

State sees 70.47% voter turnout

Hyd a big letdown again with just 46.12% of people voting

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Polling for the 2023 Assembly elections in Telangana concluded peacefully on Thursday, with an approximate voter turnout of 70.47 per cent recorded.

Save for minor technical glitches and arguments between polling agents, the polling was conducted smoothly. However, Hyderabad was a big letdown yet again with just 46.12 per cent of voters in the State capital heading to the booths. Polling in 13 constituencies in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas ended at 4 pm while in the remaining 106 segments, it concluded at 5 pm. Those standing in queues at polling booths at 5 pm were allowed to cast their votes.

Compared to the 2018 voter turnout of 73.74 per cent, Telangana's voter turnout this time was lower at 70.47 per cent, as per the approximate voter turnout figures when reports last came in. The final and official percentage will be announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday.

Polling commenced on a sluggish note early in the day and complaints of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) developing snags were reported from differ-



People greet Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao at a polling booth in Chintamadaka village, Siddipet district, on Thursday.

ent booths across the State. As things settled, the voter turnout increased steadily and by 3 pm, it was 51.89 per cent.

By 5 pm, the official closing time, Medak district recorded an approximate voter turnout of 86.69 per cent, Jangaon 85.74 per cent, Mahabubabad 83.70 per cent, Adilabad 79.86 per cent, Hanamkonda 66.38 per cent and Hyderabad 46.12 per cent.

Despite appeals and awareness creation efforts by the EC, BRS working president KT Rama Rao,

celebrities and voluntary organisations, the turnout was poor in Hyderabad. Adjoining Medchal Malkajgiri and Rangareddy districts also registered low percentages of 56 and 59.94, respectively.

This time, 2,290 candidates, including 221 women and one transgender, were in the fray. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is contesting from Gajwel and Kamareddy and cast his vote at Chintamadaka village in Siddipet district. BJP's Etala Rajender is contesting from both Gajwel and Huzurabad, while TPCC president A Re-

vanth Reddy is in the fray from Kodangal and Kamareddy.

In 2018, BRS (then TRS) won 88 of the 119 seats and had 47.4 per cent of the vote share. The Congress came a distant second with just 19 seats.

The EC had made elaborate arrangements for polling at 35,655 polling stations across 33 districts. More than 50,000 police personnel and 375 companies of the central paramilitary forces were deployed. Counting will take place on December 3.

KTR confident of BRS winning over 70 seats

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Exuding confidence that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would win more than 70 seats, party working president KT Rama Rao dismissed the exit poll results, besides appealing to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to review its rules on permitting exit polls even as polling was on in a few constituencies.

"What is the rush to declare exit poll results even as people are standing in line to cast their votes? These were Congress tactics to influence voters and it is unfair," he said. "I spoke to Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj over phone and appealed to him to control the practice of declaring exit polls in a hurry. They can be released the next day after

“
During the 2018 elections too, 4 out of 5 agencies got their exit polls completely wrong
— KT RAMA RAO,
 BRS working president

the polling is completely over," Rama Rao said at a press conference here on Thursday.

Regarding the exit poll results, the BRS working president rubbished those that were released on Thursday and said during the 2018 elections too, four out of five agencies had got their exit polls completely wrong.

"This is not new to us and we have seen them in the past. I promise that on December 3, we will be back with 70-plus seats. Earlier, I said 88 seats but there were some problems in a few places," Rama Rao said.

Appealing to the BRS cadres and leaders not to get confused and disheartened by the exit polls, he said the agencies generally come to conclusions after conducting a small survey of 200 samples. The reputation of the agencies was at stake and people would not believe them anymore, he said. "How can exit polls be released while polling is still under progress? This is illogical and stupid. The Election Commission is at fault and needs to review its guidelines," he said.

(SEE PAGE 2)
 (RELATED REPORTS PAGES 3, 4, 5)

India to procure 97 Tejas jets

NATION | PAGE 08

Henry Kissinger dies at 100

WORLD | PAGE 09



Andhra 'takes control' of NSP ops

HYDERABAD: Telangana Irrigation officials are gearing up to resume control of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project operations while working out strategies to smoothly handle the dam site confrontation with Andhra Pradesh. In a midnight swoop, AP officials, accompanied by over 400 armed personnel, stormed into the facilities on the dam and took over the control of the operation of the head regulator of the right canal of the project along with 13 of the crest gates on its side. They faced hardly any resistance as the entire force, barring 20 policemen, protecting the project was away after being deployed for poll duty in different districts. Reinforcements were expected to reach on Thursday night. (REPORT PAGE 5)

India to probe 'plot' to kill Sikh separatist


NEW DELHI: India on Thursday described as a "matter of concern" the US charging an Indian national with conspiring to kill a Sikh separatist on American soil, and asserted that a high-level probe committee will investigate all aspects of the case. India has constituted a probe team to investigate allegations relating to the foiled plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Sikh extremist and known to be an American and Canadian citizen. On Wednesday, US federal prosecutors charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta of working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun. US prosecutors informed a Manhattan court that authorities in the Czech Republic arrested and detained Gupta, and he is awaiting extradition to the US. (REPORT PAGE 7)

VOLVO

FESTIVE DELIGHT

With XC40 Recharge at a special package

₹ 55,11,500*



***PACKAGE INCLUSIVE OF HASSLE-FREE BENEFITS:**

3 Years Roadside Assistance*	3 Years Comprehensive Car Warranty*	3 Years Volvo Service Package*	Digital Services For 4 years*	8 Years Battery Warranty	1 Wall Box Charger (11 kW)	Tre Kronor Privileges
------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------

Krishna Volvo Hyderabad
 Sales: Krishe Amethyst, 8-2-618/10-11, Road No 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500034. Contact: 7717306502 / 7717306503.
 Service: #5-5-33/14/1, Near HUDA Metro Parking, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500072. Contact: 7717306518.

Krishna Volvo Andhra
 Sales & Service: Airport Road, 66/1, NH-5, Main Road, Opp Sri Chaitanya College, Nidamanuru, Vijayawada - 521104. Contact: 7674010106 / 7717306501.

TO ORDER ONLINE
 Scan the QR code or Visit: volvocars.in

VOLVO CAR INDIA | TOLL FREE NO.: 1800 1203 389

Specifications, features and colors shown here may not be part of standard equipment. Accessories and features may change from model to model. Shot outside India with a left-hand drive car. The model, equipment, and possible vehicle configurations illustrated in this advertisement may not be offered in India. Volvo Auto India reserves the right to make changes without prior notice, in design, colours, materials, components, equipment, specifications, features, functions, make and models etc. #Google, Google Play and Google Maps are trademarks of Google LLC. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Google Assistant is not available in certain languages and countries. Sequences shortened and simulated. Google features are only for 5 years. After 5 years, new terms and conditions apply. *Terms & conditions apply. Limited period offer till stocks last.