

Ex-Odisha CM quits BJP to join BRS

With Giridhar Gamang and his son onboard, CM KCR's push beyond Telangana continues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

TAKING his national agenda a step further and into another neighbouring state, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday admitted former Chief Minister of Odisha and nine-time MP Giridhar Gamang and his son Shishir Gamang into the BRS.



Ex-CM of Orissa Giridhar Gamang joined in BRS in the presence of CM KCR | EXPRESS

Gamang represented the Koraput Lok Sabha constituency from 1972 to 1998 and was elected once again in 2004. Koraput, which is in southern Odisha, has a sizeable Telugu-speaking population who are likely to connect with Rao's policies.

The 79-year-old tribal leader Gamang resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday after. Terming Gamang a "senior leader with a spotless character", Chandrasekhar Rao welcomed the former CM apart from four former MPs and 12 former MLAs from Odisha to the BRS.

is still struggling to gain a foothold. Earlier this week, while hinting at leaving the BJP, Gamang and his son Shishir spoke about the vacuum in the Opposition space in Odisha.

Addressing a gathering later in Hindi, Rao said that Telangana suffered a lot in united Andhra Pradesh. "But now, there are no farmers' suicides. There is no migration of farm labour from the state. Those who migrated to other states in the past are coming back to Telangana. When this is possible in Telangana, why not in other states," Rao said.

In an indirect swipe at Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, KCR told his listeners: "What I am saying is not dhan ki baat but mann ki baat." Rao emphasised that "India is blessed with abundant resources, more so than the US and China. But where does India stand in the world? It is far behind US and China. We have water and power. But the leaders here are giving big speeches and not providing drinking water to the people. The BRS was founded only to change this," KCR said.

Connecting to the local issues of Odisha, Rao asked: "How much water is available

LEADERS WHO JOINED BRS FROM ODISHA

Table listing leaders who joined BRS from Odisha: Giridhar Gamang, Ex-CM, Odisha; Hema Gamang, Ex-MP (Wife); Shishir Gamang, (Son of Gamang); Shaurya Gamang; Snehranjan Das, Gen Secretary, BJP State Yuva Morcha; Rabindra Mohapatra, Youth President & AICC Member, Koraput Parliamentary Constituency; Phalguni Sabar; P Gopal Rao; Malya Ranjan Swain.

in Mahanadi? Why is the water not flowing to our houses? Why is there a shortage of drinking water," Rao asked as the audience endorsing him shouted "Desh ka neta KCR".

The Telangana CM alleged that the BJP-led Central government was "socialising the losses and privatising the profits". It was burdening people by increasing gas and petrol prices and handing over profit-making PSUs to private companies. The Odisha leaders and their followers would visit several places in Hyderabad on Saturday and later they would interact with Rao to discuss political issues.

Fire-gutted Sec'bad building demolished

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

THE demolition of fire-gutted multi-storey Deccan Knitwear Sports Accessories complex at Nallgutta in Secunderabad is progressing at a brisk pace. By Friday evening, around 10 to 15 per cent of the building has been brought down by long breaker hydraulic crane.

With the crew working round the clock from Thursday night, it is expected that the entire building will be razed and the area cleared in five to six days.

The hydraulic crane with a diamond cutter, which being used to demolish the building, can reach up to eight floors and is equipped with a water sprinkler facility that will enable authorities to quickly douse any minor fires.

The structure is being pulled down without much human interference and the plan is ensure no one from the demolition team goes inside the building.

Students protest against Ballari DC over chicken meal, evicted from hostel

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

POST matric students of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) hostel students of Cowl Bazar area staged protest in front of Ballari Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pavan Kumar Malapati residence on late night with chicken sambar bucket on Wednesday, DC angry on students and instructed to take action against 25 students.

Chicken meal given to students in hostel and food quality is poor and tasteless. Later students intimate to warden he also check the quality and he agreed food is not. Students suddenly walked to DC house on late night with chicken sambar bucket and called DC Malapati warned students and instructed concerned officials.

Senior official of social welfare department, Ballari said some students of post matric hostel of Cowl Bazar area vio-

lated the rules of hostel. On Wednesday night 25 students group staged protest in front of DC residency on late night. Some students alleged chicken sambar quality is poor and tasteless.

"Suddenly students with sambar bucket went to DC house and staged protest and its not good way. All issues are clarified by social welfare department, I also instructed to warden to look issue but students done wrong. Later warden pointed students and send them out of hostel. Some students are agreed to ask sorry and submitted to apology letter to DC but decision is left to DC", He added.

Students met the Ballari district in-charge and transport minister B Sriramulu to solve the issue but minister said going late night with group and staged protest is violation of law and later he suggested students to ask sorry to DC Malapati.

Suspend DC for evicting students: Siddu to govt

Bengaluru: Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah urged the State Government to suspend the Deputy Commissioner of Ballari for taking action against college students who protested against poor quality food served in the hostel. The DC ordered taking action against students who protested outside his residence in Ballari on Thursday night, he said. Siddaramaiah termed the officer's action as shocking. The students were thrown out of the hostel for protesting near the Deputy Commissioner's house at 10 pm, the Congress leader said.

Veteran actor Jamuna leaves behind a six-decade legacy

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Their first meeting was when Savitri stayed at Jamuna's house while performing in Duggirala. Then on, Savitri and Jamuna would go on to act in many films, including classics like Gundamma Katha (1962) and Missamma (1955) which have gained cult status.

These movies often presented an interesting juxtaposition of these two heroines, with Savitri playing the older, orderly, dutiful older woman and Jamuna playing

her younger, modernised, shrewish counterpart. Jamuna also had a successful collaboration at the movies with NT Rama Rao and Akkineni Nageswara Rao. Jamuna's pairing with NTR and ANR came with its own set of controversies, with the actors even going so far as to declare publicly in 1958 that they will not act with Jamuna ever.

Speaking on this "ban" a few years ago in a Telugu talk show, 'Open Heart with RK', Jamuna

noted, "Male ego is there in every profession. This profession is no different. Heroes think the world revolves around them, but the truth is that heroes amount to nothing without heroines. Even the oldest hero needs a young, hot woman to star opposite him. My ban was a result of that male ego."

The "ban" lasted for a little over 3 years, and was "lifted" at the behest of producer Chakrapani of Vijaya Vauhini Studios for the sake of Gundamma Katha. In addition to working with big names like NTR and Savitri, Jamuna also acted opposite relative newcomer Harinath in films like Letha Manasulu (1966), Maa Inti Kodalu (1972).

Jamuna was a feminist of her days as she never compromised when there was a threat to her dignity. She always emphasised on the value of speaking up against injustice & owning truth. Jamuna also dabbled in politics. She joined the Congress in the 1980s & was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1989.



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K Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana Chief Minister

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