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In a nutshell

Former EAM Krishna no more
BENGALURU: Ex-Karnataka Chief Minister and former EAM SM Krishna died on Tuesday, leaving behind a rich legacy of statesmanship and public service that saw the 92-year-old leader scale heights of political achievements. Krishna started off his political innings as an independent MLA from Maddur in 1962, stunning a then Congress veteran in the elections.

Seven killed in UP vehicle collision

HATHRAS: Seven persons lost their lives and 14 others were injured in a head-on collision between a container truck and pickup vehicle here on Tuesday, a senior official said. According to police, the accident took place at the Jaitpur village under Hathras Junction police station. Hathras District Magistrate Rahul Pandey said seven injured persons are undergoing treatment.

'Growth-inflation balance key task'

MUMBAI: The growth slowdown is due to a multiplicity of factors, and not due to the Reserve Bank's repo rate, outgoing Governor Shaktikanta Das said. He said restoring growth-inflation balance is the most important task ahead for the RBI. The six years during which Das was the RBI Governor included Covid period and major geopolitical upheavals like the wars.

Gaganyaan's 'well deck' trial held

BENGALURU: ISRO on Tuesday said it carried out 'well deck' recovery trials of the Gaganyaan with the Indian Navy. The trials were carried out at Eastern Naval Command using a well deck ship off the coast of Vishakhapatnam. It said the well deck in a ship can be flooded with water so that boats, landing crafts, recovered spacecraft can be taken inside to dock within the ship.

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 90
Retail live.....	Rs. 112
With skin.....	Rs. 162
Skinless.....	Rs. 185
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 85

Statue row triggers protests across State

Bid to erase TG identity, says BRS; cadre cleanse statues of Telangana Thalli

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The political storm over the installation of the redesigned Telangana Thalli statue intensified as BRS leaders and supporters across the State took to the streets in protest. The protests were sparked by the State government's decision to replace the earlier design with a new one, a move that, BRS leaders fear, could erase Telangana's identity.

Following a call given by party working president KT Rama Rao on Monday, the BRS cadre cleansed the statues of the existing Telangana Thalli in different parts of the State. They poured milk and performed palabhishekam to the statue, seeking her blessings as well as forgiveness for the sin committed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. They garlanded the Telangana Thalli statues and raised slogans of "Jai Telangana".

BRS MLC K Kavitha led the charge in a demonstration at the Telangana Bhavan, where she, along with



BRS cadre performs 'Palabhishekam' and 'Panchamrita Abhishekam' rituals to the original Telangana Thalli statue in Siddipet.

GHMC corporators and local leaders, strongly opposed the redesign. In a symbolic act of defiance of the government orders, she performed 'Palabhishekam' and 'Panchamrita Abhishekam' rituals to the original Telangana Thalli statue installed by BRS at Telangana Bhavan.

In her remarks, Kavitha charged the Congress with installing a politically moti-

ivated statue. She said the new statue was representing not the spirit of Telangana but that of the Congress, stating that it undermined the legacy of Telangana's statehood movement. "Bathukamma, our unique identity, has been removed and replaced with Congress's election symbol of 'hand'. The new statue disrespects the statehood struggle and sacrifices of our

people," she remarked.

Kavitha also criticised Revanth Reddy, questioning the reasons behind the distortion of the image of Telangana Thalli. Citing Revanth Reddy's emphasis on changing the State's official abbreviation from TS to TG, she asked why he had decided to alter the design of Telangana Thalli which was conceived to represent the very statehood movement.

Senior BRS leaders, including MLAs and MLCs, participated in the protests and cleansed the statues of Telangana Thalli by performing 'Palabhishekam' and 'Panchamrita Abhishekam' in their respective constituencies. They demanded that the State government roll back its decision and reinstate the original design of Telangana Thalli.

No-confidence move against RS Chairman

Oppn submits notice, accuses Dhankhar of 'partisan' conduct

NEW DELHI

In a first, parties of the I.N.D.I.A opposition bloc on Tuesday submitted a notice to bring a motion in Rajya Sabha for the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, accusing him of "partisan" conduct as the chairman of the Upper House. If the motion is moved, these parties need a simple majority to get it passed, but they do not have the requisite numbers in the 243-member House.

Opposition members, however, insisted that it was a "strong message to fight for parliamentary democracy". On behalf of the opposition, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain submitted the notice signed by 60 opposition MPs — including from the Congress, RJD, TMC, CPI, CPI-M, JMM, AAP, DMK, Samajwadi Party — to Rajya Sabha Sec-

retary General PC Mody. This is the first time that a notice for bringing a motion to remove the Vice President has been moved in the Rajya Sabha. A 14-day notice has to be given and it should be approved by the Deputy Chairman before the motion is taken up. Notably, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the floor leaders of various opposition parties are not among the signatories to the notice, the sources said.

Similar notices for removal of the Speaker of Lok Sabha have been submitted in the past, but none against the Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman. Three motions have come in the past against Lok Sabha Speakers — against GV Mavalankar on December 18, 1954, against Hukam Singh on November 24, 1966 and against Balram Jakhar on April 15, 1987. While the motions against Mavalankar and Jakhar were negated, that against Hukam Singh was rejected as less than 50 members rose in the chair to take up the motion. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

'Will be voice of ASHA workers in Assembly'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday strongly condemned the police brutality against ASHA workers during their protest for job security and better salaries at the office of the Director of Health and Family Welfare in Koti on Monday. He found fault with the use of force by male police personnel against female ASHA workers.

