make a complete & swift recovery," the Chief Minister said in a post on X.

Thursday's attack on an Army vehicle comes in from a usually militancy-free area of the Valley. Gulmarg and its upper reaches like Botapathri are thronged by tourists and the place has been a choice destination for nature lovers. IANS

## Learning never stops for Shraddha

Says choosing diverse roles allows her to showcase versatility