



In a nutshell

4 TG women go missing at Kumbh
JAGTIAL: Four women of a family from Telangana have been reported missing at the Maha Kumbh Mela. While two of them are from Jagtial town, the other two are their relatives from Kadem of Nirmal district. The missing women have been identified as Narasavva (55) of Vidhyanagar, Rajavva (55) of Kothawada in Jagtial, and Buchavva (65) and Sattavva (55) of Kadem.

Nirmala to present Budget today

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday gave final touches to the first full Budget of Modi government's third term that is expected to balance the aspiration of the middle class for tax cut and needs of the economy to boost growth. Sitharaman will present her record eighth consecutive Budget on Saturday. PTI

NATION PAGE 8

Direct fight with Cong: KCR

BRS president to hold massive public meeting in last week of February

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Breaking his silence on the Congress administration in the State, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Friday asked his party cadre to gear up for a direct fight with the Congress regime. He announced a massive public meeting in the last week of February.

"I have been watching the Congress administration silently for the last one year. But it is time to take up a direct fight. I would not strike my opponents easily, as it has to be decisive and forceful. People of Telangana as well as Congress leaders are well aware of it," he said.

Speaking to BRS leaders from the Zaheerabad constituency at his Erravelli residence, Chandrashekhara Rao launched a full-throttle attack, charging the Congress of betraying people



BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao with party leaders from the Zaheerabad constituency, at his Erravelli residence on Friday.

who trusted it and voted it to power. He criticised the ruling party for failing to implement a single welfare scheme properly, stating that Telangana was facing a severe crisis under the Congress leadership.

He said people were disillusioned with the Congress' one-year rule and were gearing up to thrash Congress leaders. He reminded that he had warned voters about the Congress' lack of commitment to farmer wel-

fare and Dalit empowerment, but the electorate ignored it. "People did not listen to my warnings. They voted for Congress, believing in false promises. Now, they are paying the price," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Slams Congress over Telangana's economic decline

HYDERABAD: Former Chief Minister and BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao said the Congress government would not be forgiven if it continued to neglect public welfare. He said if the Congress continued to ignore people's issues, there would be a major backlash from the public. "I will also participate in people's movements. Time has come to take an aggressive stance," he said, addressing hundreds of BRS supporters from Medapalli village in Zaheerabad, who walked 140 km over five days to meet him, at his Erravelli residence to express their dissatisfaction with the current Congress government. (SEE PAGE 2)

Eco Survey hails growth under BRS

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Economic Survey 2024-25 has reaffirmed Telangana's exceptional economic and developmental progress under the BRS regime, debunking allegations by the ruling Congress that the previous government had left the State in financial shambles.

The report highlights Telangana's leadership in revenue generation, infrastructure development, IT growth, irrigation and women's entrepreneurship, proving the strong governance under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

Telangana has emerged as the top-performing State in revenue generation among 15 major Indian States. The State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) accounts for 88 per cent of Telangana's total revenue, the highest in India. This means Telangana was largely self-

reliant and did not depend heavily on Central funds, outpacing Karnataka and Haryana (86 per cent each). A strong Own Revenue Receipts (ORR) ratio helped Telangana maintain a low revenue deficit, proving its financial resilience despite the economic challenges being cited by the Congress government now.

The Economic Survey also confirmed that Telangana achieved 100 per cent rural drinking water coverage under Mission Bhagiratha, a landmark initiative by the Chandrashekhara Rao government. This revelation exposes the Congress government's false claims about gaps in water supply. Only seven other States managed to complete this feat, but long after Telangana achieved it.

Mission Bhagiratha provided safe drinking water to every household across the State, a feat unmatched by most States in India. (SEE PAGES 2, 8)

Protests erupt over OGH construction

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

All business establishments in and around Goshamahal were shut-down on Friday protesting against the construction of Osmania General Hospital (OGH) at Goshamahal.

The entire neighborhood under Goshamahal constituency came to a standstill and wore a deserted look on Friday, as traders and families decided to

lodge their opposition to the OGH project by shutting down the locality.

Goshamahal Parirakshana Samithi, which is spearheading the protests, made it clear that a tertiary hospital the size of OGH will have a huge impact on the trade in the locality. "Our trade will be impacted, there will be heavy traffic disruptions and there will be heavy environmental impact," the Samithi members said. (SEE PAGE 2)

India to grow at 6.3-6.8%, predicts survey

NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Friday pegs India's real GDP growth in 2025-26 between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent, "keeping in mind the upsides and downsides to growth".

The Survey expects the government's emphasis on micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and good rabi crop production to accelerate growth and employment in the economy.

Looking ahead, India's economic prospects for FY26 are balanced. Headwinds to growth include elevated geopolitical and trade uncertainties and possible commodity price shocks. Domestically, the translation of order books of the private capital goods sector into sustained investment pick-up, improvements in consumer confidence, and corporate wage pick-up will be key to promoting growth, the survey stated. Rural demand backed by a rebound in agri-

cultural production, an anticipated easing of food inflation and a stable macroeconomic environment provide an upside to near-term growth.

Overall, India will need to improve its global competitiveness through grassroots-level structural reforms and deregulation to reinforce its medium-term growth potential, the survey pointed out.

It also observes that inflation in the economy is under control, which will pave the way for a stable growth path. "The government's

proactive policy interventions have been crucial in stabilising inflation. These measures include the strengthening of buffer stocks for essential food items, periodic open market releases and efforts to ease imports during supply shortages. Despite these challenges, there are positive signs for inflation management in India," it said.

According to the survey, in 2024-25, private consumption remained stable, reflecting steady domestic demand. (SEE PAGE 2)

First GBS case in TG

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

A 25-year-old woman from Siddipet, is currently admitted and is put on a ventilator support treatment at KIMS, Secunderabad, after being diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).

"Despite the high prevalence of this disease in Pune, the patient has no history of travel to Pune, nor does anyone in her family have a history of this condition," neurologist Dr Praveen Kumar Yada said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Man dies in Pune

PUNE: A 36-year-old man diagnosed with GBS died in a civic-run hospital in Maharashtra's Pune district, taking the number of suspected GBS fatalities to three in the State. The patient, who worked as a cab driver, was admitted to the Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital in Pimpri Chinchwad on January 21. PTI

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