

# Grads must reject corrupt regimes of TRS, BJP: Uttam

- Reddy expresses confidence in Congress winning the upcoming MLC elections for two graduate constituencies
- Criticises CM KCR for failing to fulfill his 2014 electoral promise of one lakh jobs till now
- Says TRS government lured jobless youth in 2018 Assembly elections by promising them Rs 3,016 dole per month
- Ridicules the BJP government at the Centre for neglecting Telangana in the Budget
- Questions why BJP leaders not affectionate towards Ram Mandir in Bhadrachalam

## HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President N Uttam Kumar Reddy has expressed confidence that the Congress party would win the elections for the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda graduates' constituencies of Telangana Legislative Council.

He was addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday after officially handing over B-forms to the Congress can-



TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy along with G Chinna Reddy and Ramulu Naik addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday

didates - former minister G Chinna Reddy (Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad) and ex-MLC Ramulu Naik (Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda). He said that the party has picked highly efficient, able and committed leaders as its candidates for MLC polls. "Chinna Reddy holds a PhD degree in Agriculture and is known for his honesty and simplicity. He has been serving the people selflessly without having expectations. Ramulu Naik was born into a poor family and came up in his life after hard struggle. He played a key role during the Telangana movement. Chinna Reddy and Ramulu Naik are highly capable of serving the people, especially in addressing the needs of gradu-

ates, including employees and jobless youth," he added.

The TPCC Chief said that the educated youth must unitedly defeat the corrupt and unethical regimes of TRS and BJP. Criticising Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu, he said that the promise, made in 2014 elections, of filling one lakh vacant posts in government department remained unfulfilled. "The Pay Revision Commission, in its recent report, has disclosed that over 1.91 lakh posts were lying vacant in various departments. He said the delay in the recruitment process has deprived thousands of students, who participated in the Telangana movement, from getting a government job. TRS

government lured jobless youth in 2018 Assembly elections by promising them Rs 3,016 dole every month. However, this promise was not fulfilled even now. KCR has been openly cheating the jobless youth ever since he came to power in June 2014. Revision of pay scales was long overdue. Further, the new PRC has disappointed the employees by recommending a fitment of mere 7.3 per cent. Employees be given a fitment of not less than 43 per cent," he added.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the BJP Govt at the Centre has been doing injustice to Telangana since the beginning. He said Telangana remained neglected in the Union Budgets since 2014. Further, he said that the promises which were made under Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act were yet to be fulfilled. He ridiculed Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay's attempts to incite communal hatred in the state. "BJP leaders often talk about Ram Mandir. We are also Hindus and we are not against the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. But why BJP leaders are not showing similar affection with Ram Mandir in Bhadrachalam? Why is the BJP government trying to give away temple lands to private parties?" he asked.

Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to the people to elect Congress candidates to restore morality in politics and democracy in Telangana.

## FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

# TS Agri Minister buoyed by potato yield in own farm

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

### HYDERABAD

HOW about practising before preaching? Exactly this is what the Agriculture Minister, S Niranjan Reddy, seems to be following. The Minister who was irked with the hike in potato prices in recent times had decided to encourage farmers in State cultivate potatoes. But before approaching the farmers, the Minister first wanted to cultivate potatoes in his own farm in Wanaparthy on experimental basis. Soon, he planted potato crop in one-fourth of an acre and ended up gaining reasonably good harvest.

The jubilant Minister is now planning to approach farmers and share his experience backed with agriculture department's feedback, which had said that the land and climate in Telangana were as good as other States where potatoes are being cultivated.

As the potatoes have consistently demand all-round the year, the fluctuation in prices would be minimal and help farmers gain profits, the Minister said,

- Niranjan Reddy gets satisfying yield from one-fourth of acre
- Wants to encourage Telangana farmers take up cultivation of potatoes which has demand all-round the year



adding that on an average a farmer can get a maximum yield of 100 to 120 quintals per acre. "When it comes to prices, the rate per quintal in the market would be around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200. Sometimes, it might even touch Rs 2,000. The farmers will gain revenues of Rs 1 lakh per acre after deducting the investment," he said.

Niranjan Reddy said that potatoes were one of the vegetables with the highest consumption rate. But, the cultivation of the crop is not preferred in southern States for reasons un-

known. Along with Telangana, all the southern States have to heavily depend on potato supplies from north and this demand can be addressed if farmers here take up potato cultivation, he opined.

