

**STATE**

**TS requests K'taka to release 6 tmc from Almatti** **page 5**

**NATION**

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**US Prez elections**

**Pence says he's not endorsing Trump**



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**DC, RCB face-off in WPL final**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**'Biker girl vibe'**

**The daughter of Sanjay Kapoor walks the ramp for Anamika Khanna**



**Ramzan Timings**

**Iftar** Sunday 6:32 PM  
**Saheer** Monday 5:00 AM

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 104
Retail live	Rs. 126
With skin	Rs. 183
Skinless	Rs. 208
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 56

# India to vote in seven phases, results on June 4

**EC releases LS poll notification; single-phase election in Telangana on May 13**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

The Election Commission on Saturday announced dates and the full schedule for the Lok Sabha election 2024. The elections will be held in seven phases. Voting in the first phase will be conducted on April 19. In Telangana, the elections will be held in a single phase along with 19 other States on May 13. Counting for all elections, including by-elections, Assembly elections, and general elections, is slated for June 4.

Phase one of the elections will be held on April 19, phase two on April 26, phase three on May 7, phase four on May 13, phase five on May 20, phase six on May 25 and phase seven on June 1. Elections to the Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will be held in one phase and Odisha will be held in two phases. Polling will be held on April 19 along with the first phase of the

## Election schedule

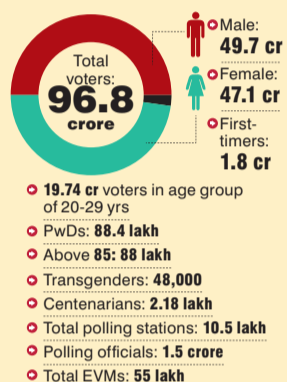
THE 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTION PROCESS WAS SET ROLLING ON SATURDAY WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION ANNOUNCING DATES FOR POLLS. WITH THIS, THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT WILL NOW COME INTO EFFECT

### SINGLE PHASE ELECTION

ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ANDHRA PRADESH, ANDHRA PRADESH, CHHATTISGARH, HIMACHAL PRADESH, JHARKHAND, KARNATAKA, KERALA, LAKECHADWEEP, MADHYA PRADESH, MIZORAM, MEGHALAYA, NAGALAND, PUNJAB, SIKKIM, TAMIL NADU, TELANGANA, TRIPURA, UTTARAKHAND

- **TWO PHASES:** Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tripura, Manipur
- **THREE PHASES:** Chhattisgarh, Assam
- **FOUR PHASES:** Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand
- **FIVE PHASES:** Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir
- **SEVEN PHASES:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & West Bengal
- By-elections to be held for 26 Assembly seats across 13 States

### COUNTRY'S ELECTORATE



### 7-PHASE SCHEDULE

- PHASE-I: April 19
- PHASE-II: April 26
- PHASE-III: May 7
- PHASE-IV: May 13
- PHASE-V: May 20
- PHASE-VI: May 25
- PHASE-VII: June 1
- RESULTS: June 4

## Cantt bypoll on May 13

**HYDERABAD:** The Secunderabad Cantonment bypoll will be held along with the general elections in the State on May 13. The bypoll was necessitated due to the death of Secunderabad BRS legislator G Lasya Nanditha in a road crash on February 23.

## Assembly polls in 4 States

**New Delhi:** Assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will be held on April 19, and in Andhra Pradesh on May 13. Elections to Odisha Assembly will be held in four phases on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1.

Lok Sabha elections to the State Assemblies of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Polling for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly will be held on May 13 along with the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections. The results for the Assembly elec-

tions will be out on June 4 along with the Lok Sabha election result. There are 26 Assembly constituencies where by-elections are due. These are in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal,

Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. All the by-polls would be held as per the schedule announced for Lok Sabha polls in the respective States.

(SEE PAGE 2)  
 (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

# ED gets custody of Kavitha till March 23

**SC orders violated, BRS leader's counsel tells court**



BRS leader K Kavitha being taken to the ED office after she was produced before the court, in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI

## Kejriwal gets bail

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court granted bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in two complaints filed by the ED against him for skipping summons in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Divya Malhotra also allowed Kejriwal to leave the courtroom. "Offence being bailable, accused Arvind Kejriwal is admitted to bail," it said. The court further directed the ED to hand over documents related to the complaints to Kejriwal. PTI

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K Kavitha was on Saturday remanded in ED custody till March 23 in a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy "scam". Kavitha, a member of the Telangana Legislative Council and daughter of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, was produced before Special Judge for ED cases M K Nagpal, who sent her to the custody of the federal anti-money laundering agency for a week. The ED had sought her custody for 10 days.

Kavitha, 46, was arrested from her Banjara Hills residence on Friday amid protests by BRS supporters. While being produced before the judge, Kavitha termed her arrest as illegal and asserted, "We will fight it out in court." During the hearing, senior advocate Vikram Chaudhari, appearing for Kavitha along with advocate Nitesh Rana, told the judge her arrest was "illegal".