Rama Rao visited the injured ASHA workers, including Raheembi and Santhoshini, who sustained severe injuries in the police assault and were undergoing treatment at Osmania General Hospital on Tuesday. He extended solidarity with their fight and offered all possible support to them and to fight on their behalf in the Assembly during the ensuing session. Speaking to media persons,



BRS working president KT Rama Rao interacts with an injured ASHA worker at the Osmania General Hospital on Tuesday.

Rama Rao reminded that ASHA workers played a crucial role during the Covid-19 pandemic, and are delivering healthcare services in the remotest corners of the State.

They were only seeking the Congress government to fulfil its promises made during elections. The BRS working president lam-

basted the use of male police personnel, especially, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, who assaulted, dragged and mistreated women who were peacefully protesting for their just demands. "ASHA workers were attacked for simply demanding their rights," the former Minister said. (SEE PAGE 2)

RAGING WILDFIRE



Firefighters battle the Franklin Fire in Malibu, California, on Tuesday. According to officials, the fire has burned through an area larger than five football fields every minute since igniting late Monday night. — Photo: AP

TN govt comes to the rescue of crisis-hit Sircilla weavers

RAGHU PAITHARI
Rajanna-Sircilla

Even as the Telangana government remains silent on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's promise of giving orders to weavers here for 1.3 crore sarees to be distributed to self-help group women in the State, the Tamil Nadu government has come to their rescue with an order for Pongal sarees.

Weavers, especially those in Sircilla, who were in a deep financial crisis with several even ending their lives, had seen their misery deepening further with the Congress government here failing to place the annual Bathukamma sarees order. Their hopes started burning bright with the Chief Minister's promise in September.



However, even after three months, the government has not made any move towards this, leaving the weavers still deep in crisis.

Work order
It is at this juncture that the Tamil Nadu government has come to their rescue, by giving them a work order to

weave 11 lakh metres of cloth. This is part of the Tamil Nadu government's initiative to distribute sarees to women in the name of 'Amma Chira', apart from 'veshti' (dhoti) for men.

Rs 6/metre of cloth
Besides saree orders for weavers in Coimbatore, Salem and Erode among other places, the Tamil Nadu government has been considering Sircilla weavers as well every year. This time, the order is for about two lakh sarees. Speaking to 'Telangana Today', Mutually Aided Cooperatives Societies (MACS) general secretary P Shankar informed that the Tamil Nadu government was providing Rs 6 per metre of cloth. (SEE PAGE 2)

Lalu wants Mamata to head I.N.D.I.A

PATNA

With less than a year left for Assembly polls in Bihar, a rift appeared in the Congress-RJD alliance on Tuesday when Lalu Prasad threw his weight behind West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, saying she should lead the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Prasad, a staunch Congress ally, caused a flutter when he replied in the affirmative to journalists' question about what he thought of the recent avowal by Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress chief, who had expressed the wish to lead the opposition alliance.

"Yes, she should lead," said the RJD supremo, who added, "The Congress' reservations amount to nothing. Mamata should be

given the leadership role (Mamata ko do)". Notably, the brusqueness displayed by Prasad towards Congress came a day after AICC secretary Shah Nawaz Alam, who is a co-in charge of Bihar, hinted that the party was no longer willing to play the role of "little brother" in the Mahagathabandhan, the State's prototype of the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Addressing a Congress function, Alam said, "In politics, nobody is a big brother or a little brother. In the Assembly polls, the number of seats each party would contest must be decided on the basis of several factors." The allusion was, apparently, to the dismal performance of the RJD which had contested 23, out of the State's 40 Lok Sabha seats, winning only four. (SEE PAGE 2)

State textbooks to have Telangana Thalli image

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

The newly designed Telangana Thalli image, along with the State official song 'Jaya Jayahe Telangana', will be part of the State board textbooks with the State government deciding to print them for the next academic year.

School Education director EV Narasimha Reddy said the government recently approved the new Telangana Thalli image, besides the State official song, and they would be printed in the textbooks for the academic year 2025-26.

The process for printing the textbooks has recently commenced, he said, adding that the bilingual textbooks

Apart from the image of redesigned statue, textbooks will also have State official song 'Jaya Jayahe Telangana'

concept is being retained for the forthcoming academic year. To be available in two languages — Telugu and English or Urdu and English or, Hindi and English, the textbooks will help non-English medium students transition to English medium, besides helping them better understand and learn topics with ease.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department is

working to bring major changes in the State board curriculum. The new curriculum, which will be aligned with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF) 2023, for all classes will come into force from the academic year 2026-27.

To be done in a phased manner, the non-languages — Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences syllabus is being changed first, followed by languages — Telugu, Hindi, Urdu and English. As per the new framework, social science will have 20 per cent content at the local level, 30 per cent at the regional level, 30 per cent at the national level and 20 per cent at the international level. (SEE PAGE 2)