Investment to cultivate potatoes in an acre comes to about Rs 45,000 and the crop comes to harvest in 85 to 90 days after the plantation. But, if the time frame goes beyond 90 days, then the yields would be more, the Agriculture Minister said, hoping that farmers in the State take up potato cultivation.

## Sharmila to launch party in May or July

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

#### HYDERABAD

FORMER AP Chief Minister Y S Rajashekar Reddy's daughter Sharmila is making fast political moves aiming to launch her political party in Telangana. Soon after returning from Bengaluru on Monday, she held a meeting with a select group of leaders and intellectuals here. Sharmila is likely to announce the launch of her political outfit on May 14--the day YSR assumed CM's office in 2004--or on July 8--her father's birthday. She is likely to announce some major decisions on those days.

Earlier, she planned to float the party in April. But the AP CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's sister deferred the plan as she wanted to hold a series of meetings with YSR supporters to ascertain the political situation in Telangana.

Leaders said that Sharmila will take more time to launch the party. After the by-poll to the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency and elections to two graduate constituencies and seven municipalities, including Warangal and Khammam corporations, she would plunge into action.

## BJP to fly in party bigwigs for Nagarjunasagar bypoll

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

#### HYDERABAD

THE Bharatiya Janata Party, which had shocked the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi with its performance in Dubbaka bypoll and in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, has shifted its focus to Nagarjunasagar and planning to hold huge public meeting by February end by inviting its national leaders.

The party, which had gone aggressive after Dubbaka bypoll, is now targeting the Sagar constituency where it has little presence. However, the party leaders are hopeful of repeating Dubbaka and GHMC victory in the forthcoming bypoll to Sagar constituency.

While the party had already initiated the exercise to gain foothold in the district, it had also recently taken up protest on tribal issues, including tribal lands in Gurrampodu, which had led to a tense situation with police even lathi-charging the protestors. The tribals here make up 40 per cent of the electorate and are crucial in deciding the fate of candidates.

According to State BJP president Bandi Sanjay, the party would soon have a huge

- Plans to hold huge public meeting by February end
- Despite dismal presence, party hopeful of winning the seat

public meeting, possibly by February end, in Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency. The party would be bringing in senior leaders, including Union Ministers from New Delhi to campaign, as it did for Dubbaka and GHMC polls.

Sanjay said that the party would win the Sagar bypoll along with two council seats going for polls in March, adding that all key leaders would campaign for the party candidates. Meanwhile, the party has decided to appoint one in-charge for every 50 voters who would be in constant touch with them and ensure they vote for the saffron party.

## PM to address experts for effective implementation of budget

### Continued from P1

During the webinar, the panelists will share their ideas on improving pace and quality of infrastructure development, with focus on advanced technology, and attracting more investments in the sector.

This will be followed by two parallel breakout sessions involving discussions between senior officials of groups of ministries and cross-sectional experts to compile a list of implementable projects to fast-track implementation of the budget vision and draft an implementation roadmap. Ongoing consultations have also been planned with stakeholders on implementation of the finalised strategy, the statement said.

## SC slaps notice on WhatsApp, Fb

### Continued from P1

In Europe, it is different because they have a special law," he argued. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the right to privacy was a fundamental right and they cannot compromise with the privacy of people.

Divan cited that WhatsApp had already delayed the implementation of its new privacy policy till May 15 this year and sought a notice which is returnable before this date. The bench said it is impressed with Divan's submission that while the Data Protection Bill is about to be brought into force, WhatsApp is framing a policy to share data. Datar also said that the messages were encrypted end to end. The top court directed WhatsApp and Facebook to file their statement contesting the contentions in the present application. The Chief Justice told the WhatsApp counsel that people thought if a message was sent from a person to another and then to a third person, the whole thing was disclosed to Facebook. As counsel contended that this is not happening, Chief Justice Bobde disagreed, saying that they are telling information heard and read through news reports, and if WhatsApp disagrees, it should clarify this on oath.



Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das reviewing arrangements for Southern Zone Council meet to be held at Tirupati on March 4, with officials on Monday

## CS REVIEWS SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEET ARRANGEMENTS

### HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

CHIEF secretary Aditya Nath Das on Monday conducted a review meeting on arrangements for Southern Zonal Council meeting scheduled to be held in Tirupati on March 4.