The counsel also accused the federal anti-money laundering agency of flouting the Supreme Court direction while arresting her. They claimed the apex court had directed the ED to not take any coercive action against Kavitha before it hears her plea against the summons issued by the agency to her on March 19.

"It is a black day that SC orders are violated, that an officer thinks he/she is above law," the counsel told the court. The ED, however, said it has not made any statement before a court, in-

cluding the Supreme Court, that no coercive action will be taken against Kavitha. "There is enough evidence, witnesses' statements against Kavitha in the case," ED said. The agency also accused Kavitha of destructing evidence in the case.

"We have summoned several witnesses to confront K Kavitha with," the agency told the court. Though Kavitha has not been named as an accused in any chargesheet filed by the ED, the agency has claimed she was a key figure of the "South Group" who made benami investments in beneficiary liquor companies. The ED also issued notices to Kavitha's husband Anil Kumar and a domestic help. PTI

## RS Praveen quits BSP, may join BRS

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

BSP State president R S Praveen quit the party on Saturday. He cited undue pressure from the BSP leadership to call off the poll pact with the BRS as the reason for his decision to quit the party.

Speaking to newsmen after meeting BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao here on Saturday, he alleged that it was the BJP that mounted pressure on the BSP leadership to call off the electoral understanding with the BRS.

Though the former IPS officer is yet to make a statement on his future plans, indications are that he might join the BRS soon. (REPORT PAGE 5)

# BRS protests Kavitha's arrest

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi on Saturday organised State-wide protests condemning the illegal arrest of party leader and MLC K Kavitha by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case. The rank and file of the party joined the dharnas and rasta rokos that were staged across the districts and in the State capital as well.

They staged demonstrations in front of bus depots and mandal offices condemning the arrest. Effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were burnt. BRS activists staged a dharna at the Old Bus station centre in Siddipet. They raised slogans denouncing the vendetta politics of the BJP leadership. BRS leaders organised a demonstration in Gangadhara mandal in Karimnagar district. Former MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar



Police detain a BRS leader staging a protest against party MLC K Kavitha's arrest, in Warangal.

and party workers participated in large numbers. A total bandh was observed in the town by downing the shutters of the shops and business establishments.

Protest demonstrations were staged across the Nizamabad district. BRS leaders squatted on roads in Bodhan, Armoor and Balkonda constituencies. Ef-

figies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were burnt. ZP Chairman Vithal Rao participated in the dharna in Nizamabad town. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Nehru Zoo's oldest inmate Galapagos Tortoise dies at 125

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The senior-most inmate of the Nehru Zoological Park, the Galapagos Giant Tortoise died due to old age complications here in the early hours of Saturday. The giant tortoise was 125 years old. Weighing more than 200 kg, the giant tortoise was brought to the zoo here in 1969.

According to the officials, the tortoise was off feed for the last 10 days and was under the treatment of the zoo veterinary team headed by Dr MA Hakeem, Deputy Director (Vet.).

The initial postmortem report revealed that the tortoise died due to multi-



The Galapagos Giant Tortoise died due to old age complications early on Saturday.

ple organ failure, and for further investigations, the samples were sent to VBRI and Veterinary College, Rajendranagar.

The male tortoise, regarded as one of the oldest inhabitants, had been a star attraction since the

inauguration of the zoo. Galapagos Giant Tortoise, listed as an endangered species, are eco-thermic i.e. cold-blooded, and are known for their sedate and slow pace of living. They walk at a speed of 0.3 km per hour.

## YSRCP names candidates for elections

AMARAVATI

The YS Jaganmohan Reddy-led YSRCP on Saturday announced the list of candidates for all the 175 Assembly seats and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in Andhra Pradesh.

Bapatla MP Nandigam Suresh read out the names of the candidates for the Lok Sabha elections while Revenue Minister D Prasada Rao did so for the Assembly polls. As per the list, B Jhansi Laxmi will contest from the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency while G Uma Bala be the candidate in Narasapuram and V Vijayasai Reddy will try his luck from Nellore. As expected, incumbent MP Y S Avinash Reddy will contest from the Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency. PTI

# Send more BJP MPs to Parliament, says Modi in TS

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Accusing the Congress and BRS of destroying Telangana in the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the only way to come out of the clutches of these two parties and put Telangana back on the path of development was to send more BJP MPs to Parliament.

Addressing a public meeting at Nagarkurnool on Friday, Modi said the BRS had first destroyed the dreams of the people of Telangana of developing the State in all the fields in the last 10 years and now, the "corrupt" Congress had come to power in the State to stop the development. "It is the bad luck of the people of Telangana that first they trusted the BRS and now the Congress. Both



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento at a public meeting in Nagarkurnool on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

parties are two sides of the same coin. Congress and BRS have shattered all the dreams of Telangana. First, it was BRS' 'maha loot' and now it is Congress' 'buri nazar'. For Congress, even 5 years are enough to destroy

Telangana. They are anti-SC, ST and OBC. Expecting them to develop State and bring changes in the lives of people is foolishness. Five years is enough for Congress to destroy Telangana," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)