Union home minister Amit Shah will chair the 29th Southern Zonal Council meet in which over 100 representatives from Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands will participate.

The chief secretary directed the Chittoor district collector, superintendent of police and protocol officials to finalise the

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah to chair the meet on March 4, to be attended by representatives from Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep
- District Collector and SP told to finalise the venue and inform the guests

venue for the meeting at Tirupati and inform the guests. He asked the officials to make necessary arrangements for Tirumala darshan for the guests. The chief secretary said the

officials should take necessary Covid precautions and make arrangements to supply masks and safety kits to the participants of the meeting. He said necessary arrangements should be made including Wi-Fi and internet facility for the media persons covering the programme. He said a liaison officer should be appointed to coordinate with various departments for the success of the programme.

State reorganisation committee secretary L Premachandra Reddy, Addl DGP Ravisankar Ayyannar, principal secretaries T Krishnababu, Kumar Viswajit, Assembly secretary Balakrishnamacharyulu and IT officials were present.

## Govt eases curbs on geospatial data for map-making

### Continued from P1

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suffering because of non-availability of high-quality maps. "Availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy, significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance its preparedness for emergency response," Vardhan said.

He said earlier even the Survey of India, the organisation entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping from different agencies, thus delaying its work by at least three-to-six months. In a series of tweets, Modi

said, "Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India. Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth, he stressed. "India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data. Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors.

said. The people who have send in their names will be given boarding passes, she added. Satish Dhawan Satellite, that is scheduled to be launched on February 28 by the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV-C51), will also carry three scientific payloads, including one to study space radiation, another for studying the magnetosphere, and one that will demonstrate a low-power wide-area communication network. A Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1, 20 co-passenger satellite and a demonstration satellite by Pixxel will also be carried in the same mission.

# Nine kids from two Telugu States selected for Arithmetic Genius -2020

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

### HYDERABAD

NINE kids from the two Telugu States got qualified for SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India Online Contest 2020 to be held on February 21. These kids between the age groups seven and nine will represent Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

These nine kids competed with as many as 5,000 kids at Regional Level and then got qualified after a rigorous four-month selection process. Out of the 5,000 participants 1,000 students were short-listed. From these 1,000 students, the above nine got selected to represent both the Telugu States at National Level informed Uma Swaminathan, Regional Head of SIP Academy in an official release.

These 9 kids include Karri Kranthi Manaswi of Niraj Public School, Begumpet; T. Aashritha of Dev Public School, Safilguda and Sarayu Erukulla of Phoenix Greens International School, Kokapet, Chirag Mohanty - St Michaels School, Marredpally; Anvitha Chapa - Johnson Grammar School Mallapur; D. Saurav - Johnson Grammar School, LB Nagar; G. Satya Hasini - Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Tirupati; Mandala Nutan Bhargav - Amrita Vidyalayam, Mahendra Hills, Secunderabad; K. Akshitha - The Secunderabad Public School, Malkajigiri.



Karri Kranthi Manaswi, T Ashritha, Sarayu Erukulla, Anvitha, Chirag, Saurav, Akshitha, Bhargav, Satya Hasini

Out of these 9 kids, 3 kids - Karri Kranthi Manaswi of Niraj Public School, Begumpet; T. Aashritha of Dev Public School, Safilguda and Sarayu Erukulla of Phoenix Greens International School had emerged as Telugu States' Champions.



SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India Online Contest 2020 was organised by SIP Academy across the country. A total of 27,000 students competed in this competition from across India. Out of which 9 winners from each State will compete at the Nationals. More than 100 students will vie for the national honours at the 5th Season of SIP Arithmetic Genius, All India Online Contest 2020.

Amid the pandemic, this edition was organised online competition for the first time in the past four years. The objective of this year's online contest is to engage home struck students more meaningfully and help them improve arithmetic skills, Arithmetic skills, Uma Swaminathan, Regional Head of SIP Academy said.

## Nanosatellite to carry Bhagavad Gita, PM Modi's photograph into space

### Continued from P1

SpaceKidz reportedly asked the individuals who are interested to send their names to the space and received 25,000 entries, from which 1,000 names are of people from outside India. "We decided to do this because it will spark interest of the people in the mission and space science," Dr Kesan